



Cyber Center of Excellence

Unclassified Threat Read Book 16-30 JUL 2024

> Prepared by: Threat Management Office CCoE Fort Eisenhower, GA 30905 POC: Jeffrey Hardimon & Kevin Bird 706-849-9259





Table of Contents

Cyber

- 1. <u>Microsoft Confirms New Outage Was Triggered By Cyberattack</u> 31 JUL
- 2. UK and allies expose North Korean cyber campaign 30 JUL
- 3. <u>Russia's war against Ukraine: Lessons on infrastructure security and new technologies</u> 26 JUL
- 4. North Korean hackers stealing military secrets, say US and allies 25 JUL
- 5. North Korean charged in cyberattacks on US hospitals, NASA and military bases 25 JUL
- 6. Russia, China Sell Cyber Weapons to Hamas, Cybersecurity Expert Claims 19 JUL
- 7. <u>Google acquisition target Wiz another fruit of Israel's military intelligence</u> 17 JUL
- 8. <u>NATO to Establish New Cyber Center in Belgium</u> 16 JUL
- 9. Why the United Nations Is Chasing Its Tail on Cybersecurity 16 JUL
- 10. Russia antivirus firm Kaspersky quits US after ban 16 JUL

Electronic Warfare

- 1. <u>Silent Swarm Exercise Accelerates Navy's Path To Distributed Electronic Warfare Future</u> 31 JUL
- 2. <u>'Even Cockroaches Won't Survive': Iran Arms Hezbollah With Electromagnetic Weapons</u> <u>Posing New Threat To Israel – Reports</u> - 31 JUL
- 3. <u>'Iran supplied Hezbollah with electromagnetic pulse weapons'</u> 28 JUL
- 4. <u>Ukrainian electronic warfare units thwart nearly 8,000 Russian drone missions in a week</u> 27 JUL
- 5. Russian Truckers Fume as EW Jammers Mess Up Highway Toll System 24 JUL
- 6. <u>U.S. Gears-Up To Deploy 'Remote Modular Terminals' To Block Chinese, Russian Satellite</u> <u>Communication During Conflict</u> - 22 JUL
- 7. <u>EA-18G Growler When US Navy's EW Aircraft Played 'Cricket' In The Middle East & Tore</u> <u>Apart Russian Weapons</u> - 21 JUL
- 8. China's electronic warfare surge shocks US in South China Sea 18 JUL
- 9. <u>Chinese Navy "Defeats" U.S. EA-18G Fighters Over South China Sea; Shares Rare Info On</u> <u>Growler-Nanchang Clash</u> - 15 JUL

Information Advantage

- 1. <u>Russia backs Trump and Iran supports Harris in efforts to influence the election, US intelligence</u> <u>says</u> - 31 JUL
- 2. <u>Effective US government strategies to address China's information influence</u> 30 JUL
- 3. The Dark Side Of Al Is How Bad Actors Manipulate Minds 29 July
- 4. Equipping the Japan-US Alliance to Handle China's Disinformation Operations 22 JUL
- 5. Can China and the US Find Common Ground on Military Use of AI? 18 JUL
- 6. Russia, China Vying for Influence in Southern Hemisphere With U.S. 18 JUL
- 7. NATO Wrestles with Chinese Influence in Member States 18 JUL
- 8. Deepfakes & misinformation: How generative AI impacts elections 17 JUL





- 9. China Has an Opportunity to Grow Its Military Influence in Niger 17 JUL
- 10. <u>Russia swoops to secure influence in a nuclearised Korean peninsula</u> 17 JUL
- 11. <u>A Russian Bot Farm Used AI to Lie to Americans. What Now?</u> 16 JUL

Signal

- 1. <u>The Glitch That Crashed Millions of Computers</u> 23 JUL
- 2. Army's Cyber Quest sought to standardize data from vendors 22 JUL
- 3. <u>China's Warning To Elon Musk's Starlink! Says Its Sub-Launched DEWs Can Hunt Its</u> <u>Satellites, Undetected</u> - 20 JUL
- 4. <u>'Biggest Outage' In History: How China Can Blackout Global Communications Network & Put</u> <u>The World In Chaos</u> - 20 JUL
- 5. Crowdstrike and Microsoft: What we know about global IT outage 19 JUL
- 6 Why AI and Human Behavior Drive New Urgency for Zero Trust 18 JUL
- 6. Israel's 'GPS spoofing' tricks missiles, but also commercial planes 17 JUL
- 7. 400% Increase In GPS Spoofing; Workgroup Established 17 JUL
- 8. <u>Learn how military 5G can transform communications</u> 17 JUL

