CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)
  Corruption
  Drug Trafficking
  Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources
  Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration
  Organized Crime and Money Laundering

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)
  Internet Governance
  Internet Freedom
  Privacy and Security
  Cyber Statecraft Development
  Public/Private Partnership
  Protection of Intellectual Property
  Cyber Capacity Building
  Combating Terrorism and Cyber Crime
  Information Sharing
  Cyber Protection of Critical Infrastructure

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
  ISIS
  Terrorism Around the World
  Radicalization and Messaging
  Terrorism 2018-2019
  Foreign Fighters
  Counterterrorism Strategies
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

There’s a Better Way for Mexico to Fight Corruption
Bloomberg: 24 December 2018
Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s efforts to stamp out rampant corruption haven’t gone very well. To truly fight corruption, he needs to fully implement the National Anti-Corruption System.

https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2018-12-24/mexico-amlo-s-approach-to-fighting-corruption-needs-improvement

Peru’s attorney general reverses course on corruption probe
Franklin Briceno – The Associated Press: 2 January 2019
After dismissing the lead investigators of a far-reaching corruption probe, Peru’s attorney general reversed his decision because of the public’s outrage.

https://www.apnews.com/a995d0800c4a439ba2422b99fc3e2a68

For more on this theme:

Kenya’s Fight Against Corruption Includes Demolishing Buildings
https://www.wutc.org/post/kenyas-fight-against-corruption-includes-demolishing-buildings

Why we are slow in fighting corruption – President Buhari

Mongolians protest against corruption as temperature plunges
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mongolia-politics/mongolians-protest-against-corruption-as-temperature-plunges-idUSKCN1OQ0RG

Corruption in South Africa: A Guide to Our Recent Reporting

El Chapo Trial Shows That Mexico’s Corruption Is Even Worse Than You Think

Romania’s crackdown on corruption clashes with civil rights concerns

Former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif jailed again for corruption

Hundreds take to Beirut streets in protest against corruption

Inside the corruption allegations plaguing Malta
DRUG TRAFFICKING

The drug abuse problem across Africa is finally drawing global attention
Yomi Kazeem – Quartz: 22 December 2018

In a briefing to the United Nations Security Council, Yury Fedotov, head of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, said the office is “registering new alarming trends on drug trafficking in West and Central Africa with disruptive and destabilizing effects on governance, security, economic growth, and public health.”


Swapping Cocaine for Peace
Mariana Palau – Foreign Policy: 28 December 2018

In 2017, Colombia implemented voluntary crop substitution as a solution to its cocaine production problem. But the government hasn’t upheld its end of the bargain, and the program is failing.


For more on this theme:

Cambodia and China to combat flow of drugs

US says drug gangs moving money via China crypto channels

New Drug Practices Emerge

Police change tactics to battle opioid crisis

Inside Mother Camp: the woman tackling Afghanistan’s drug problem

Editorial: Are we prepared to deal with seemingly harmless but deadly drugs?
https://www.newtimes.co.rw/opinions/editorial-are-we-prepared-deal-seemingly-harmless-deadly-drugs

Brazil Invests in Border Surveillance Radars

Panama Closes Narcotrafficking Routes

Will legalization work?
http://manilastandard.net/opinion/columns/crossroads-by-jonathan-dea-cruz/283964/will-legalization-work-.html

Marijuana Legalization Means Safer Borders And Less Smuggling, Study Shows
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Training programme in India helps officials fight back against cybercrime
TRAFFIC: 2 January 2019

In a first of its kind in India, a two-day workshop trained forest officials on how to deal with wildlife trafficking online.


Illegal Fishing Is a Global Security Threat
Bloomberg: 28 December 2018

Often overlooked as a threat to security, overfishing and illegal fishing can cause food shortages, promote arms trafficking and can even fuel terrorism. An estimated 20 percent of the global harvest comes from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2018-12-28/illegal-fishing-is-a-global-security-threat

For more on this theme:

Illegal wildlife trade ‘funneled back to organised crime in the region’

Curbing the wild trade in the UAE

How A Reclusive Lizard Became A Prize Find For Wildlife Smugglers

Conservationists Continue Fight Against Poachers, Climate Change

China cracks totoaba smuggling ring, hope rises for saving vaquita porpoise

In the shadow of tiger conservation, poaching of leopards in India grows unchecked

India profiling criminals to combat transboundary wildlife offences
https://india.mongabay.com/2019/01/02/india-profiling-criminals-to-combat-transboundary-wildlife-offences/

Is Vietnam’s ivory trade fueling the elephant poaching crisis?

