



Cyber Center of Excellence & Fort Eisenhower

Unclassified Threat Read Book

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Cyber

1. [**It's not just Salt Typhoon: All China-backed attack groups are showcasing specialized offensive skills**](#) (Cyber Scoop, 27 FEB, Mat Kapko)

CrowdStrike observed significant growth in China's offensive cyber capabilities last year as more groups used sector-specific skills to target critical industries and technologies.

2. [**2025 CrowdStrike Global Threat Report: Cybercriminals Are Shifting Tactics – Are You Ready?**](#) (Security Boulevard, 27 FEB, John D. Boyle)

3. [**North Korean hackers pull off the biggest heist of all time, stealing \\$1.5 billion in crypto**](#) (Fortune, 26 FEB, Chris Morris)

State-sponsored North Korean hackers stole \$1.5 billion in crypto from a Dubai exchange. The heist is the biggest in history and comes as the Korean economy continues to vastly underperform. The value of that haul, however, has dropped since the theft.

4. [**Malware exposes 3.9 billion passwords in huge cybersecurity threat**](#) (Fox News, 26 FEB, Kurt Knutsson)

We saw a rise in infostealer malware in 2024, with hackers using it to steal credentials, cryptocurrency and other personal data from millions of users. If you recall, I reported countless incidents of an infostealer called Lumma preying on Android, Windows and even iOS and Mac users.

5. [**The Growing Threat of Cyberwarfare from Nation-States**](#) (PodCast) (Payments Journal, 26 FEB)

Back in 2011, a group of Iranian hackers launched a series of distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks against nearly 50 U.S financial institutions. The attacks were alarming enough, disabling bank websites and preventing customers from accessing their online accounts. However, the situation became even more troubling when it was revealed that these attacks were sponsored and directed by the Iranian government.

6. [**FBI's Ghost Cyber Warning: All You Need to Know**](#) (Cyber Magazine, 24 FEB, Matt High)

The FBI and CISA issue a joint advisory warning about the dangers of China's Ghost ransomware group to businesses and critical infrastructure worldwide

7. [**Russia's AI-Powered Cyberattacks Threaten to Outpace Western Defenses**](#) (FDD, 20 FEB, Annie Fixler)

Russia is increasingly leveraging artificial intelligence to refine its cyber espionage and enhance attack precision, warned Western officials at the Munich Security Conference this past weekend. Ihor Malchenyuk of Ukraine's State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection (SSSCIP) reported that Russia has also been using AI to process the vast amounts of data on Ukraine's military and ordinary citizens — data that its hackers have stolen over the past few years. Russia's use of AI as part of its cyberattacks on Ukraine likely indicates what the United States and its partners will face in the coming years.

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8. [**Russia-aligned threat groups dupe Ukrainian targets via Signal**](#) (Cyber Scoop, 19 FEB, Matt Kapko)

Google researchers say multiple Russian state threat groups have conducted remote phishing operations to target and compromise Signal accounts.

9. [**Microsoft details Russia-linked cyberattacks by Storm-2372 targeting governments, NGOs, critical infrastructure**](#) (Industrial Cyber, 18 FEB, Anna Ribeiro)

Researchers from Microsoft have detected cyberattacks being launched by a group, called Storm-2372, which it assesses with medium confidence aligns with Russia's interests and tradecraft. The attacks appear to have been ongoing since August last year and primarily targeted governments, NGOs, information technology (IT) services and technology, defense, telecommunications, health, higher education, and energy/oil and gas in Europe, North America, Africa, and the Middle East.

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Electromagnetic Warfare

1. [More than 140 companies produce electronic warfare systems in Ukraine](#) (Militarnyi, 27 FEB)

Mykhailo Fedorov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Transformation, shared this in an op-ed on RBC-Ukraine.

2. [Ukraine's Electronic Warfare Cripples Russia's Glide Bomb Precision](#) (Dagens, 27 FEB, Camilla Jessen)

Russia's glide bomb campaign, once a major threat along the front line, is rapidly losing effectiveness as Ukraine's electronic warfare (EW) units jam satellite guidance systems.

3. [GPS jamming, a weapon in hot and hybrid wars, will soon be obsolete](#) (Big Think, 24 FEB, Frank Jacobs)

This may look like a weather map, but what it shows isn't your usual kind of atmospheric interference. The red hexagons denote areas affected by GPS jamming in the preceding 24 hours.