Items of Interest

- 1. North Korea: Kim's daughter being trained to succeed him 29 JUL
- 2. China-Taiwan Weekly Update, July 25, 2024 25 JUL
- 3. Is China Preparing for a War with India? 23 JUL
- 4. <u>Right Under NATO's Nose, Chinese PLA Soldiers Practice Seizing 'Enemy Airport' In War Drills</u> <u>With Belarus</u> - 19 JUL
- 5. China-Taiwan Weekly Update, July 19, 2024 19 JUL
- 6. Will the CSTO, Russia's Answer to NATO, Expand? 19 JUL
- 7. <u>Chinese Warships 'Pop-Up' Near U.S. After Russian Nuke Sub; Freedom Of Navigation Or</u> <u>Message To NATO?</u> - 18 JUL
- 8. <u>China's Invasion Of Taiwan: Satellite Image Shows PLA Drilled To Seize Taiwan Using Civilian</u> <u>RO-RO Ships</u> - 19 JUL
- 9. China's Show of Force With Belarus Amid NATO Concerns 17 JUL
- 10. <u>Pentagon leaker Jack Teixeira to face trial by court-martial</u> 17 JUL
- 11. Iran open to resuming nuclear accord talks acting foreign minister 16 JUL

Israel-Hamas Conflict

- 1. Institute for The Study of War Iran Update:
- 2. <u>Claims Swirl Around How Israel Assassinated Hamas Leader In Tehran (Updated)</u> 31 JUL
- 3. Middle East: Assassinations drive fears of escalation 31 JUL
- 4. <u>Israel weighs response to Hezbollah after a rocket from Lebanon kills 12 youths on a soccer</u> <u>field</u> - 29 JUL
- 5. Israel attacks targets in Lebanon after deadly Golan strike 28 JUL
- 6. What you need to know about Hezbollah 28 JUL
- 7. Red Sea shipping crisis worsens after Israel-Houthi attacks 24 JUL





- 8. <u>Rivals Hamas and Fatah sign a declaration to form a future government as war rages in Gaza</u> 23 JUL
- 9. Hamas Took More Than 200 Hostages From Israel. Here's What We Know. 22 JUL
- 10. Houthis launch more strikes after Israel bombs Yemeni Port 21 JUL
- 11. Details Of Israel's Long-Range Strike That Decimated Yemeni Port Emerge 21 JUL
- 12. What are China's goals in hosting Palestinian summit? 20 JUL
- 13. <u>Israel Fighter Jets Carry Out Long-Range Retaliation Strike On Houthi Oil Depot In Yemen</u> (Updated) - 20 JUL
- 14. Iran-backed Houthi rebels carry out drone attack in Tel Aviv 20 JUL
- 15. Intel Says Russia Looking To Arm Houthis With Anti-Ship Missiles: Report 19 JUL
- 16. US military ends Gaza floating aid pier mission 18 JUL
- 17. Israel pounds central Gaza, sends tanks into north of Rafah 17 Jul
- 18. Smoke on the horizon Israel and Hezbollah edge closer to all-out war 17 JUL
- 19. <u>Two attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels strike ships in the Red Sea</u> 16 JUL

Russia-Ukraine Conflict

- 1. Institute for The Study of War
- 2. <u>Ukraine Situation Report: Russians Say Their Mi-8 Hip Helicopter Shot Down By Drone</u> 31 JUL
- 3. Ukraine launches historic cyberattack, shaking Russian Internet infrastructure 30 JUL
- 4. North Korean Anti-Tank Missile-Toting Vehicle Appears To Be Operating In Ukraine 30 JUL
- 5. Ukraine keeps pounding Russia's Kursk region with drones, Russian officials say 30 JUL
- 6. Ukraine Situation Report: Russia Advancing Toward Key Logistics Hub 25 JUL
- 7. <u>Ukraine: What's behind talk of negotiated peace with Russia?</u> 25 JUL
- 8. <u>Ukraine Situation Report: Large Two-Pronged Drone Attack Struck Russian Refinery, Airbase</u> 22 JUL
- 9. <u>Top Russian general fired amid bribery allegations</u> 18 JUL
- 10. <u>Ukraine Situation Report: Bloody Battle For Key Fishing Village May Soon Be Over</u> 17 JUL
- 11. Russia and Ukraine swap 95 prisoners of war each in their latest exchange 17 JUL
- 12. <u>Russia holds a UN meeting about global cooperation. US calls it 'hypocrisy' after Ukraine</u> <u>invasion</u> - 16 JUL



Cyber



1. <u>Microsoft Confirms New Outage Was Triggered By Cyberattack</u> (Forbes, 31 JUL, Kate O'Flaherty)

A Microsoft Azure outage on July 30 was triggered by a distributed denial of service cyberattack, the tech giant has confirmed.

2. <u>UK and allies expose North Korean cyber campaign</u> (UK Defence Journal, 30 JUL, George Allison)

The UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), alongside international partners, has revealed a North Korean state-sponsored cyber espionage campaign aimed at stealing military and nuclear secrets, according to a press release.

3. <u>Russia's war against Ukraine: Lessons on infrastructure security</u> <u>and new technologies</u> (EPC, 26 JUL, Maria Martisiute & Auriane Técourt)

In 2022, Russia hit Ukraine with a major cyberattack and unleashed a full-scale war of aggression. This includes new technologies and Al-enabled capabilities such as the Bylina electronic warfare command-and-control system. Nord Stream and the Balticconnector also fell victim to sabotage attacks by hostile actors.