Borders blur in effort to check poaching and man-animal conflict

The sound of a tropical forest
http://science.sciencemag.org/content/363/6422/28.full
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

What’s Wrong with India’s Efforts to Check Human Trafficking?
Avinash Giri – The Diplomat: 3 January 2019

Nine women went missing from a government-run shelter, proving there are huge gaps in India’s anti-trafficking efforts.

Tech companies ‘failing to prevent people-smugglers luring migrants to their deaths’, says UN
May Bulman – Independent: 31 December 2018

Facebook, WhatsApp and other social media sites are letting smugglers lure migrants to their deaths with promises of safe passage to Europe, the United Nations’ migration agency warns. Social media firms have introduced measures to curb child pornography and terrorist activities. But efforts to prevent people smuggling are “microscopic” by comparison.

For more on this theme:

January Is Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month
https://inhomelandsecurity.com/human-trafficking-prevention/

Combating Human Trafficking With Comics

Despite Internal Challenges Sudan’s Regional Efforts on Human Trafficking are Commendable

People smuggling has made billions since 2015

Desperate Afghans’ harrowing journey to Europe

National Security Council: Fighting Organized Crime and Human Trafficking
https://www.total-montenegro-news.com/business/2949-security-montenegro

Managing Migration in all its Aspects: Progress under the European Agenda on Migration

Politicians could ease refugee suffering, but instead they stoke fear
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/01/politicians-refugees-channel-crossings-sajid-javid
ORGANIZED CRIME AND MONEY LAUNDERING

The Italian mafia is expanding abroad, and European police forces aren’t prepared

Felia Allum – The Local: 26 December 2018

The success of Italian police against the Mafia is causing an exodus of organized crime from Italy into the rest of Europe. Unfortunately, most law enforcement in Europe is ill-prepared to take on the Mafia.

https://www.thelocal.it/20181226/the-italian-mafia-is-expanding-abroad-and-european-police-forces-aren’t-prepared

GameChangers 2018: The Year Crime Became an Ideology

Steven Dudley and Jeremy McDermott – InSight Crime: 3 January 2019

InSight Crime examined organized crime activity across the Americas last year and determined 2018 was the year crime became an ideology.


For more on this theme:

Chinese courts crack down on organized crime

Exclusive: Lebanon’s Organized Crime, Militancy Hotbeds

FBI warns of money laundering scams using ‘money mules’
https://www.apnews.com/eca04a0f5f3b4f62a701c9350c2764d5

Morgan Stanley unit to pay $10 million fine for anti-money laundering violations
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-morgan-stanley-fine/morgan-stanley-unit-to-pay-10-million-fine-for-anti-money-laundering-violations-idUSKCN1OP0YL

Anti-money laundering laws introduced to help gardai target crooks using cryptocurrency to hide criminal cash

Will the EU improve its monitoring of money-laundering threats?

Money laundering in Gabon thrives (Business Africa)
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

How Decentralization Could Change the Internet?
Ahsan Khalid – Block Publisher: 2 January 2019

As problems arise with a centralized internet — governance disputes, fake news and cyber crime — a decentralized conception of the internet looks more promising. The author considers how decentralization would affect the internet.


