



Cyber Center of Excellence & Fort Eisenhower

Unclassified Threat Read Book

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10. [North Korean Soldier Speaks After Ukraine Capture: 'I Didn't Know'](#) - 21 JAN



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Cyber

1. [Google: Over 57 Nation-State Threat Groups Using AI for Cyber Operations](#) (The Hacker News, 30 JAN, Ravie Lakshmanan)

Over 57 distinct threat actors with ties to China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia have been observed using artificial intelligence (AI) technology powered by Google to further enable their malicious cyber and information operations.

2. [Trump's bigger China cyber threat isn't TikTok](#) (The Japan Times, 30 JAN, Catherine Thorbecke)

If a conflict between the U.S. and China were to emerge, potentially over Taiwan, Americans would have a far more serious threat to their everyday lives than TikTok propaganda. In a worst-case scenario, they may not be able to put gas in their cars or turn on their lights.

3. [Generative AI makes Chinese, Iranian hackers more efficient, report says](#) (VOA, 29 JAN, Rob Garver)

A report issued Wednesday by Google found that hackers from numerous countries, particularly China, Iran and North Korea, have been using the company's artificial intelligence-enabled Gemini chatbot to supercharge cyberattacks against targets in the United States.

4. [Iranian hacker group targets Israeli kindergartens PA systems](#) (Iran International, 27 JAN)

An Iranian-linked cyberattack targeted kindergartens in Israel on Sunday, disrupting public address (PA) systems and infiltrating emergency systems in at least 20 locations by exploiting vulnerabilities in a private company's infrastructure.

5. [China's DeepSeek AI poses formidable cyber, data privacy threats](#) (Biometric Update, 26 JAN, Anthony Kimery)

China's DeepSeek AI model represents a transformative development in China's AI capabilities, and its implications for cyberattacks and data privacy are particularly alarming. By leveraging DeepSeek, China is on its way to revolutionizing its cyber-espionage, cyberwarfare, and information operations, all of which pose significant threats to the U.S. and the West.

6. [New GhostGPT Chatbot Creates Malware and Phishing Emails](#) (eWeek, 24 JAN, Kara Sherrer)

Cybercriminals are increasingly purchasing a malicious new AI tool called GhostGPT and using it to generate phishing emails, malware, and other dangerous assets. Researchers from Abnormal Security first discovered that GhostGPT was being sold through the messaging app Telegram at the end of 2024.

7. [Introducing GhostGPT—The New Cybercrime AI Used By Hackers](#) (Forbes, 23 JAN, Davey Winder)

The security threat driven by advances in AI is hardly new news: be it billions of Gmail users, bank customers, or attacks against individuals by way of smartphone calls and messages that even the FBI has been concerned enough about to issue a warning, AI is a real and present danger when employed by bad faith actors. Unfortunately, it would appear that one AI-powered chatbot is marketed to and used by just such cybercriminals and hackers, according to a new report. Here's what you need to know about GhostGPT.

8. [China Has Raised the Cyber Stakes](#) (Foreign Affairs, 21 JAN, Adam Segal)

The "Salt Typhoon" Hack Revealed America's Profound Vulnerability

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9. [China Is Dominating the US App Stores Amid Looming TikTok Ban](#) (Newsweek, 17 JAN, Katherine Fung)

The geopolitical battle of the future is playing out on the app store charts.

Chinese-owned apps now account for half of the top 10 free apps on Apple's platform and hold both the number one and number two spots. Less than a month ago, they represented just a third of those apps, according to a Newsweek analysis

10. [Closing the Software Understanding Gap](#) (CISA, DARPA, OUSD R&E & NSA, 16 JAN)

The widespread use of software that cannot be adequately characterized places society and government at unmeasurable risk. Software is embedded in countless systems responsible for providing U.S. critical infrastructure services that Americans rely on as well as systems providing national security capabilities. To maintain confidence in national security and critical infrastructure systems, mission owners and operators should be able to trust the system is functional, safe, and secure. The practice of constructing and assessing software-controlled systems to verify their functionality, safety, and security across all conditions (normal, abnormal, and hostile) is referred to as software understanding.

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Electromagnetic Warfare

1. [Competitive Electronic Warfare in Modern Land Operations](#) (RUSI, 30 JAN, Dr. Jack Watling & Noah Sylvia)

Electronic warfare has shifted from being a niche force multiplier to become an all-arms concern. This paper outlines what has changed in electronic warfare operations and assesses how this should impact force design within NATO militaries.

