Cyber Center of Excellence

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Table of Contents

Cyber

Electronic Warfare

Information Advantage

1. [OpenAI's ChatGPT And Microsoft's Copilot Reportedly Spread Misinformation About Presidential Debate Amid Growing Fears Over AI Election Dangers](#) - 28 JUN

2. [Google Thwarts Over 10,000 Attempts by Chinese Influence Operator](#) - 28 JUN

3. [The Pentagon Joint Staff wants its own chief data and AI office](#) - 27 JUN

4. [Chinese State Actors Use Ransomware to Conceal Real Intent](#) - 27 JUN

5. [This AI Algorithm Can Detect Deepfake Videos with 98% Accuracy](#) - 25 JUN

6. [Russian propaganda: Deepfake videos tougher to detect](#) - 24 JUN

7. [How YouTube Middle East is combating misinformation with generative AI](#) - 23 JUN

8. [China's Deployment Of 'RoboDogs' Alarms The US; Seeks Report On Threat Of Armed Robots In A Conflict](#) - 21 JUN

9. EXPOSED! China's Digital Program Using AI & OSINT To Unmask US Navy Warships Revealed In New Report - 20 JUN

10. [China Attempted Covert Military Drone Tie-Up With UK University – Report](#) - 17 JUN

11. [Addressing Misinformation in Critical Infrastructure Security](#) - 17 JUN

12. [China Unveils World's 1st Virtual Military Commander; Participates In Computer Wargames To Prepare For Future](#) - 18 JUN

Signal

1. [Adtran and Iridium boost PNT resilience against GNSS threats](#) - 27 JUN

2. [IT Leaders Split on Using GenAI For Cybersecurity](#) - 27 JUN

3. [Cloud Security Tops Priority List for Organizations Globally](#) - 27 JUN

4. [Cloud Breaches Impact Nearly Half of Organizations](#) - 25 JUN

5. [Call for new DOD-led quantum hub builds momentum on the Hill](#) - 21 JUN

6. [Microsoft Admits Security Failings Allowed China to Access US Government Emails](#) - 14 JUN

Items of Interest

Israel-Hamas Conflict

Russia-Ukraine Conflict

Cyber

1. [**Iranian cyber-attacks have become a global threat, warns top Israeli cyber chief**](#) **(All Israel News, 26 JUN)**

   The director of the Israel National Cyber Directorate (INCD) warned on Tuesday that Iran's growing cyber terrorism has become a global threat since the Hamas invasion and attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7.

2. [**Cyber Attackers Turn to Cloud Services to Deploy Malware**](#) **(Infosecurity-Magazine, 26 JUN, Kevin Poireault)**

   Malware operators are turning to legitimate cloud services to conduct malicious campaigns, according to cybersecurity firm Fortinet.

   In a new report, FortiGuard Labs, Fortinet's research team, shared findings on how threat actors are abusing cloud services to enhance their malware's malicious capabilities.

3. [**Pentagon background-check systems at risk of hacking, GAO says**](#) **(Next Gov, 24 JUN, Lauren C. Williams)**

   The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency didn't fully implement DOD's cybersecurity process, a new report finds.

4. [**US car dealers are feeling the pain of CDK cyberattack**](#) **(Cyberscoop, 24 JUN, AJ Vicens)**

   A handful of major U.S. auto dealers said their business operations have been affected by a ransomware incident on the key software provider.

5. [**Why are threat actors faking data breaches?**](#) **(Help Net Security, 24 JUN, Etay Maor)**

   Earlier this year Europcar discovered a hacker selling info on its 50 million customers on the dark web. The European car rental company immediately launched an investigation, only to discover that the data being sold was completely doctored, possibly using generative AI.

6. [**Israel's Biggest Wartime Lesson: How Private CCTVs, Smart Homes, Billboards Became Weapons For Hamas**](#) **(News 18, 24 JUN, Ankur Sharma)**

   According to the Israeli government, before October 7 last year, Hamas got access to CCTV cameras and billboards installed all over the city. After the attack, Israel brought in a new law which gave the Israeli Army and security services the access to private security cameras without the knowledge of the owner

7. [**China-Based RedJuliett Targets Taiwan in Cyber Espionage Campaign**](#) **(nfosecurity Managazine, 24 JUN, Kevin Poireault)**

   RedJuliett, a likely Chinese state-sponsored group, conducted cyber espionage campaigns targeting Taiwan from November 2023 to April 2024, according to cybersecurity provider Recorded Future.