4. [GNSS disruption at sea level: An interference study in the Baltic Sea](#) (GPS World, 18 FEB, Maksim Barodzka)

For years, aviation safety organizations and maritime authorities have relied on ADS-B-based reports to assess GNSS interference. Services such as [gpsjam.org](#), [spoofing.skai-data-services.com](#) and [flightradar24](#) have provided valuable insights into interference patterns at high altitudes. However, this data tells only part of the story. Ground-based infrastructure — ports, telecommunications networks, and precision navigation systems — operate in a vastly different signal environment. High-altitude detections cannot reliably indicate the presence or impact of interference at sea level.

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Information Advantage

1. [How to Keep Hackers From Destroying Your Digital Life](#) (WSJ, 27 FEB, Robert McMillan)

A few digital hygiene measures can help secure accounts and passwords

2. [China's AI boom bigger than just DeepSeek](#) (Asia Times, 27 FEB, Mimi Zou)

Host of Chinese AI companies finding paths to success despite US chip sanctions and Chinese state censorship

3. [How Hamas Used Hostage Releases as Psychological Warfare \(Video\)](#) (WSJ, 27 FEB)

As the first stage of the Israel-Hamas cease-fire comes to an end, WSJ analyzes how Hamas used images, props and symbolism during hostage releases to try to convey an image of enduring power.

4. [A Disney Worker Downloaded an AI Tool. It Led to a Hack That Ruined His Life.](#) (WSJ, 26 FEB, Robert McMillan & Sarah Krouse)

The stranger messaging Matthew Van Andel online last July knew a lot about him—including details about his lunch with co-workers at Disney increase; green up pointing triangle from a few days earlier.

5. [How China's challenge to Trump's Gaza plan could boost Beijing's Mideast influence](#) (SCMP, 25 FEB, Zhao Ziwen)

China will try to stay aligned with Arab countries while improving ties with Israel as it challenges a US proposal to resettle Palestinians from Gaza, a balancing act that could position China as a more influential player, experts have said.

6. [OpenAI removes users in China, North Korea suspected of malicious activities](#) (Reuters, 21 FEB, Anna Tong)

OpenAI has removed accounts of users from China and North Korea who the artificial intelligence company believes were using its technology for malicious purposes including surveillance and opinion-influence operations, the ChatGPT maker said on Friday.

7. [AI Buzzwords You Need to Know Now](#) (WSJ, 20 FEB)

As artificial-intelligence research rapidly goes from the lab to the broader world through tools like chatbots, the jargon used by researchers is going along with it. To understand how AI works in 2025, you'll need to know what developers mean by "reasoning" and a few other terms that have recently taken off. Here's our guide to the latest AI buzzwords.

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Signal

1. [Taiwan is investigating a Chinese-crewed ship believed to have severed an undersea cable](#) (AP News, 25 FEB)

Taiwanese authorities are investigating a Chinese-crewed ship suspected of severing an undersea communications cable in the latest such incident adding to tensions between Taipei and Beijing.

2. [Poland to provide Ukraine with 5000 Starlink terminals](#) (Militarnyi, 25 FEB)

Polish Minister of Digitalization Krzysztof Gawkowski noted that the Polish government provides half of all Starlink terminals operating in Ukraine.

3. [China's rival to Elon Musk's Starlink has the potential to challenge its reach by 2030, says report](#) (Tom's Hardware, 24 FEB, Kunal Khullar)

Deployment of the Chinese SpaceSail network will raise internet security and censorship concerns around the world.

4. [Europe's Undersea Cable-Cutting Mystery, Explained \(Video\)](#) (WSJ, 24 FEB)

WSJ unpacks the allegations of sabotage that have turned the Baltic Sea into the focal point of Moscow's hybrid war with NATO.

5. [Chinese rivals to Musk's Starlink accelerate race to dominate satellite internet](#) (Reuters, 24 FEB, Nivedita Bhattacharjee, Eduardo Baptista, Lisandra Paraguassu & Ricardo Brito)

Space is about to get more crowded for Elon Musk.

The billionaire's Starlink communications network is facing increasingly stiff challenges to its dominance of high-speed satellite internet, including from a Chinese state-backed rival and another service financed by Amazon.com (AMZN.O), opens new tab founder Jeff Bezos.

