



U.S. ARMY



Cyber Center of Excellence

Unclassified Threat Read Book

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11. [Russia Amassing Tens of Thousands of Troops Around Key Ukrainian Town](#) - 05 MAY
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13. [Ukraine Update: Russia retakes Robotyne, electronic warfare rises, and new Bradleys incoming](#) - 04 MAY

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Cyber

1. [**Ransomware statistics that reveal alarming rate of cyber extortion \(Help Net Security, 15 MAY, Sinisa Markovic\)**](#)

In this article, you will find excerpts from various reports that offer statistics and insights about the current ransomware landscape.

2. [**China Poised to Wreak Havoc with Major Cyberattack: UK, US \(Asia Financial, 14 MAY\)**](#)

American and British security chiefs have raised the alarm over a growing Chinese cyber threat but Beijing has rejected the accusations

3. [**Top 5 Most Dangerous Cyber Threats in 2024 \(Dark Reding, 14 MAY, Ericka Chickowski\)**](#)

SANS Institute experts weigh in on the top threat vectors faced by enterprises and the public at large.

4. [**Chinese nationalist groups are launching cyber-attacks – often against the wishes of the government. \(The Conversation, 14 MAY, Lewis Eves\)**](#)

The UK's national security agency, MI5, warned in April that British universities participating in military research are targets for cyber-attacks by foreign states. More recently, news broke of a cyber-attack against the UK's Ministry of Defence, which exposed the personal details of 270,000 armed forces personnel. China is the main suspect behind these attacks.

5. [**The United States International Cyberspace & Digital Policy Strategy \(Hackernoon, 13 MAY, The White House\)**](#)

Building Digital Solidarity: The United States International Cyberspace & Digital Policy Strategy

6. [**Best Practices for Surviving a Cyber Breach \(IT Pro Today, 11 MAY, Rick Dagley\)**](#)

Your organization is a victim of a cyber breach. Do you pay the ransom? Call the FBI? Here are best practices for minimizing the damage.

7. [**UK Military Data Breach a Reminder of Third-Party Risk in Defense Sector \(Dark Reading, 08 MAY, Jai Vijayan\)**](#)

An attacker accessed personal information of over 225,000 active, reserve, and former UK military members from third-party payroll processing system.

8. [**Global Cybercrime Report 2024: Which Countries Face the Highest Risk? \(Mix Mode, 08 MAY, MixMode Threat Research\)**](#)

In today's digital world, cyber threats are a growing concern. Cybercriminals constantly launch sophisticated attacks through the Internet, targeting organizations and governments alike. Traditional security measures often struggle to keep up with these evolving threats, which range from malware and phishing scams to insider breaches and supply chain vulnerabilities. With the rise of connected devices and the Internet of Things (IoT), cyber-attack risks have expanded across all sectors.



9. **[Cyberattacks on U.S. Utilities: New Trends in Cyber Warfare \(Clearance Jobs, 08 MAY, Joe Jabara\)](#)**

There is a sweeping ominous breeze blowing its way into cybersecurity, one that eschews ransomware and other forms of criminal profiteering but instead resembles traditional warfare tactics such as false flags, political statements, and shows of force.

10. **[Chinese Hackers Deployed Backdoor Quintet to Down MITRE \(Dark Reading, 07 MAY, Nate Nelson\)](#)**

MITRE's hackers made use of at least five different Web shells and backdoors as part of their attack chain.

11. **[S. Korea to participate in US-led cyber exercise this week \(The Korea Times, 05 MAY\)](#)**

The sheer scale of China's latest attempt to infiltrate U.S. infrastructure has surprised the entire cybersecurity industry, an expert has said.

Daniel Cuthbert, who sat on the UK Government Cyber Security Advisory Board, said the Volt Typhoon hacking system is bigger than anything China has unleashed before.