8. [**Chinese-aligned hacking group targeted more than a dozen government agencies, researchers find**](#) **(Cyberscoop, 21 JUN, AJ Vicens)**

   The activity highlights a rapidly evolving, aggressive cyberespionage operation that played out across Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia, a Talos report says.

9. **[DHS releases critical infrastructure priorities for next two years](#)** (Cyberscoop, 20 JUN, Christian Vasquez)

    The agency says AI and China are some of the biggest cyber threats to the nation's most sensitive networks.

10. **[Hackers use emoji to dispatch malware — and even governments are being attacked, so be on your guard](#)** (Tech Radar Pro, 17 JUN, Luke Hughes)

    Potentially dangerous malware that allows threat actors to communicate with command and control (C2) servers using emojis sent via Discord has been highlighted as a key element of recent cyberespionage attacks on Indian government entities.

11. **[The Rise Of Ransomware 2.0: How Attacks Are Evolving And What You Need To Know](#)** (Slash Gear, 17 JUN, Abhinav Lal)

    Ransomware is changing with the times. The original modus operandi of crypto ransomware attackers was to gain access to your network or computer, inject and activate malware that encrypts data, locking users out of their machines, and finally demanding a ransom — usually in cryptocurrency, as with the WannaCry ransomware of 2017 — for the decryption key. With ransomware 2.0, attackers have better capabilities, more sophisticated techniques, and they further tailor the attack to the victim. The biggest difference between older and new ransomware methods is the use of double or triple extortion – instead of just encrypting your data and rendering it inaccessible until a ransom is paid, ransomware 2.0 attackers now often steal sensitive data, and use it to apply more pressure.

12. **[Russian cyberattacks against Ukraine reportedly under ICC probe](#)** (SC Media, 17 JUN, SC Staff)

    Cyberattacks launched by Russia against Ukraine's critical infrastructure resulting in the disruption of power, water, mobile, and emergency services were revealed by sources to be subjected to an ongoing investigation by the International Criminal Court looking into the incidents as potential war crimes, Reuters reports.

13. **[Unleashing the power of AI to stop cyber attacks](#)** (Israel 21, 16 JUN, Jon Jeffay)

    New startup Seven AI wins $36 million in funding for its software that reinvents the command center that monitors an organization's IT infrastructure.

Electronic Warfare

1. **[Air Force asks industry for advanced cyber security prototypes for electronic warfare (EW) and SIGINT](#)** (Military & Aerospace Electronics, 27 JUN, John Keller)

   Military systems of interest include embedded devices; mobile devices; automation systems; tactical systems; and wired and wireless networks.

2. **[Ukraine's Rapid Push to Deploy AI-Enabled Drones for Battlefield Supremacy](#)** (Hacker Noon, 24 JUN, David Kirichenko)

   The stakes are at an all-time high in the Russo-Ukrainian warfighter's pursuit of AI-enabled drones for battlefield advantages.

3. **[Armed with quantum sensors, France eyes leaps in electronic warfare](#)** (Defense News, 25 JUN, Rudy Ruitenberg)

   The French Navy took delivery of its first serial-produced, quantum-technology sensor this year, a quantum gravimeter used for mapping the seabed, the head of the country's defense innovation agency AID said. Future uses of such sensors could be for navigation or detecting enemy submarines.

Information Advantage

1. **[OpenAI's ChatGPT And Microsoft's Copilot Reportedly Spread Misinformation About Presidential Debate Amid Growing Fears Over AI Election Dangers](#)** (Forbes, 28 JUN, Robert Hart)

   AI chatbots ChatGPT and Copilot spread a debunked claim about the first presidential debate between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump, NBC News reported Friday, highlighting the potential election risks the popular tools pose as companies struggle against a rising tide of misinformation and conspiracy theories online.

2. **[Google Thwarts Over 10,000 Attempts by Chinese Influence Operator](#)** (Infosecurity-Magazine, 28 JUN, James Coker)

   Google blocked over 10,000 instances of Dragon Bridge activity in Q1 2024, a China-affiliated influence operator that pushes pro-People's Republic of China (PRC) views online.

   The tech giant also disrupted over 65,000 instances of Dragon Bridge activity across YouTube and Blogger in 2023.