6. [Quantum Computing Has Arrived; We Need To Prepare For Its Impact](#) (Forbes, 22 FEB, Chuck Brooks)

Since the development of the electronic calculator in the 1960s, the field of computing has seen tremendous breakthroughs. In the field of information processing, the last several years have been particularly revolutionary. Technology has made what were previously considered science fiction dreams a reality. Our enabling equipment has become smaller and more versatile, and classical computing has become enormously quicker and more capable.

7. [Will quantum computers disrupt critical infrastructure?](#) (BBC, 20 FEB, Joe Fay)

Twenty five years ago computer programmers were racing to fix the millennium bug amidst fears that it would cause banking systems to crash and planes to fall out of the sky.

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Items of Interest

1. [**Putin Deepens Russia's Ties with US Adversaries as US-Russia Talks Begin**](#) (ISW, 27 FEB, Karolina Hird)

Russia's outreach to American adversaries continues despite Russian President Vladimir Putin's efforts at rapprochement with the Trump administration. Putin spoke with People's Republic of China (PRC) President Xi Jinping on February 24, the third anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Putin and Xi discussed the Sino-Russian comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation, and Putin informed Xi about recent US-Russia talks regarding Russia's demands on Ukraine. Russian officials also met with Iranian and North Korean officials on February 25. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and a Russian delegation met with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran. Both sides highlighted the recently signed Russo-Iranian Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement and the expansion of Russo-Iranian relations. Araghchi decried the United States' "maximum pressure" campaign and the Trump administration's recent sanctions against Iran's oil industry and stated that Iran is "moving on the nuclear issue in cooperation and coordination with Russia and China." Araghchi's comments are noteworthy in the context of a International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report previewed by the Associated Press (AP) on February 26 that shows a dramatic increase in Iranian stocks of high-enriched uranium, as well as Iranian statements that Iran would engage in no negotiations as long as sanctions were in place.

2. [**What's going on with these UAV sightings?**](#) (GPS World, 24 FEB, Tony Murfin)

It cannot be denied that people are seeing more objects flying in the night sky. It is suspected that these are unauthorized UAVs collecting information over U.S. and international military bases and, well, also over people looking up at the sky in their backyards at night. It is unlikely that these unidentified flying objects are causing much harm to the civilian population other than being a curiosity. However, it remains unclear what they might be doing over military installations.

3. [**Why the Sinaloa Cartel May Never Be the Same Again**](#) (WSJ, 24 FEB, José de Córdoba)

Even Jesús Malverde, the patron saint of drug traffickers, has fallen victim to the vicious turf war ripping apart Mexico's biggest producer and smuggler of fentanyl.

4. [**Chinese Highlight "Heroism" Of PLA Soldier Killed In Galwan Valley Clash As India, China Look To Repair Ties**](#) (EurAsian Times, 22 FEB, Ashish Dangwal)

More than four years after the Galwan Valley clash in June 2020 between the two nuclear-armed neighbors, local Chinese media have once again revisited the incident and portrayed it as a battle where Chinese soldiers bravely 'defended' their territory against 'foreign incursions.'

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5. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, February 20, 2025](#) (ISW, 20 FEB, Matthew Sperzel, Daniel Shats, Alison O'Neil, Karina Wugang, Grant Morgan, Alexis Turek and Yeji Chung)

Key Takeaways

- Taiwanese civil society groups have now submitted 52 recall petitions, 36 of which target opposition legislators and 16 of which target legislators from the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). The 2024 legislative election results and recent polling suggest that up to 12 Kuomintang (KMT) and 6 DPP legislators are at risk of getting recalled.
- Taiwanese prosecutors indicted former KMT legislator Chang Hsien-yao on February 12 for allegedly acting on behalf of the PRC to interfere in Taiwan's 2024 presidential election.
- The US State Department revised its Taiwan Fact Sheet to remove language that states it does not support Taiwan independence. The PRC criticized the change and may use it to frame future PRC actions toward Taiwan as responses to US escalation.
- Russian and PRC military and surveillance assets operated in southern Japanese waters and airspace in February, according to the Japanese government.
- South Korea expressed support for Taiwan's participation in international organizations for the first time, as part of a trilateral joint statement issued with the United States and Japan at the Munich Security Conference in Germany on February 15.

