



**Cyber Center of Excellence & Fort Eisenhower**

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# Unclassified Threat Read Book

## 01-15 April 2025

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## Table of Contents

### Cyber

1. [China Pursuing 3 Alleged US Operatives Over Cyberattacks During Asian Games](#) – 15 APR
2. [Chinese APTs Exploit EDR 'Visibility Gap' for Cyber Espionage](#) – 14 APR
3. [China Admitted to Volt Typhoon Cyberattacks on US Critical Infrastructure: Report](#) – 11 APR
4. [What Should the US Do About Salt Typhoon?](#) – 10 APR
5. [Nissan Leaf Hacked for Remote Spying, Physical Takeover](#) – 10 APR
6. [ToddyCat APT Targets ESET Bug to Load Silent Malware](#) – 07 APR
7. [This Is How Hackers Target Everyday People With AI Chatbots](#) – 06 APR
8. [North Korean Hackers Deploy BeaverTail Malware via 11 Malicious npm Packages](#) – 05 APR
9. [Israel Enters 'Stage 3' of Cyber Wars With Iran Proxies](#) - 03 APR
10. [China-Linked Threat Group Exploits Ivanti Bug](#) - 03 APR
11. [Microsoft Warns of Tax-Themed Email Attacks Using PDFs and QR Codes to Deliver Malware](#) – 03 APR
12. [AI Giving Rise of the 'Zero-Knowledge' Threat Actor](#) – 02 APR
13. [North Korea's IT Operatives Are Exploiting Remote Work Globally](#) – 02 APR
14. [How 'Lucid' exploits iMessage to send encrypted phishing attacks to your iPhone](#) - 01 APR
15. [Lazarus APT Jumps on ClickFix Bandwagon in Recent Attacks](#) - 01 APR
16. [China-Linked Earth Alux Uses VARGEIT and COBEACON in Multi-Stage Cyber Intrusions](#) - 01 APR
17. [North Korean crypto attacks rising in sophistication, actors — Paradigm](#) - 01 APR

### Electromagnetic Warfare

1. [U.S.-Supplied C-130J, C-17 Come "Under Attack" Over Myanmar; What Really Happened With IAF Aircraft?](#) – 14 APR
2. [China's New KJ-700 Multi-Intelligence Radar Plane's Interesting Features](#) – 14 APR
3. [Space Force takes ownership of first Meadowlands satellite jammer](#) – 10 APR
4. [Russia, China target SpaceX's Starlink in escalating space electronic warfare](#) - 03 April
5. [Inflatable Decoys Paired With Faked Radio Signals Used To Bait Artillery In Recent Army Exercise](#) - 03 APR
6. [Army awards prototype for spectrum sensing and visualization tool](#) - 02 APR
7. [The Evolving Landscape of Cyber and Electronic Warfare in Geopolitical Conflicts](#) - 01 APR

### Information Advantage

1. [NATO picks Palantir's Maven AI for military planning, amid trans-Atlantic tension](#) – 14 APR
2. [Taiwan says China using AI to 'divide' the island with disinformation](#) – 08 APR
3. [The AI Race Has Gotten Crowded—and China Is Closing In on the US](#) - 07 APR
4. [Fact check: How do I spot errors in AI chatbots?](#) - 04 APR
5. [ANALYSIS/PLA propaganda aimed at Chinese people, little impact in Taiwan: Experts](#) - 03 APR



6. [China and America are racing to develop the best AI. But who is ahead in using it?](#) – 03 APR
7. [Defending American Interests Abroad](#) - 02 APR
8. [UK targets Russian influence with new registration system, security minister says](#) - 01 APR
9. [Beijing Worries About Americans Fleeing to RedNote From TikTok: Analysts](#) - 01 APR

## Signal

1. [Blockchain, Quantum, and IoT Firms Unite to Secure Satellite Communications Against Quantum Threats](#) – 15 APR
2. [Sweden Issues Update in China Cable Cutting Probe](#) – 15 APR
3. [Flawed spectrum proposal could cause disruption and risks to public safety](#) - 07 APR
4. [Gmail Is Not a Secure Way to Send Sensitive Comms: A Friendly Reminder](#) – 04 APR
5. [Secure Communications Evolve Beyond End-to-End Encryption](#) - 04 APR
6. [DPRK 'IT Workers' Pivot to Europe for Employment Scams](#) - 02 APR
7. [Zero Trust starts here: why strong, future-proof encryption is the bedrock of modern cybersecurity](#) - 02 APR
8. [SandboxAQ quantum-resistant encryption algorithm approved by NIST](#) - 01 APR
9. [China launches internet technology test satellites with Long March 2D](#) - 01 APR
10. [Gmail Users Can Finally Send Encrypted Email To Anyone — Here's How](#) - 01 APR

## Items of Interest

1. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, April 11, 2025](#) – 11 APR
2. [U.S. To Deploy Cutting-Edge UAVs To 'Strategic' Japanese Base As PLA Roars In The South China Sea](#) – 10 APR
3. [Africa File, April 10, 2025: RSF's Norther Sudan Campaign](#) – 11 APR
4. [South Korea says 10 North Korean soldiers crossed military demarcation line, warning shots fired](#) – 08 APR
5. [Moscow's Undeclared 'War In The Atlantic': UK Finds Russian Underwater Sensors Tracking Britain's Nuke Submarines](#) - 07 APR
6. [Chinese Military Opens New Overseas Base](#) – 07 APR
7. [Fear Of Chinese Espionage Prompts U.S. To Impose "Blanket Ban" On Its Diplomats In China: What's Cooking?](#) - 05 APR
8. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, April 4, 2025](#) – 04 APR
9. [The Expansion of China's Military Space and Counterspace Capabilities and Implications for Space as a Contested Domain](#) - 03 APR
10. [South Koreans are still puzzling over why their leader declared martial law](#) - 04 APR
11. [Map Shows New Alliance Growing on China's Doorstep](#) - 03 APR
12. [OK To Shoot Down Cartel Drones Flying Over Border Sought By NORTHCOM Boss](#) - 02 APR
13. [China drills in Taiwan Strait risk to region's security: US](#) - 02 APR
14. [Mapped: Global Ports China Could Lose to US After Panama Deal](#) - 01 APR
15. [This is how China skirts U.S. chip bans](#) - 01 APR