4. <u>North Korean hackers stealing military secrets, say US and allies</u> (Reuters, 25 JUL, James Pearson and Sarah N. Lynch)

North Korean hackers have conducted a global cyber espionage campaign in efforts to steal classified military secrets to support Pyongyang's banned nuclear weapons programme, the United States, Britain and South Korea said in a joint advisory on Thursday.

5. <u>North Korean charged in cyberattacks on US hospitals, NASA and</u> <u>military bases</u> (AP News, 25 JUL, Nick Ingram, Michael Goldberg & Heather Hollingsworth)

A North Korean military intelligence operative has been indicted in a conspiracy to hack into American health care providers, NASA, U.S. military bases and international entities, stealing sensitive information and installing ransomware to fund more attacks, federal prosecutors announced Thursday.

6. <u>Russia, China Sell Cyber Weapons to Hamas, Cybersecurity Expert</u> <u>Claims</u> (Newsweek, 19 JUL, Hugh Cameron)

Hamas has reportedly acquired sophisticated criminal malware to target Israeli infrastructure and entities, opening another front in the ongoing con

7. <u>Google acquisition target Wiz another fruit of Israel's military</u> <u>intelligence</u> (Reuters, 17 JUL, Steven Scheer)

An elite Israeli military intelligence unit may once again be about to prove its value to the nation's tech economy as Google's parent eyes cybertech company Wiz for an eyewatering \$23 billion

8. <u>NATO to Establish New Cyber Center in Belgium</u> (Security Week, 16 JUL, Security Week News)

NATO will establish a new cyber center to better protect against increasingly sophisticated cyber threats.





9. <u>Why the United Nations Is Chasing Its Tail on Cybersecurity</u> (CSIS, 16 JUL, James Andrew Lewis)

Sometime in late October 1963, the United States and the Soviet Union reached the brink of nuclear war. Fortunately, war was averted, but the experience of the near miss led both sides to negotiate seriously on how to reduce the risk of nuclear war and how to manage the horrific consequences of new weapons. The threat of nuclear war in 1963 was the starting point of a long series of talks between opponents that ultimately produced meaningful agreements on weapons of mass destruction and on measures to promote stability and reduce the risk of armed conflict While that edifice of agreements has recently begun to crumble as Russia and the United States reconsider concessions and as the older, bipolar arrangement is pressed by the emergence of China (which was never party to these agreements), 1963 still provides a vantage point for assessing cybersecurity negotiations.

10. <u>Russia antivirus firm Kaspersky quits US after ban</u> (BBC, 16 JUL, João da Silva)

Russian antivirus giant Kaspersky Labs has told BBC News that it is leaving the US after the Biden administration banned sales and distribution of the firm's software.





Electronic Warfare

1. <u>Silent Swarm Exercise Accelerates Navy's Path To Distributed</u> <u>Electronic Warfare Future</u> (TWZ, 31 JUL, Oliver Parken)

The Navy recently experimented with hundreds of electronic warfare technologies mounted on aerial drones and swarms of uncrewed boats.

2. <u>'Even Cockroaches Won't Survive': Iran Arms Hezbollah With</u> <u>Electromagnetic Weapons Posing New Threat To Israel – Reports</u> (The EurAsian Times, 31 JUL, Shubhangi Palve)

Iran has supplied Hezbollah and other Iranian proxy forces with electromagnetic ordnance, which can disable communication systems and shut down radars, according to a report by the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Jarida.

3. <u>'Iran supplied Hezbollah with electromagnetic pulse weapons'</u> (JNS, 28 JUL)

The EMP warheads could devastate Israel's radars and communications systems, an Iranian source told Kuwait's "Al-Jarida" daily.

4. <u>Ukrainian electronic warfare units thwart nearly 8,000 Russian drone</u> <u>missions in a week</u> (Euromaidan, 27 JUL, Bohdan Ben)

As reported by Ukraine's Ground Forces Commander Oleksandr Pavliuk, 7916 Russian drone missions were thwarted by Ukraine's Electronic Warfare from 18 to 24 June.

5. <u>Russian Truckers Fume as EW Jammers Mess Up Highway Toll</u> System (Newsweek, 24 JUL, Brendan Cole)

Truck drivers in Russia are angered that electronic warfare (EW) conducted by the Russian military to protect strategic facilities is interfering with their onboard road toll collection devices, Russian media outlets have reported.

6. <u>U.S. Gears-Up To Deploy 'Remote Modular Terminals' To Block</u> <u>Chinese, Russian Satellite Communication During Conflict</u> (The EurAsian Times, 22 JUL, Shubhangi Palve)

The United States Space Force is poised to introduce a new ground-based jamming system designed to disrupt adversary satellite communications during conflicts. According to the Space Force, the US is preparing to deploy a new ground-based jammer known as Remote Modular Terminals (RMT). This jammer is designed to prevent Chinese or Russian satellites from transmitting information about US forces during a conflict.

