



# Cyber Center of Excellence

## Unclassified Threat Read Book

### 16 - 31 May 2023

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## Cyber

1. [Insider Q&A: Artificial intelligence and cybersecurity in military tech](#) (AP News, 29 MAY, Frank Bajak)

Josh Lospinoso's first cybersecurity startup was acquired in 2017 by Raytheon/Forcepoint.. His second, Shift5, works with the U.S. military, rail operators and airlines including JetBlue. A 2009 West Point grad and Rhodes Scholar, the 36-year-old former Army captain spent more than a decade authoring hacking tools for the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command.

Lospinoso recently told a Senate Armed Services subcommittee how artificial intelligence can help protect military operations. The CEO/programmer discussed the subject with The Associated Press as well how software vulnerabilities in weapons systems are a major threat to the U.S. military. The interview has been edited for clarity and length.

2. [Fact Sheet: 2023 DoD Cyber Strategy](#) (DoD News, 26 MAY)

The 2023 DOD Cyber Strategy establishes how the Defense Department will operate in and through cyberspace to protect the American people and advance the defense priorities of the United States.

3. [U.S. warns China could hack infrastructure, including pipelines, rail systems](#) (Reuters, 26 MAY, Raphael Satter, Zeba Siddiqui & James Pearson)

The U.S. State Department warned on Thursday that China was capable of launching cyber attacks against critical infrastructure, including oil and gas pipelines and rail systems, after researchers discovered a Chinese hacking group had been spying on such networks.

A multi-nation alert issued Wednesday revealed the Chinese cyber-espionage campaign had been aimed at military and government targets in the United States.

4. [Cyber Army! US Mulls Creating A New Military Unit That Can 'Track & Whack' Chinese, Russian Aggression](#) (The EurAsian Times, 25 MAY, Prakash Nanda)

Given the ever-increasing cyber threats and attacks, is it time for the countries to create an independent cyber force? This question is looming over the minds of the US strategic elites, including the lawmakers, like never before.

Of course, cyber threats as a phenomenon have not suddenly appeared. Worries over them have existed over the years. Each service in the US has had a cyber service of its own.

But the willingness of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea to utilize their cyber power against their adversaries has made the American policymakers, particularly the Congress, dance around the idea of creating a separate cyber force.

5. [Chinese hackers spying on US critical infrastructure, Western intelligence says](#) (Reuters, 25 MAY, Zeba Siddiqui)

A state-sponsored Chinese hacking group has been spying on a wide range of U.S. critical infrastructure organizations, from telecommunications to transportation hubs, Western intelligence agencies and Microsoft (MSFT.O) said on Wednesday.

The espionage has also targeted the U.S. island territory of Guam, home to strategically important American military bases, Microsoft said in a report, adding that

"mitigating this attack could be challenging."

6. **[How do we best govern AI?](#) (Microsoft, 25 MAY, Brad Smith)**

This post is the foreword written by Brad Smith for Microsoft's report [Governing AI: A Blueprint for the Future](#). The first part of the report details five ways governments should consider policies, laws, and regulations around AI. The second part focuses on Microsoft's internal commitment to ethical AI, showing how the company is both operationalizing and building a culture of responsible AI.

"Don't ask what computers can do, ask what they should do."

That is the title of the chapter on AI and ethics in a book I co-authored in 2019. At the time, we wrote that, "This may be one of the defining questions of our generation." Four years later, the question has seized center stage not just in the world's capitals, but around many dinner tables.

As people have used or heard about the power of OpenAI's GPT-4 foundation model, they have often been surprised or even astounded. Many have been enthused or even excited. Some have been concerned or even frightened. What has become clear to almost everyone is something we noted four years ago – we are the first generation in the history of humanity to create machines that can make decisions that previously could only be made by people.

7. **[Microsoft: State-sponsored Chinese hackers could be laying groundwork for disruption](#) (AP News, 24 MAY, Frank Bajak)**

State-backed Chinese hackers have been targeting U.S. critical infrastructure and could be laying the technical groundwork for the potential disruption of critical communications between the U.S. and Asia during future crises, Microsoft said Wednesday.

The targets include sites in Guam, where the U.S. has a major military presence, the company said.

Hostile activity in cyberspace — from espionage to the advanced positioning of malware for potential future attacks — has become a hallmark of modern geopolitical rivalry.

8. **[No Missiles, Warplanes Or Drones; The Next Big Conflict After Russia-Ukraine War Could See 'Hack & Whack' Tech](#) (The EurAsian Times, 22 MAY, Gp Cpt TP Srivastava (Retd))**

The most outstanding accomplishment of human scientific endeavor to date occurred on July 20, 1969, when two mortals stepped on the lunar surface. This monumental feat was accomplished due to advances in rocketry and colossal (at that time) improvement in computing power.