12. **[Billions of Android Devices Open to 'Dirty Stream' Attack \(Dark Reading, 02 MAY, Jai Vijayan\)](#)**

Microsoft has uncovered a common vulnerability pattern in several apps allowing code execution; at least four of the apps have more than 500 million installations each; and one, Xiaomi's File Manager, has at least 1 billion installations.

13. **['Cuttlefish' Zero-Click Malware Steals Private Cloud Data \(Dark Reading, 01 MAY, Elizabeth Montalbano\)](#)**

The newly discovered malware, which has so far mainly targeted Turkish telcos and has links to HiatusRat, infects routers and performs DNS and HTTP hijacking attacks on connections to private IP addresses.

14. **["Dirty stream" attack: Discovering and mitigating a common vulnerability pattern in Android apps \(Microsoft, 01 May, Microsoft Threat Intelligence\)](#)**

Microsoft discovered a path traversal-affiliated vulnerability pattern in multiple popular Android applications that could enable a malicious application to overwrite files in the vulnerable application's home directory. The implications of this vulnerability pattern include arbitrary code execution and token theft, depending on an application's implementation. Arbitrary code execution can provide a threat actor with full control over an application's behavior. Meanwhile, token theft can provide a threat actor with access to the user's accounts and sensitive data.



Electronic Warfare

1. [The US is still falling behind on electronic warfare, special operators warn](#) (Defense One, 13 MAY, Patrick Tucker)

The U.S. military is “still falling behind” its potential adversaries in electronic warfare, one former three-star special operator said last week at SOF Week conference in Tampa, Florida—and he wasn’t the only one.

2. [House NDAA provision would require Army to create Electronic Warfare Center of Excellence](#) (Defense Scoop, 13 MAY, Mark Pomerleau)

Legislation part of the annual defense policy bill would require the Army to create an Electronic Warfare Center of Excellence, moving training and doctrine from the Cyber Center of Excellence.

3. [ANALYSIS: Russia’s Electronic Warfare Equipment](#) (Kyiv Post, 11 MAY, Bodan Tuzov)

The modern battlespace is replete with electronic devices gathering information, exchanging data, and controlling weapons systems – a situation often exploitable by the enemy through EW.

4. [Anduril unveils game-changing electromagnetic warfare system](#) (Defense Blog, 06 MAY, Dylan Malyasov)

Anduril, the defense tech startup founded by Palmer Luckey, has announced the launch of Pulsar, a groundbreaking family of modular electromagnetic warfare (EW) systems powered by artificial intelligence, poised to revolutionize battlefield dominance against evolving threats.

5. [Electronic warfare in Ukraine has lessons for US weapons, navigation](#) (Defense News, 06 May, Colin Demarest)

The U.S. is gaining valuable insights about the performance of its technologies amid electronic interference as Ukrainian troops use them on the front lines, according to one official.

6. [Defeated By Russian EW Jamming, US OKs Package To Make Ukrainian JDAM-ER Smart Bombs ‘Smarter’](#) (The EurAsian Times, 05 MAY, Sakshi Tiwari)

The United States is buying add-on seekers that will enable Joint Direct Attack Munition-Extended Range (JDAM-ER) precision-guided bombs provided to Ukraine to target Russian GPS jammers.

7. [How electronic warfare is affecting civilians and aviation](#) (ABC News, 04 MAY, Kerem Inal)

A commercial flight in the Middle East was accidentally GPS spoofed.

8. [Russia Unveils New Ai-Powered EW Robot](#) (Cryptopolitan, 02 MAY, Chris Murithi)

Scientific and Production Enterprise Geran (NVP Geran) in Russia has unveiled its latest marvel: Azats. An electronic warfare (EW) system on wheels that can detect and intercept hostile drones on its own is a major step up in navigated robots. Oleg Zhukov, the Chief Designer of the development center NVP Geran, told the Abzats model in detail with all its innovative characteristics and strategic advantages.



