



U.S. ARMY



# **Cyber Center of Excellence**

## Unclassified Threat Read Book

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## Cyber

1. [\*\*AT&T says leaked data set impacts about 73 million current, former account holders \(Reuters, 30 MAR, Gursimran Kaur\)\*\*](#)

Telecom company AT&T(T.N), opens new tab said on Saturday that it is investigating a data set released on the "dark web" about two weeks ago, and said that its preliminary analysis shows it has impacted approximately 7.6 million current account holders and 65.4 million former account holders.

2. [\*\*UK, New Zealand Accuse China of Cyberattacks on Government Entities \(Security Week, 26 MAR, Ionut Arghire\)\*\*](#)

After the UK called out Chinese hackers for targeting parliamentarians' emails and the country's Electoral Commission, New Zealand said it had also linked cyberattacks on its parliament to Chinese state-sponsored threat actors.

On the same day that the US slapped fresh sanctions against two Chinese hackers and a China-based technology company serving as a front for malicious cyber operations, the UK called out and sanctioned the same entities for hacking into its own systems.

3. [\*\*United States Cyber Force \(Foundation For Defense of Democracies, 25 MAR, Dr. Erica Lonergan & RADM \(Ret.\) Mark Montgomery\)\*\*](#)

In the U.S. military, an officer who had never fired a rifle would never command an infantry unit. Yet officers with no experience behind a keyboard are commanding cyber warfare units. This mismatch stems from the U.S. military's failure to recruit, train, promote, and retain talented cyber warriors. The Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines each run their own recruitment, training, and promotion systems instead of having a single pipeline for talent. The result is a shortage of qualified personnel at U.S. Cyber Command (CYBERCOM), which has responsibility for both the offensive and defensive aspects of military cyber operations.

4. [\*\*Winnipeg man was member of Chinese military branch behind cyber attacks on Canada, officials allege \(Global News, 25 MAR, Stewart Bell\)\*\*](#)

A military veteran who spent 20 years in uniform, Lieutenant Colonel Huajie Xu now lives on a quiet street in Winnipeg.

But he did not serve in Canada's armed forces.

Instead, he was a member of China's People's Liberation Army, according to records obtained by Global News.

Before arriving in Canada in 2021, Xu worked at the military academy of the Chinese cyber warfare department that hacks Canadians and steals their secrets.

5. [\*\*Britain's democracy under threat from Chinese cyber attackers, government warns \(Computer Weekly, 25 MAR, Bill Goodwin\)\*\*](#)

Britain's democracy is under threat from Chinese cyber attacks that accessed the details of 40 million UK voters and targeted senior politicians, MPs will be told today.

Deputy prime minister Oliver Dowden is due to tell Parliament that Beijing is behind a hacking operation that accessed millions of UK voters' details from the Electoral Commission.

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6. [\*\*GitHub Developers Hit in Complex Supply Chain Cyberattack \(Dark Reading, 25 MAR, Nathan Eddy\)\*\*](#)

An unidentified group of threat actors orchestrated a sophisticated supply chain cyberattack on members of the Top.gg GitHub organization as well as individual developers in order to inject malicious code into the code ecosystem.

7. [\*\*Hackers Found a Way to Open Any of 3 Million Hotel Keycard Locks in Seconds \(Wired, 20 MAR, Andy Greenberg\)\*\*](#)

When thousands of security researchers descend on Las Vegas every August for what's come to be known as "hacker summer camp," the back-to-back Black Hat and Defcon hacker conferences, it's a given that some of them will experiment with hacking the infrastructure of Vegas itself, the city's elaborate array of casino and hospitality technology. But at one private event in 2022, a select group of researchers were actually invited to hack a Vegas hotel room, competing in a suite crowded with their laptops and cans of Red Bull to find digital vulnerabilities in every one of the room's gadgets, from its TV to its bedside VoIP phone.

8. [\*\*Microsoft Threat Intelligence unveils targets and innovative tactics amidst tax season \(Microsoft, 20 MAR, Sherrod DeGripio\)\*\*](#)

Cybercriminals use social engineering during holidays and important events like tax season to steal user information. Our new Microsoft Threat Intelligence tax season report outlines some of the various techniques that threat actors use to craft their campaigns and mislead taxpayers into revealing sensitive information, making payments to fake services, or installing malicious payloads. These include phishing emails, text message phishing (smishing), malicious advertising, and voice phishing (vishing). The Microsoft Threat Intelligence tax season report also shows how threat actors impersonate tax payment processors in phishing emails, what cybercriminals are looking for and who they are targeting, how they can get your data, and, most importantly, how you and your organization can stay safe. Although these are well-known, longstanding techniques, they're still highly effective and are amplified even more during this time of year.