16. [China Launches Large-Scale Military Drills Around Taiwan](#) - 01 APR
17. [China holds large-scale military drills around Taiwan](#) - 01 APR

## Middle East Conflicts

1. [Institute for The Study of War Iran Update](#)
2.  [Hamas says it's sending a delegation to Qatar to continue Gaza ceasefire talks](#) – 15 APR
3. [Israel intensifies Gaza strikes, orders evacuations \(VIDEO\)](#) – 13 APR
4. [Turkey and Israel hold talks to avoid accidental conflict in Syria](#) – 10 APR
5. [Could Israel-Turkey war of words escalate to actual war?](#) – 08 APR
6. [How Dangerous are Growing Tensions Between Israel and Egypt?](#) – 07 APR
7. [Iran Deploys Radar Systems for Potential US Strike](#) – 07 APR
8. [Israel deploys troops to new security corridor across southern Gaza](#) - 06 APR
9. [Iran's "Futuristic Weapon" Rattles Pentagon! Has It Leapfrogged China, Russia & The US In Plasma Tech?](#) - 04 APR
10. [Is The U.S. About To Go To War With Iran](#) - 03 APR
11. [Alawite Insurgents Seek to Use Sectarian Violence to Destabilize the Interim Government in Syria](#) - 03 APR
12. [Iran Threatens Swift Response if U.S. Attacks](#) - 03 APR
13. [By the numbers: US deployment of B-2 bombers as tensions ramp up with Houthis and Iran](#) - 02 APR
14. [Israel Craters Runway To Keep Turkey From Taking Over Syrian Airfield](#) - 02 APR
15. [Israel to expand military operation and seize 'large areas' of Gaza](#) - 02 APR
16. [Protests broke out against Hamas in Gaza. What do Palestinians think about the militant group?](#) - 02 APR
17. [Yemen's Houthi Rebels Claim They Shot Down Another American Drone as US Strikes Pound Country](#) - 01 APR
18. [How inclusive is Syria's new technocratic cabinet?](#) - 01 APR
19. [Israel orders evacuation of southern Gaza city of Rafah](#) - 01 APR

## Russian-Ukraine Conflict

1. [Institute for The Study of War](#)
2. [North Korea Sent Russia Over 15,000 Containers of Munitions: Analysis](#) – 15 APR
3. [Russian Occupation update; April 14, 2025](#) – 14 APR
4. [New Russian Offensive Has Gained Little Ground So Far](#) – 14 APR
5. [The Kremlin Sentenced a Popular Russian General to Lead a Penal Assault Detachment in Ukraine](#) - 11 APR
6. [Russia Occupation update; April 10, 2025](#) – 10 APR
7. [China calls Zelenskyy's remarks on Chinese fighters in Ukraine 'Irresponsible'](#) – 10 APR
8. [Ukraine says Chinese men captured fighting for Russia](#) – 09 APR
9. [Russian Occupation Update, April 8, 2025](#) – 08 APR



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10. [Ukraine braces for Russian offensive ahead of negotiations \(Video\)](#) – 08 APR
  11. [Ukrainian troops advance into Russia's Belgorod, Zelenskyy confirms](#) – 08 APR
  12. [Multiple cities in Ukraine hit by overnight drone attacks \(Video\)](#) - 07 APR
  13. [Russian Occupation Update, April 3, 2025](#) – 03 APR
  14. [How the war in Ukraine changed Russian's global standing](#) – 02 APR
  15. [Vladimir Putin signs decree calling up 160,000 Russians for military service](#) – 02 APR
  16. [New Russian Offensive In Ukraine Looms](#) – 01 APR
  17. [US Rejects Putin's Proposal for Third Party Control of Ukraine](#) – 01 APR



## Cyber

1. [China Pursuing 3 Alleged US Operatives Over Cyberattacks During Asian Games](#) (AP News, 15 APR, Christopher Bodeen)

China said Tuesday it is pursuing three alleged U.S. operatives accused of carrying out cyberattacks on Chinese infrastructure during the Asian Games held in the city of Harbin in February.

2. [Chinese APTs Exploit EDR 'Visibility Gap' for Cyber Espionage](#) (Dark Reading, 14 APR, Becky Bracken)

Blind spots in network visibility, including in firewalls, IoT devices, and the cloud, are being exploited by Chinese state-backed threat actors with increasing success, according to new threat intelligence. Here's how experts say you can get eyes on it all.

3. [China Admitted to Volt Typhoon Cyberattacks on US Critical Infrastructure: Report](#) (Security Week, 11 APR, Eduard Kovacs)

In a secret meeting between Chinese and US officials, the former confirmed conducting cyberattacks on US infrastructure.

4. [What Should the US Do About Salt Typhoon?](#) (Dark Reading, 10 APR, Alexander Culafi)

Security experts weigh in on the problem Salt Typhoon and its hacking of telecoms poses against the United States, including what the US should do and how defenders can protect themselves.