9. [**Russian EWs disable newly developed US bombs – Pentagon said \(Bulgarian Military, 02 MAY, Boyko Nikolov\)**](#)

An intriguing report from the Pentagon reveals that a recently-engineered weapon, specifically designed for use by Ukraine, is faltering when tested on the battlefield. Russia's superior electronic warfare systems seem to be undermining the weapon's effectiveness. This insightful report emerged on May 1, from the Pentagon's desk.

10. [**Journal of Electromagnetic Dominance \(JED\) May 2024 Volume 47, Issue 5 \(Association of the Old Crows, 01 May\)**](#)

This month's JED includes two related feature stories. Our cover story, "The Electromagnetic Battle for Ukraine," by Dr. Tom Withington, looks at the evolving electromagnetic contest between Russia and Ukraine after more than two years of full-scale military operations. The second feature, "Why Today's Russian Airborne EW Falls Short," by Reuben Johnson, provides an insightful perspective on the state of Russia's airborne EW capabilities and the industrial base behind them.

11. [**Russia ramps up GPS jamming with airliners at risk in European sabotage campaign \(Inews, 30 APR, Isabella Bengoechea\)**](#)

Recent jamming attacks on satellite signals - thought to be by mysterious weapons in Kaliningrad - could mark an evolution in Russia's aggressive electronic warfare campaign, experts say

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Information Advantage

1. [North Korea's Propaganda Mastermind](#) (The Journal, 14 MAY, Timothy Martin)

For six decades, one man has been largely responsible for creating North Korea's propaganda machine: Kim Ki Nam. He served all three North Korean dictators and is the architect of many of the myths that have helped to keep the Kim family in power. Last week, Kim Ki Nam died at the age of 94.

2. [US committee probes Georgia university's alleged ties to Chinese military-linked research](#) (Fox News, 10 MAY, Reuters)

Congress continue to intensify scrutiny of China's influence and technology transfers in American academia

3. [Generative AI's disinformation threat is 'overblown,' top cyber expert says](#) (CNBC, 09 MAY, Ryan Browne)

Key Points

- Martin Lee, technical lead for Cisco's Talos security intelligence group, suggested the threat from deep fakes and other AI-generated misinformation to democracy may be "overblown."
- AI isn't as effective at impacting people's political outlook and voting behaviors as good old fashioned fake news, Cisco's Lee told CNBC.
- Machine-made content can often be identified as such when viewed objectively, he added.

4. [AI-Powered Russian Network Pushes Fake Political News](#) (Infosecurity-Magazine, 09 MAY, Phil Muncaster)

Security researchers have discovered a major new Russian disinformation campaign using generative AI (GenAI) to "plagiarize and weaponize" content from major news organizations, in a bid to influence Western voters.

5. [Kremlin botnet launches wave of disinformation claiming Havana Syndrome doesn't exist](#) (The Insider, 07 MAY)

The Doppelgänger bot network has begun spreading Moscow's response to The Insider's joint investigation with 60 Minutes and Der Spiegel into Havana Syndrome. According to analysis by the Bot Blocker project, which closely tracks Doppelgänger's online disinformation efforts, the current campaign has targeted German audiences.

6. [Xi Jinping push to loosen Europe ties with US, selects France, Serbia and Hungary for new global order](#) (Telegraph India, 06 MAY, Roger Cohen & Chris Buckley)

At a time of tensions with much of Europe — over China's "no limits" embrace of Russia despite the war in Ukraine, its surveillance state and its apparent espionage activities that led to the recent arrest in Germany of four people

7. [Sowing division — Russian disinformation becoming more sophisticated](#) (Yle, 06 MAY)

Russian online interference is increasingly targeting smaller languages, including Finnish, to drive wedges into society.

8. [AI Vs. AI: McAfee And Intel's Innovative Approach To Stop Deepfakes](#) (Forbes, 05 MAY, Tony Bradley)

The creation of realistic audio and video deepfakes has become a pressing issue. The ability to produce highly convincing fake content is no longer confined to high-end production studios but is now accessible to the average user. This democratization of technology has led to significant societal concerns, particularly around cyber threats, misinformation and fraud.