7. <u>EA-18G Growler – When US Navy's EW Aircraft Played 'Cricket' In</u> <u>The Middle East & Tore Apart Russian Weapons</u> (The EurAsian Times, 21 JUL, Air Marshal Anil Chopra)

Since World War II, dedicated electronic warfare aircraft have been equipped with electronic sensors and transmission systems to degrade the effectiveness of enemy radar, radio, and infrared systems by using jamming and deception methods. Air war history is full of wars, such as in Bekaa Valley, where the conflict was won by very judicious use of electronic attacks.





8. <u>China's electronic warfare surge shocks US in South China Sea</u> (Asia Times, 18 JUL, Gabriel Honrada)

China quickly closing EW gap with US forces judging by recently revealed sea encounter that resulted in the firing of a US commander

9. <u>Chinese Navy "Defeats" U.S. EA-18G Fighters Over South China</u> <u>Sea; Shares Rare Info On Growler-Nanchang Clash</u> (The EurAsian Times, 15 JUL Ashish Dangwal)

In a high-stakes game of cat and mouse in the South China Sea, China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has revealed new information about the advanced strategies and equipment Chinese warships use to counter US electronic warfare aircraft, particularly the EA-18G Growler.





Information Advantage

1. <u>Russia backs Trump and Iran supports Harris in efforts to influence</u> <u>the election, US intelligence says</u> (Independent, 31 JUL, Gustaf kilander)

Russia uses 'influence-for-hire' firms to affect US public opinion, intelligence agency alert says

2. <u>Effective US government strategies to address China's information</u> <u>influence</u> (Atlantic Council, 30 JUL, Kenton Thibaut)

China's global influence operations have received increasing attention in the national security community. Numerous congressional hearings, media reports, and academic and industry findings have underscored China's increased use and resourcing of foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) tactics in its covert operations both in the United States and abroad.

3. <u>The Dark Side Of Al Is How Bad Actors Manipulate Minds</u> (Forbes, 29 July, Neil Sahota)

In the shadowy corridors of the digital world, artificial intelligence (AI) is not just a tool for progress and innovation; it has become a weapon in the hands of bad actors. These predators, ranging from cyber criminals to unethical corporations and rogue states, exploit AI to manipulate people, undermine democratic processes, and erode trust in the digital ecosystem. Sadly, society seems to have a slow sense of urgency for awareness and action given then nefarious ways AI is used to manipulate the general population.

4. <u>Equipping the Japan-US Alliance to Handle China's Disinformation</u> <u>Operations</u> (The Diplomat, 22 JUL, Jeffrey W. Hornung & Mina Pollmann)

Russia's use of disinformation tactics to undermine the Ukrainian government, discredit President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and demoralize the Ukrainian population have put a spotlight on the weaponization of disinformation in wartime. At the same time, China has been increasing its use of such tactics, and the United States and Japan should take steps to protect their alliance from peacetime deployment of these disinformation campaigns.

5. <u>Can China and the US Find Common Ground on Military Use of AI?</u> (The Diplomat, 18 JUL, Mathew Jie Sheng Yeo & Hyeyoon Jeong)

Entrusting AI with the autonomy and power to deploy nuclear weapons is a scenario to be avoided at all costs. Time to take baby steps toward that goal.

6. <u>Russia, China Vying for Influence in Southern Hemisphere With U.S.</u> (US DoD, 18 JUL, David Vergun)

Russian warships have been making port visits to Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, and 22 nations in the U.S. Southern Command's area of responsibility have signed on to China's Belt and Road Initiative, the commander of Southcom told attendees of the Aspen Security Forum.

7. <u>NATO Wrestles with Chinese Influence in Member States</u> (Oil Price, 18 JUL, RFE/RL Staff)

In a NATO summit in Washington centered on the war in Ukraine and extending support to Kyiv, the Western military alliance also took aim at China for being "a decisive enabler of Russia's war" by supplying Moscow with dual-use products.





8. <u>Deepfakes & misinformation: How generative AI impacts elections</u> (Statescoop, 17 JUL)

PODCAST: As state and local governments race to incorporate generative AI into their operations, so too are political campaigns using the technology in their election materials. Election administrators are readying themselves for the technology's misuse in spreading misinformation and disrupting the democratic process. On this week's Priorities Podcast, Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs and Mekela Panditharatne, a lawyer with the Brennan Center for Justice's Democracy Program, address the mounting AI challenge. As the first American presidential election year in the generative AI era, 2024 will serve as a test case for the spread of AI-generated election disinformation and the ability of states to regulate it.

9. <u>China Has an Opportunity to Grow Its Military Influence in Niger</u> (The Diplomat, 17 JUL, Hugh Harsono)

The withdrawal of U.S. and French military forces from Niger presents a unique opportunity for China to expand its military influence in the region.

10. <u>Russia swoops to secure influence in a nuclearised Korean</u> <u>peninsula</u> (East Asia Forum, 17 JUL, Anthony V. Rinna)

Russia has revived a defence treaty with North Korea, seeking to increase its influence in the region and assert a more active and independent role on the Korean peninsula. The resumption of this Cold War-era mutual defence agreement, coupled with increasing acceptance of a nuclear North Korea, provides Russia with potential leverage in arms control talks.