5. [Nissan Leaf Hacked for Remote Spying, Physical Takeover](#) (Security Week, 10 APR, Eduard Kovacs)

Researchers find vulnerabilities that can be exploited to remotely take control of a Nissan Leaf's functions, including physical controls.

6. [ToddyCat APT Targets ESET Bug to Load Silent Malware](#) (Dark Reading, 07 APR, Jai Vijayan)

Researchers found the threat actor attempting to use the now-patched flaw to load and execute a malicious dynamic link library on infected systems.

7. [This Is How Hackers Target Everyday People With AI Chatbots](#) (MUO, 05 APR, Jayric Maning)

Hackers are using generative AI to target people more effectively and cheaply than ever before. While you may be confident in your ability to detect malicious attacks, now's a great time to brush up on the latest tactics they use to exploit people.

8. [North Korean Hackers Deploy BeaverTail Malware via 11 Malicious npm Packages](#) (The Hacker News, 05 APR, Ravie Lakshmanan)

The North Korean threat actors behind the ongoing Contagious Interview campaign are spreading their tentacles on the npm ecosystem by publishing more malicious packages that deliver the BeaverTail malware, as well as a new remote access trojan (RAT) loader.

9. [Israel Enters 'Stage 3' of Cyber Wars With Iran Proxies](#) (Dark Reading, 03 APR, Nate Nelson)

While Israel and Iranian proxies fight it out IRL, their conflict in cyberspace has developed in parallel. These days attacks have decelerated, but advanced in sophistication.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



10. [\*\*China-Linked Threat Group Exploits Ivanti Bug\*\*](#) (Dark Reading, 03 APR, Jai Viayan)

The vendor had originally assessed the flaw as low risk but now says it is a critical issue that enables remote code execution.

11. [\*\*Microsoft Warns of Tax-Themed Email Attacks Using PDFs and QR Codes to Deliver Malware\*\*](#) (The Hacker News, 03 APR, Ravie Lakshmanan)

Microsoft is warning of several phishing campaigns that are leveraging tax-related themes to deploy malware and steal credentials.

12. [\*\*AI Giving Rise of the 'Zero-Knowledge' Threat Actor\*\*](#) (Security Week, 02 APR, Etay Maor)

The rise of zero-knowledge threat actors powered by AI marks a turning point in the business of cybercrime where sophisticated attacks are no longer confined to skilled attackers.

13. [\*\*North Korea's IT Operatives Are Exploiting Remote Work Globally\*\*](#) (Security Week, 02 APR, Kevin Townsend)

The global rise of North Korean IT worker infiltration poses a serious cybersecurity risk—using fake identities, remote access, and extortion to compromise organizations.

14. [\*\*How 'Lucid' exploits iMessage to send encrypted phishing attacks to your iPhone\*\*](#) (Macworld, 01 APR, Roman Loyola)

Phishing platform uses temporary Apple IDs to send over 100,000 iMessage spam texts every day.

15. [\*\*Lazarus APT Jumps on ClickFix Bandwagon in Recent Attacks\*\*](#) (Dark Reading, 01 APR, Elizabeth Montalbano)

A continuation of the North Korean nation-state threat's campaign against employment seekers uses the social engineering attack to target CeFi organizations with the GolangGhost backdoor.

16. [\*\*China-Linked Earth Alux Uses VARGEIT and COBEACON in Multi-Stage Cyber Intrusions\*\*](#) (The Hacker News, 01 APR, Ravie Lakshmanan)

Cybersecurity researchers have shed light on a new China-linked threat actor called Earth Alux that has targeted various key sectors such as government, technology, logistics, manufacturing, telecommunications, IT services, and retail in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) and Latin American (LATAM) regions.

17. [\*\*North Korean crypto attacks rising in sophistication, actors — Paradigm\*\*](#) (Foreign Affairs, 01 APR, Christopher Tepedino)

Cyberattacks originating from the country range from social engineering attempts to assaults on exchanges and can take a year to play out.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



## Electromagnetic Warfare

1. [U.S.-Supplied C-130J, C-17 Come “Under Attack” Over Myanmar; What Really Happened With IAF Aircraft? \(EurAsian Times, 15 APR, Air Marshal Anil Khosla\)](#)

During a humanitarian relief mission to Myanmar following the recent earthquake, Indian Air Force (IAF) transport aircraft encountered GPS spoofing within Myanmar's airspace.

2. [China's New KJ-700 Multi-Intelligence Radar Plane's Interesting Features \(TWZ, 14 APR, Thomas Newdick\)](#)

The latest Chinese airborne early warning and control aircraft boasts an array of electro-optical and infrared sensors, as well as multiple radars.

3. [Space Force takes ownership of first Meadowlands satellite jammer \(Breaking Defense, 10 APR, Theresa Hitchens\)](#)

The program was designed to both to increase mobility and improve the jamming capabilities of the Space Force's legacy Counter Communications System, to include providing multi-frequency jamming in S-band and X-band.

4. [Russia, China target SpaceX's Starlink in escalating space electronic warfare \(SpaceNews, 03 April, Sandra Erwin\)](#)

As modern warfare becomes increasingly reliant on space-based networks, Russia and China are stepping up efforts to counter the dominance of commercial satellite constellations, particularly SpaceX's Starlink. The Secure World Foundation (SWF), a nonpartisan policy think tank, detailed these developments in its latest annual report which assesses global counterspace capabilities.