9. [China's Chilling Cognitive Warfare Plans](#) (The Diplomat, 05 MAY, Iida Masafumi)

War is entering a new, and very frightening, domain.

10. [Campus Protests Give Russia, China and Iran Fuel to Exploit U.S. Divide](#) (NY Times, 02 MAY, Steven Lee Myers & Tiffany Hsu)

An article on a fake online news outlet that Meta has linked to Russia's information operations attributed the clashes unfolding on American college campuses to the failures of the Biden administration. A newspaper controlled by the Communist Party of China said the police crackdowns exposed the "double standards and hypocrisy" in the United States when it comes to free speech.

11. [Africa File, May 2, 2024: Iran Pursues Economic and Military Influence](#) (ISW, 02 MAY, Liam Karr, Matthew Gianitsos, Josie Von Fischer, & Kitaneh Fitzpatrick)

Online actors linked to the Chinese government are increasingly leveraging artificial intelligence to target voters in the U.S., Taiwan and elsewhere with disinformation, according to new cybersecurity research and U.S. officials.

Signal

1. [**NIST issues new guidelines on protecting unclassified data in government systems \(Next Gov, 14 MAY\)**](#)

The framework considers the private sector's increased role in helping the federal government in day-to-day operations and aims to reduce the risk of supply chain cyberattacks.
2. [**Pentagon Deals Russia a Blow Over Starlink \(Newsweek, 10 MAY, Isabel van Brugen\)**](#)

The Pentagon has teamed up with Elon Musk's SpaceX to block the unauthorized use of Starlink satellite-based broadband systems by Russia's military in Ukraine, dealing a blow to Moscow in the ongoing war.
3. [**Thales doubles down on radio production as US Army rethinks its network \(C4ISR Net, 10 MAY, Colin Demarest\)**](#)

"It's not explosive, so don't worry about it." Michael Sheehan was talking about fuzes embedded in the tube-launched, optically tracked, wireless-guided, or TOW, missile used for decades to blow up armor and fortifications. "We build that here," he said of the components resembling electronic rounds. "In the room over there."
4. [**Quantum Computing May Boost AI Capabilities \(PYMNTS, 08 MAY\)**](#)

Quantum computing and artificial intelligence (AI) are converging, promising to push computing boundaries to transform industries and accelerate discoveries.
5. [**Poland Funds 20,000 Starlink Devices to Support Ukraine's Military \(Kyiv Post, 07 MAY\)**](#)

Starlink operates through a constellation of satellites in low Earth orbit, enabling internet access in remote areas where traditional communication infrastructure is unavailable.
6. [**Pentagon Needs to Open Up About Russia's Use of Musk's Starlink, Sen. Warren Says \(WSJ, 06 MAY, Drew FitzGerald & Thomas Grove\)**](#)

SpaceX's satellite-internet devices are ending up in the hands of American adversaries and accused war criminals. WSJ's Thomas Grove and Micah Maidenberg explain how the technology is being used illegally in multiple conflicts around the world.
7. [**Does cloud security have a bad reputation? \(Payload, 04 APR, Rachael Zisk\)**](#)

It seems to be fair game now to label cloud security as risky even though your data is likely safer there than on-premises.

Items of Interest

1. [**Exclusive: North Korea laundered \\$147.5 mln in stolen crypto in March, say UN experts**](#) (Reuters, 14 MAY, Michelle Nichols)

North Korea laundered \$147.5 million through virtual currency platform Tornado Cash in March after stealing it last year from a cryptocurrency exchange, according to confidential work by United Nations sanctions monitors seen by Reuters on Tuesday.

2. [**Exclusive: Before arrest in Russia, US soldier's relationship with Russian girlfriend turned bloody, wife says**](#) (Reuters, 12 MAY, Phil Stewart & Idrees Ali)

Months before his arrest in Russia, U.S. Army soldier Gordon Black made a surprise video call from his overseas tour in South Korea to his 6-year-old daughter in Texas.