11. <u>A Russian Bot Farm Used AI to Lie to Americans. What Now?</u> (CSIS, 16 JUL, Emily Harding))

Russia has officially made one dystopian prediction about artificial intelligence (AI) come true: it used AI to lie better, faster, and more believably. Last week, the U.S. Department of Justice, along with counterparts in Canada and the Netherlands, disrupted a Russian bot farm that was spreading pro-Russian propaganda. The FBI director and deputy attorney general in a press release highlighted the use of AI to create the bot farm as a disturbing new development. What they did not say, however, is that the West is unprepared to defend itself against this new threat.

Signal

1. <u>The Glitch That Crashed Millions of Computers</u> (WSJ, 23 JUL, Jessica Mendoza)

Last Friday, 8.5 million computers around the world stopped working. All kinds of businesses were impacted, from airlines to banks to hospitals. The cause was a routine update sent out by a software company called CrowdStrike. WSJ's Robert McMillan explains how the meltdown happened and why Microsoft's software was especially vulnerable.

2. <u>Army's Cyber Quest sought to standardize data from vendors</u> (Defensescoop, 22 JUL, Mark Pomerleau)

The Army recently set out to standardize its data formats for an annual cyber experimentation to not only reduce integration challenges, but prove this type of standardization can be done.

3. <u>China's Warning To Elon Musk's Starlink! Says Its Sub-Launched</u> <u>DEWs Can Hunt Its Satellites, Undetected</u> (The EurAsian Times, 20 JUL, Sakshi Tiwari)

Research recently conducted by China's People Liberation Army (PLA) scientists has claimed that PLA submarines equipped with laser weapons would be able to destroy SpaceX's Starlink satellites if China's security was in jeopardy.

4. <u>'Biggest Outage' In History: How China Can Blackout Global</u> <u>Communications Network & Put The World In Chaos</u> (The EurAsian Time, 20 JUL, Prakash Nanda)

A series of murky incidents from the Baltic Sea to the Red Sea, related to the ongoing conflicts between Russia and Ukraine on the one hand and Israel and Hamas on the other, seem to have resulted in apprehensions of these being repeated between China and Taiwan in the Indo-Pacific.

5. <u>Crowdstrike and Microsoft: What we know about global IT outage</u> (BBC, 19 JUL, Robert Plummer)

A mass IT outage has caused travel chaos around the world, with banking and healthcare services also badly hit.

Many flights have been grounded, with queues and delays at airports.

6. <u>Why AI and Human Behavior Drive New Urgency for Zero Trust</u> (Info Risk Today, 18 JUL, Chris Novak)

As a naturally trusting species, humans value the concept of relying on and maintaining trust in others. This philosophy falls in stark contrast to modern cybersecurity best practices, where success hinges on not applying trust to anyone inside or outside of an organization's networks without specific, contextual permissions granted. This is one facet of the Zero Trust security approach.

7. <u>Israel's 'GPS spoofing' tricks missiles, but also commercial planes</u> (Military & Aerospace Electronics, 17 JUL, Jamie Whitney)

The attacks differ from the more common GPS jamming, which simply interferes with the signal between the satellite and the receiver, Nabih Bulos writes for the Los Angeles Times.

Back to Table of Contents

S. ARMY





8. <u>400% Increase In GPS Spoofing; Workgroup Established</u> (OPS Group, 17 JUL)

GPS Spoofing Risk changes, grow

- 900 flights a day on average are now encountering GPS Spoofing
- Safety risks changing and growing: EGPWS primary concern
- GPS Workgroup established to address issue
- 9. <u>Learn how military 5G can transform communications</u> (Military & Aerospace Electronics, 17 JUL)

Wi-Fi 7, the latest iteration of the Wi-Fi standard, is set to gain momentum in 2024. Once again, it begs the question—how does it stack up to its wireless counterpart 5G?





Items of Interest

1. <u>North Korea: Kim's daughter being trained to succeed him</u> (DW, 29 JUL, Reuters, Yonhap)

Kim Ju Ae is reportedly receiving an education to become the next leader of the country. Her father, Kim Jong Un, is the grandson of the country's founder Kim II Sung.

2. <u>China-Taiwan Weekly Update, July 25, 2024</u> (ISW, 25 JUL, Matthew Sperzel, Daniel Shats, Matthew Egger & Alexis Turek)

Key Takeaways

- The CCG continued to expand its "law enforcement activities" to assert the PRC's claim over the Taiwan Strait. The CCG intruded into Taiwan's restricted waters around Kinmen and tried to expel Taiwanese fishing vessels near the middle of the Strait.
- Taiwan and the PRC agreed to resume negotiations about the February 14 capsizing incident that killed two PRC fishermen fleeing the Taiwanese Coast Guard near Kinmen.
- PRC officials and media slammed Taiwan's Han Kuang military exercises as a futile attempt to "resist reunification."
- The PRC held the Third Plenum of the 20th Party Congress, which focused on promoting economic development in alignment with national strategic goals.
- The PRC and Philippines reached a "provisional arrangement" for rotation and resupply missions to the Second Thomas Shoal, though significant points of disagreement remain.
- The PRC hosted a "reconciliation dialogue" for Palestinian factions in which Hamas and Fatah signed a joint declaration that stated their intention to form a temporary post-war unity government in Gaza and the West Bank.