9. [\*\*Five Eyes Agencies Issue New Alert on Chinese APT Volt Typhoon \(Security Week, 20 MAR, Ionut Arghire\)\*\*](#)

Government agencies in the US, UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are warning critical infrastructure entities of the threat posed by Volt Typhoon, a Chinese state-sponsored group that hacked thousands of organizations worldwide.

10. [\*\*Russian Intelligence Targets Victims Worldwide in Rapid-Fire Cyberattacks \(Dark Reading, 20 MAR, Nate Nelson\)\*\*](#)

Russian state hackers are performing targeted phishing campaigns in at least nine countries spread across four continents. Their emails tout official government business and, if successful, threaten not just sensitive organizational data but also geopolitical intelligence of strategic importance.

11. [\*\*North Korea-Linked Group Levels Multistage Cyberattack on South Korea \(Dark Reading, 18 MAR, Robert Lemos\)\*\*](#)

North Korea-linked threat group Kimsuky has adopted a longer, eight-stage attack chain that abuses legitimate cloud services and employs evasive malware to conduct cyber espionage and financial crimes against South Korean entities.

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## Electronic Warfare

1. [\*\*The U.S. Army Is Urgently Investing in Electronic Warfare Systems, the Deadline Is Six Months\*\*](#) (Defense Express, 24 MAR, Sofiia Syngaivska)

The importance of electronic warfare capabilities and their miniaturization in modern warfare has been underscored by practical experiences, revealing that solely relying on powerful systems on mobile platforms is insufficient. In response, the Pentagon initiated a comprehensive 120-day field study in 2023 to delve into this critical aspect.

2. [\*\*India's 1st Pseudo Satellite, With Agility Of A Jet & Endurance Of A Satellite, Soon To Scan China\*\*](#) (The EurAsian Times, 23 MAR, Ritu Sharma)

Indian firm Veda Aeronautics has partnered with the UAE-based Mira Aerospace to manufacture an India-specific High-Altitude Platform System (HAPS) or 'pseudo satellite.' While an Indian firm is already working on developing the platform, a partnership with an experienced firm will accelerate the process.

HAPS is critical for India's drone wingman project, which is expected to conduct its maiden flight in 2024. HAPS is like a remotely piloted aircraft, but it flies in the stratosphere at a height of 65,000 feet

3. [\*\*Sitrep: Russia's electronic warfare tactics 'a wake-up call' for UK forces\*\*](#) (Forces, 23 MAR)

A leading military expert has said Russia's use of electronic warfare methods should give the British military a "very good wake-up call".

Recently, the GPS location systems on a jet carrying the Defence Secretary were jammed as the plane was flying close to Kaliningrad - a Russian enclave on the Black Sea between Poland and Lithuania.

4. [\*\*If SpaceX's Secret Constellation Is What We Think It Is, It's Game Changing \(Updated\)\*\*](#) (The Warzone, 20 MAR, Joseph Trevithick & Tyler Rogoway)

The U.S. National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) is reportedly acquiring a constellation of hundreds of intelligence-gathering satellites from SpaceX, with a specific focus on tracking targets down below in support of ground operations. Though details about this project are still very limited, there are clear parallels to what the U.S. Space Force has previously said about a highly classified space-based radar surveillance program, which it first publicly disclosed around the same time SpaceX is said to have gotten its NRO contract. If this program is the one we think it is, it could bring about a revolution in both tactical and strategic space-based sensing.

5. [\*\*Preparing for electronic warfare is the Army's top cyber priority in 2024\*\*](#) (Defense Cyber, 22 MAR, Lauren C. Williams)

Some Army units could get backpacks of new electronic warfare capabilities—plus specialized guidance on how to use them for training—if Congress passes a full budget for this year.

A recently completed 120-day study that evaluated the service's cyber and electronic warfare resources and capabilities identified an urgent need to field an electromagnetic warfare pack capability that can help locate adversary positions, and help the Army learn more about its own formations.



## Information Advantage

1. [\*\*US Congress bans staff use of Microsoft's AI Copilot, Axios reports \(Reuters, 29 MAR, Mrinmay Dey & Mehnaz Yasmin\)\*\*](#)

The U.S. House of Representatives has set a strict ban on congressional staffers' use of Microsoft's (MSFT.O), opens new tab Copilot generative AI assistant, Axios reported on Friday.

"The Microsoft Copilot application has been deemed by the Office of Cybersecurity to be a risk to users due to the threat of leaking House data to non-House approved cloud services," the House's Chief Administrative Officer Catherine Szpindor said, according to the Axios report

2. [\*\*Germany braces for Russian influence operations \(DW, 26 MAR, Janosch Delcker\)\*\*](#)

Germany's interior minister has warned of new efforts by Moscow to sway public opinion. What is "hybrid warfare" — and how to counter it?