3. **[The Pentagon Joint Staff wants its own chief data and AI office](#)** (Defense Scoop, 27 JUN, Mikayla Easley)

   The Joint Staff recently stood up an AI task force to examine use cases for artificial intelligence and consider future long-term organizational structures.

4. **[Chinese State Actors Use Ransomware to Conceal Real Intent](#)** (Infosecurity Magazine, 27 JUN, Phil Muncaster)

   Chinese APT groups with likely state backing are using ransomware in attacks to throw cybersecurity researchers off the scent and hide their true intent of cyber-espionage, a new report has warned.

5. **[This AI Algorithm Can Detect Deepfake Videos with 98% Accuracy](#)** (Peta Pixel, 25 JUN, Pesala Bandara)

   Researchers have developed an AI algorithm that can spot a deepfake video with 98% accuracy.

6. **[Russian propaganda: Deepfake videos tougher to detect](#)** (DW, 24 JUN, Benita von Kyaw)

   Whether it's Russian propaganda or deepfake factories in China, many people are falling victim to the explosion of AI videos. Image and likeness are being used for dubious motives without consent people's consent.

7. **[How YouTube Middle East is combating misinformation with generative AI](#)** (The National News, 23 JUN, Alkesh Sharma)

   Company removed more than 117,065 videos globally for violating misinformation policies in the first quarter of 2024, regional director Tarek Amin tells The National

8. **[China's Deployment Of 'RoboDogs' Alarms The US; Seeks Report On Threat Of Armed Robots In A Conflict](#)** (The EurAsian Times, 21 JUN, Ritu Sharma)

Beijing showcased its machine-gun-toting 'robodog' in the recently concluded China-Cambodia wargames, sparking concern in the US Congress that has sanctioned an assessment of how these canine-resembling robots will impact the battlefield. The assessment can be of interest to the Indian Army as well, considering China could deploy these robodogs along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India.

9. **[EXPOSED! China's Digital Program Using AI & OSINT To Unmask US Navy Warships Revealed In New Report](#)** (The EurAsian Times, 20 JUN, Shubhangi Palve)

In modern warfare, every military superpower is locked in a covert arms race to gain an edge through artificial intelligence. According to a report from UC Berkeley researchers, China may be secretly amassing a potent new weapon: AI training data meticulously labeling critical systems on U.S. and allied warships.

10. **[China Attempted Covert Military Drone Tie-Up With UK University – Report](#)** (Infosecurity Magazine, 17 JUN, Phil Muncaster)

A new report has revealed apparently secretive attempts by a Chinese state-owned enterprise to access cutting-edge AI research at a UK university for military use.

Non-profit UK-China Transparency (UKCT) claimed in the report published yesterday that China's Jiangsu Automation Research Institute (JARI) signed a three-year £3m partnership with the Data Science Institute (DSI) at Imperial College London back in 2019.

11. **[Addressing Misinformation in Critical Infrastructure Security](#)** (Dark Reading, 17 JUN, Roman Arutyunov)

As the lines between the physical and digital realms blur, widespread understanding of cyber threats to critical infrastructure is of paramount importance.

12. **[China Unveils World's 1st Virtual Military Commander; Participates In Computer Wargames To Prepare For Future](#)** (The EurAsian Times, 18 JUN, Ritu Sharma)

Even as the world is still debating the pitfalls and ethics of handing over the decision of war to Artificial Intelligence (AI), Chinese scientists have already claimed to create an AI commander, the first and highest-level role given to AI in military research. For now, the "virtual commander" is already participating in war games at the country's Joint Operations College of the National Defense University.

Signal

1. **[Adtran and Iridium boost PNT resilience against GNSS threats](#)** (EE News, 27 JUN, Jean-Pierre Joosting)

   Adtran, in partnership with Iridium Communications Inc., has announced the European and Asia-Pacific launch of its synchronization offerings featuring Iridium® Satellite Time and Location (STL) technology, a significant step in countering growing threats to Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)

2. **[IT Leaders Split on Using GenAI For Cybersecurity](#)** (Inforsecurity Magazine, 27 JUN, Phil Muncaster)

   There remains a lack of consensus among European IT leaders about the value of generative AI (GenAI) in a cybersecurity context, according to a new study from Corelight.