2. [China 'Harasses' Philippines With Long-Range Acoustic Weapon, A Non-Lethal Device That Can Cause Permanent Hearing Loss](#) (EurAsian Times, 29 JAN, Shubhangi Palve)

The China Coast Guard (CCG) has reportedly deployed a long-range acoustic device (LRAD) to target Philippine vessels in the West Philippine Sea, according to a statement published by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

3. [This Ukrainian drone is safe from electronic warfare thanks to fibre-optic cables](#) (Euro News, 27 JAN, Roselyne Min)

Radio signals from standard remote-controlled drones can be interfered with but this one-use 'wire' drone can evade enemy interference.

4. [Nulka Combat Use Shows Warships Need Longer-Lasting Electronic Warfare-Enabled Decoys](#) (TWZ, 20 JAN, Joseph Trevithick)

The Navy wants ships to be able to launch decoys that are capable of luring away missiles for tens of minutes to help defend against incoming barrages.

5. [Employees Enter Sensitive Data Into GenAI Prompts Far Too Often](#) (Dark Reading, 17 JAN, Kristina Beek)

The propensity for users to enter customer data, source code, employee benefits information, financial data, and more into ChatGPT, Copilot, and others is racking up real risk for enterprises.

6. [Flight Map Shows Intensive NATO Surveillance Along Russia's Borders](#) (Newsweek, 16 JAN, John Feng)

The airspace near NATO's eastern flank was crowded with multinational surveillance assets Tuesday as the alliance ramped up its monitoring of Russia's border areas.

The United States, Britain, France and Sweden were among four individual members to deploy intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) aircraft to the Baltic Sea, while a NATO unit launched an airborne early warning and control plane on the same day, according to Newsweek's review of data captured by the website Flightradar24.

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Information Advantage

1. [**Beyond DeepSeek: local Chinese models to watch out for**](#) (Cybernews, 30 JAN, Paulius Grinkevičius)

Up until Chinese startup DeepSeek released its large language model (LLM) R1 last week, Western artificial intelligence (AI) developers, including OpenAI, Google, and Anthropic, were seen as the major dominant force.

2. [**Italy blocks access to the Chinese AI application DeepSeek to protect users' data**](#) (AP News, 30 JAN, AP)

Italy's data protection authority on Thursday blocked access to the Chinese AI application DeepSeek to protect users' data and announced an investigation into the companies behind the chatbot.

3. [**OpenAI says Chinese rivals using its work for their AI apps**](#) (BBC, 29 JAN, João da Silva & Graham Fraser)

The maker of ChatGPT, OpenAI, has complained that rivals, including those in China, are using its work to make rapid advances in developing their own artificial intelligence (AI) tools.

4. [**The Rise of DeepSeek: What the Headlines Miss**](#) (Rand, 28 JAN, Lennart Heim)

Recent coverage of DeepSeek's AI models has focused heavily on their impressive benchmark performance and efficiency gains. While these achievements deserve recognition and carry policy implications (more below), the story of compute access, export controls, and AI development is more complex than many reports suggest.

5. [**OpenAI debuts ChatGPT Gov for federal agency use**](#) (Nextgov, 28 JAN, Alexandra Kelley)

The new chatbot brings the same capabilities from the public model to government-approved and secure cloud environments for federal workloads.

6. [**DeepSeek: The Chinese AI app that has the world talking**](#) (BBC, 28 JAN, Kelly Ng, Brandon Drenon, Tom Gerken and Marc Cieslak)

A Chinese-made artificial intelligence (AI) model called DeepSeek has shot to the top of Apple Store's downloads, stunning investors and sinking some tech stocks.

7. [**What is DeepSeek, the Chinese AI company upending the stock market?**](#) (AP News, 27 JAN, Matt O'Brien)

A frenzy over an artificial intelligence chatbot made by Chinese tech startup DeepSeek was upending stock markets Monday and fueling debates over the economic and geopolitical competition between the U.S. and China in developing AI technology.

8. [**How China's New AI Model DeepSeek Is Threatening U.S. Dominance**](#) (Video) (CNBC, 25 JAN, Deirdre Bosa)

A little-known AI lab out of China has ignited panic throughout Silicon Valley after releasing AI models that can outperform America's best despite being built more cheaply and with less-powerful chips. DeepSeek, as the lab is called, unveiled a free, open-source large-language model in late December that it says took only two months and less than \$6 million to build.