3. <u>Is China Preparing for a War with India?</u> (National Interest, 23 JUL, Peter Suciu)

China has completed the construction of a bridge over Pangong Tso, a high-altitude lake near the disputed Line of Actual Control (LAC) between China and India. The bridge, located at the narrowest part of the lake, will significantly reduce travel time for Chinese forces, potentially facilitating quicker deployment of their Type 15 light tanks to the LAC.

4. <u>Right Under NATO's Nose, Chinese PLA Soldiers Practice Seizing</u> <u>'Enemy Airport' In War Drills With Belarus</u> (The Eurasian Times, 19 JUL, Ashish Dangwal)

Chinese and Belarusian troops have conducted a joint exercise simulating the capture of an airport near the border with Poland and Ukraine as a part of their bilateral exercise, dubbed "Eagle Assault."





5. <u>China-Taiwan Weekly Update, July 19, 2024</u> (ISW, 19 JUL, Matthew Sperzel, Daniel Shats, Jackson Karas and Alexis Turek)

Key Takeaways

- Taiwan Affairs Office Spokesperson Chen Binhua accused the DPP of intentionally distorting information about the People's Republic of China's (PRC) recent legal guidelines for punishing Taiwanese separatism and generating undeserved fear among the Taiwanese public.
- Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense (MND) spokesperson Sun Li-fang warned about the PRC's weaponization of AI and deepfakes to conduct cognitive warfare operations.
- PRC state media promoted "high-quality development," self-reliance, and overcoming "obstacles" to economic reform ahead of the CCP Central Committee's Third Plenum. The CCP is trying to shore up perceptions of a weak economy and lay the groundwork for upcoming economic reforms because its domestic legitimacy increasingly rests on its ability to deliver economic prosperity.
- A PRC-Philippine agreement signed after the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on July 2 set up a direct presidential-level line of communication for bilateral crisis management. The hotline may provide a mechanism for escalation management but does not indicate a change in the PRC's aggressive posture in the South China Sea.
- The PRC and Russia conducted joint naval exercises in the South China Sea concurrently with a joint naval patrol in the North Pacific.

6. <u>Will the CSTO, Russia's Answer to NATO, Expand?</u> (The Diplomat, 19 JUL, Janko Šćepanović)

On June 25, 2024, the secretary-general of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Imangali Tasmagambetov, said that he foresaw the organization's future membership expanding. Without naming prospective new members, Tasmagambetov claimed the enlargement was precipitated by what he described as "growing tensions," a "rapidly collapsing international security system," and states' desire for socio-political security. Interestingly, a few months earlier, Tasmagambetov had made similar predictions that peacekeeping activities would "be some sort of a driving engine for the organization's expansion."

7. <u>Chinese Warships 'Pop-Up' Near U.S. After Russian Nuke Sub;</u> <u>Freedom Of Navigation Or Message To NATO?</u> (The EurAsian Times, 18 JUL, Shubhangi Palve)

The Arctic and northern Pacific have emerged as pivotal areas in the ongoing power struggle among global giants—China, Russia, and the United States. Along with the South China Sea, they are a freezing-cold hotspot in the global geopolitics.





8. <u>China's Invasion Of Taiwan: Satellite Image Shows PLA Drilled To</u> <u>Seize Taiwan Using Civilian RO-RO Ships</u> (The EurAsian Tmes, 19 JUL, Ashish Dangwal)

According to analyses conducted by the Yomiuri Shimbun and the Japan Institute for National Fundamentals, the Chinese military has been training with 2D mock-ups of civilian roll-on/roll-off (RORO) ships in a move that indicates preparation for a possible invasion of Taiwan. This practice, which has been noted by defense analysts and confirmed by satellite imagery, highlights China's growing military ambitions and activities in the region.

9. <u>China's Show of Force With Belarus Amid NATO Concerns</u> (The Diplomat, 17 JUL, Anushka Saxena)

As NATO sharpens its focus on China, Beijing is tightening its own military ties to Belarus.

10. <u>Pentagon leaker Jack Teixeira to face trial by court-martial</u> (Reuters, 17 JUL, Nate Raymond)

Jack Teixeira, a member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard who has pleaded guilty in federal court to a massive leak of classified U.S. national security documents online, will face a court-martial on charges that he also violated military laws.

11. <u>Iran open to resuming nuclear accord talks - acting foreign minister</u> (Reuters, 16 JUL)

Tehran remains open to resuming negotiations with Washington on restoring their participation in a nuclear agreement, Iran's acting foreign minister told Newsweek magazine in an interview published on Tuesday.