   The network detection and response (NDR) specialist polled 300 IT decision makers (ITDMs) in the UK, France and Germany to produce the report, Generative AI in Security: Empowering or Divisive?

3. **[Cloud Security Tops Priority List for Organizations Globally](#)** (Security Boulevard, 27 JUN, Nathan Eddy)

   Cloud security has become a major focus for organizations worldwide as they battle with a growing number of data breaches and application sprawl that makes defense more complicated.

4. **[Cloud Breaches Impact Nearly Half of Organizations](#)** (InfoSecurity Magazine, 25 JUN, James Coker)

   Nearly half (44%) of organizations have experienced a cloud data breach, with 14% reporting having had an incident in the past 12 months, according to Thales 2024 Cloud Security Study.

5. **[Call for new DOD-led quantum hub builds momentum on the Hill](#)** (Defense Scoop, 21 JUN, Brandi Vincent)

   A House lawmaker is proposing a $20 million increase in Army RDT&E funding for a first-of-its-kind quantum center of excellence.

6. **[Microsoft Admits Security Failings Allowed China to Access US Government Emails](#)** (Infosecurity Magazine, 14 JUN, James Coker)

   Microsoft President Brad Smith had admitted security failings by the firm in enabling Chinese state hackers access the emails of US government officials in the summer of 2023.

Items of Interest

1. **[Bolivia's top general arrested after failed coup attempt](#) (DW, 27 JUN)**

   President Luis Arce urged Bolivians to "mobilize in favor of democracy" after the military broke into his La Paz residence. World leaders condemned the coup attempt, leading to the soldiers' withdrawal.

2. **[Who is General Zúñiga, the shadowy officer behind the thwarted coup in Bolivia?](#) (AP News, 27 JUN, Paola Flores & Isabel Debre)**

   The man behind the attempted coup that has rocked Bolivia remains a mystery to much of the country.

   Little known before bursting into Bolivia's presidential palace tailed by tanks and armored vehicles , Juan José Zúñiga served as commander general of the country's armed forces from 2022 until his dramatic sacking and arrest Wednesday. A career military man, Zúñiga owes his post to the very president whom he sought to oust in his attempted coup.

3. **[China-Taiwan Weekly Update, June 27, 2024](#) (ISW, 27 JUN, Matthew Sperzel & Daniel Shats)**

   Key Takeaways

   - The PRC has increased its violations of Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone since President Lai Ching-te's inauguration on May 20.
   - Four Chinese Coast Guard vessels entered restricted waters around Kinmen on June 25.
   - A likely state-sponsored PRC cyber threat actor is conducting persistent network infiltration operations against various Taiwanese organizations.
   - The PRC Supreme People's Court and other institutions issued an authoritative legal opinion that threatens advocates of Taiwanese independence with criminal penalties up to the death penalty.
   - Taiwan's Legislative Yuan passed a controversial legislative reform bill unchanged after a government-mandated second review. President Lai Ching-te signed the bill into law but pledged to file for a constitutional interpretation.
   - CCP General Secretary Xi Jinping convened a Military Commission Political Work Conference to emphasize the need to maintain strict military discipline and uphold Party governance.

4. **[Bolivia coup fiasco lays bare a divided country in political, economic crisis](#) (Reuters, 27 JUN, Brendan O'Boyle & Daniel Ramos)**

   A coup attempt in Bolivia that saw soldiers take over La Paz's central square and ram the presidential palace with an armored truck was put down as abruptly as it started, but has laid bare a brewing economic and political crisis in the divided nation.

5. **[How tensions in Bolivia fueled an attempt to oust President Arce from power](#) (AP News, 26 JUN, David Biller & Eléonore Hughes)**

   Armored vehicles rammed into the doors of Bolivia's government palace on Wednesday as President Luis Arce said his country faced an apparent attempted coup.

6. **[Julian Assange a free man after plea deal with US](#)** (DW, 26 JUN, Halida Abbaro)

After 14 long years of legal battle with the US government, whistleblower Julian Assange is back home in Australia. The founder of WikiLeaks had spread classified documents and military files on the platform.

7. **[19 US Military Bases Face 'China Threat' As Beijing-Backed Firms Continue To Buy Critical Farmland](#)** (The EurAsian Times, 21 JUN, Sakshi Tiwari)

Amid concerns over Chinese espionage in the United States, a new report has revealed that Chinese companies have recently purchased several farmlands close to strategic US military installations.