3. [**Wife of U.S. soldier detained in Russia says he was having an affair, not involved in 'geopolitical intrigue'**](#) (NBC News, 10 MAY, Patrick Smith)

Megan Black said her husband's trip to Russia was "ill-advised" but simply part of an extramarital affair. Black's mother said she thought he had been set up by his girlfriend.

4. [**Who is Gordon Black, US soldier detained in Russia?**](#) (Reuters, 08 MAY)

U.S. Staff Sergeant Gordon Black was detained on May 2 by police in the Russian far eastern city of Vladivostok on suspicion of stealing from a woman he was in a relationship with.

5. [**Just 100 Miles Off Florida, China Gets 'Unrestricted Access' To US Backyard; Russia Too Joins The Cuban Party**](#) (The Eurasian Times, 07 MAY, Countney Kube & Mosheh Gains)

Cuba has opened the doors for visa-free travel for Chinese citizens, marking another instance of growing ties between socialist Cuba and the People's Republic of China.

6. [**How American Views Are Shifting on China**](#) (Newsweek, 06 MAY, John Feng)

The U.S. public's opinion of China remains overwhelmingly negative this year, even as the two governments continue to encourage exchanges between their peoples.

7. [**U.S. soldier detained in Russia and accused of stealing, officials say**](#) (NBC News, 06 MAY, Gabe Whisnant)

The soldier, who was stationed in South Korea, traveled to Russia on his own to visit a woman he was romantically involved with, officials said.

8. [**China-Taiwan Weekly Update, May 3, 2024**](#) (ISW, 03 MAY, Nils Peterson, Matthew Sperzel, & Daniel Shats)

The China–Taiwan Weekly Update is a joint product from the Institute for the Study of War and the American Enterprise Institute. The update supports the ISW–AEI Coalition Defense of Taiwan project, which assesses Chinese campaigns against Taiwan, examines alternative strategies for the United States and its allies to deter the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) aggression, and—if necessary—defeat the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The update focuses on the Chinese Communist Party's paths to controlling Taiwan and cross–Taiwan Strait developments.



9. [Russia's Anti-Satellite Nuke Could Leave Lower Orbit Unusable, Test Vehicle May Already Be Deployed](#) (TWZ, 03 MAY, Joseph Trevithick & Oliver Parker)

New info has emerged from U.S. officials about Russia's nuclear anti-satellite weapon and a test satellite that may be associated with it.

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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](#), May 15, 2024

[Iran Update](#), May 14, 2024

[Iran Update](#), May 13, 2024

[Iran Update](#), May 12, 2024

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2. [Israel's Rafah offensive threatens relations with Egypt](#) (DW, 15 MAY, Ralph Martin)

Israel's ground offensive in southern Gaza is jeopardizing decades of peaceful cooperation with neighboring Egypt. Egypt claims the IDF's takeover of the Rafah border crossing violates treaties to keep the zone demilitarized.

3. [What Happens If Israel and Iran Go To War?](#) (24/7 Wall ST, 14 MAY, Michael Muir)

From the outset of the war between Israel and Hamas, the prospect of escalation into a regional war has been ever-present. Tensions ran high in April 2024 as Israel and Iran launched limited attacks on one another. The prospect of the situation spilling over into a full-blown conflict alarmed analysts but seems to have cooled for the time being. The two nations remain at odds and the brinkmanship seen in April could so easily rear its head once more.

4. [Israeli army restarts fighting in northern Gaza](#) (DW, 14 MAY, Killian Bayer)

As the Israeli military conducts operations in Rafah, there has been renewed heavy fighting in the north of Gaza. Israeli forces have returned to recapture territory taken by a resurgent Hamas.

5. [Costs would be great if Israel-Hezbollah conflict were to escalate, analysts warn](#) (VOA News, 13 MAY, Dale Gavlak)

Despite the recent uptick in cross-border bombardments between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah militia in Lebanon, analysts say both foes may not want it to escalate their conflict given the tremendous cost to both countries — both militarily, materially and

economically.