9. [**TikTok owner ByteDance, DeepSeek lead Chinese push in AI reasoning**](#) (Reuters, 22 JAN, Liam Mo & Brenca Goh)

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TikTok owner ByteDance on Wednesday released an update to its flagship AI model aimed at challenging Microsoft-backed OpenAI's latest reasoning model products, as a global race intensified to create AI models capable of tackling complex problems.

10. [What Does TikTok Know About You?](#) (Newsweek, 20 JAN, Sean O'Driscoll)

Chinese social media site TikTok is harvesting large amounts of information on its 170 million American users, from their locations to the rhythm of their keystrokes, an analysis accepted by the Supreme Court has shown.

11. [Chinese State Media Cheers 'TikTok Refugees' Flocking to RedNote](#) (Newsweek, 17 JAN, Mandy Taheri)

Self-described "TikTok refugees" who have created accounts on another Chinese social media app, Xiaohongshu, known as RedNote in English, have been welcomed by articles published in Chinese state media—which have emphasized the interconnectedness between China and the United States

12. [Beijing Worries About Americans Fleeing to RedNote From TikTok: Analysts](#) (Newsweek, 21 JAN, Micah McCartney & John Feng)

Although Beijing appeared to score a propaganda coup last week when hundreds of thousands of American TikTok users flooded to the social media app RedNote, observers say the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is worried about any cross-cultural exchanges happening online.

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Signal

1. [**DARPA wants to create 'self-healing' firmware that can respond and recover from cyberattacks**](#) (Cyberscoop, 30 JAN, Derek B. Johnson)

The agency's Red-C program seeks to build new defenses into bus-based computer systems.

2. [**Military researchers eye future project for on-system cyber security in bus-based embedded computing**](#) (Military Aerospace Electronics, 28 JAN, John Kelly)

Red-C envisions a distributed approach to on-system detection and repair of cyber attacks, implemented on bus-based hardware via firmware updates.

3. [**How AI Is Rewriting Best Practices for Network Infrastructure and Security**](#) (The Fast Mode, 26 JAN, Erik Nordquist)

The rapid evolution of AI is set to dramatically transform network architectures, cybersecurity strategies, and the nature of digital threats in 2025. The demand for more agile, responsive, and secure networks will intensify as AI processing shifts to a decentralized model. Concurrently, cybercriminals are operationalizing AI for their own purposes, lowering the barriers to launching increasingly sophisticated attacks. Organizations must adapt to evolving threats in this shifting landscape and invest in advanced detection and response strategies to protect against these new risks. As AI continues to shape both technological innovation and cybersecurity practices, the role of human expertise in managing these systems will remain crucial.

4. [**UK monitors Russian spy ship, steps up undersea cable protection**](#) (Reuters, 22 JAN, Sarah Young)

Britain said it monitored a Russian spy ship in the English Channel in recent days and would strengthen its response to secret operations by Russian ships and aircraft in an effort to protect undersea cables.

5. [**Baltic Sea Map Shows NATO Flotilla Deployed to Guard Undersea Cables**](#) (Newsweek, 20 JAN, Isabel van Brugen & John Feng)

NATO has deployed a flotilla off the coast of Estonia to guard critical undersea communication cables amid fears of potential sabotage by foreign actors, a Baltic Sea map shows.

6. [**Russia's "Underwater War"? Portuguese Aircraft Tracks Moscow's Oceanographic Vessel Fearing Cable Sabotage**](#) (EurAsian Times, 20 JAN, Sakshi Tiwari)

A Portuguese Air Force aircraft monitored and tracked a Russian oceanographic vessel after it allegedly entered the Portuguese Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on January 18 amid widespread concerns regarding undersea cable sabotage that have been largely attributed to Russia.

7. [**Outgoing FCC head says Salt Typhoon hacking a clarion call to address security issues**](#) (Reuters, 17 JAN, David Shepardson)

The outgoing head of the Federal Communications Commission said a massive Chinese-linked cyber-espionage operation against U.S. telecoms firms known as "Salt Typhoon" is a "clarion call" to address significant telecommunications security issues.

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Items of Interest

1. [**DR Congo: What you need to know about the conflict**](#) (DW, 28 JAN, Andrew Wasike)

The volatile situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo has a long history. Here's what you need to know.