Incidentally, the computing power that enabled man on the moon was merely equivalent to a Pentium one of the present times.

Computing power increases exponentially and is governed by Moore's law: "Computing power doubles yearly." Today's Xbox is nearly 1000 times faster than a Pentium One, maybe more.

A physicist in the USA, who needed supercomputer assistance for his research but failed to buy the computer time due to prohibitive cost, found a peculiar yet workable alternative. He purchased more than 1000 Xboxes, put them in parallel, and achieved the computing power required for research.

Growth in computing power has improved information sharing and created a new domain of warfare – information warfare (IW). IW experts have developed the ability to

'hack' into a supposedly impregnable computer network protected by numerous firewalls.

9. **[Microsoft's & Facebook's Latest Threat Assessment Slams China, Iran & Pakistan For 'State-Sponsored' Cyber Assaults](#)** (The EurAsian Times, 17 MAY, Ritu Sharma)

The People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan are bringing in new playbooks to undermine their enemies within and outside their borders – low-cost cyber-enabled influence operations.

Microsoft and Facebook's latest threat assessment underlines the evolution of threats posed by state-sanctioned tactics like creating fake personas, honey trapping, creating a phony media company in the West, hiring freelance writers around the world, offering to recruit protesters, and co-opting an NGO in Africa.

10. **[Presidential office, NIS launch cyber crisis management team](#)** (The Korean Times, 17 MAY,)

The presidential National Security Office and the National Intelligence Service (NIS) on Wednesday launched a public-private partnership tasked with responding to cyberthreats, the presidential office said.

The national cyber crisis management team was formally launched during a ceremony at the NIS-affiliated national cybersecurity cooperation center in Pangyo, a neighborhood in Seongnam, just south of Seoul.

11. **[Many believe it's time for an independent uniformed cyber service. Here's what it could look like](#)** (Defense Scoop, 15 MAY, Mark Pomerleau)

Some outside groups have offered roadmaps for how to establish an independent cyber force akin to the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Space Force.

While the idea has been kicked around for more than a decade, discussions for an independent cyber service — akin to the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Space Force — have intensified in the last few months. Lawmakers have taken time during congressional hearings to ask top Department of Defense cyber officials about the prospect of a cyber force and, increasingly, there are more questions from attendees at conferences for military officials.

As it currently stands, each of the military services is responsible for providing personnel for a set number of teams to U.S. Cyber Command, which then employs those forces in operations for the other geographic combatant commands.

Proponents of an independent cyber service argue the cyber operators have no distinct identity — as they are still members of their respective services — there are readiness issues associated with each service resourcing their cyber contributions differently, lexicon and pay scales are different for the members of each service and the command and control structures are confusing.

## Electronic Warfare

1. [Write algorithms, wage EW, share data: Lessons from Ukraine war \(Breaking Defense, 30 MAY, Colin Clark\)](#)

"The loss rate for Ukrainian UAVs at the moment is about 10,000 UAVs a month," Jack Watling, a senior research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, said. "That's the level of equipment that both sides are going through."

The importance of a military's ability to write algorithms at the edge of battle and then use them effectively, combined with a willingness to change doctrine and tactics to anticipate and destroy enemy forces, may be the biggest lessons of the Ukraine war, a key leader of the US Army's XVIII Airborne Corps said last week.

2. [Russia 'Smashing' 330 Ukrainian UAVs Per Day; UK Report Says Russian Electronic Warfare 'Wreaks Havoc' On Kyiv \(The EurAsian Times, 24 MAY, Parth Satam\)](#)

Researchers have revealed new Russian Electronic Warfare (EW) systems and capabilities that have been devastating for Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and encrypted radio communications in an alarmingly short period.

A report by the United Kingdom (UK)-based Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) notes how Moscow's EW has consistently remained effective and brought down nearly 10,000 Ukrainian drones a month which is approximately 333 drones per day.

Like its 'echeloned' air defense, with progressively overlapping short, medium, and long-range surface-to-air (SAM) systems, Russian ground forces have adequately distributed EW platforms covering every 10 kilometers of the front.