6. [Iran's Attack on Israel was Enabled by North Korean Missile Technology and Advances](#) (National Interest, 13 MAY, Bruce E. Bechtol)

Iran last month launched a large-scale overnight air strike on Israel. More than 300 drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles targeted the country. North Korean technology was at least partly to blame.

7. [Iran to change N-doctrine if Israel threatens existence, says Khamenei's adviser](#) (DAWN, 10 MAY)

Iran will change its nuclear doctrine if Israel threatens its existence, an adviser to Iran's supreme leader said, the latest comment by an Iranian official that raises questions about what Tehran says is its peaceful nuclear programme.

8. [3-Year Iranian Influence Op Preys on Divides in Israeli Society](#) (Dark Reading, 08 MAY, Nate Nelson)

Iran follows in Russia's disinformation footsteps but with a different, more economical, and potentially higher-impact model.

9. [Israel's Rafah assault leaves Gazans stranded](#) (DW, 07 MAY, Tania Kramer & Hazem Balousha)

Israel has launched attacks on eastern Rafah after ordering people to evacuate. Troops have taken control of the Palestinian side of the Rafah crossing. Residents and displaced people fear the worst.

10. [Israel's forces seize control of Rafah crossing in Gaza](#) (DW, 07 MAY, Dmitry Ponyavin)

Rafah is a vital crossing point for humanitarian aid coming into Gaza via Egypt. The city also shelters more than a million displaced Palestinians. Israel's incursion casts new doubt on a proposed cease-fire with Hamas, the group which carried out the October 7 terror attacks.

11. [Israeli Forces Seize Key Gaza Crossing Amid Revived Truce Talks](#) (WSJ, 07 MAY, Anat Peled & Summer Said)

Fears are rising over the fate of the remaining hostages held in Gaza after Hamas said it was unsure whether it could bring forth 40 Israeli civilian captives as part of a U.S.-backed cease-fire proposal, according to officials familiar with the negotiations.

12. [Hamas Took More Than 200 Hostages From Israel. Here's What We Know.](#) (WSJ, 03 MAY, Peter Sidel, Summer Said & Anat Peled)

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 cease-fire and hostage-release deal have continued and repeatedly stalled.



Houthis Conflict

1. [US sees Iran's supply of weapons to Houthis as jeopardizing conflict resolution in Yemen \(The Arab Weekly, 14 May\)](#)

Experts fear the Houthis' involvement in attacks on international navigation could delay or disrupt regional and international peacemaking efforts.

2. [USS Carney Destroyed 65 Houthi Targets During Its Cruise \(TWZ, 13 MAY, Howard Altman\)](#)

The USS Carney, which just returned to the U.S. last week, made history during a tumultuous six months in the Red Sea region.

3. [Houthis announce fourth escalation phase, sanctions on all ships associated with Israel's ports if Rafah invaded \(Middle East Monitor, 04 MAY\)](#)

Houthi Spokesperson Yahya Sarea warned of a fourth phase of escalation, announcing that the group would impose sanctions on all ships associated with and heading to Israeli ports if the city of Rafah is invaded.

4. [Houthis threaten to target Israel-linked ships in Mediterranean Sea \(Raw Story, 03 MAY, DPA International\)](#)

Yemen's Houthi rebels have threatened to target ships bound for Israeli ports in the Mediterranean Sea, as the group on Friday announced further escalation in what they say is retaliation for Israeli attacks in Gaza.