2. [**China-Taiwan Weekly Update, January 24, 2025**](#) (ISW, 24 JAN, Matthew Sperzel, Daniel Shats, Alison O'Neil, Karina Wugang, Frank Mattimoe, Alexis Turek & Yeji Chung)

Key Takeaways

- The KMT-led Taiwanese legislature passed significant cuts and freezes to the 2025 national budget. The budget reductions will almost certainly impede the DPP-led administration's ability to function and will undermine Taiwan's resilience against PRC pressure.
- Taiwan's two undersea internet cables between Taiwan itself and its offshore Matsu Islands were disconnected within one week due to natural deterioration. Taiwan restored the internet to Matsu with an emergency microwave transmission system, showing significant progress in strengthening emergency communications infrastructure since 2023.
- The PRC announced that it will soon resume group travel to Taiwan for residents of Shanghai and Fujian Province. PRC officials and media continued to blame Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) for creating obstacles to cross-strait exchanges, however.
- The Philippines and PRC agreed to strengthen dialogue and bilateral cooperation efforts during the first high-level bilateral exchange to discuss South China Sea disputes to occur since July 2024. These talks occurred amid a spike in tensions between the two countries due to coercive PRC behavior in the Scarborough Shoal and the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

3. [**US Ally Seizes China Military Spy Car**](#) (Newsweek, 21 JAN, MicahMcCartney)

The Philippines has arrested three people on suspicion of espionage after they were caught with intelligence related to military installations and other sensitive sites, allegedly collected from a vehicle.

4. [**FBI's New Jersey Drone Scare Investigation Has No Suspects**](#) (TWZ, 21 JAN, Howard Altman)

As the New Jersey drone scare fades from the news cycle, President Trump says he is going to release info on it to the public.

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5. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, January 21, 2025](#) (ISW, 21 JAN, Matthew Sperzel, Daniel Shats, Alison O’Neil, Karina Wugang, Frank Mattimoe, Alexis Turek & Yeji Chung)

Key Takeaways

- Taiwan’s Legislative Yuan (LY) passed opposition-backed amendments to the Constitutional Court after a Cabinet-mandated second review. The amendments will paralyze the Constitutional Court until the LY approves nominees to fill some of its vacant seats, and will make it temporarily impossible for the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) to block opposition-sponsored legislation.
- Taiwan’s National Security Bureau (NSB) released a report on January 12 highlighting organized crime and religious communities as infiltration channels to recruit agents and conduct espionage within Taiwan.
- The Taiwan People’s Party (TPP) reported that 50,000 people attended its protest decrying the detention of TPP founder Ko Wen-je on corruption charges, which the TPP claims to be politically motivated. The content of these protests and the amount of support they have received have been the focus of PRC coverage, aligning with previous anti-DPP narratives within PRC-backed media.
- The PRC is building a fleet of barges with extendable piers that are likely designed to facilitate amphibious landings.
- The South Korean authorities discovered a 164-foot tall and wide steel framework installed by the PRC within the Provisional Measures Zones (PMZ) of the Yellow Sea in December 2024. This installation is part of the PRC’s ongoing efforts to assert territorial control over the disputed waters, taking advantage of the leadership vacuum in South Korea amid its internal political turmoil following President Yoon Suk-yeol’s martial law declaration on December 3, 2024.

6. [Houthi Pledge To Curtail Ship Attacks Sparks New Security Assessment](#) (TWZ,21 JAN, Howard Altman)

In the wake of the Gaza War ceasefire, the Houthis vowed to limit shipping attacks only to vessels directly affiliated with Israel.

7. [Gaza Enters a Ceasefire, Syrian Destabilization Causes Concern over Libya, And More](#) (Video). (Warfronts, 20 JAN, Simon Whistler)

Explore the fragile Gaza ceasefire, its regional impact, and ripple effects on global geopolitics, from shifting alliances in the Middle East to political turmoil in South Korea.

8. [Europe Is Already “Under Attack” By Russia! Polish FM Says Citing Political Killings, Arson Attacks, Cyber Warfare & Sabotage](#) (EurAsian Times, 18 JAN, Ashish Dangwal)

Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski has sounded the alarm over Russia’s multifaceted attacks on European security, asserting that Europe is already “under attack from Russia.”

9. [New Treaty Strengthens Iran-Russia Military Pact](#) (Newsweek, 17 JAN, Amir Daftari)

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian arrived in Moscow on Friday and signed a landmark cooperation treaty with Russian President Vladimir Putin that seeks to deepen ties between the two nations amid shared geopolitical challenges.

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10. [**A New Study Suggests Gaza Deaths Have Been Undercounted by 40%, Sudan's Army is Advancing, And More.**](#) (Video) (Warfronts, 17 JAN, Simon Whistler)

Unveiling the devastating human toll in Gaza and Sudan: a closer look at two ongoing conflicts reshaping global politics, humanitarian aid, and the dire consequences of prolonged warfare.