5. [Inflatable Decoys Paired With Faked Radio Signals Used To Bait Artillery In Recent Army Exercise \(TWZ, 03 APR, Joseph Trevithick\)](#)

New electronic warfare capabilities are a critical part of the Army's modernization plans, but the service still has much work to do.

6. [Army awards prototype for spectrum sensing and visualization tool \(Defense Scoop, 02 APR, Mark Pomerleau\)](#)

The Army awarded 3dB Labs an other transaction agreement to develop and demonstrate a prototype for the Spectrum Situational Awareness System (S2AS), according to a release.

7. [The Evolving Landscape of Cyber and Electronic Warfare in Geopolitical Conflicts \(Israel Defense, 01 APR, Jerem Makowski\)](#)

As the 2020s advance, the nature of warfare is undergoing a profound transformation, with cyber and electronics now indispensable on the battlefield

[Back to Table of Contents](#)





## Information Advantage

1. [\*\*NATO picks Palantir's Maven AI for military planning, amid trans-Atlantic tension\*\*](#) (Breaking Defense, 14 APR, Sydney J. Freedberg Jr)  
American Combatant Commands worldwide already make heavy use of Palantir's Maven Smart System to rapidly share and analyze planning data. Now NATO will start using it too.
2. [\*\*Taiwan says China using AI to 'divide' the island with disinformation\*\*](#) (The Japan Times, 08 APR, Yimou Lee)  
China is using generative artificial intelligence (AI) to ramp up disinformation against Taiwan to "divide" Taiwan's public, the island's National Security Bureau said.
3. [\*\*The AI Race Has Gotten Crowded—and China Is Closing In on the US\*\*](#) (Wired, 07 APR, Will Krog)  
New research from Stanford suggests artificial intelligence isn't ruled by just OpenAI and Google, as competition increases across the US, China, and France.
4. [\*\*Fact check: How do I spot errors in AI chatbots?\*\*](#) (DW, 04 APR, Jan D. Walter & Carlos Muros)  
A network of pro-Russian websites is apparently misleading chatbots with AI-generated false reports. Analysts suspect a plan. How can users protect themselves?
5. [\*\*ANALYSIS/PLA propaganda aimed at Chinese people, little impact in Taiwan: Experts\*\*](#) (Focus Taiwan, 03 APR, Sean Lin)  
The People's Liberation Army's (PLA) large-scale joint exercises around Taiwan on Tuesday were accompanied by strident propaganda comparing itself to a mighty monkey warrior in Chinese mythology and Taiwan's president to a parasite, but experts say these messages were primarily meant for domestic audiences and lost on the people in Taiwan.
6. [\*\*China and America are racing to develop the best AI. But who is ahead in using it?\*\*](#) (The Economist, 03 APR)  
Who is better at the technology of the future: America or China? Speculation is at fever pitch. The world's most famous artificial-intelligence company, Openai, is American. Models produced by DeepSeek, a Chinese competitor, are almost as good—and cheaper.
7. [\*\*Defending American Interests Abroad\*\*](#) (RAND, 02 APR, Christopher A Mouton, Caleb Lucas & Shaun Ee)  
Overseas malign information operations by foreign actors seek to undermine the strategic interests of the United States. These operations are intended to manipulate the global information environment for geostrategic purposes by disseminating false or misleading information to shape narratives, shift public discourse, and undermine other nations' national security. These operations often leverage classical propaganda techniques, such as name-calling, glittering generalities, transfer, testimonial, plain-folk, card-stacking, and bandwagon.
8. [\*\*UK targets Russian influence with new registration system, security minister says\*\*](#) (Euro News, 01 APR, Gavin Blackburn)  
The government said the new programme will be a key tool for the "detection and disruption of harmful activity against our country."

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



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9. [Beijing Worries About Americans Fleeing to RedNote From TikTok: Analysts](#)  
(EurAsian Times, 01 APR, KN Pandita)

An important element in the politics of big and industrialized powers is acquiring energy sources and rich but unexploited mineral wealth.

[Back to Table  
of Contents](#)



## Signal

1. [Blockchain, Quantum, and IoT Firms Unite to Secure Satellite Communications Against Quantum Threats](#) (Security Week, 15 APR, Kevin Townsend)

Partisia, Squareroot8, and NuSpace join forces in a global partnership to advance quantum-safe communications.

2. [Sweden Issues Update in China Cable Cutting Probe](#) (Newsweek, 15 APR, Shane Croucher)

Swedish investigators said they could not find evidence to prove that the cutting of two underwater data cables in the Baltic Sea by a Chinese vessel was a deliberate act of sabotage, according to their newly released report.

3. [Flawed spectrum proposal could cause disruption and risks to public safety](#) (GPS World, 07 APR, Jake Parker)

We received the following statement from the Security Industry Association and post it here due to its direct relevance to GNSS/PNT. In the first paragraph, the statement uses the words “complement,” “alternative,” and “backup” as if they were interchangeable. However, while “to complement” and “to back up” are synonyms in this context, “to complement / back up” and “alternative” are not. Rather, they refer to very different concepts. That is why the FCC was careful to write: “While we focus in this inquiry on complementary PNT given the predominant use of GPS in the United States, we also seek information regarding alternative PNT technologies and solutions that may better achieve PNT resilience nationwide.”

4. [Gmail Is Not a Secure Way to Send Sensitive Comms: A Friendly Reminder](#) (Dark Reading, 04 APR, Becky Bracken)

New end-to-end Gmail encryption alone isn't secure enough for an enterprise's most sensitive and prized data, experts say.

5. [Secure Communications Evolve Beyond End-to-End Encryption](#) (Dark Rading, 04 APR, Robert Lemos)

Signal, Wickr, WhatsApp, and Cape all have different approaches to security and privacy, yet most are finding ways to make secure communications more private.