The threat of Russia using cyberattacks, propaganda and other tactics to influence public opinion in Germany is real and growing, according to the country's interior minister.

"The dangers have reached a new level," Nancy Faeser of the center-left Social Democrats told the Süddeutsche Zeitung newspaper.

3. [\*\*The Moscow terror attack could drive a wedge between Russia and one of its longtime allies \(Business Insider, 25 MAR, Sinead Baker\)\*\*](#)

Russia's response to the terror attack on Friday in Moscow could drive a wedge between the country and one of its historical allies.

Gunmen opened fire inside the Crocus City Hall music venue, killing 137 people and injuring at least 145 more, Russian officials said.

ISIS-K, a branch of the Islamic State group, claimed responsibility for the attack. The US also said that the group was behind the attack, citing intelligence.

Russian state media said four suspects were identified as citizens of Tajikistan.

4. [\*\*Russia's lies helped persuade Niger to eject US troops, AFRICOM says \(Defense One, 21 MAR, Patrick Tucker\)\*\*](#)

Why did Niger, a country the United States considered a safe ally in Africa just last year, suddenly elect to kick the U.S. military out of the country following a coup? Russian disinformation efforts in the region played a huge role, according to Gen. Michael Langley, the head of U.S. Africa Command.

"The Russian Federation had their playbook. They had their passing game through their disinformation," he told the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday. "That's why I have asked for more capabilities in the State Department from their Global Engagement Center and also in our information operations in the military."

5. [\*\*U.N. General Assembly passes resolution on AI safety, trustworthiness \(UPI, 21 MAR, Ehren Wynder\)\*\*](#)

The United Nations General Assembly on Thursday unanimously adopted a United States-led resolution establishing a baseline to regulate artificial intelligence.

The resolution calls on U.N. member states to "promote safe, secure and trustworthy AI systems" to address issues related to "poverty elimination, global health, food security, climate, energy and education."

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6. [\*\*U.S. sanctions Russians for 'malign campaigns' posing as news outlets \(UPI, 20 MAR, Doug Canningham\)\*\*](#)

The U.S. Treasury Department Wednesday sanctioned two entities and two individuals for alleged foreign malign influence campaigns that included impersonating legitimate news outlets.

The campaigns include U.S. election interference, destabilization efforts in Ukraine and the operation of outlets by the Russian intelligence services posing as legitimate news sites, according to the Treasury Department.

7. [\*\*The Leadership And Purpose Of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces \(ISW, 19 MAR, Johanna Moore & Annika Ganzeveld\)\*\*](#)

The Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) is an Iraqi state security service that Iran has infiltrated and uses to wield significant influence in Iraq. Iran's cooptation of the PMF enables Tehran to pursue its objectives in Iraq while obfuscating its actual involvement in Iraqi internal affairs. Understanding how Iranian leaders wield direct and indirect influence over this significant component of the Iraqi security sector is crucial as the United States considers how to deter Iranian-backed Iraqi militias from attacking US forces in Iraq and Syria.

8. [\*\*ML Model Repositories: The Next Big Supply Chain Attack Target \(Dark Reading, 18 MAR, Jai Vijayan\)\*\*](#)

Repositories for machine learning models like Hugging Face give threat actors the same opportunities to sneak malicious code into development environments as open source public repositories like npm and PyPI.

## Signal

1. [\*\*Starlink's FCC Request For More Spectrum Denied \(Payload Space, 28 MAR, Rachael Zisk\)\*\*](#)

Starlink's bid for more spectrum allowance in the US isn't going as it hoped. Yesterday, the FCC shot down its request to use regions of spectrum in the 1.6/2.4 GHz bands and 2GHz bands that include bands exclusive to Globalstar (\$GSAT) and Dish. Starlink would have used these bands for its mobile connectivity service.

2. [\*\*Iran Takes Battle to Block Musk's Starlink Internet to UN \(Bloomberg, 27 MAR, Bruce Einhorn\)\*\*](#)

The Islamic Republic has deployed not just its local police but also its international lawyers to stamp out black-market use of SpaceX's Starlink internet network.

3. [\*\*Ukraine relies on Starlink for its drone war. Russia appears to be bypassing sanctions to use the devices too \(CNN, 26 MAR, Nick Paton Walsh, Alex Marquardt Florence Davey-Attlee & Kosta Gak\)\*\*](#)

Ukrainian front-line troops say they are experiencing connection problems with the vital Starlink internet service, owned by Elon Musk and used to run Kyiv's fleet of attack drones, while also reporting an increase in Russian use of the devices, despite this being prohibited by US sanctions.

