CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)
- Corruption
- Drug Trafficking
- Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources
- Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration

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
- Cyber Protection of Critical Infrastructure
- Combating Terrorism and Cyber Crime

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
- ISIS and Foreign Fighters
- Terrorism Around the World
- Radicalization and Messaging
- Financing Terror
- Irregular Warfare: Soft Power
- Irregular Warfare: Proxy Forces
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Is Angola’s anti-corruption campaign a real effort — or just for show?

Anti-corruption campaigns must be scrutinized as much as any other government program. Angola demonstrates how far autocratic regimes are ready to go to secure their grip on wealth and power.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/01/16/is-angolas-anti-corruption-campaign-real-effort-or-just-show/

Lebanon: Little Action on Corruption, Economic Crisis
Human Rights Watch: 14 January 2020

Lebanon’s leadership isn’t doing enough to fix the country’s economic and political crisis, according to Human Rights Watch. “Lebanon’s politicians have done little to stop living standards from plummeting and have not responded to protesters’ concerns about the worsening economic crisis,” said Joe Stork, a deputy director for Human Rights Watch. “Their dereliction is threatening to drastically worsen access to health care and the availability of medical supplies.”


Full report:
World Report 2020

For more on this theme:
To boost South Korea’s faltering economy, end corruption and invigorate the rule of law

Arab Barometer Placed Lebanon at the Top of Latest Corruption Report

Corruption persists and will remain in PH despite dawning of a new age

Anti-corruption mission in Honduras in precarious position
https://apnews.com/25b5cd60c7cbdc900df5cd3438c7727a

Report on Alleged Chinese Corruption in Maldives Due by June: Minister

Former Philippine police chief indicted for drugs war corruption

Hun Sen has an existential corruption problem
https://www.asiatimes.com/2020/01/article/hun-sen-has-an-existential-corruption-problem/
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Coca Eradication Best Way to Fight Violence in Colombia, Duque Says
Julia Symmes Cobb and Luis Jaime Acosta – Reuters: 15 January 2020

Colombian President Ivan Duque stands behind his decision to continue with eradication of coca plants, despite criticism. He asserts that it is the best way to protect peace efforts and fight drug trafficking violence.


Leadership Role of Women Often Overlooked in Mexico’s Organized Crime Landscape
Parker Asmann – InSight Crime: 14 January 2020

The role of women in Mexican organized crime, particularly the drug trade, has long been overshadowed by the sheer brutality of men associated with the trafficking. But the country has a long history of female crime bosses.


For more on this theme:

What We Can Learn From a Tiny Baltic Country’s Two-Decade Fentanyl Crisis

Almost 80% of Filipinos believe that ‘ninja cops’ exist in the police force

The rise in meth and cocaine overdoses, explained

Armenia joins the Council of Europe’s drug policy expert body, Pompidou Group

Fentanyl deaths on rise in UK, drug report warns

Major drugstore chains sue doctors in sprawling federal opioid case

Nepal may be becoming a new transit point for drug smugglers

Mexico and U.S. plan to reduce illegal arms and drug trade

Los Pochos, Guatemala’s New Generation of Drug Runners for Sinaloa Cartel
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Extinction of the Chinese Paddlefish Can Be a New Beginning
Adam Minter – Bloomberg: 11 January 2020

The official extinction of the Chinese Paddlefish should serve as a wake-up call to China that it has the power to decide the fates of many endangered species. As the world’s largest developing economy, and hub for illicit wildlife trade, China should take a leading role in addressing global extinction.


Restricting trade in endangered species can backfire, triggering market booms
Annah Lake Zhu – The Conversation: 13 January 2020

International bans may have the unintended effect of causing greater demand for the item in countries where domestic bans are not in place. The author uses the spike in rosewood prices in China as an example and highlights the success of domestic anti-corruption campaigns.


For more on this theme:

Illegal hunting and bushmeat trade threaten biodiversity and wildlife of Angola

Building sustainability into traditional Chinese medicine trade on the new Silk Roads

Panning for Gold, Pining for Water: Illegal Mining Taints Bulawayo’s Water Supply

Intelligence unit, lab to combat illegal wildlife trade
https://www.theborneopost.com/2020/01/16/intelligence-unit-lab-to-combat-illegal-wildlife-trade/

Elephant, rhino poaching lowest since 2016

Protection sought for ‘underrated’ Palawan forest
https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1212076/protection-sought-for-underrated-palawan-forest

The Price of Protecting Rhinos

The Rise of Blockchain in Seafood Traceability

World First Drone Radio-tracking of Critically Endangered Pangolins
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Sex trade flourishes in Peru’s Amazon despite crackdown on illegal mining
Anastasia Moloney – Reuters: 16 January 2020

It has been almost a year since Peru launched a major crackdown on illegal mining and the sex trafficking associated with the miners. But the trade didn’t stop; it just moved farther into the jungle and continues to be a major issue for many young women forced to work in the brothels and bars around the mines.