6. [DPRK 'IT Workers' Pivot to Europe for Employment Scams](#) (Dark Reading, 02 APR, Kristina Beek)

By using fake references and building connections with recruiters, some North Korean nationals are landing six-figure jobs that replenish DPRK coffers.

7. [Zero Trust starts here: why strong, future-proof encryption is the bedrock of modern cybersecurity](#) (Mobile World Live, 02 APR)

Telco security leaders face a challenging future. Not only must they support essential new revenue-generating plans, but they must do so against the backdrop of a rapidly expanding attack surface, a fast-evolving threat landscape, and growing IT and business complexity. It's a world in which the old certainties of perimeter-based cybersecurity are gone. And one which Zero Trust was built for.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



8. [\*\*SandboxAQ quantum-resistant encryption algorithm approved by NIST \(Biometric Update, 01 APR, Anthony Kimery\)\*\*](#)

Palo Alto, California-based SandboxAQ has achieved a significant milestone with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) having officially selected its Hamming Quasi-Cyclic (HQC) algorithm as the fifth algorithm in its suite of post-quantum cryptographic (PQC) standards.

9. [\*\*China launches internet technology test satellites with Long March 2D \(SpaceNews, 01 APR, Andrew Jones\)\*\*](#)

China conducted a new launch for a nebulous series of internet technology test satellites early Tuesday.

10. [\*\*Gmail Users Can Finally Send Encrypted Email To Anyone — Here's How \(Forbes, 01 APR, Davey Winder\)\*\*](#)

The greatest April Fool's Day joke that never was has to have taken place on April 1, 2004. It was then that Google, without a hint of irony, launched what was to become the world's most popular email platform, Gmail, to an unsuspecting public. Fast-forward 21 years, and according to Google itself, Gmail has an astonishing 2.5 billion active users. One thing it hasn't had, however, is end-to-end encryption — until now. Not everyone will be able to benefit from this, but as birthday announcements go, this one is a doozy: Google said it has "invented an entirely new type of encryption." Here's what you need to know.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



## Items of Interest

1. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, April 11, 2025](#) (ISW, 11 APR, Matthew Sperzel, Alison O'Neil, Karina Wugang, Alfred Han, Olivia Gibson, Kiley Pittman, Alexis Turek, Yeji Chung & Alex Chou)

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.

2. [U.S. To Deploy Cutting-Edge UAVs To 'Strategic' Japanese Base As PLA Roars In The South China Sea](#) (EurAsian Times, 10 APR, Sumit Ahlawat)

Japan's Defense Minister Gen Nakatani has confirmed that the U.S. military will deploy MQ-4C Triton surveillance drones to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan.

3. [Africa File, April 10, 2025: RSF's Northern Sudan Campaign](#) (ISW, 11 APR, Kathryn Tyson, Liam Karr, John Reece)

Key Takeaways:

- Sudan: The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have highly publicized their campaign against the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in northern Sudan to boost RSF morale following its defeat in Khartoum, as the actual military campaign has limited strategic value.

4. [South Korea says 10 North Korean soldiers crossed military demarcation line, warning shots fired](#) (Fox News, 08 APR, Rachel Wolf)

South Korean military responds with warning broadcasts and shots after approximately 10 North Korean troops cross military demarcation line

5. [Moscow's Undeclared 'War In The Atlantic': UK Finds Russian Underwater Sensors Tracking Britain's Nuke Submarines](#) (EurAsian Times, 07 APR, Sumit Ahlawat)

Russian underwater surveillance sensors, believed to be part of an effort to spy on the U.K.'s nuclear submarines, have been discovered concealed in the waters surrounding Britain, a report by the Sunday Times has revealed.

6. [Chinese Military Opens New Overseas Base](#) (Newsweek, 07 APR, Ryan Chan)

China has opened a "joint logistics and training center" in Cambodia, which is its second publicly acknowledged overseas base, to sustain its military power in the contested South China Sea.

7. [Fear Of Chinese Espionage Prompts U.S. To Impose "Blanket Ban" On Its Diplomats In China; What's Cooking?](#) (EurAsian Times, 05 APR, Air Marshal Anil Khosla)

The U.S. has implemented a policy prohibiting its diplomats, their families, and security-cleared contractors in China from engaging in romantic or sexual relationships with Chinese nationals.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



8. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, April 4, 2025](#) (ISW, 04 APR, Matthew Sperzel, Alison O'Neil, Karina Wugang, Frank Mattimoe, Alexis Turek and Alex Chou)

Key Takeaways

- **Taiwan:** Eight cases to recall legislators from the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) advanced to the second stage. The mass recall campaigns against Taiwanese legislators have to this point only affected the KMT-led opposition coalition. Most of the recalls targeting the DPP will likely fail, however.
- **China:** The PRC published an article framing Taiwanese President Lai and his DPP as authoritarian oppressors. This framing is part of an information operation to discredit and undermine PRC critics in the Taiwanese political space.
- **China:** The PLA conducted a large-scale joint military exercise around Taiwan simulating a blockade. The PRC is normalizing stock blockade exercises as a regular feature in its coercion toolkit that it executes at a chosen time under the pretext of provocations by ROC President Lai Ching-te's administration.
- **China:** The PRC is trying to exploit global dissatisfaction with newly imposed US tariffs to attract foreign investment and build relations with historic American allies, such as Canada, the European Union, Japan, and South Korea.
- **China:** The PRC placed under review a Hong Kong-based firm's proposed sale of its Panama ports, among other assets, to a US firm. The PRC may consider the sale a threat to its economic security.
- **Japan:** Japan announced its first emergency evacuation contingency plan for civilians on its Sakishima Islands off the Taiwanese coast. The PRC criticized the plan, arguing that Japan is framing a hypothetical emergency around Taiwan as a threat to Japanese nationals.
- **Philippines:** The United States committed to deploy additional missiles systems to the Philippines and enhance bilateral defense industrial cooperation. The system is a ground-based, anti-ship missile that can hit targets up to 100 nautical miles away.