3. [On Saturday, Russians Lost Two Rare Mi-8MTPR-1 Electronic Warfare Helicopters, of Which They Had Less Than 20 \(Defense Express, 14 MAY\)](#)

The occupiers thought they could reliably cover their planes carrying glide bombs to bombard Ukraine by their Mi-8MTPR-1 EW helicopters, but they miscalculated

After yesterday's "friendly fire" debacle, which cost the Russians the loss of at least two Mi-8 helicopters, one Su-34 bomber and one Su-35 multirole fighter, the enemy still does not know what exactly was used to shoot down his aircraft yesterday. Instead, additional details have appeared in the public domain, which explain how acute yesterday's losses are for Russian Aerospace Forces. And here it is not only a matter of quantitative indicators of the "largest since March 2022" simultaneous loss of combat aircraft in one day, but also of qualitative indicators.

For example, according to some data, yesterday the Russians lost not "classic" Mi-8 transport helicopters, but specialized Mi-8MTPR-1 electronic warfare helicopters equipped with the Rychag-AV EW system.

## Information Advantage

1. ['Adversarial AI' a threat to military systems, Shift5's Lospinosa says](#) (C4ISR Net, 29 MAY, Frank Bajak)

Josh Lospinosa's first cybersecurity startup was acquired in 2017 by Raytheon/Forcepoint. His second, Shift5, works with the U.S. military, rail operators and airlines including JetBlue. A 2009 West Point grad and Rhodes Scholar, the 36-year-old former Army captain spent more than a decade authoring hacking tools for the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command.

Lospinosa recently told a Senate Armed Services subcommittee how artificial intelligence can help protect military operations. The CEO/programmer discussed the subject with The Associated Press as well how software vulnerabilities in weapons systems are a major threat to the U.S. military. The interview has been edited for clarity and length.

2. [EU official says Twitter abandons bloc's voluntary pact against disinformation](#) (AP News, 26 MAY, Kelvin Chan)

Twitter has dropped out of a voluntary European Union agreement to combat online disinformation, a top EU official said Friday.

European Commissioner Thierry Breton tweeted that Twitter had pulled out of the EU's disinformation "code of practice" that other major social media platforms have pledged to support. But he added that Twitter's "obligation" remained, referring to the EU's tough new digital rules taking effect in August.

3. [Microsoft chief says deep fakes are biggest AI concern](#) (Reuters, 25 MAY, Diane Bartz)

Microsoft President Brad Smith said Thursday that his biggest concern around artificial intelligence was deep fakes, realistic looking but false content.

In a speech in Washington aimed at addressing the issue of how best to regulate AI, which went from wonky to widespread with the arrival of OpenAI's ChatGPT, Smith called for steps to ensure that people know when a photo or video is real and when it is generated by AI, potentially for nefarious purposes.

4. [FACT FOCUS: Fake image of Pentagon explosion briefly sends jitters through stock market](#) (AP News, 23 MAY, Philip Marcelo)

An image of black smoke billowing next to a bureaucratic-looking building spread across social media Monday morning, with the claim that it showed an explosion near the Pentagon.

The posts sent a brief shiver through the stock market as they were quickly picked up by news outlets outside the U.S., before officials jumped in to clarify that no blast actually took place and the photo was a fake.

Experts say the viral image had telltale signs of an AI-generated forgery, and its popularity underscores the everyday chaos these now increasingly sophisticated and easy-to-access programs can inflict.

5. [White House takes new steps to study AI risks, determine impact on workers](#) (Reuters, 23 MAY, Nandita Bose)



## UNCLASSIFIED

The White House said on Tuesday it would ask workers how their employers use artificial intelligence (AI) to monitor them, as it allocates federal investments in the technology, which is expected to change the nature of work.

The White House will hold a listening session with workers to understand their experience with employers' use of automated technologies for surveillance, monitoring and evaluation. The call will include gig work experts, researchers, and policymakers.

### 6. [White House unveils new efforts to guide federal research of AI](#) (AP News, 23 MAY, Amer Madhani)

The White House on Tuesday announced new efforts to guide federally backed research on artificial intelligence as the Biden administration looks to get a firmer grip on understanding the risks and opportunities of the rapidly evolving technology.

Among the moves unveiled by the administration was a tweak to the United States' strategic plan on artificial intelligence research, which was last updated in 2019, to add greater emphasis on international collaboration with allies.

### 7. [The cyber gulag: How Russia tracks, censors and controls its citizens](#) (AP News, 23 MAY, Dasha Litvinova)

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — When Yekaterina Maksimova can't afford to be late, the journalist and activist avoids taking the Moscow subway, even though it's probably the most efficient route.

That's because she's been detained five times in the past year, thanks to the system's pervasive security cameras with facial recognition. She says police would tell her the cameras "reacted" to her — although they often seemed not to understand why, and would let her go after a few hours.