Russia-Ukraine Conflict

1. The Warzone Ukraine Situation Report:

[Ukraine Situation Report: "Fierce Battles" Rage In Kharkiv Region](#) – 13 MAY

[Ukraine Situation Report: Russia Launches Offensive In Kharkiv Region](#) – 10 MAY

[Ukraine Situation Report: Half Of North Korean Missiles Used By Russia Failed, Kyiv Says](#) – 07 MAY

[Ukraine Situation Report: U.K. Says Its Donated Weapons Can Be Used To Hit Targets In Russia](#) – 03 MAY

2. Institute for The Study of War

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), May 15, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), May 14, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), May 13, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), May 12, 2024

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3. [Why is Russia holding nuclear drills and should the West be worried?](#) (Reuters, 15 MAY, Guy Faulconbridge & Mark Trevelyan)

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered his military to practise the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons after what Moscow said were threats from France, Britain and the United States.

4. [Ukraine updates: Kyiv withdraws some forces around Kharkiv](#) (DW, DW, 15 MAY)

Ukrainian forces have pulled back from villages in Kharkiv as Russian troops advance. Meanwhile, Russia said it shot down Ukrainian missiles over Crimea. DW has the latest.

5. [Russian assault opens new front, diverting Ukraine forces as Western aid trickles in](#) (AP News, 13 MAY, Illia Novikov & Samya Kullab)

Russian troops were locked in intense battles with Ukrainian soldiers around the embattled town of Vovchansk in northeast Ukraine on Monday, pushing ahead with a ground offensive that opened a new front and put more pressure on overstretched Ukrainian forces.

6. [Putin reshuffles Defense Ministry amid war in Ukraine](#) (DW, 13 MAY, Myles Tweedie)

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Russian President Vladimir Putin has replaced Sergei Shoigu as defense minister in the first reshuffle of the national security team since the invasion of Ukraine. Shoigu's replacement is Andrei Belousov, a former deputy prime minister and economist.

7. [**Would Russia really attack Ukraine with nuclear weapons? \(DW, 07 MAY, Roman Goncharenko\)**](#)

For the first time since the 2022 invasion, Russia wants to carry out tactical nuclear weapons exercises near the Ukrainian border. But experts don't think an attack is imminent. It's more about political messaging.

8. [**15,000 'Gurkha' Soldiers Joined Russian Army To Fight Ukraine; Nepal Promises Repatriation – Reports \(The EurAsian Times, 07 May, Ashi Shmichel\)**](#)

After a 17-day protest in Kathmandu, families of Nepal's mercenaries fighting alongside Russian forces in Ukraine have gained assurance from the Nepal government that their demands would be addressed.

9. [**New Russian Turtle Tank With Cage-Like Armor Emerges On Ukrainian Battlefield \(TWZ, 06 MAY, Oliver Parken\)**](#)

Recent video footage not only shows Russia's latest 'turtle tank' but provides an operator's-view of it in action.

10. [**Putin Orders Tactical Nuclear Drills In Response To Western "Threats" \(TWZ, 06 MAY, Thomas Newdick\)**](#)

The move comes as France says it won't rule out sending troops to Ukraine and billions in weapons are set to rearm the Ukrainian military.

11. [**Russia Amassing Tens of Thousands of Troops Around Key Ukrainian Town \(Newsweek, 05 MAY, Ellie Cook\)**](#)

Russia has amassed up to 25,000 soldiers around the strategic settlement of Chasiv Yar, the Ukrainian military said on Sunday, as the Kremlin claims to have seized another village in the Donetsk region.

12. [**How This Next Phase of Russia's Ukraine War Looks \(Newsweek, 05 MAY, David Brennan\)**](#)

The first four months of 2024 have proven some of the most difficult in Ukraine's two years of full-scale war with Russia, and perhaps the most straining in a decade-long conflict with Moscow that erupted in 2014.

13. [**Ukraine Update: Russia retakes Robotyne, electronic warfare rises, and new Bradleys incoming \(Daily KOS, 04 MAY, Mark Sumner\)**](#)

Ukraine's much-anticipated counteroffensive against Russia finally began in spring 2023. But it was clear from the start that any hopes of replicating the lightning advance seen in the liberation of Kharkiv or the incredible strategic jujitsu of Russia's withdrawal from Kherson were misguided.