4. [\*\*Russia Again Threatens to Attack Starlink, Citing US Spy Satellite Risk \(PC Magazine, 20 MAR, Michael Kan\)\*\*](#)

The Russian government is once again threatening to target SpaceX's Starlink network on a report that the company is building hundreds of spy satellites for the US government.

"We are well aware of Washington efforts to attract the private sector in servicing their military space ambitions," Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a briefing on Wednesday.

5. [\*\*Cybersecurity's Future: Facing Post-Quantum Cryptography Peril \(Information Week, 20 MAR, Joao-Pierre S. Ruth\)\*\*](#)

Google published a threat model recently for the coming era of post-quantum cryptography (PQC), putting into perspective potential vulnerabilities that may surface if there is not a migration from "classical cryptographic algorithms to PQC." The risk of "store-now-decrypt-later" style attacks, where bad actors harvest data they cannot read currently with the intent of breaking the encryption in the future, intensifies with the expected advent of quantum-grade resources at their disposal.

6. [\*\*Kazakhstan's Biggest Telecom Operator Points Fingers At China For Data Hack; Cyber Firm Calls It 'Typical' Chinese Work \(The EurAsian Times, 18 MAR, KN Pandita\)\*\*](#)

Of the five Central Asian Republics, Kazakhstan is the one that China has been passionately trying to woo despite all the odds. Over the years, China has strengthened its ties with Kazakhstan through economic cooperation, border agreements, and strategic partnerships.

Kazakhstan is China's second-largest economic partner after Russia. Ties between the Central Asian Republics (CARs) and China were further strengthened when the CARs joined the China-sponsored Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in 2001.

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7. [\*\*GPS Jamming Of U.K. Defense Secretary's Jet Highlights Russia's Regional EW Activities \(The Warzone, 17 MAR, Oliver Parken\)\*\*](#)

U.K. authorities have confirmed that a Royal Air Force Dassault 900LX business jet transporting Grant Shapps, the U.K. defense secretary, recently experienced GPS jamming while flying near Russia's Kaliningrad enclave. Russia has a known history of performing electronic warfare attacks in Europe and elsewhere around the globe, impacting both commercial and military aircraft, including uncrewed systems, as well as shipping. But it's not clear if the Royal Air Force jet was specifically the intended target, or if it just passed through an area where a broad GPS disruption operation was focused, which is not uncommon in the area.

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## Items of Interest

1. [Two Of The Fastest U.S. Sealift Ships Trapped By Baltimore Bridge Collapse](#) (The Warzone, 26 MAR, Joseph Trevithick)

Two of the most capable military cargo ships in U.S. inventory are among the vessels now stuck in Baltimore following the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge yesterday. The two members of the Algol class, which are also some of the fastest cargo vessels of their general size anywhere in the world, and two other reserve sealift ships were in port in Baltimore when the incident occurred. Readers can first get up to speed on what happened to the Francis Scott Key Bridge, which was struck by the container ship MV Dali, with The War Zone's initial reporting on the incident here.

2. [Russia Blames US, UK & Ukraine For Moscow Terror Attack; FSB Boss Says ISIS Could Not Have Done It](#) (The EurAsian Times, 26 MAR, KN Pandita)

The US, UK, and Ukraine are behind the terrorist attack at Crocus City Hall, the chief of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), Alexander Bortnikov, told the media.

"We believe that this is true. In any case, we are now talking about the factual information we have. This is general information, but they have a long record of this sort," he said after participating in an enlarged meeting of the Prosecutor General's Office board when asked whether the US, UK, and Ukraine were behind the terrorist attack, according to Tass.

3. [FPV Drone Motherships That Also Relay Their Signals Offer Huge Advantages](#) (The Warzone, 26 MAR, Tyler Rogoway)

A new drone supposedly in use by Russian forces is claimed to act as a mothership, delivering First Person Video (FPV) drones well beyond their notoriously limited range, while also acting as an aerial data-link relay node needed to connect the FPV drones with their 'pilots' miles away. Regardless if the craft in question is actually capable of performing these tasks, the concept is highly relevant as a novel way to get around major technological limitations on the cheap, while resulting potentially in major battlefield impacts.

4. [How to keep China out of the Pentagon's weapons](#) (Defense One, 25 MAR, Glenn S. Gerstell & Andrea McFeely)

Two summers ago, when Honeywell told the Pentagon it feared that a subcontractor had improperly put Chinese metals in some F-35 jet engines, the reaction was swift. The Air Force halted acceptance of new aircraft containing the Chinese cobalt and samarium alloy. While the Defense Department and prime contractor Lockheed Martin raced to find out if the Chinese-sourced metals could be relied on, 18 badly needed fighter jets sat on a tarmac in Texas.