### 8. [Israel aims to be 'AI superpower', advance autonomous warfare](#) (Reuters, 22 MAY, Dan Williams)

Israel aims to parlay its technological prowess to become an artificial intelligence "superpower", the Defence Ministry director-general said on Monday, predicting advances in autonomous warfare and streamlined combat decision-making.

Steps to harness rapid AI evolutions include the formation of a dedicated organisation for military robotics in the ministry, and a record-high budget for related research and development this year, retired army general Eyal Zamir said.

### 9. [ChatGPT makes its debut as a smartphone app on iPhones](#) (AP News, 18 MAY, Matt O'Brien)

ChatGPT is now a smartphone app, which could be good news for people who like to use the artificial intelligence chatbot and bad news for all the clone apps that have tried to profit off the technology.

The free app became available on iPhones and iPads in the U.S. on Thursday and will later be coming to Android devices. Unlike the desktop web version, the mobile version on Apple's iOS operating system also enables users to speak to it using their voice.

The company that makes it, OpenAI, said it will remain ad-free but "syncs your history across devices."

"We're starting our rollout in the U.S. and will expand to additional countries in the coming weeks," said a blog post announcing the new app, which is described in the App Store as the "official app" by OpenAI.

## UNCLASSIFIED

10. [Montana governor bans TikTok. But can the state enforce the law?](#) (AP News, 17 MAY, Heleluya Hadero)

Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte on Wednesday signed into law a first-of-its kind bill that makes it illegal for TikTok to operate in the state, setting up a potential legal fight with the company amid a litany of questions over whether the state can even enforce the law.

The new rules in Montana will have more far-reaching effects than TikTok bans already in place on government-issued devices in nearly half the states and the U.S. federal government. There are 200,000 TikTok users in Montana as well as 6,000 businesses that use the video-sharing platform, according to company spokesperson Jamal Brown

4. [Neck Deep In Disputes, China Aims To Emerge As A Global Mediator; Eyes To Resolve The Yemen Conflict](#) (The EurAsian Times, 16 MAY, KN Pandita)

China's successful mediation between entrenched hostiles of Saudi Arabia and Iran has encouraged it to extend its influence by assuming the role of a global mediator of disputes.

It proposes to engage in the Yemeni dispute in which the Saudi Kingdom and Iranian theocratic state are involved by supporting their proxies.

All global disputes are not alike in their nature, content, and fallout. Some conflicts are multi-faceted, some are complex, and some result from egotism. Forging reconciliation becomes successful if the mediator can address the core issues, which are often invisible and need to be understood with great patience.

5. [ChatGPT chief says artificial intelligence should be regulated by a US or global agency](#) (AP News, 16 MAY, Matt O'Brien)

The head of the artificial intelligence company that makes ChatGPT told Congress on Tuesday that government intervention will be critical to mitigating the risks of increasingly powerful AI systems.

"As this technology advances, we understand that people are anxious about how it could change the way we live. We are too," OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said at a Senate hearing.

Altman proposed the formation of a U.S. or global agency that would license the most powerful AI systems and have the authority to "take that license away and ensure compliance with safety standards."

## Signal

1. [Enterprise 'woefully unprepared' for quantum computing risk](#) (Tech Monitor, 25 MAY, Ryan Morrison)

Research from Moody's found that while the majority of companies understand the impact of quantum computing, few are taking action.

Companies are 'woefully unprepared' for both the risks from and impact of quantum computing, warns ratings agency Moody's. This includes updating systems to use post-quantum cybersecurity. One analyst told Tech Monitor large organisations should have "readied themselves" by now for the impact the technology will have.

2. [US Army receives mixed signals from industry on 'radio as a service'](#) (Defense News, 25 MAY, Colin Demarest)

U.S. Army officials are considering what's next for an initiative known as radio as a service, after receiving feedback from industry that swung from enthusiasm to skepticism.

The Army published a request for information regarding the as-a-service tack, a potential pivot away from the traditional means of buying and maintaining radios, and received 15 responses by March.

3. [From self-driving cars to military surveillance: quantum computing can help secure the future of AI systems](#) (The Conversation, 25 MAY, Muhammad Usman)

Artificial intelligence algorithms are quickly becoming a part of everyday life. Many systems that require strong security are either already underpinned by machine learning or soon will be. These systems include facial recognition, banking, military targeting applications, and robots and autonomous vehicles, to name a few.

This raises an important question: how secure are these machine learning algorithms against malicious attacks?

4. [The New Era Of Big Data](#) (Forbes, 25 MAY, Russ Kennedy)

We need to reset the way we think about data.

Until recently, enterprise data was siloed within massive, expensive facilities and storage arrays. Data was stuck. Today, the data center is no longer the center of data. The cloud and edge now offer more flexible and viable alternatives for storing data. Data can be made available anywhere at any time to any authorized person, machine or application. In a way, data has become its own entity, and we are only beginning to explore what we can do with it.