For more on this theme:

(Iran) Cyber governance, concept and necessity

(Africa) Africa Geospatial Data and Internet Conference, Ghana 2019

(Global) Centralization Cannot Sustain Society–Enter Blockchain Technology
https://bitsonline.com/centralization-blockchain-technology/

INTERNET FREEDOM

Russia’s Tightening Control of Cyberspace Within its Borders
Justin Sherman – Just Security: 24 December 2018

Russia spent 2018 passing legislation that strengthens its control over the internet, while also looking to export its governance model.

https://www.justsecurity.org/62023/russias-tightening-control-cyberspace-borders/

For more on this theme:

(ASEAN) The ASEAN governments exploiting cybersecurity threats to expand authoritarian powers

(Vietnam) Vietnam criticised for ‘totalitarian’ law banning online criticism of government
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/02/vietnam-criticised-for-totalitarian-law-banning-online-criticism-of-government

 Democractic Republic of the Congo) Democratic Republic of Congo internet shutdown shows how Chinese censorship tactics are spreading
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

2018 Is the Year Data Privacy Came into Public Consciousness
Nicole Lindsey – CPO Magazine: 28 December 2018

High-profile data breaches, along with news coverage of social media misdeeds and the launch of the European General Data Protection Regulation, have brought privacy to the forefront of Western consciousness.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Social Media’s Path Forward: Why It Has A Responsibility To Uphold Security
https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2019/01/02/social-medias-path-forward-why-it-has-a-responsibility-to-uphold-security/#254b2bc93883

(Global) Data Governance in the Age of Exponential Technology

(Global) Why Are We So Surprised by Facebook’s Data Scandals?

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

UK Launches Long-Awaited Cyber Skills Strategy
Phil Muncaster – Info Security: 24 December 2018

The United Kingdom is tackling a cyber security skills shortage by establishing the Initial National Cyber Security Skills Strategy.


For more on this theme:

(Global) 2019: Cyber War - Part 3
https://www.forbes.com/sites/rajindertumber/2019/01/02/2019-cyber-war-part-3/#7143096973a0

(U.S.) On the Cyber Edge of History
https://www.afcea.org/content/cyber-edge-history

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Private-public partnership for cyber security
Arindrajit Basu – The Hindu: 24 December 2018

Given the decentralized nature of cyberspace, the private sector will have to play a vital role in enforcing rules for security.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/private-public-partnership-for-cyber-security/article25821899.ece

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) HHS, Industry Aim to Help Health Organizations Mitigate Cyber Threats With New Publication

(Global) Fortinet to lead cyber security discussion at WEF annual summit

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Ministers respond to Chinese cyber-enabled IP theft
Stephen Kuper – Defence Connect: 28 December 2018

A sustained cyber attack by the group APT10 targeted large internet service providers for many medium to large businesses and organizations in Australia and around the globe. The seriousness of the attack prompted Australian ministers to publicly identify the group, which is known to act on behalf of the Chinese government.


For more on this theme:

(China, Canada) Chinese embassy rebuts “cyber attacks” reports by Canadian media
http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1133169.shtml

(China, U.S.) The Failure of the United States’ Chinese-Hacking Indictment Strategy
https://www.lawfareblog.com/failure-united-states-chinese-hacking-indictment-strategy

(Global) Cyber-espionage and Trade Wars: How Fear Sent Global Markets Tumbling
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Marshall Center Program Engages Experts to Address Challenges, Threats in Cyberspace
Christine June – George C. Marshall Center for Security Studies: 21 December 2018
The George C. Marshall Center for Security Studies graduated 78 professionals who completed a cyber security policy program. The graduates came from 52 countries and trained with a number of U.S. agencies on internet governance, online freedom, international cyber policy, public/private partnerships and other matters related to cyber regulation.
https://www.dvidshub.net/news/305240/marshall-center-program-engages-experts-address-challenges-threats-cyberspace

For more on this theme:
(Greece) How the rural Greek village of Sarantaporo turned to community networks to provide much needed connectivity
(Thailand) Thailand’s digital transformation to reach macroeconomic scale in 2019 - The Nation | #AsiaNewsNetwork

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

How cybercrime is punished around the world
Adam Bannister – IFSEC Global: 24 December 2018
The new year could see cyber crime’s cost to the world economy rise to more than $2 trillion. New threats will emerge, and existing threats will grow more sophisticated. An infographic outlines this problem.
https://www.ifsecglobal.com/cyber-security/cybercrime-punished-world/