9. [The Expansion of China's Military Space and Counterspace Capabilities and Implications for Space as a Contested Domain](#) (RAND, 03 APR, Testimony of Brien Alkire)

China's leaders see preeminence in space as an important component of a strong country, a source of national pride, and key to a prosperous nation. People's Liberation Army (PLA) writings from 2013 describe space capabilities as strategically important for winning what the PLA calls informatized wars. Since that time, China has designated space as a warfighting domain and has been "growing its military space and counterspace capabilities at breathtaking pace."

10. [South Koreans are still puzzling over why their leader declared martial law](#) (AP News, 04 APR, Foster Klug & Kim Tong-Hyung)

Dancing and consoling hugs. Wild whoops and anguished screams. Tears, both of joy and rage. Reaction to the court verdict ousting South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol from office Friday was a vivid window into the nation's deep political divisions, as tens of thousands of Yoon opponents and supporters aired their feelings in downtown Seoul.



11. [Map Shows New Alliance Growing on China's Doorstep](#) (Newsweek, 03 APR, Micah McCartney)

A growing network of military partnerships is reshaping the security dynamics in Asia as countries around the South China Sea and the western Pacific enhance cooperation in response to China's expansive maritime claims and assertive actions.

12. [OK To Shoot Down Cartel Drones Flying Over Border Sought By NORTHCOM Boss](#) (TWZ, 02 APR, Howard Altman)

The push for new authorization to engage drones comes as Mexican cartels are increasingly using them over the border for surveillance and smuggling.

13. [China drills in Taiwan Strait risk to region's security: US](#) (DW, 02 APR, Kate Hairsine)

The United States said China's military activities around Taiwan only serve to "exacerbate tensions" and "put the region's security at risk."

14. [Mapped: Global Ports China Could Lose to US After Panama Deal](#) (Newsweek, 01 APR, Micah McCartney & Didi Kirsten Tatlow)

A Chinese conglomerate's planned sale of dozens of international ports to a U.S.-linked consortium has drawn fury from Beijing over the possible loss of critical infrastructure, including those at either end of the Panama Canal—and the deal could now be in jeopardy.

15. [This is how China skirts U.S. chip bans](#) (Rest of World, 01 APR, Viola Zhou)

Chinese tech companies use smugglers, loopholes, and innovation to work around U.S. chip restrictions

16. [China Launches Large-Scale Military Drills Around Taiwan](#) (Times, 01 APR, Huizhong Wu & Johnson Lai)

The Chinese military announced large-scale drills in the waters and airspace around Taiwan on Tuesday that include an aircraft carrier battle group, as it again warned the self-ruled island democracy against seeking formal independence.

17. [China holds large-scale military drills around Taiwan](#) (DW, 01 APR, Shakeel Sobhan)

Beijing called the drills a "severe warning and forceful containment against Taiwan independence." Taiwan deployed warships in response.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



## 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](#), May 15, 2025

[Iran Update](#), May 14, 2025

[Iran Update](#), May 11, 2025

[Iran Update](#), May 10, 2025

[Iran Update](#), May 09, 2025

[Iran Update](#), May 08, 2025

[Iran Update](#), May 07, 2025

[Iran Update](#), May 04, 2025

[Iran Update](#), May 03, 2025

[Iran Update](#), May 02, 2025

[Iran Update](#), May 01, 2025

### 2. [Hamas says it's sending a delegation to Qatar to continue Gaza ceasefire talks](#) (AP News, 15 APR, Wafaa Shurafa & Samy Magdy)

A Hamas official said Monday that the Palestinian militant group is sending a delegation to the Gulf state of Qatar to continue indirect ceasefire talks with Israel over the war in Gaza, as the territory's Health Ministry said that 38 people were confirmed dead over the past day.

### 3. [Israel intensifies Gaza strikes, orders evacuations \(Video\)](#) (DW, 13 APR, Dmitry Ponyavin)

Palestinians rush to flee Khan Younis after a fresh evacuation order, as Israel claims full control of Gaza's border and prepares for further expansion.

### 4. [Turkey and Israel hold talks to avoid accidental conflict in Syria](#) (AP News, 10 APR, Andrew Wilks)

Turkey and Israel have held "technical talks" aimed at preventing conflict between their troops in Syria, a Turkish official said Thursday.

### 5. [Could Israel-Turkey war of words escalate to actual war?](#) (DW, 08 APR, Cathrin Schaer)

The war of words between Israel and Turkey has been intensifying. And recent Israeli bombs on Syria were meant as a message to Turkey, observers say. Will it come to a direct confrontation between the two countries?

### 6. [How Dangerous are Growing Tensions Between Israel and Egypt?](#) (Newsweek, 07 APR, Amira El-Fekki)

Tensions have escalated in recent weeks between Israel and Egypt over military activities in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)





7. [\*\*Iran Deploys Radar Systems for Potential US Strike\*\*](#) (Newsweek, 07 APR, Amir Daftari)

Iran is bolstering its military defense capabilities with the expansion of its Ghadir radar network, which is designed to detect incoming aircraft, missiles, and drones at long ranges, according to open source analysts.