5. [SpaceX's Starlink to be Available Globally on the Move](#) (Greek Reporter, 24 MAY, Alexander Gale)

Starlink, SpaceX's satellite internet constellation, has launched a new service that enables customers to connect to the internet from almost anywhere on Earth, even on the move.

Starlink Mobility harnesses an enhanced receiver equipped with an expansive field of view and advanced GPS capabilities, facilitating seamless connectivity to SpaceX's vast constellation of over 4,000 low-Earth orbit satellites.

6. [Can quantum computing accelerate machine learning?](#) (Tech Monitor, 24 MAY, Ryan Morrison)

A mix of quantum processors and standard GPUs can speed up the machine learning process, Nvidia and Orca have discovered.

British quantum computing company Orca is working with Nvidia on speeding up and improving the machine learning process. A new hybrid system sends some of the processing off to the quantum processor, which the company says improves the output quality and speeds up the training time.

7. [Cutting Through the Noise: What is Zero Trust Security?](#) (Security Week, 23 MAY, Marie Hattar)

With proactive steps to move toward Zero Trust, technology leaders can leverage an old, yet new, idea that must become the security norm.

The Zero Trust framework has emerged as the leading security protocol for complex enterprises.

According to ZTEdge, 80% of organizations have plans to embrace a zero-trust security strategy this year, and global spending on Zero Trust will more than double between now and 2025.

This rapid growth comes more than a decade after Forrester's John Kindervag first coined the term "Zero Trust" and nearly 30 years since the concept's genesis was first published. Zero Trust has become so popular recently as organizations have seen its value in multi-faceted environments that feature cloud, on-premise, and legacy architecture.

8. [China Seeks to Counter Musk's Starlink With Own Satellite Network](#) (WSJ, 21 MAY, Clarence Leong)

China is ramping up efforts to develop a satellite-powered internet network that can compete with Elon Musk's Starlink, which has quickly expanded around the world and whose military applications have been on display in Ukraine's defense against Russia.

Beijing's ambition to build a satellite-broadband network has faced hurdles including limited launch capacity and technological barriers. But Starlink's ability to maintain high-speed internet connections to Ukraine despite the country's damaged telecommunications infrastructure underscored the need for similar fleets of satellites orbiting close to Earth—known as constellations.

9. [Pentagon Cyber Official Provides Progress Update on Zero Trust Strategy Roadmap](#) (DoD News, 18 MAY, Joseph Clark)

The Pentagon's senior information security official said today that the Defense Department is on track to implement its zero trust cybersecurity framework by fiscal year 2027 as planned.

David McKeown, who serves as the DOD's deputy chief information officer as well as the department's senior information security officer, said his office has been hard at work to ensure a smooth rollout of the initiative after publishing the Zero Trust Strategy and Roadmap in November.

## Items of Interest

### 1. **Russia-Ukraine Situation Report, (U.S. Army Asian Studies Detachment)**

These reports are a compilation of articles from Russia, Ukraine, and other nations regarding the current tensions between Russia and Ukraine. Topics covered in this report include the following:

- Foreign Observations and Reactions
- Social Media Highlights
- Russian Eastern Military District Movements
- Other Topics

[Russia-Ukraine Situation Report](#), 31 May 2023

[Russia-Ukraine Situation Report](#), 30 May 2023

[Russia-Ukraine Situation Report](#), 25 May 2023

[Russia-Ukraine Situation Report](#), 24 May 2023

[Russia-Ukraine Situation Report](#), 22 May 2023

[Russia-Ukraine Situation Report](#), 19 May 2023

[Russia-Ukraine Situation Report](#), 18 May 2023

[Russia-Ukraine Situation Report](#), 17 May 2023

[Russia-Ukraine Situation Report](#), 16 May 2023

### 2. **The WARZONE Ukraine Situation Report (Howard Altman)**

[Ukraine Situation Report: Spent Patriot Missile Narrowly Misses Kyiv Motorists](#) – 31 MAY

[Ukraine Situation Report: Kyiv To Hold First Person Video Drone ‘Super Bowl’](#) – 30 MAY

[Ukraine Situation Report: Suspense Builds As Counteroffensive Looms](#) – 27 MAY

[Ukraine Situation Report: Denmark, Netherlands To Lead F-16 Pilot Training Coalition](#) – 25 MAY

[Ukraine Situation Report: White House Investigating If U.S. Vehicles Used In Raid Into Russia](#) – 24 MAY