For more on this theme:
(Zimbabwe) ‘Tech-stupid’ cops struggle as cyber-crime surges
(India) Home Ministry Launches Dedicated Twitter Handle To Combat Cybercrime
https://www.expresscomputer.in/security/home-ministry-launches-dedicated-twitter-handle-to-combat-cybercrime/31323/
(Global) Are ‘smart’ devices smart enough to thwart cybercrime?
https://www.thenational.ae/business/technology/are-smart-devices-smart-enough-to-thwart-cybercrime-1.808498
INFORMATION SHARING

Google, Facebook, WhatsApp not ready to accept Modi govt’s plan to share user data
Regina Mihindukulasuriya – The Print: 25 December 2018

India shared a proposed set of rules with social media companies, and their reactions were less than positive. The businesses voiced several objections and said they may not agree to give the Indian government full information about what their users do on social media platforms.


For more on this theme:

(Germany) Hackers Steal Information About Every German Political Party Except the Far-Right AFD
https://www.newsweek.com/germany-hack-merkel-afd-political-1279546

(U.S.) Prioritizing Cybersecurity to Protect Client Information from Data Breaches
https://www.lawtechnologytoday.org/2019/01/prioritizing-cybersecurity-to-protect-client-information/

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Redefining Critical Infrastructure for the Age of Disinformation
Tim Helming – Dark Reading: 3 January 2019

It’s time for us to redefine what “critical infrastructure” means. To some, it is simply industrial control systems for power plants and water treatment facilities. But with disinformation now a major threat, it’s time to rethink these antiquated ideas.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Idaho lab protects US infrastructure from cyber attacks
https://www.apnews.com/80749f2dd5a84bb49b7aceb1a4c43b8e

(Global) NTT Security Predicts Possible Critical Infrastructure Major Attack in 2019
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

The United States Can't Rely on Turkey to Defeat ISIS
Colin P. Clarke and Ahmet S. Yayla – Foreign Policy: 31 December 2018

Turkey appears to be on the hook to take over the fight against ISIS in Syria if the U.S. withdraws. But the authors argue that Turkey can’t be trusted: Its primary goal would be to confront the Kurds, not ISIS.

Hackers are spreading Islamic State propaganda by hijacking dormant Twitter accounts
Zack Whittaker – TechCrunch: 2 January 2019

Hackers are exploiting an old flaw to use dormant Twitter accounts to spread ISIS propaganda. TechCrunch found that the impacted accounts appear to have been taken over in recent days and weeks after years of inactivity – with an abrupt shift in tone or language.
https://techcrunch.com/2019/01/02/hackers-islamic-state-propaganda-twitter/

For more on this theme:
Is ISIS defeated? It depends
http://www.atimes.com/is-isis-defeated-it-depends/

Lethality Intact, ISIS Builds on Global Threat
https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Lethality-intact-ISIS-builds-on-global-threat-575940

ISIS Is Reportedly Biding Its Time Ahead Of A Bloody Iraqi Comeback

Former U.S. Commander: ISIS ‘Is Not Defeated’

Why ISIS is relying on ‘Mad Max’-style propaganda
https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/why-isis-is-relying-on-mad-max-style-propaganda

Hasty US Withdrawal From Syria And Implications On War Against ISIS – Analysis

I was special envoy to fight the Islamic State. Our gains are now at risk.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/i-was-special-envoy-to-fight-the-islamic-state-trump-could-unravel-our-gains/2019/01/03/2339f1a4-0ebe-11e9-84fc-d58c33d6c8c7_story.html

How to prevent the rebirth of Islamic State in Syria
https://www.middleeasteye.net/columns/how-prevent-rebirth-islamic-state-syria-681768561

Is ISIS Plotting a Comeback?
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/isis-plotting-comeback-40162
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

‘Resurgent’ al Qaeda looking to target planes in Europe, UK security minister warns
Ben Westcott and Flora Charner – CNN: 24 December 2018

Al-Qaida is rebuilding itself and looking to the skies to stage attacks on passenger planes in Europe, according to Ben Wallace, the United Kingdom’s security minister. “The aviation threat is real,” Wallace told The Sunday Times.