5. [How the deadliest attack on Russian soil in years unfolded over the weekend](#) (AP News, 25 MAR, Dasha Litvinova & Kostya Manenkov)

The auditorium at Crocus City Hall was about three-quarters full, with the crowd waiting to see Picnic, a band popular since the Soviet days of the early 1980s. But the concert was sold out in the 6,200-seat hall, so some of the audience was still likely getting food or were shedding their heavy coats in the cloakroom.

It was 7-10 minutes before the start of the show, scheduled for 8 p.m., said concertgoer Dave Primov.

6. [Attack on Russian Concert Hall Threatens Putin's Strongman Image](#)

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### **(WSJ, 24 MAR, Yaroslav Trofimov & Thomas Grove)**

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin dismissed American warnings of an imminent terrorist attack and urged leaders of the country's security services to focus on catching Ukrainian spies instead.

Three days later, Islamic State gunmen rampaged through a concert hall outside Moscow, killing more than 130 people in the deadliest episode of terrorism in Russia in decades.

### **7. [“Juicy Targets” For China – PLA Trains Its Satellite Operators For On-Orbit Refueling, Space War With US](#) (The EurAsian Times, 23 MAR, Ashish Dangwal)**

According to the US Air Force think tank, China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) is training its satellite operators for on-orbit satellite refueling, a crucial capability for managing space logistics in both peacetime and wartime scenarios.

This revelation, disclosed in a report published on March 18 by the China Aerospace Studies Institute, a think tank associated with the United States Department of the Air Force, sheds light on China's concerted efforts to enhance its capabilities in space operations.

### **8. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, March 22, 2024](#) (ISW, 22 MAR, Nils Peterson, Matthew Spertz, & Daniel Shats)**

The China–Taiwan Weekly Update focuses on the Chinese Communist Party's paths to controlling Taiwan and cross–Taiwan Strait developments.

#### **Key Takeaways**

- The Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) is expanding efforts to erode the Republic of China's (ROC) sovereignty around Kinmen Island.
- The PRC Ministry of Defense (MOD) warned the United States was “playing with fire” in stationing Green Berets on the Kinmen and Penghu islands.
- The PRC is framing the upcoming April 11 US-Japan-Philippines trilateral as a way for the United States to drive tension in the South China Sea.
- The PRC MFA framed the United States–South Korea Freedom Shield military exercise as causing instability on the Korean Peninsula.
- The PRC had its first public diplomatic meeting with a Hamas official and its first diplomatic visits to Israel and Palestine since Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7.

### **9. [China is building its military on a 'scale not seen since WWII' and is on track to be able to invade Taiwan by 2027: US admiral](#) (Business Insider, 21 MAR, Matthew Loh)**

China's rapid military build-up is more expansive than anything seen since World War II, which means it's on track with its 2027 goal to be ready for a Taiwan invasion, said US Navy Adm. John Aquilino.

"All indications point to the PLA meeting President Xi Jinping's directive to be ready to invade Taiwan by 2027," Aquilino wrote in a testimony to the US Armed Services House Committee.

"Furthermore, the PLA's actions indicate their ability to meet Xi's preferred timeline to unify Taiwan with mainland China by force if directed," added the admiral, the outgoing head of the US Indo-Pacific Command.

### **10. [Taiwan Acknowledges Presence of U.S. Troops on Outlying Islands](#)**

**(WSJ, 19 MAR, Austin Ramzy & Joyu Wang)**

As tensions rise with China, Taiwan's defense minister has hinted that U.S. troops have been training the Taiwanese military on outlying islands that would be on the front lines of a conflict with its neighbor.

The defense minister, Chiu Kuo-cheng, didn't offer details of the U.S. deployment, but the outlying islands include Kinmen, which sits 3 miles east of the Chinese coastal city of Xiamen and more than 100 miles from Taiwan's main island.

**11. [‘Next-China’ In Rare Earth Materials, Why Kazakhstan Could Become Beijing’s Biggest Rival In REE](#) (The EurAsian Times, 19 MAR, KN Pandita)**

Exploration and exploitation of rare earth elements (REE), though of immense importance to modern science and technology-savvy life of modern times, is both an expensive and time-consuming venture.

Despite stupendous efforts by the erstwhile Soviet Union to transform Central Asia from medieval backwardness to modern life of scientific and technological advancement, it could not explore and exploit the rich mineral resources of Central Asia in general and of Kazakhstan in particular to lay the foundation of its viable industrialization.