[Ukraine Situation Report: Attack Inside Russia Continues With Strikes On Government Buildings](#) – 22 MAY

[Ukraine Situation Report: Russia Gains In Bakhmut, Talk Of Imminent Fall Swirls](#) – 20 May

[Ukraine Situation Report: F-16 Coalition Begins To Take Shape](#) – 19 May

[Ukraine Situation Report: U.K. Confirms Combat Use Of Storm Shadow Missiles](#) – 18 MAY

[Ukraine Situation Report: Video Of Air Defenses Prompts Arrests](#) – 17 MAY

[Ukraine Situation Report: France Sending SCALP-EG Cruise Missiles](#) – 16 MAY

### 3. **[Why NATO Just Sent Hundreds Of Troops To Kosovo](#) (The Drive, 31 MAY, Oliver Parker)**

An explainer on why 700 additional NATO troops have been sent to Kosovo and

reserve forces have been placed on alert.

NATO is sending 700 additional personnel to bolster its peacekeeping mission in Kosovo, in response to a spate of violent protests by ethnic Serbs leaving around 30 Kosovo Force (KFOR) troops and 52 protesters wounded.

The unrest stems most immediately from a recent ethnic Serbian boycott relating to previous Mayoral elections. This reflects a broader surge in friction between that community and Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority. At the same time, there are also fears that the ongoing tensions there might be further fueled by anti-NATO and anti-Western sentiment in the country, as well as elsewhere in the Balkans, as an extension of the war in Ukraine.

4. [\*\*North Korea says attempt to launch first spy satellite ends in failure \(C4ISRNet, 30 MAY, Hyung-Jin Kim\)\*\*](#)

North Korea said its attempt to put the country's first spy satellite into orbit failed Wednesday, an apparent embarrassment to leader Kim Jong Un over his push to boost his military capability in the protracted security tensions with the United States and South Korea.

The statement published in state media said the rocket carrying the satellite crashed into waters off the Korean Peninsula's western coast after it lost thrust following the separation of its first and second stages. It said scientists were examining the cause of the failure.

5. [\*\*Ukraine War: Russian Lawmaker Threatens Iskander Attack On US; Says 'Let Me Remind You, There's Alaska Across The Strait' \(The EurAsian Times, 29 MAY, Ashish Dangwal\)\*\*](#)

Amid continued support to Ukraine, a prominent Russian legislator has threatened the United States, stating that Russia could devastate Alaska with missile strikes.

During a broadcast on Russian state-run television, Andrey Gurulyov, a deputy of the Russian State Duma, accompanied by host Olga Skabeyeva and other Russian commentators, engaged in a discussion about potential attacks on various US targets, including the Lone Star State (Texas).

6. [\*\*Drone Swarms Got Targeting System Updates In Flight In Recent AUKUS Demo \(The Drive, 26 MAY, Joseph Trevithick\)\*\*](#)

The United States, United Kingdom, and Australia recently tested advanced drone swarm and artificial-intelligence targeting capabilities.

Drones and ground vehicles showed off new artificial intelligence-driven capabilities to automatically spot and track enemy targets during a recent demonstration by the armed forces of the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia. The test notably included the live updating of the targeting algorithms on the drones, which were also operating as networked swarms, while they were in flight. Altogether, this highlights still-growing cooperation between the three countries on drones, autonomy, and machine learning and artificial intelligence, as part of the still very new AUKUS defense partnership.

The Pentagon, the U.K. Ministry of Defense, and the Australian Department of Defense all issued press releases on what was referred to as a "capabilities trial" today. The event itself took place on April 28 in Upavon in Wiltshire in the United Kingdom and was hosted by the U.K. Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL). The test was carried out as part of broader cooperation between the three countries under Pillar II of the AUKUS arrangement, which is centered broadly on "advanced capabilities."

7. [Army reorganizing program offices for network and cyber ops, UAVs may be next: Officials](#) (Breaking Defense, 25 MAY, Jaspreet Gill)

The way the historic PEO organizations were initially set up was “for a reason,” but now the Army is modernizing, and the shift is needed to support its unified network, Young Bang said.

In a move to further its digital transformation strategy, the Army at the start of the next fiscal year will formally realign three of its program executive offices to support its cyber operations and better pursue its unified network vision, and more offices could follow in the future.

Though the PEOs had been organized the way they were “for a reason,” Young Bang, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics & technology (ASA(ALT)) said at an industry technical exchange meeting, but now the Army is modernizing and needs to rethink its organizational stance.