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, July 30, 2024

 Iran Update, July 29, 2024

 Iran Update, July 28, 2024

 Iran Update, July 27, 2024

 Iran Update, July 27, 2024

 Iran Update, July 26, 2024

 Iran Update, July 25, 2024

 Iran Update, July 25, 2024

 Iran Update, July 24, 2024

 Iran Update, July 23, 2024

 Iran Update, July 22, 2024

 Iran Update, July 21, 2024

 Iran Update, July 20, 2024

 Iran Update, July 20, 2024

 Iran Update, July 19, 2024

 Iran Update, July 19, 2024

 Iran Update, July 18, 2024

 Iran Update, July 17, 2024

 Iran Update, July 17, 2024

Back to Table of Contents

2. <u>Claims Swirl Around How Israel Assassinated Hamas Leader In</u> <u>Tehran (Updated)</u> (TWZ, 31 JUL, Thomas Newdick & Tyler Rogoway)

Israel has various ways to assassinate high-value targets, even in Iran, including urban warfare drones, long-range missiles, and operatives.

3. <u>Middle East: Assassinations drive fears of escalation</u> (DW, 31 JUL, Jennifer Holleis)

Experts fear that two recent assassinations widely thought to be carried out by Israel could put an end to moderate forces in the Middle East. The military wings of both Hezbollah and Hamas are likely to gain support.

4. <u>Israel weighs response to Hezbollah after a rocket from Lebanon</u> <u>kills 12 youths on a soccer field</u> (AP News, 29 JUL, Melanie Lidman & Samy Magdy)

The Middle East braced for a potential flare-up in violence on Sunday after Israeli authorities said a rocket from Lebanon struck a soccer field in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, killing 12 children and teens in what the military called the deadliest attack on civilians since Oct. 7. It raised fears of a broader regional war between Israel and Hezbollah, which in a rare move denied it was responsible.

5. <u>Israel attacks targets in Lebanon after deadly Golan strike</u> (DW, 28 JUL, Alyona Murashova)

Israel has attacked a number of Hezbollah targets in Lebanon following a deadly missile strike on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, which Israel says was carried out by the Iran-backed militia.





6. What you need to know about Hezbollah (DW, 28 JUL)

As Israel and Hezbollah exchange fire, fears of the war in Gaza spreading to northern Israel and Lebanon are growing. DW looks at what you need to know about the Lebanese Shiite militia.

7. <u>Red Sea shipping crisis worsens after Israel-Houthi attacks</u> (DW, 24 JUL, Nik Martin)

Most shipping firms have rerouted their vessels to avoid drone attacks by Yemen-based Houthi rebels. But Israel's strike on the Red Sea port of Hodeida marks a major escalation that could further hurt maritime trade.

8. <u>Rivals Hamas and Fatah sign a declaration to form a future</u> <u>government as war rages in Gaza</u> (AP News, 23 JUL, Jack Jeffery, Tia Goldenberg and Huizhong Wu)

Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah agreed in Beijing to form a government together, the groups said Tuesday, in the latest attempt at resolving a longstanding rivalry that looms over any potential vision for the rule of Gaza after the war with Israel.

9. <u>Hamas Took More Than 200 Hostages From Israel. Here's What We</u> Know. (WSJ, 22 JUL, 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.

10. <u>Houthis launch more strikes after Israel bombs Yemeni Port</u> (DW, 21 JUL, Nina Tietzel)

Israel's Netanyahu warned that the Houthi group would "pay a very heavy price for their aggression," while the Iran-backed militia showed no signs of backing down. Israel reported intercepting a missile fired by the Houthis from Yemen on Sunday morning, following Israel's own strikes on the strategic Yemeni port of Hodeidah.

11. <u>Details Of Israel's Long-Range Strike That Decimated Yemeni Port</u> <u>Emerge</u> (TWZ, 21 JUL, Tyler Rogoway)

Israeli fighters used man-in-the-loop guided weapons to destroy the Houthi-controlled port of Hudaydah's only large overhead dock cranes.

12. <u>What are China's goals in hosting Palestinian summit?</u> (DW, 20 JUL, Wesley Rahn)

Beijing is again eyeing a role as global peacemaker by hosting rival Palestinian factions for talks. Reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah is key for the future of Gaza, but major outcomes at the talks are not expected.

13. <u>Israel Fighter Jets Carry Out Long-Range Retaliation Strike On</u> <u>Houthi Oil Depot In Yemen (Updated)</u> (TWZ, 20 JUL, Howard Altman)

The attack, one of Israel's longest airstrikes, comes a day after the Houthi's first lethal long-range drone attack on Israel.





14. <u>Iran-backed Houthi rebels carry out drone attack in Tel Aviv</u> (DW, 20 JUL, Steven Gislam)

The first lethal strike by Yemen-based Houthi militants on Israel has killed one person and injured at least ten others in central Tel Aviv. The UN condemns the attack and urges all parties to exercise maximum restraint to avoid further inflaming the contentious situation in the Middle East.

15. <u>Intel Says Russia Looking To Arm Houthis With Anti-Ship Missiles:</u> <u>Report</u> (TWZ, 19 JUL, Howard Altman)

News that Russia may give Houthis anti-ship missiles comes as the group carried out its first lethal strike on Israel.