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Middle East Conflicts

1. Institute for The Study of War Iran Update:

The Iran Update provides insights into Iranian and Iranian-sponsored activities abroad that undermine regional stability and threaten US forces and interests. It also covers events and trends that affect the stability and decision-making of the Iranian regime.

[Iran Update](#), February 28, 2025

[Iran Update](#), February 27, 2025

[Iran Update](#), February 26, 2025

[Iran Update](#), February 25, 2025

[Iran Update](#), February 24, 2025

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[Iran Update](#), February 20, 2025

[Iran Update](#), February 19, 2025

[Iran Update](#), February 18, 2025

[Iran Update](#), February 17, 2025

[Iran Update](#), February 16, 2025

2. [**A US Withdrawal from Syria Will Reinvigorate the ISIS Terror Threat \(ISW, 26 FEB, Brian Carter\)**](#)

The withdrawal of US forces from Syria would risk reversing hard-earned gains against the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS). ISIS is not destroyed. It is kept in check by the combined pressure of US forces in Iraq and Syria and their Kurdish allies. The withdrawal of US forces will remove that pressure and allow ISIS to reconstitute, likely rapidly, to dangerous levels.

3. [**Can the Cease-Fire in Gaza Hold? \(Podcast\) \(The Daily, 26 FEB, Rachel Abrams\)**](#)

Less than a week before the first phase of their deal expires, Israel and Hamas have yet to negotiate terms for an extension.

4. [**Iran Unveils New Military Hardware as Prospects of Attack Grow \(Newsweek, 25 FEB, Amir Daftari\)**](#)

As tensions over its nuclear program escalate, Iran has showcased its military preparations with large-scale war games, launching missile strikes and displaying new defensive hardware, including a Russian Yak-130 combat jet, according to state news agencies.

5. [**Hezbollah chief who was killed days after taking up post laid to rest in south Lebanon hometown \(AP News, 24 FEB, Bassem Mroue\)**](#)

The late leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah group who was killed in an Israeli airstrike days after he took the post was laid to rest in his southern hometown Monday, a day after his cousin and predecessor was buried in Beirut.

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6. [**Fact Sheet: Istanbul Protocol Draft Document of April 15, 2022 \(ISW, 24 FEB\)**](#)

Key Takeaways:

- The Istanbul Protocol draft agreement would have left Ukraine helpless in the face of future Russian threats or aggression. It imposed no limitations on the size of the Russian military and no obligations on Russia other than those noted below.
- The draft agreement would have prohibited the continued Western military assistance and support that US officials have repeatedly urged European states to offer, as well as bilateral security agreements, which US officials have also encouraged European countries to make.
- It is thus entirely incompatible with the current stated US policy and cannot be the basis or guidepost for negotiations that amount to anything other than capitulation to Russia's pre-war demands.

7. [**Third Anniversary Of Ukraine War Markedly Different Than Previous Years \(TWZ, 24 FEB, Howard Altman\)**](#)

Ukraine Situation Report: Massive geopolitical shifts have resulted in great uncertainty but also hope for an end to the nightmare.

8. [**Making sense of Egypt's alleged military buildup near Israel \(DW, 18 FEB, Cathrin Schaer\)**](#)

A war of words has broken out between Egypt and Israel. Israel accuses Egypt of threatening it by increasing troops near its border, Egypt says its soldiers are there to fight extremists. What's really going on?

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Russia-Ukraine Conflict

1. Institute for The Study of War

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), February 28, 2025
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[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), February 19, 2025
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), February 18, 2025
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), February 17, 2025
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), February 16, 2025

2. [North Korea Sends More Troops to Russia, South Korean Intelligence Reports](#) (Dagens, 27 FEB, Asger Risom)

North Korea has reportedly sent additional troops to Russia, redeploying forces in the Kursk region after a brief withdrawal, according to South Korean intelligence.

The move raises concerns over Pyongyang's increasing military involvement in Russia's war against Ukraine.

3. [Map Shows Ukraine's Rare Earth Minerals That Putin Wants To Sell to Trump](#) (Newsweek, 25 FEB, Isabel van Brugen & John Feng)

Amap shows the location of Ukraine's rare earth minerals within its annexed regions, which Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered to sell to President Donald Trump.