11. [**Putin's Military Purge 'Unnerved' Russian Elites: Report**](#) (Newsweek, 17 JAN, Ellie Cook)

The arrests and firing of several high-profile associates of former Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu by Kremlin authorities have sparked deep anxieties among members of the Russian elite connected to the current head of Moscow's Security Council, according to a new report.

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Middle East Conflicts

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.

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2. [Who are the hostages released as part of the Hamas-Israel ceasefire in Gaza?](#) (AP News, 30 JAN, Melanie Lidman)

Hamas-led militants released eight hostages on Thursday after more than 15 months in captivity, including an Israeli soldier, bringing to 15 the number of captives freed since the start of a ceasefire in Gaza more than a week ago.

3. [How will Israel-Hamas ceasefire, hostage release work?](#) (DW, 25 JAN, Jan D. Walter)

A week after the Gaza ceasefire took effect, the second group of hostages has been exchanged for Palestinians held by Israel. After more than 15 months, Israel and Hamas have agreed on a multiphase plan.

4. [Here's what happens next during the ceasefire in Gaza](#) (AP News, 25 JAN, Cara Anna)

The first week of the latest ceasefire between Israel and the Hamas militant group is complete. Hamas has begun to release hostages and Israel has freed nearly 300 Palestinian prisoners.

5. [Israel presses ahead with West Bank operation](#) (DW, 23 JAN, Tania Krämer)

Israel is pressing ahead with a large-scale raid in the occupied West Bank. Palestinian authorities have accused Israel of "collective punishment," saying the raid was part of an Israeli plan aimed at "gradually annexing the occupied West Bank."



6. [Why is Israel launching a crackdown in the West Bank after the Gaza ceasefire?](#) (AP News, 22 JAN, Joseph Krauss)

In the days since a fragile ceasefire took hold in the Gaza Strip, Israel has launched a major military operation in the occupied West Bank and suspected Jewish settlers have rampaged through two Palestinian towns.

7. [Hamas' tight grip on Gaza complicates plan for lasting peace](#) (Reuters, 22 JAN, Nidal Al-Mughrabi)

In neighbourhoods levelled by 15 months of war with Israel, Hamas officials are overseeing the clearance of rubble in the wake of Sunday's ceasefire. The group's gunmen are guarding aid convoys on Gaza's dusty roads, and its blue-uniformed police once again patrol city streets, sending a clear message: Hamas remains in charge.

8. [Syria's southern rebels loom large as the country's new rulers try to form a national army](#) (AP News, 22 JAN, Abby Sewell)

As insurgents raced across Syria in a surprise offensive launched in the country's northwest late last year, officials from several countries backing either the rebels or Syria's government met in Qatar on what to do.

9. [Israel launches 'significant' military operation in West Bank, at least 9 Palestinians killed](#) (Reuters, 21 JAN, James Mackenzie & Ali Sawafta)

Israeli security forces backed by helicopters raided the volatile West Bank city of Jenin on Tuesday, killing at least nine Palestinians in what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called a "large-scale and significant military operation".

10. [Israel launches military operation in West Bank city](#) (DW, 21 JAN)

Israeli forces have begun an operation in Jenin, with local officials reporting at least two Palestinians killed. The city and its adjacent refugee camp — a known militant hub — has been a recent focus of Israeli raids.

11. [Israel and Hamas: Hostages will be released over weeks](#) (DW, 20 JAN, Jan D. Walter)

After over 15 months, a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip has taken effect. Israel and Hamas agreed on a multiphase plan to exchange hostages for Palestinians held by Israel. The first are now free.

12. [US Warship 'Kill Marks' Reveal Details About Red Sea Combat](#) (Newsweek, 20 JAN, Ryan Chan)

A United States Navy destroyer has been spotted with "kill marks," revealing details about its Red Sea combat, where Yemen's Houthi rebels attacked American warships and civilian vessels.

13. [Hardliners in Iran blast president for denying Trump assassination plot](#) (Iran International, 16 JAN)

Iran's ultraconservatives condemned President Masoud Pezeshkian for his comments to NBC News, in which he denied Iran's intention to assassinate President-elect Donald Trump.

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Russia-Ukraine Conflict

1. Institute for The Study of War

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- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 16, 2025

2. [Ukrainian drone strike hits second Russian oil refinery in a week](#) (BBC, 29 JAN, Laura Gozzi)

Ukraine says its forces successfully hit an oil refinery in the Russian town of Kstovo, around 800 kilometres (500 miles) from the front lines in eastern Ukraine.