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## 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](#), March 31, 2024

[Iran Update](#), March 30, 2024

[Iran Update](#), March 29, 2024

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### 2. [IDF: Senior Hamas leader killed in Gaza hospital](#) (UPI, 29 MAR, Darryl Coote)

Israeli troops killed a Hamas leader during an ongoing operation at a central Gaza hospital, the Middle Eastern country's military said.

Israel Defense Forces said Ra'ad Thabet was killed Thursday in the maternity ward of Al-Shifa Hospital as he was attempting to escape into the courtyard with two other militants.

### 3. [Hezbollah fires heavy rockets at northern Israel after deadliest day of Israeli strikes on Lebanon](#) (AP News, 28 MAR, Bassem Mroue)

The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah fired rockets with heavy warheads at towns in northern Israel, saying it used the weapons against civilian targets for the first time Thursday in retaliation for Israeli airstrikes the night before that killed nine, including what the group said were several paramedics.

There were no reports of Israelis hurt in the rocket attack, local media said. The Israeli military did not immediately offer comment on the rocket attack.

### 4. [Israel and Hamas dig in as pressure builds for a cease-fire in Gaza](#) (AP News, 27 MAR, Wafaa Shurafa, Tia Goldenberg & Jack Jeffery)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday blasted a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a Gaza cease-fire that his country's top ally, the United States, chose not to block. He said the resolution had emboldened Hamas and he vowed to press ahead with the war.

As the war grinds through a sixth month, both Israel and Hamas have rejected cease-

fire efforts, each insisting its version of victory is within reach. The passage of the U.N. resolution has also escalated tensions between the U.S. and Israel over the conduct of the war.

5. **[UN to vote on resolution demanding a cease-fire in Gaza during current Muslim holy month of Ramadan](#)** (AP News, 25 MAR, Edith M. Lederer)

The U.N. Security Council is set to vote Monday on a resolution demanding an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The vote comes after Russia and China vetoed a U.S.-sponsored resolution Friday that would have supported “an immediate and sustained cease-fire” in the Israeli-Hamas conflict.

The United States warned that the resolution to be voted on Monday morning could hurt negotiations to halt hostilities by the U.S., Egypt and Qatar, raising the possibility of another veto, this time by the Americans.

6. **[U.S. conducts aid drop into Gaza in coordination with Jordan](#)** (UPI, 20 MAR, Patrick Hilsman)

U.S. Central Command announced Wednesday that it conducted a humanitarian aid drop into Northern Gaza in conjunction with the Jordanian military.

"The combined joint operation included Jordanian provided food and a U.S. Air Force C-130 aircraft," CENTCOM said in a statement Wednesday. "A U.S. C-130 dropped 6,000 pounds of food including rice, flour, milk, pasta and canned foods, providing life-saving humanitarian assistance in Northern Gaza."

7.  **[Hamas Took More Than 200 Hostages From Israel. Here's What We Know.](#)** (WSJ, 17 MAR, Peter Sidel & Summer Said)

The Palestinian militants who raided Israel in the Hamas attacks on Oct. 7 killed over 1,200 people, according to Israel, and abducted over 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 dozens of the hostages under a weeklong series of temporary cease-fire agreements that ended on Dec. 1. International efforts to reach a new cease-fire and hostage-release agreement have continued, but the two sides are still far from a deal.

8. **[Israel strikes several sites in Syria, wounding a soldier, Syrian military says](#)** (AP News, 16 MAR)

Israeli airstrikes hit several sites in southern Syria early Sunday wounding a soldier, Syrian state media reported.

State news agency SANA, citing an unnamed military official, said air defenses shot down some of the missiles, which came from the direction of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights at around 12:42 a.m. local time. The strikes led to “material losses” and the wounding of a soldier, the statement said.

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## Houthis Conflict

1. [\*\*US military says it destroyed Houthi drones over the Red Sea and in Yemen \(AP News, 31 MAR, Samy Magdy\)\*\*](#)

The U.S. military said Sunday its forces destroyed one unmanned aerial vehicle in a Houthi rebel-held area of war-ravaged Yemen and another over a crucial shipping route in the Red Sea. It was the latest development in months of tension between the Iran-backed rebels and the U.S.

The drones, which were destroyed Saturday morning, posed a threat to U.S. and coalition forces and merchant vessels in the region, said the U.S. Central Command.

2. [\*\*An airstrip is being built on a Yemeni island during the ongoing war, with 'I LOVE UAE' next to it \(AP News, 28 MAR, Jon Gambrell\)\*\*](#)

As Yemen's Houthi rebels continue to target ships in a Mideast waterway, satellite pictures analyzed by The Associated Press show what appears to be a new airstrip being built at an entrance to that crucial maritime route.