8. **[Russia's Putin in Hanoi: What does Vietnam hope to gain?](#)** (DW, 21 JUN, David Hutt)

Vietnam is risking a lot of anger in the US by welcoming Russia's Vladimir Putin. But Hanoi needs modern weapons and — according to a secret deal leaked last year — it is set to buy them from Moscow.

9. **[China-Taiwan Weekly Update, June 21, 2024](#)** (ISW, 21 JUN)

Key Takeaways

- The PRC hosted the 16th annual Straits Forum to promote stronger cross-strait linkages with the Taiwanese business community, civil society, and opposition political parties.
- Taiwanese internet celebrities are calling attention to CCP efforts to recruit them to facilitate United Front work.
- The PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs used revelations about a US information operation against the PRC's COVID-19 vaccine to discredit other negative US narratives about the PRC.
- The PRC forcefully blocked a Philippine resupply mission to Second Thomas Shoal two days after the implementation of a new CCG regulation that permits more aggressive "law enforcement" in the South China Sea. A CCG and Philippine boat collided, and the CCG boarded, towed, emptied, and damaged two Philippine supply boats.
- The PRC and Australia agreed on June 17 to improve military-to-military communication to avoid future standoffs

10. **[Chinese UAVs 'Hover' Over The US Despite Federal Block; Cheap DJI Drones 'Lure' Security Agencies](#)** (The EurAsian Times, 16 JUN, Shubhangi Palve)

The introduction of the Countering CCP Drones Act and the Drones for First Responders (DFR) Act has sparked controversy in the United States regarding local safety and national security.

Israel-Hamas Conflict

1. **Institute for The Study of War Iran Update:**

   The Iran Update provides insights into Iranian and Iranian-sponsored activities abroad that undermine regional stability and threaten US forces and interests. It also covers events and trends that affect the stability and decision-making of the Iranian regime.

   Iran Update, June 30, 2024
   Iran Update, June 29, 2024
   Iran Update, June 28, 2024
   Iran Update, June 27, 2024
   Iran Update, June 26, 2024
   Iran Update, June 25, 2024
   Iran Update, June 24, 2024
   Iran Update, June 23, 2024
   Iran Update, June 22, 2024
   Iran Update, June 21, 2024
   Iran Update, June 20, 2024
   Iran Update, June 19, 2024
   Iran Update, June 18, 2024
   Iran Update, June 17, 2024
   Iran Update, June 16, 2024

2. **5 missiles land near ship in the Red Sea in likely the latest attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels** (AP News, 28 JUN, Jon Gambrell)

   A ship traveling through the Red Sea came under repeated missile fire Friday in a likely attack launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels, authorities said, the latest targeting the crucial maritime route.

3. **Hamas Took More Than 200 Hostages From Israel. Here's What We Know.** (WSJ, 24 JUN, Peter Saidel, Summer Said & Anat Peled)

   The Palestinian militants who raided Israel in the Hamas attacks on Oct. 7 killed over 1,200 people, mostly civilians, according to Israel, and abducted more than 240 civilians and soldiers, bringing them back to the Gaza Strip. Israel responded with a military campaign that it said was aimed at destroying Hamas and recovering the hostages. Hamas released over 100 of the hostages during a temporary cease-fire that ended on Dec. 1. International efforts to broker a cease-fire and hostage-release deal between Israel and Hamas have repeatedly stalled.

4. **Netanyahu: Intense phase of Gaza war winding down** (DW, 24 JUN, Aaron Tilton)

   Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the "intense phase" of his country's military operations against the Islamist-militant Hamas group in Gaza is "about to end." He added, however, that the fighting won't stop until the group behind the October 7 terror attacks no longer controls the Gaza Strip.

5. **[How much danger does Hamas still pose to Israel?](#)** (DW, 21 JUN, Ralph Martin)

Dismantling Hamas, the Islamist militant group responsible for the October 7 attacks on Israel, has long been the stated goal of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But after months of war in the Gaza Strip and tens of thousands of casualties, is eradicating Hamas a realistic goal?

6. **[How capable is Hezbollah of fighting a war against Israel?](#)** (DW, 21 JUN, Ralph Martin)

As Israel and the militant Islamist militia Hezbollah trade fire, there are widespread fears that a full-scale war might be next. How advanced are Hezbollah's military capabilities compared to Israel's modern defense forces?