3. [Battle Of Algorithms: Russia Develops New AI-Powered “Interceptor Drone” That Can Counter Ukrainian UAVs](#) (EurAsian Times, 25 JAN, Ashish Dangwal)

Russia has developed a pre-production model of the Sokol interceptor drone, a cutting-edge system equipped with artificial intelligence. This development highlights the growing reliance on AI-driven drones in modern warfare as offensive and defensive capabilities evolve rapidly on the battlefield.

4. [Ukraine War: Can A 72-Year-Old Korean-Style Armistice Help Break The Deadlock Or Serve As Blueprint?](#) (EurAsian Times, 25 JAN, Shubhangi Palve)

As February approaches, it marks three years since the Russia-Ukraine war started. The prolonged conflict has left Ukraine and international experts searching for solutions and strategies to bring it to a halt.

5. [Securing Ukraine May Require Western Forces](#) (Rand, 24 JAN, William Courtney, Michael Cecire, John Hoehn & Hunter Stoll)

If the war in Ukraine winds down to a ceasefire, Kyiv may need Western combat power to ensure its security. Lightly armed peacekeepers could not help Ukraine deter and defend against renewed Russian aggression. A better model may be the U.S.-led forces in South Korea, which like Ukraine faces a substantial hostile threat.

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6. [**Russians Enter Last Major Ukrainian Stronghold In Key Eastern Sector**](#) (TWZ, 24 JAN, Howard Altman)

Ukraine Situation Report: Loss of Velyka Novosilka could pave the way for deeper Russian advances.

7. [**Ukraine claims drone strike on Russian oil refinery**](#) (BBC, 24 JAN, Graeme Baker)

Ukraine reportedly hit a Russian oil refinery and targeted Moscow during an attack involving a wave of at least 121 drones, one of the largest single operations of its kind during the war.

8. [**NK Troops are Failing in Kursk. But That May Not Matter.**](#) (Video) (Warfront, 23 JAN, Simon Whistler)

North Korean troops in Kursk? The shocking tale of their role, losses, and Kim Jong-Un's brutal strategy. A deep dive into war, politics, and the human cost of conflict

9. [**More North Korean Artillery Troops Heading To Russia: Ukraine Intel Chief**](#) (TWZ, 22 JAN, Howard Altman)

The North Korean reinforcements will include gun and rocket artillery units and their hardware, as well as short-range ballistic missile capabilities.

10. [**North Korean Soldier Speaks After Ukraine Capture: 'I Didn't Know'**](#) (Newsweek, 21 JAN, Isabel van Brugen)

A captured North Korean soldier fighting for Russia in Ukraine has claimed he didn't know whom he would be fighting against when he was shipped out from Pyongyang to Russia's Kursk region.

11. [**Russia's Huge Overspending As War Rumbles On**](#) (Newsweek, 21 JAN, Brendan Cole)

Russia faced another large budget deficit in 2024, driven by the record military spending as the costs of the war Vladimir Putin started in Ukraine continue to mount.

12. [**Russia's Entire North Korean Force May Be Wiped Out by April: ISW**](#) (Newsweek, 17 JAN, Maya Mehrara)

Russia's entire North Korean contingent in Kursk could be wiped out by mid-April, as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) may not be able to sustain the high losses its forces have suffered, according to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW).

13. [**Russia's Military After Ukraine: Potential Pathways for the Postwar Reconstitution of the Russian Armed Forces**](#) (Rand, 16 JAN, Michelle Grisé, Mark Cozad, Anna M. Dowd, Mark Hvizda, John Kennedy, Marta Kepe, Clara de Lataillade, Krystyna Marcinek & David Woodworth)

As of the writing of this report, the ultimate resolution of the Russia-Ukraine war is likely far off. Many questions remain, such as how the conflict will ultimately end, what the status of Russian and Ukrainian forces will be at the conclusion, and the lessons that Russia, Ukraine, and the West will learn from the years of fighting. What is clear, however, is that afterward, Russia will face the challenges of regenerating specific capabilities and systems and rethinking the role of its armed forces in countering perceived threats and achieving its strategic objectives.

14. [**What will happen to North Korean POWs in Ukraine?**](#) (DW, 16 JAN, Julian Ryall)

Ukraine has captured two North Korean soldiers fighting for Russia and expects more. However, the soldiers do not necessarily want to return to their authoritarian homeland.

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