No country has publicly claimed the construction taking place on Abd al-Kuri Island, a stretch of land rising out of the Indian Ocean near the mouth of the Gulf of Aden. However, satellite images shot for the AP appear to show workers have spelled out "I LOVE UAE" with piles of dirt next to the runway, using an abbreviation for the United Arab Emirates.

3. [\*\*Iran-backed Houthis attacked a Chinese ship with missiles after promising to leave them alone \(Business Insider, 25 MAR, Jake Epstein\)\*\*](#)

The Houthis said they would refrain from attacking Chinese ships off the coast of Yemen, but this past weekend, the Iran-backed rebels did exactly what they said they wouldn't.

Early Saturday morning local time, the Houthis fired four anti-ship ballistic missiles toward the M/V Huang Pu, a Chinese-owned oil tanker, as the ship was transiting the Red Sea, according to US Central Command, or CENTCOM.

4. [\*\*Chinese Tanker Hit with Houthi Missile in the Red Sea \(USNI News, 24 MAR, Heather Mongilio\)\*\*](#)

The Houthis launched five anti-ship ballistic missiles at a Chinese-owned and operated oil tanker, U.S. Central Command announced on Saturday.

One of the missiles hit MV Huang Pu, which sails under a Panamanian flag of convenience, according to the Central Command release. The ship sent out a distress call, but it did not request assistance. The ship had minimal damage and extinguished a small onboard fire.

5. [\*\*US fighter jets strike storage facilities in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen \(AP News, 22 MAR, Lolita C. Baldor\)\*\*](#)

U.S. fighter jets from the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier struck three underground storage facilities in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen late Friday, according to a U.S. official. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a military operation not yet made public, said the ship is in the Red Sea.

Strikes and explosions were seen and heard in Sanaa on Friday night, according to witnesses and videos, some circulating on social media. Footage showed explosions and smoke rising over the Houthi-controlled capital.

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6. [Houthis granting China, Russia safe passage in Red Sea, CENTCOM says \(Defense One, 21 MAR, Patrick Tucker\)](#)

China and Russia are supporting the Houthis—and reaping safe passage through international waters that the Iran-backed group have been showering with missiles and drones, the top U.S. military official in the region said Thursday.

“Russia and China have a bye on any movement through the Red Sea,” Gen. Michael Kurilla, who leads U.S. Central Command, told the House Armed Services Committee. “So what you're seeing is Iran is using its proxy to allow access for Russia and and China to go through the Red Sea while blocking access to others.”

7. [German Navy Helicopter Destroys Houthi Drone Boat \(The Warzone, 21 MAR, Thomas Newdick\)](#)

One day after a French Navy helicopter shot down a Houthi drone over the Red Sea, a German Navy helicopter has now successfully engaged one of the militants' uncrewed surface vessels (USVs) in the same region. The incident reinforces the continued threat posed by Houthi drones and missiles of different kinds to shipping in the area, as well as the various different ways that the naval coalition has to defeat them.

8. [French Navy Helicopter Intercepting Houthi Drone Seen In New Video \(The Warzone, 20 MAR, Oliver Parken\)](#)

A French Navy helicopter used machine gun fire to shoot down a Houthi drone over the Red Sea today. This constitutes the latest, and one of the more intriguing, means by which allied forces have downed Houthi drones during the militants' anti-shipping campaign. France has been a key player in countering the threat posed by Houthi missiles and drones in the Red Sea since late last year.

9. [Red Sea attacks cause global trade to splutter \(DW, 15 MAR, Dirk Kaufmann\)](#)

On the morning of February 21, a cargo ship rammed a bridge in Guangzhou, China — one of the world's busiest seaports — causing the structure to partially collapse. This type of accident in a place where a significant portion of East-West trade passes can have costly consequences for maritime trade. Fortunately, on this occasion, the incident didn't cause any delays for shipping.

International maritime routes are already facing plenty of obstacles as it is. Shipping, the means of transport for more than 80% of global goods, is dealing with piracy in Asian and African waters, and also struggling with the effects of armed conflict and low water levels.

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## Russia-Ukraine Conflict

### 1. The Warzone Ukraine Situation Report:

[Ukraine Situation Report: UK MoD Says Two More Russian Ships Were Hit In Missile Raid](#) – 29 MAR

[Ukraine Situation Report: Claims Swirl Around Strikes On Landing Ships In Crimea](#) – 25 MAR

[Ukraine Situation Report: Kyiv Denies Any Involvement In Terror Attack Near Moscow](#) – 22 MAR

[Ukraine Situation Report: Putin Now Talking About Creating A “Buffer Zone”](#) – 18 MAR

### 2. Institute for The Study of War

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), March 31, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), March 30, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), March 29, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), March 28, 2024