Tunisia must put its human trafficking laws to work

Tunisia has made some significant advances in creating laws and anti-trafficking institutions, but its implementation and enforcement of that legislation has been weak at best.

https://issafrica.org/iss-today/tunisia-must-put-its-human-trafficking-laws-to-work

For more on this theme:

Oil and gas industry works to increase awareness of human trafficking

PayPal offers up financial data to combat human trafficking

DHS Strategy on Human Trafficking Aims to Put Issue Front and Center

Mobile app aims to bolster human trafficking reporting in Thailand

DOJ Urges ‘Innovative Strategies’ Against Human Trafficking

FBI: There are different types of human trafficking
https://www.fox13news.com/video/644676

UN official: Sudan effectively contributed to combating human trafficking

Why Rohingya women and girls are risking dangerous smuggling routes

Trafficking risk high for hundreds of migrants sent back to Libya
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Russia Takes a Big Step Toward Internet Isolation
Lily Hay Newman – Wired: 5 January 2020

Russia is practicing taking its internet offline from the rest of world, with some success. Critics assert the push is to control and censor information, but the government claims it is a cyber security move. Either way, the practice is a blow to the dream of a global internet with international norms.

https://www.wired.com/story/russia-internet-control-disconnect-censorship/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Will 2020 be the year that politicians bring the Internet to heel?

(Global) ‘Erosion of rules-based global order, tech advancement impacting future of nation states’

(Global) So Many Nonprofits Have Trusted Dot Org for So Long
http://www.circleid.com/posts/20200115_so_many_nonprofits_have_trusted_dot_org_for_so_long/

INTERNET FREEDOM

As Putin Schemes to Extend His Reign, Expect New Forms of Internet Repression
Patrick Tucker – Defense One: 15 January 2020

Russian President Vladimir Putin has made a move to change the country’s constitution and stay in power after his second term expires. Critics decry the move and say it will dramatically affect censorship, particularly internet freedom.


For more on this theme:

(India) India threatens to tear apart any semblance of digital privacy

(Yemen) Activists Blame Houthi Corruption for Internet Blackout

(India) The trauma of internet shutdown
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/specials/india-file/the-trauma-of-internet-shutdown/article30560717.ece
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

The Retreat of the Data Localization Brigade: India, Indonesia and Vietnam
Arindrajit Basu – The Diplomat: 10 January 2020

Last year ushered in a plethora of controversy over cross-border data transfers and data localization legislation worldwide. That is likely to continue with more fervor into 2020 with the same countries pushing such laws on foreign companies that want to operate within their borders – particularly China, India, Indonesia and Vietnam within Asia.


For more on this theme:

(Global) It’s time to redefine how data is governed, controlled and shared. Here’s how

(India) The ‘terms and conditions’ of data protection

(China) Privacy, Security and Content Regulation to Increase in 2020
https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=4c9bde9f-6b7c-4425-9bdf-54eb7d14a44e

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

From offense to defense: NSA’s Microsoft flaw alert shows shift in public strategy
Kevin Collier – NBC: 14 January 2020

The decision by the National Security Agency to publicly disclose vulnerabilities it found within the Microsoft operating system – rather than keep them secret and thus operative for intelligence purposes – is at the heart of a new strategy to treat these vulnerabilities and go more defensive than offensive.


For more on this theme:

(Global) Smart Border Management: Transformation from Analog to Digital Borders

(U.S., Iran) Congress Hears Warnings of Iranian Cyberthreats
https://www.govinfosecurity.com/congress-hears-warnings-iranian-cyberthreats-a-13613

(U.S.) Would da Vinci Support the Pentagon’s New Cyber Strategy?
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Modi’s village broadband plans facing delays; will private players help fulfill the goal?
Financial Express: 13 January 2020

India is considering a public/private partnership model to spur progress with the president’s BharatNet plan.

For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) Siemens CEO touts social responsibility along with profits

(Africa) The future is intelligent: Harnessing the potential of artificial intelligence in Africa

(U.S.) Justice in the Internet Age: Legal Access for Rural Americans

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual Property Theft a Growing Threat
Elizabeth Lee – Voice of America: 15 January 2020

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation is warning that intellectual property theft is a growing concern, especially when it comes to technology.
https://www.voanews.com/economy-business/intellectual-property-theft-growing-threat

For more on this theme:
(India) Intermediary Liability Under Indian Copyright Law: A New Take
http://www.mondaq.com/india/x/884070/Copyright/Intermediary+Liability+under+Indian+Copyright+Law+A+New+Take

(China, U.S.) Peter Navarro puts Amazon and eBay on notice: The China trade deal cracks down on counterfeits
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

(India) High-speed internet on Andaman and Nicobar Islands! Modi govt starts big project; to be completed by June 2020

(Nigeria) Connectivity and the devt agenda: Is govt taxing away our future?