8. [Foreign Reflections on U.S. Exercises and Operations, LANPAC 2023, 25 May 2023](#) – (U.S. Army Asian Studies Detachment, 25 MAY)

This week’s report contains reporting of foreign observations on U.S. and bilateral exercises from 19 to 23 May 2023, as well as foreign observations on the recently concluded LANPAC 2023 in Hawaii. Each section also contains the respective ASD report number for the original report (if available) and covers reporting from Australia, Bangladesh, the PRC, India, Japan, Malaysia, North Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

9. [US Army revamps program executive offices to sharpen cyber focus](#) (Defense News, 24 MAY, Colin Demarest)

U.S. Army cyber and technology programs are changing hands amid a shake-up of the service’s acquisitions offices.

The Program Executive Office for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, or PEO IEW&S, headed by Mark Kitz, will by Oct. 1 absorb defensive cyber operations, cyber analytics and detection, cyber platforms and systems, and the technology applications office. Those efforts are now associated with the Program Executive Office for Enterprise Information Systems, or PEO EIS, run by Ross Guckert.

10. [Images Claiming To Show U.S. Vehicles Used In Raid Into Russia Spur Questions](#) (The Drive, 23 MAY, Howard Altman)

Security assistance to Ukraine is for use inside its borders “to defend their country,” the Pentagon’s top spokesman said.

Asked about imagery emerging on social media purporting to show U.S.-made armored vehicles captured in Russia during this week’s cross-border incursion, the Pentagon said it did not authorize the transfer of equipment to “paramilitary organizations outside the Ukrainian Armed Forces” by Kyiv and received no requests to do so.

Images appeared on social media claiming to show that two pro-Ukrainian Russian partisan groups - the Freedom For Russia Legion and the Russian Volunteer Corps - used several U.S.-donated vehicles during a cross-border attack on Russia. While we cannot independently confirm the use of those vehicles in that attack, the Oryx open-source weapons tracking group - which only reports on equipment it has visual confirmation of - says that the Russians captured two International M1224 MaxxPro MRAPs, two 2 M1151 HMMWVs and that one M1152 HMMWV was damaged and captured. The Ukraine Weapons Tracker open-source investigations group concurred

with that assessment.

11. [\*\*From Signal to Cyber Warfare – The Cyber CDID \(Futures and Concepts Center, 23 MAY, Matt Murch\)\*\*](#)

In a world of electronics of all shapes and sizes, from the computer, tablet or phone that these words appear on to the thousands of Alexa units, Google Home units and smart televisions, how does America protect itself?

Cybersecurity in the United States has been at the forefront of news stories over the last several years. Hackers have broken into large business networks and stolen and ransomed millions of dollars. The Government Accountability Office stated the proposed budget for cybersecurity in the fiscal year 2023 budget was over 10 billion dollars.

12. [\*\*Russian Troops Battling Incursion Inside Its Borders Near Ukraine \(The Drive, 22 MAY, Howard Altman\)\*\*](#)

Russia is battling an incursion by pro-Ukrainian fighters in the Belgorod region that sits next to Ukraine.

Two Russian partisan groups supporting Ukraine claim they carried out attacks inside Russia's Belgorod Oblast Monday, "liberating" the settlement of Kozinka about a mile across the border and entering another one called Grayvoron about six miles inside Russia. The region's governor acknowledged the attacks - at least the second such incursion into Russia since March - but blamed them on Ukrainian Armed Forces. He ordered that "counter-terrorism" security measures be taken as a result.

The partisan groups called Freedom of Russia Legion and the Russian Volunteer Corps (RDK) "completely liberated the settlement of Kozinka, Belgorod Region," the Freedom of Russia Legion claimed on its Telegram Channel Monday. "Advance detachments entered Grayvoron. We move on. Russia will be free!"

13. [\*\*THOR Microwave Anti-Drone System Downs Swarms In Test \(The Drive, 19 MAY, Oliver Parken\)\*\*](#)

The demonstration pitted the service's high-power microwave THOR system against a "real-world" drone swarm simulation.

The U.S. Air Force recently conducted a first-of-its-kind test of the Tactical High-power Operational Responder, also known as THOR. A high-power microwave counter-drone system, the containerized THOR is designed to engage multiple drones at short ranges in a point defense role. This comes as the threat of drones, particularly ones operating in large groups or fully-networked swarms, becomes increasingly urgent around the globe.

14. [\*\*Foreign Reflections on U.S. Exercises and Operations, 19 May 2023 – 19 MAY \(U.S. Army Asian Studies Detachment, 19 MAY\)\*\*](#)

This week's report contains reporting of foreign observations on U.S. and Bilateral exercises from 12 to 18 May 2023. Each section also contains the respective ASD report number for the original report (if available) and covers reporting from the PRC, Indonesia, Japan, Philippine, and Taiwan.