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### 3. [Denying Russia’s Only Strategy for Success](#) (ISW, 27 MAR, Nataliya Bugayova, Frederick W. Kagan & Kateryna Stepanenko)

Russia cannot defeat Ukraine or the West - and will likely lose - if the West mobilizes its resources to resist the Kremlin. The West’s existing and latent capability dwarfs that of Russia. The combined gross domestic product (GDP) of NATO countries, non-NATO European Union states, and our Asian allies is over \$63 trillion. The Russian GDP is on the close order of \$1.9 trillion.[2] Iran and North Korea add little in terms of materiel support. China is enabling Russia, but it is not mobilized on behalf of Russia and is unlikely to do so.[3] If we lean in and surge, Russia loses.

### 4. [Russia executed 32 Ukrainian POWs in past three months, routinely tortures captives, says U.N.](#) (UPI, 27 MAR, Paul Godfrey)

Ukrainian prisoners of war are being executed by their Russian captors in ever higher numbers amid ongoing human rights abuses and inhuman treatment, United Nations monitors said.

A record 32 Ukrainian POWs were executed in 12 separate incidents in the three months through February amid widespread torture and ill-treatment, deaths in custody, incommunicado detention, enforced disappearances, and dire conditions of detention, the U.N. Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said in a news release on its latest

findings published Tuesday.

5. **[FPV Drone Motherships That Also Relay Their Signals Offer Huge Advantages](#) (The Warzone, 26 MAR, Tyler Rogoway)**

A new drone supposedly in use by Russian forces is claimed to act as a mothership, delivering First Person Video (FPV) drones well beyond their notoriously limited range, while also acting as an aerial data-link relay node needed to connect the FPV drones with their 'pilots' miles away. Regardless if the craft in question is actually capable of performing these tasks, the concept is highly relevant as a novel way to get around major technological limitations on the cheap, while resulting potentially in major battlefield impacts.

6. **[Russia 'Knocks Out' 4th US-Supplied Abrams MBT In Ukraine War; Bahrain To Buy 51 Latest Variant Tanks](#) (The EurAsian Times, 25 MAR, Ashish Dangwal)**

Russian troops have reported the destruction of a fourth US-made Abrams tank belonging to the Ukrainian army in the ongoing conflict. The tank was destroyed near Avdiivka, according to a statement released by Russia's Defense Ministry on March 20.

The operation, which took place in the settlement of Berdychi, involved reconnaissance teams detecting the movement of enemy-tracked equipment.

7. **[Ukraine's Battered Army Grapples With Growing Troop Shortage](#) (WSJ, 24 MAR, Nikita Nikolaienko & Ian Lovett)**

Ukraine's armed forces desperately need fresh troops to hold back massed Russian offensives. But political dithering is leaving front-line units threadbare.

A bill aimed at expanding the draft in Ukraine is stuck in Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, after months of debate.

The proposed changes are rather meager: The age of conscription would be lowered to 25 from 27. In addition, soldiers would be eligible to leave the military after three years of service, and punishments would be imposed for men who avoid registering for the draft.

8. **[Russia launches massive overnight strikes on Ukraine](#) (DW, 22 MAR, hannah Hummel)**

Several people were reportedly killed and many wounded in Russia's overnight air attack on Ukraine. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called it Russia's largest strike on the country's energy infrastructure since the war began.

9. **[French Military In Ukraine Will Be A 'Priority Target' For Russia – Kremlin Warns At Security Council](#) (The EurAsian Times, 22 MAR, EurAsian Times Desk)**

France must keep in mind that Moscow will consider the French military deployed in Ukraine a priority target, Russia's permanent representative to the UN, Vasily Nebenzya, said at a Security Council meeting.

"When planning to send regular soldiers (to Ukraine), Paris should remember an important thing – they will be considered as a legitimate and even priority target for our army," Nebenzya underscored.

10. **[Russia's Reprisal Attack On Ukraine's Energy Infrastructure Was The Biggest Yet](#) (The Warzone, 22 MAR, Thomas Newdick)**

Russia launched its biggest missile and drone onslaught in many months against Ukraine

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overnight. Authorities in Kyiv described the raids as the heaviest to target its energy infrastructure in the war so far. For Moscow, the latest round of attacks was revenge for Ukrainian strikes launched against targets inside Russia, especially energy-related ones, during its recent presidential election. More generally, they are part of a pattern of raids by both sides aimed at energy infrastructure.

11. [Russia Launches Biggest Missile Attack on Kyiv in Weeks](#) (WSJ, 21 MAR)

Residents took shelter during the overnight attack on Ukraine's capital. It came after Russian President Vladimir Putin threatened to respond to Ukrainian attacks on the border city of Belgorod.

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