(U.S.) How one official wants to increase DHS cyber efficiency

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Are utilities doing enough to protect themselves from cyberattack?
Leo Simonovich – World Economic Forum: 15 January 2019
A new survey suggests that 54% of utility companies expect a cyber attack this year — and the threats are becoming more severe.
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/01/are-utilities-doing-enough-to-protect-themselves-from-cyberattack/

For more on this theme:

(U.S., Iran) DHS Bulletin to Hazardous Chemical Sector: Beef Up Cyber, Physical Security at Facilities

(U.S.) Cyber Threats To North American Power Grid Are Growing

(Global) Global Risks Report: Junk Products Raising Risk of Infrastructure Attacks
COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

The hack back bill legitimizes a messy game of revenge for businesses
Betsy Atkins and Rahul Kashyap – Quartz: 15 January 2020

There is a movement to debate the merits of the Active Cyber Defense Certainty Act. The bill would limit the negative consequences for businesses to hack back and engage in computer fraud and abuse while defending themselves from attack. Such a bill could be very beneficial, but it could also have many unintended consequences.

https://qz.com/1785036/why-the-hack-back-bill-is-bad-for-business/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Scientists map out consequences of cyber attacks

(Global) ‘Interfering’ with hackers before they can disrupt or steal

(U.S.) Coaxing Cops To Tackle Cybercrime? There’s An App For That
https://www.npr.org/2020/01/15/796252827/coaxing-cops-to-tackle-cybercrime theres-an-app-for-that
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

U.S. Military Resumes Joint Operations With Iraq
Just 10 days after the Iraqi Parliament voted to expel American soldiers from the country, the U.S. military has resumed joint operations against Islamic State groups in Iraq.

Bureaucracy to brutality: New evidence reveals IS hierarchy
A U.S.-based Syrian rights group has assembled a 24-page report detailing the atrocities committed by the Islamic State and the total control with which it ruled over elements of daily life in the country.
https://apnews.com/0d741bd2ebe5a9f8679c041dd9e866c7
Full report:
Judge, Jury and Executioner: The ISIS Bureau of Justice and Grievances

For more on this theme:
YPG returnees: Counterterrorist fighters under suspicion

Turkey says it has repatriated 150 foreign fighters since Nov 11
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-security-islamic-state/turkey-says-it-has-repatriated-150-foreign-fighters-since-nov-11-idUSKBN1Z2135

Here’s Everything you Need to Know About the Increasing Islamic State Terror Activity in Syria.
https://www.newsgram.com/increasing-islamic-state-terror-syria/

Jordan’s King Abdullah warns of ISIS’ resurgence
https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/6240c364-2e34-404f-9cd3-e3be70aaffbb

Bomb Blast Claimed by ISIS Kills at Least 15 in Pakistan Mosque Used by Taliban

Secretary Of Defense Mark Esper On ISIS Fight And Middle East Status
https://www.npr.org/2020/01/14/796344812/secretary-of-defense-mark-esper-on-isis-fight-and-middle-east-status

Islamic State kills almost 100 soldiers in Niger

Islamic State video details operations across the Sahel
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

INTELBRIEF: Al-Shabaab is Resurging in Somalia
The Soufan Center: 16 January 2020

Al Shabaab is rising again in Somalia and launching attacks without consequence. Since March 2017, al-Shabaab has launched close to 900 attacks on civilians and hundreds more against U.S., Somali and Kenyan troops.
https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-al-shabaab-is-resurging-in-somalia/

Terrorism is costing the global economy $34 billion a year, research says
Dan Murphy – CNBC: 16 January 2020

According to the Institute for Peace, global terrorism claimed fewer lives but had just as much social and economic impact in 2018. “Although the intensity of terrorism has diminished, its breadth has not,” the Australian-based think tank warned.
https://www.cnbc.com/2020/01/16/terrorism-is-costing-the-global-economy-34-billion-a-year.html
Full report:
Global Terrorism Index 2019: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism

For more on this theme:
Twenty-eight years ago Hezbollah’s leader was assassinated, and Israel paid a price
https://atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/iransource/twenty-eight-years-ago-hezbollahs-leader-was-assassinated-and-israel-paid-a-price/

Hezbollah Chief Threatens US Troops in Middle East Following Soleimani’s Death

Islamic State replaces al-Qaeda as Enemy No. 1 in Sahel

Islamic Extremism Wracks Burkina Faso, Spreading East

6 Terrorism Trends to Watch in 2020

Boko Haram propaganda unearthed
https://cajnewsafrica.com/2020/01/13/boko-haram-propaganda-unearthed/