8. [\*\*Israel deploys troops to new security corridor across southern Gaza\*\*](#) (Euro News, 06 APR, Emma De Ruiter)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the new "Morag Corridor" on Wednesday, and suggested it would cut off the southern city of Rafah, which Israel had ordered evacuated, from the rest of Gaza.

9. [\*\*Iran's "Futuristic Weapon" Rattles Pentagon! Has It Leapfrogged China, Russia & The US In Plasma Tech?\*\*](#) (EurAsian Times, 04 APR, Shubhangi Palve)

Amid heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, the global defense community was rocked by a stunning claim from Chief Pentagon Spokesman Sean Parnell about Iran's dazzling progress in a dangerous weapon system, hitherto a domain of science fiction movies.

10. [\*\*Is The U.S. About To Go To War With Iran?\*\*](#) (TWZ, 03 APR, Tyler Rogoway)

The U.S. is pouring military assets into the Middle East as Trump's deadline for Iran to come to the negotiating table fast approaches.

11. [\*\*Alawite Insurgents Seek to Use Sectarian Violence to Destabilize the Interim Government in Syria\*\*](#) (ISW, 03 APR, Brian Carter)

Alawite insurgents are trying to foment sectarian conflict to undermine and destabilize the interim Syrian government. Sectarian violence and disinformation have intensified in Syria in recent weeks, jeopardizing the political transition from the Bashar al Assad regime. The insurgents have presented themselves as defenders of the Alawite community, as the interim government is predominantly Sunni and has done little to prevent Sunni violence against the Alawite minority. There is a growing risk that sectarian revanchists on both sides may trigger a broader conflict—similar to the way in which sectarian violence led to full-scale civil conflict in Iraq in 2005. The international community can mitigate this risk by pressuring the interim government and its military to become more representative and address the root causes of the sectarian violence and insurgency.

12. [\*\*Iran Threatens Swift Response if U.S. Attacks\*\*](#) (Newsweek, 03 APR, Amira El-Fekki)

Iran's foreign minister warned that his country will respond swiftly to any attack and criticized the European Union for failing to "oppose the provocative rhetoric" of U.S. officials.

13. [\*\*By the numbers: US deployment of B-2 bombers as tensions ramp up with Houthis and Iran\*\*](#) (AP News, 02 APR, Jon Gambrell)

Satellite images analyzed Wednesday by The Associated Press show the deployment of at least six nuclear-capable B-2 Spirit bombers to Camp Thunder Bay on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



**14. [Israel Craters Runway To Keep Turkey From Taking Over Syrian Airfield](#) (TWZ, 02 APR, Howard Altman)**

Tensions are mounting between Ankara and Jerusalem over Syria, with Israel being especially concerned about its ability to access the country's airspace at will.

**15. [Israel to expand military operation and seize 'large areas' of Gaza](#) (BBC, 02 APR, Rachel Hagan, Yolande Knell)**

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz says the military will expand its operation in Gaza and seize "large areas" of the territory - incorporating them into what he described as "security zones."

**16. [Protests broke out against Hamas in Gaza. What do Palestinians think about the militant group?](#) (AP News, 02 APR, Samy Magdy & Joseph Krauss)**

Thousands of Palestinians chanted against Hamas during anti-war protests last week in the Gaza Strip, the biggest show of anger at the militant group since its attack on Israel ignited the war.

**17. [Yemen's Houthi Rebels Claim They Shot Down Another American Drone as US Strikes Pound Country](#) (AP News, 01 APR, Jon Gambrell)**

Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed Tuesday that they shot down another American MQ-9 Reaper drone, even as the U.S. kept up its campaign of intense airstrikes targeting the group.

**18. [How inclusive is Syria's new technocratic cabinet?](#) (DW, 01 APR, Cathrin Schaer)**

Syria swore in several ministers over the weekend, with analysts saying time would tell how effective they will be. Others noted that many are technocrats, often better qualified than their international counterparts.

**19. [Israel orders evacuation of southern Gaza city of Rafah](#) (BBC, 01 APR, David Gritten)**

The Israeli military has issued a sweeping new evacuation order for the southern Gaza Strip - the biggest since its offensive in the Palestinian territory resumed earlier this month.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



# Russia-Ukraine Conflict

## 1. Institute for The Study of War

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 15, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 14, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 13, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 12, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 11, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 10, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 09, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 08, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 07, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 06, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 05, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 04, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 03, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 02, 2025  
[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 01, 2025

## 2. [North Korea Sent Russia Over 15,000 Containers of Munitions: Analysis](#) (Newsweek, 15 APR, Shane Croucher)

North Korea sent more than 15,800 containers of munitions to Russia in an 18-month period as it became a critical supplier for Moscow's war on Ukraine, according to a new analysis.

## 3. [Russian Occupation update; April 14, 2025](#) (ISW, 14 APR, Karolina Hird)

Key takeaways:

- Russia is using occupied Ukraine to support its domestic drone development and production industry.
- Russia is also integrating Ukrainian children into its wider drone operator training and drone production ecosystem.
- Russian occupation administrators are implementing projects to increase the birth rate in occupied Ukraine and further Russia's illegitimate claims to the territories it illegally occupies.
- Russia is deporting Ukrainian prisoners from prisons in occupied Ukraine to penal colonies throughout the Russian Federation.