Somalia’s al-Shabab declares war on pro-Islamic state group
VOA – Citizen Digital: 24 December 2018

ISIS and al-Shabaab have recently clashed in Somalia. Now, al-Shabaab has begun an offensive, code-named Disease Eradication, aimed at getting rid of ISIS-related militants in Somalia.
https://citizentv.co.ke/news/somalias-al-shabab-declares-war-pro-islamic-state-group-224418/

For more on this theme:

Qaeda renews strategy to expand in sub-Saharan Africa: Egypt’s Iftaa

The rise of the new Al-Qaeda

Al-Shabaab remains biggest threat in Somalia: UN envoy

Somalia’s al-Shabab declares war on pro-Islamic state group
https://citizentv.co.ke/news/somalias-al-shabab-declares-war-pro-islamic-state-group-224418/

Understanding Why Boko Haram Urgently Needs A Territory

Hamas: We have foreign relations with many countries

Israel destroys ‘Hezbollah cross-border tunnel’

Taliban dismiss Afghanistan's peace talks offer

Taliban trains scores of ‘commandos’ at camp

RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

13  Return to Table of Contents
Radicalization in Tunisia
Fabrizio Minniti – European Eye on Radicalization: 24 December 2018

Tunisia has faced a lot of upheaval and turmoil since the Arab Spring. Social and economic difficulties have left it a fertile recruiting ground for extremists.

https://eeradicalization.com/radicalization-in-tunisia/

Bosnia Has Plan, But no Money, to Fight Radicalisation
Albina Sorguc – Balkan Insight: 28 December 2018

Despite having a comprehensive plan to combat radicalization, Bosnia has been unable to implement its 2015 strategy because of a lack of funding.


For more on this theme:

What makes Kerala a hub for radicalisation

Mental Health And Terrorism: What Are The Links?

The problem of radicalization and assimilation in Europe

Radicalization in Prison: Old Trends, New Threats

An Interview with Daniel Koehler, German Institute on Radicalization and De-Radicalization Studies
https://eeradicalization.com/an-interview-with-daniel-koehler-german-institute-on-radicalization-and-de-radicalization-studies/

Germany to curb mosque funding from Gulf states

PM urges police forces to be vigilant in countering radicalization

Radicalisation, Pakistan’s proxy war driving youth towards militancy in south Kashmir: Army

Rohingya at risk of Islamic radicalization
TERRORISM 2018-2019

The New Face of Terrorism in 2019
Vera Mironova – Foreign Policy: 1 January 2019
Attacks from the former Soviet Union could become a growing threat.

For more on this theme:
Humanitarian Assistance Has A Terrorism Problem. Can It Be Resolved?
https://warontherocks.com/2019/01/humanitarian-assistance-has-a-terrorism-problem-can-it-be-resolved/

2018: The Year in Jihadism

The Hunt: What should we expect from terrorists in 2019?

Some terrorism good news
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/12/31/some-terrorism-good-news/

FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Russia resettles 30 Russian children from war on IS in Iraq
Philip Issa – The Associated Press: 30 December 2018
Thirty Russian children whose mothers are in prison in Iraq for belonging to an ISIS group have arrived in Moscow from Baghdad, Russian authorities said. The fathers of the children are believed to have been killed in combat during Iraq’s war against ISIS.
https://www.apnews.com/ebedae31b6f343a3b1072b10db1d0d4

For more on this theme:
Belgian judge orders repatriation of six children of Islamic State militants: Belga

Stranded & Rejected: Family Members Of ISIS Fighters Await Their Fate

Australian-born Isis recruiter in citizenship limbo
COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

International Impediments: A Counterterrorism Strategy Study
Kyle Mark Amonson – Small Wars Journal: January 2019

This paper assesses international counterterrorism policy efforts, describes impediments to international cooperation against terrorism and evaluates the methods used to overcome these obstacles.

https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/international-impediments-counterterrorism-strategy-study

For more on this theme:

ISIS may be down but not out - Here’s what the US needs to do in 2019 to combat terrorists and keep us safe

Nigeria’s Counter Terrorism Strategy: Time To Re-examine Best Practices

The Decision To Depart And The Defeat Of Violent Extremist Organizations

A look back at France’s ongoing counterterrorism operation in the Sahel