7. **[Israel, Lebanon take steps toward full-scale conflict](#)** (DW, 20 JUN, Alyona Murashova)

Tensions are soaring in the Middle East after the leader of the Iran-backed Hezbollah militia threatened a fight with "no rules" if a conflict with Israel was to escalate. Israel has approved "operational plans" for an offensive in Lebanon.

8. **[Israel-Hezbollah clashes could plunge Lebanon into war](#)** (DW, 19 JUN, Cathrin Schaer)

Around 150,000 people have been displaced from areas around the Lebanon-Israel border. As tensions rise, Lebanese locals are left dealing with difficult choices.

9. **[Yemen: Houthi Attacks Placing Pressure on International Trade](#)** (DIA, JUN)

Since November 2023, the Houthis have conducted dozens of attacks on commercial ships transiting the Red Sea, endangering civilian crews and threatening freedom of navigation through a critical global transportation route.

Russia-Ukraine Conflict

1. **Institute for The Study of War**

2. **Ukraine Situation Report: Besieged Russian Troops Holding Out In Bombed-Out Factory** (TWZ, 28 JUN, Howard Alman)

   Russia's offensive has left a factory town where street battles continue rage in ruins and dozens of its troops surrounded.

3. **Russia warns it can take unspecified measures in response to US drone flights over Black Sea** (AP News, 28 JUN)

   Russia's defense minister ordered officials to prepare a "response" to U.S. drone flights over the Black Sea, the ministry said Friday, in an apparent warning that Moscow may take forceful action to ward off the American reconnaissance aircraft.

4. **Ukraine Situation Report: North Korea May Send Forces To Occupied Territories** (TWZ, 26 JUN, Howard Altman)

   Even sending hordes of laborers, let alone troops, to Ukraine would mark a new phase in North Korea's mutual aid relationship with Russia.

5. **"People's Satellite" Helped Ukraine Hit Over 1,000 Targets Spy Agency Says** (TWZ, 26 JUN, Howard Altman)

   A crowd-funded satellite has enabled Ukraine to have a much better independent view of the battlefield, as well as targets in Russia.

6. **Ukraine Situation Report: Russia Now Launching Kalibr Cruise Missiles From The Sea Of Azov** (TWZ, 22 JUN, Howard Altman)

   Russia moved cruise missile-firing warships from the Black Sea into the confines of the Sea of Azov in an effort to protect them against Ukrainian attacks.

7. [How is North Korea supporting Russia in Ukraine?](#) (DW, 19 JUN, Darko Janjevic)

North Korea has reportedly provided millions of artillery shells — and more — to Russia, helping Moscow keep up the pressure on Ukrainian defenses. What's Kim Jong Un's endgame?

8. [Ukraine Situation Report: Drone-On-Drone Aerial Engagements Ramp-Up](#) (TWZ, 19 JUN, Howard Altman)

Aerial drone air-to-air combat is heating up with Ukraine pivoting to using its first person-view drones to swat Russian drones out of the sky.

9. [Is Russia running low on tanks?](#) (DW, 18 JUN, Ralph Martin)

Two years into the war in Ukraine, open-source investigations suggest that Russia may be running out of tanks. DW looks at what depleted stocks might mean for Russia's invasion.

10. [Ukraine Captures Its First Russian Turtle Tank](#) (TWZ, 17 JUN, Howard Altman)

Videos and images of the captured contraption show the do-it-yourself work that went into covering the tank with scrap armor.

11. [News From Ukraine! Russia Begins Testing 'Intercept' Anti-UAV Cartridges To Combat Kyiv's Kamikaze Drones](#) (The EurAsian Times, 16 JUN, Ashish Dangwal)

In a move aimed at improving its capabilities in combatting small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), Russia has developed specialized anti-drone cartridges, with initial batches already dispatched to forces engaged in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

12. [Ukraine Launches World's 1st Unmanned Systems Forces; Masters Robotic War Across Land, Sea & Air](#) (The EurAsian Times, 16 JUN, Ashish Dangwal)

In a move aimed at revolutionizing modern warfare, Ukraine has officially established the world's first Unmanned Systems Forces (USF), dedicated to advancing the capabilities of unmanned and robotic warfare across air, sea, and ground domains.