## 4. [New Russian Offensive Has Gained Little Ground So Far](#) (TWZ, 14 APR, Howard Altman)

Ukraine Situation Report: Russia is trying to create a 'buffer zone' in Sumy as both sides jockey for territory ahead of possible negotiations.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



5. [\*\*The Kremlin Sentenced a Popular Russian General to Lead a Penal Assault Detachment in Ukraine\*\*](#) (ISW, 11 APR, Kateryna Stepanenko)

Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned former 58th Combined Arms Army [CAA] Commander Major General Ivan Popov to command a penal assault detachment in Ukraine — a demotion and effectively a death sentence — after Popov publicly appealed to Putin for his reinstatement to active military duty.

6. [\*\*Russian Occupation Update, April 10, 2025\*\*](#) (ISW, 10 APR, Karoline Hird)

Key takeaways:

- Russian occupation administrations are seizing property throughout occupied Ukraine.
- Russia continues to crack down against the Crimean Tatar community in occupied Crimea, often using dubious legal charges to prosecute and detain Crimean Tatars.
- Children throughout occupied Ukraine are taking part in the “Zarnitsa 2.0” military-patriotic game—a revived Soviet-era war game aimed at training youth in basic military skills in eventual preparation for service in the Russian military.

7. [\*\*China calls Zelenskyy’s remarks on Chinese fighters in Ukraine ‘irresponsible’\*\*](#) (AP News, 10 APR)

China on Thursday described as “irresponsible” accusations by Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that Russia is actively recruiting Chinese citizens to fight alongside its forces in the Ukraine war.

8. [\*\*Ukraine says Chinese men captured fighting for Russia\*\*](#) (DW, 09 APR, Richard Connor)

Two Chinese nationals have been caught fighting for Russia in Moscow’s war against Ukraine, Kyiv says.

9. [\*\*Russian Occupation Update, April 8, 2025\*\*](#) (ISW, 8 APR, Jessica Sobieski)

Key takeaways:

- The Kremlin is using the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) to consolidate social control over occupied areas of Ukraine and destroy any semblance of religious freedom.
- Russian officials discussed plans for the continued forced absorption of occupied Ukraine into the Russian economy during the “Integration-2025” forum.
- Russian federal censor Roskomnadzor issued an order on March 31 that will likely contribute to further crackdowns against pro-Ukrainian sentiment and dissent in occupied Ukraine.
- Russia continues to weaponize the school system in occupied Ukraine to Russify and militarize Ukrainian children and eradicate Ukrainian identity.

10. [\*\*Ukraine braces for Russian offensive ahead of negotiations \(Video\)\*\*](#) (DW, 08 APR, Ryan Allen)

Ukraine and its western partners are accusing Putin of trying to drag out US-led talks in order to strengthen Moscow’s position at the negotiating table. Many in Kyiv fear Russia could be planning to launch a new offensive in the coming weeks.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



11. [\*\*Ukrainian troops advance into Russia's Belgorod, Zelenskyy confirms\*\*](#) (Euro News, 08 APR, Sasha Vakulina)

The Ukrainian president publicly stated for the first time that Ukrainian troops have been active in Belgorod, making it the second incursion into Russia's border regions since August 2024.

12. [\*\*Multiple cities in Ukraine hit by overnight drone attacks \(Video\)\*\*](#) (DW, 07 APR, Shannon Redstall)

Nineteen people were killed in the Ukrainian city of Kryviy Rih Friday night. Deadly strikes continued across the country over the weekend. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy blamed the intensifying Russian attacks on insufficient international pressure on Moscow.

13. [\*\*Russian Occupation Update, April 3, 2025\*\*](#) (ISW, 03 APR, Karoline Hird)

Key takeaways:

- The Russian "Helping Ours" Foundation facilitated the deportation of 39 Ukrainian children from occupied Luhansk Oblast to a Russian government-controlled medical facility in Moscow Oblast in late March 2025.
- Russian military intelligence veterans opened a new military-patriotic education club for Ukrainian youth in occupied Crimea. Ukrainian children will train in accordance with Soviet and Russian special forces and counterintelligence doctrine.
- Russia is using the court system in occupied Ukraine to pursue illegal charges and fabricated cases against Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) and civilians.
- Russian occupation authorities continue to conduct coerced passportization in occupied Ukraine by requiring Russian citizenship as a prerequisite for obtaining a SIM card.

14. [\*\*How the war in Ukraine changed Russia's global standing\*\*](#) (Brookings, 02 APR, Angela Stent)

When Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin's immediate aim was regime change in Kyiv and Ukraine's subjugation to Russian domination. But Putin had much broader goals too. He viewed victory over Ukraine as the first step in undoing the post-Cold-War order which had deprived Russia of its Soviet republics and sphere of influence in Eastern Europe. He sees the Ukraine war as a battle between Russia, NATO, and the "collective West." Moscow's victory over Kyiv would, he is convinced, start the process of dismantling an international order that he believes has ignored Russia's national interests and belittled its position in the world.

15. [\*\*Vladimir Putin signs decree calling up 160,000 Russians for military service\*\*](#) (Euro News, 02 APR)

The decree says conscription applies to all citizens aged between 18 and 30 and covers the period from April to July.

16. [\*\*New Russian Offensive In Ukraine Looms\*\*](#) (TWZ, 01 APR, Howard Altman)

Ukraine Situation Report: Kyiv expecting major Russian battlefield push to gain leverage amid ongoing ceasefire negotiations.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



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17. [US Rejects Putin's Proposal for Third Party Control of Ukraine](#) (Newsweek, 01 APR, Brendan Cole)

The U.S. has criticized a Russian proposal for an interim administration in Ukraine to replace President Volodymyr Zelensky, dealing a blow to Vladimir Putin's quest to dictate his terms in any ceasefire deal.