4. [Russia Has Failed to Break Ukraine](#) (ISW, 24 FEB, Grace Mappes)

Russia dedicated staggering amounts of manpower and equipment to several major offensive efforts in Ukraine in 2024, intending to degrade Ukrainian defenses and seize the remainder of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. These Russian efforts included major operations in the Kharkiv-Luhansk Oblast area, Avdiivka, Chasiv Yar, northern Kharkiv Oblast, Toretsk, Marinka-Kurakhove, Pokrovsk, and Vuhledar-Velyka Novosilka.

5. [Ukraine in maps: Tracking the war with Russia](#) (BBC, 24 FEB)

Fighting has raged in Ukraine since Russia launched a full-scale invasion three years ago. Russian forces have slowly expanded the amount of territory they control over the past year, mostly in the east of Ukraine, but Ukrainian forces have made those advances as slow and difficult as possible and have staged a counter-offensive into Russian territory.

6. [Russian Military Expert Warns Moscow 'Must be Prepared' for War With NATO](#) (Newsweek, 24 FEB, Isabel van Brugen)

Russia could go to war with NATO in the next decade, a Russian military expert warned.

Igor Korotchenko, who often makes highly contentious statements on Russian state-owned TV, predicted a future conflict between Russia and the West in an op-ed published in the Russian newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets.

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7. [**Starlink Shutdown In Ukraine – How Badly Would Ukrainian Military Be Hit If Musk Turns-Off The “Trump Card”?**](#) (EurAsian Times, 24 FEB, Vijaiinder K Thakur)

Reports of a possible Starlink shutdown in Ukraine have sparked intense debate, with conflicting claims from officials and stakeholders. While some sources suggest that political and military tensions could lead to restricted access, SpaceX and U.S. authorities have denied any plans to cut Ukraine off.

8. [**Putin is Unlikely to Demobilize in the Event of a Ceasefire Because He is Afraid of His Veterans**](#) (ISW, 23 FEB, Kateryna Stepanenko)

Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a coordinated campaign in late 2022 and early 2023 to prevent the emergence of an independent veterans-based civil society in Russia, likely out of fear that veteran groups could threaten the stability of his regime upon their return from Ukraine. The Kremlin launched several initiatives to co-opt loyalist veteran figures and form state-controlled veterans organizations in support of the permanent militarization of Russian society at the federal, regional, and local levels.

9. [**Ukraine May Send Captured North Korean Troops To South Korea; One Soldier Ready To Defect To South**](#) (EurAsian Times, 22 FEB, Ashish Dangwal)

Ukraine has acknowledged for the first time the possibility of transferring captured North Korean soldiers to South Korea.

10. [**Ukraine Fact Sheet**](#) (ISW, 21 FEB)

Key Takeaways:

- Zelensky does not imminently risk losing all of Ukraine.
- Most Ukrainian cities have not been destroyed.
- Ukrainian law prohibits holding elections in wartime (unlike the US Constitution, which requires it).•Ukraine has not suffered millions of losses
- Europe provides about as much direct aid to Ukraine as the United States.
- European loans to Ukraine are backed by income from frozen Russian assets,not Ukraine.
- Ukraine did not misuse or lose half of the aid the United States has provided.
- Ukraine repeatedly invited Putin to negotiate in early 2022.

11. [**Chinese Peacekeeping Soldiers In Ukraine? Can Beijing, Delhi Help Resolve Ukraine War & Provide Security Guarantees?**](#) (EurAsian Times, 21 FEB, Shubhangi Palve)

After a high-stakes call between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Washington and Moscow initiated their first direct dialogue aimed at ending the war in Ukraine—remarkably, without any Ukrainian representation.

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12. [Russia's Weakness Offers Leverage](#) (ISW, 19 FEB, Christina Harward)

The United States can use the enormous challenges Russia will face in 2025 as leverage to secure critical concessions in ongoing negotiations to end the war by continuing and even expanding military support to Ukraine. Russia will likely face a number of materiel, manpower, and economic issues in 12 to 18 months if Ukrainian forces continue to inflict damage on Russian forces on the battlefield at the current rate.

13. [Europe Debates Sending Troops To Ukraine](#) (TWZ, 17 FEB, Howard Altman)

European countries are figuring out what role they are willing to play in any peace deal to end the war in Ukraine.

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