15. [\*\*Why Ukraine's spring offensive still hasn't begun — with summer just weeks away \(AP News, 19 MAY, Tara Copp\)\*\*](#)

For months, Western allies have shipped billions of dollars worth of weapons systems and ammunition to Ukraine with an urgency to get the supplies to Kyiv in time for an anticipated spring counteroffensive.

Now summer is just weeks away. While Russia and Ukraine are focused on an intense



battle for Bakhmut, the Ukrainian spring offensive has yet to begin.

Last week Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said it's been delayed because his country lacks enough Western weapons to succeed without suffering too many casualties. Weather and training are playing a role too, officials and defense experts say.

**16. [Russia fires 30 cruise missiles at Ukrainian targets; Ukraine says 29 were shot down](#) (AP News, 18 MAY, Susie Blann)**

Russia fired 30 cruise missiles against different parts of Ukraine early Thursday in the latest nighttime test of Ukrainian air defenses, which shot down 29 of them, officials said.

One person died and two were wounded by a Russian missile that got through and struck an industrial building in the southern region of Odesa, according to Serhiy Bratchuk, a spokesperson for the region's military administration.

Amid the recently intensified Russian air assaults, China said its special envoy met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during talks in Kyiv earlier this week with Ukraine's chief diplomat.

**17. [British-Trained Soldiers 'Tounce' Russian Military In Ukraine; UK-Led Europe 'Leads' The US With Operation Interflex](#) (The EurAsian Times, 18 MAY, Prakash Nanda)**

As Ukraine prepares for what is said to be the Spring Offensive against Russia, a debate has sprung up about why Europe's contribution to the war is not getting due recognition as compared to that of the United States.

The debate is based on the age-old maxim that the quality manpower (in this case, the soldier's quality and competence) is as important as quality weapons in fighting a war.

Accordingly, the point is being made that while the United States may have contributed more than half of the \$160 billion in economic, humanitarian, and military aid that Ukraine has received since the outbreak of the war, Europe's contribution is not as insignificant as has been perceived by many.

**18. [T-72 Tank Spotted At U.S. Gas Station](#) (The Drive, 17 MAY, Howard Altman)**

For the second time in a month, a Soviet-designed tank has been spotted on U.S. highways heading to the same place.

On May 13, Dave Trojan, a retired Navy aviation electronic technician from Michigan, was preparing for another day of searching for WWII aircraft crash sites near Wendover Airfield in Utah when he came across a weapon of war from more modern times.

Trojan spotted what appears to be the second modern Russian-designed tank seen on U.S. highways in a little more than a month. You can read more about the Russian T-90 tank from Ukraine observed in Louisiana last month in our story here.

In this latest case, it appears that Trojan saw a Czech T-72 tank, covered in a tarp on a tractor-trailer, that might be among 90 being refurbished by a Czech company for the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

**19. [N. Korea's 1st military spy satellite launch likely be timed with key July anniv.: experts](#) (The Korean Times, 17 MAY)**

North Korea has announced the completion of preparations to mount its first military spy satellite on a rocket, but some experts predicted the North may launch it around a key anniversary in July to flex its military muscle with success.

The North's leader Kim Jong-un on Tuesday inspected the country's non-permanent committee designed to prepare for the launch of a military reconnaissance satellite and approved of its "future action plan," the Korean Central News Agency reported Wednesday.

20. **[N. Korean leader inspects military spy satellite facility: state media \(The Korean Times, 17 MAY\)](#)**

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspected the country's first military reconnaissance satellite and gave the green light for its next action plan, Pyongyang's state media said Wednesday, adding that the satellite is "ready for loading" on a rocket.

Kim made the on-site inspection to the Non-permanent Satellite Launch Preparatory Committee a day earlier to check the overall status of the spy satellite and approved of its "future action plan," the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said, in a move that signals the launch could be imminent.

21. **[Dozens Of Interceptors Fired As Kyiv Faced Most Complex Barrage Yet \(The Drive, 16 MAY Howard Altman\)](#)**

Russia is throwing everything it's got at Kyiv and Ukraine's new Patriot batteries, which are likely the top targets, are responding in kind.

In an air defense response that lit up the night sky over Kyiv, Ukrainian officials say they downed all 18 missiles fired, including six Kh-47 Kinzhal air-launched ballistic missiles, nine Kalibr sea-launched cruise missiles and three ground-launched missiles, as well as several drones. The Russian Defense Ministry (MoD) meanwhile claimed that a Kinzhal struck one of two U.S.-made MIM-104 Patriot missile systems in the latest attack against that air defense system.