Hezbollah: It’s time for Iran’s allies to start working to avenge Soleimani

Taliban Offer to Reduce Violence in Afghanistan Ahead of Deal With U.S.
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

To this man, Islamic State’s ideology ‘just made sense.’ Now, he rejects extremism
Melissa Etehad –Los Angeles Times: 12 January 2020

A man, once indoctrinated into ISIS ideology, was able to turn things around and deradicalize. His case can help those seeking to counter violent extremism in others because he did not go through a specific program, yet he found his way out of radical thought. “We know the push and pull factors when it comes to someone who is becoming radicalized, but we understand much less about how they get out of that mindset,” said Bennett Clifford, a research fellow at George Washington University’s program on extremism.

Radical Islamists Are Still a Threat Behind Bars
Robin Simcox – Foreign Policy: 15 January 2020

Governments need to realize that radicalization among prisoners is just as dangerous as dealing with extremists on the street, and act accordingly.
https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/01/15/radical-islamists-are-still-a-threat-behind-bars/

For more on this theme:
Trauma counselling enables the reintegration of former terrorists
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/trauma-counselling-enables-the-reintegration-of-former-terrorists

Here’s Why Young People Are Particularly Vulnerable To Radicalization

How Do Canadian Extremists Find Their Way in — and Out — of White Supremacist Groups?

Can This Notorious Troll Turn People Away From Extremism?
https://www.wired.com/story/twitch-politics-online-debate/

India: Fanning the Flames of Extremism and Terror at Home

India has de-radicalisation camps; young people being radicalised in Kashmir: CDS

Malaysia’s biggest threat for 2020 is ‘political and terrorist radicalisation’, experts warn

Steps to be taken to de-radicalise misguided youth
https://colombogazette.com/2020/01/14/steps-to-be-taken-to-de-radicalise-misguided-youth/
FINANCING TERRORISM

How Crypto May Be Targeted By Congress In Domestic Terrorism Financing
Jason Brett – Forbes: 12 January 2020

The U.S. House of Representatives is looking at the role cryptocurrency plays in increasing terrorism financing in the United States.


For more on this theme:
Law Enforcement Seeks to Destroy Terrorist Funding Sources

EU’s Fifth Anti-Money Laundering Directive: what the crypto-asset sector needs to know

FCA new money laundering and terror funding watchdog

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

Foreign Students and China’s Soft Power: The Case of Uganda
Benjamin Mulvey – The Diplomat: 10 January 2020

China has put educational diplomacy at the top of its list to build soft power — especially in Africa — and Uganda has benefited greatly. To attract students, China offers a better education system, scholarships, financial aid and easily obtainable study visas.


For more on this theme:
Taiwan’s soft-power sovereignty from China
https://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2020/0114/Taiwan-s-soft-power-sovereignty-from-China

Peace vital if India wants to harness soft power

Behind the News: Inside China Global Television Network

China aiming to become global sporting power

How to win friends and influence enemies: China as global player in an age of covert government spin
IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES

Could Iran — and Hezbollah — strike in Latin America?
Kate Linthicum – Los Angeles Times: 10 January 2020

Hezbollah’s threat to Latin America has roots in history, but is it currently a threat? It is certainly something to be considered as it is likely Iran will turn to proxy forces to continue asymmetric conflict with the U.S. after the death of Qassem Suleimani.


For more on this theme:

To deter Chinese sea claims, Indonesia puts its fishers on the front line

Security woes will continue to haunt the Philippines in 2020

IntelBrief: The Iranian Threat to the U.S. Homeland
https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-the-iranian-threat-to-the-u-s-homeland/

Hezbollah Has Prepared for This Moment for Decades
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-01-14/hezbollah-has-prepared-moment-decades

How Defense Contractors Should Prepare for a Cyber Proxy War With Iran
https://news.clearancejobs.com/2020/01/10/how-defense-contractors-should-prepare-for-a-cyber-proxy-war-with-iran/

Iran’s Response to Soleimani’s Killing Is Coming
https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/01/qassem-solemani-iran-response-hezbollah-hamas/604849/

Iran’s Proxy Threat Is the Real Problem Now
https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/01/10/iran-proxy-threat-hezbollah-middle-east/

Iran’s support to the Taliban, which has included MANPADS and a bounty on US troops, could be a spoiler for peace in Afghanistan
https://www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/2020/01/14/iran-support-to-the-taliban-which-has-included-manpads-and-a-bounty-on-us-troops-could-be-a-spoiler-for-peace-in-afghanistan/

Revealed: How Iran tried to set up terror cells in Central Africa

US-Iran hostility recipe for instability in Horn of Africa