16. <u>US military ends Gaza floating aid pier mission</u> (BBC, 18 JUL, David Gritten)

The US military has ended its mission to operate a temporary floating pier to deliver more aid to the Gaza Strip, after it was beset by weather, technical and security problems.

17. <u>Israel pounds central Gaza, sends tanks into north of Rafah</u> (Reuters, 17 Jul, Nidal Al-Mughrabi)

Israeli forces hit areas in the central Gaza Strip on Wednesday, killing at least nine Palestinians, according to health officials, while Israeli tanks carried out a limited advance further into Rafah in the south.

18. <u>Smoke on the horizon - Israel and Hezbollah edge closer to all-out</u> war (BBC, 17 JUL, Orla Guerin)

As the war in Gaza grinds on, there are growing fears another Middle East war may erupt - with devastating consequences for the region, and beyond.

19. <u>Two attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels strike ships in the Red Sea</u> (AP News, 16 JUL, Michael Wakin)

Two attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted ships in the Red Sea on Monday as a new U.S. aircraft carrier approached the region to provide security for the key international trade route that has been under assault since the Israel-Hamas war erupted nine months ago.



Russia-Ukraine Conflict

1. Institute for The Study of War

Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 31, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 30, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 29, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 28, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 27, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 26, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 25, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 24, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 23, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 22, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 21, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 20, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 19, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 18, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 17, 2024 Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, July 16, 2024

2. <u>Ukraine Situation Report: Russians Say Their Mi-8 Hip Helicopter</u> <u>Shot Down By Drone</u> (TWZ, 31 JUL, Howard Altman & Tyler Rogoway)

The Russian Mi-8 loss would be the first known successful drone attack on an airborne helicopter.

3. <u>Ukraine launches historic cyberattack, shaking Russian Internet</u> <u>infrastructure</u> (The Record, 30 JUL, Daryna Antoniuk)

A cyberespionage group known as XDSpy recently targeted victims in Russia and Moldova with a new malware variant, researchers have found.

4. <u>North Korean Anti-Tank Missile-Toting Vehicle Appears To Be</u> <u>Operating In Ukraine</u> (TWZ, 30 JUL, Howard Altman)

The Bulsae-4 would be the first known armored vehicle and short-range anti-tank missile system provided by North Korea to Russia.

5. <u>Ukraine keeps pounding Russia's Kursk region with drones, Russian</u> officials say (Reuters, 29 JUL)

Kyiv launched more than two dozen drones on the Russian region of Kursk in several waves of attacks that started Saturday night and damaged an oil depot, Russian officials said on Monday.

6. <u>Ukraine Situation Report: Russia Advancing Toward Key Logistics</u> <u>Hub</u> (25 JUL, Howard Altman)

The Donetsk Oblast city of Pokrovsk, a bulwark against a Ukrainian collapse in the region, is a main target of Russian forces.





7. <u>Ukraine: What's behind talk of negotiated peace with Russia?</u> (DW, 25 JUL, Lilia Rzheutska)

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko has surprised observers by toying with the idea of a "territorial compromise" with Russia. Analysts say he's doing it for political purposes, and that society is not ready for such a peace.

8. <u>Ukraine Situation Report: Large Two-Pronged Drone Attack Struck</u> <u>Russian Refinery, Airbase</u> (TWZ, 22 JUL, Howard Altman)

Ukraine continues to step up its long-range drone campaign against critical energy infrastructure and military airfields inside Russia.

9. <u>Top Russian general fired amid bribery allegations</u> (BBC, 18 JUL, Matt Murphy)

A top Russian general has been formally dismissed from his post after being arrested on bribery charges in May, according to Russian state media.

10. <u>The Ukrainian army pulls out from another eastern village as Russia</u> <u>smashes defensive positions</u> (AP News, 18 JUL, Hanna Arhirova)

Ukraine's army has pulled out from the village of Urozhaine in the eastern Donetsk region, an official said Thursday, surrendering another front-line position as Russian forces blast Ukrainian defenses in a relentless onslaught.

11. <u>Ukraine Situation Report: Bloody Battle For Key Fishing Village May</u> <u>Soon Be Over</u> (TWZ, 17 JUL, Howard Altman)

The fight for the small fishing village of Krynky has raged since October with heavy losses by both sides.

12. <u>Russia and Ukraine swap 95 prisoners of war each in their latest</u> <u>exchange</u> (AP News, 17 JUL, Hanna Arhirova)

Ukraine and Russia exchanged 95 prisoners of war each, officials in both countries said Wednesday, three weeks after their last swap and as part of what have been occasional agreements to send captured troops home.

13. <u>Russia holds a UN meeting about global cooperation. US calls it</u> <u>'hypocrisy' after Ukraine invasion</u> (AP News, 16 JUL, Edith M. Lederer)

Russia's foreign minister accused the United States on Tuesday of holding the entire West "at gunpoint" and impeding international cooperation, a claim the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations denounced as "hypocrisy" by a country that invaded neighboring Ukraine.