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
  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
  Foreign Fighters
  Counterterrorism Strategies
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Romanian Government Urges EU Not To Appoint Former Anti-Corruption Chief

Romania’s justice minister is aiming to stop his own compatriot from heading the European Union’s Public Prosecutor’s Office. The move may be another example of the Romanian government blocking the work of anti-corruption officials.


López Obrador Takes on Corruption and Poverty in Mexico Through Austerity
Luis Gómez Romero – Pacific Standard: 8 February 2019

Mexico’s new president is looking to combat corruption by slashing federal budgets, cutting government jobs and salaries and embracing “Franciscan poverty” if it helps.

https://psmag.com/economics/combatting-corruption-in-mexico-through-austerity

For more on this theme:

Over 3,000 pupils enroll into anti-corruption clubs

El Chapo trial highlights how Mexico graft impedes drug war
https://www.apnews.com/51f693d336f1473a2464067d47606d5

The Changing Face of Anti-Corruption Protests in Latin America
https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/changing-face-anti-corruption-protests-latin-america

Should ICC be involved in war against corruption?
https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001313033/lobby-take-corrupt-presidents-to-icc

Anti-Corruption Commission: How can it be truly effective?
https://www.thedailystar.net/supplements/strong-institution-good-governance/news/anti-corruption-commission-how-can-it-be-truly-effective-1701922

Corruption and wildlife crime

Peru’s Crusade Against Corruption Faces Severe Uphill Struggle

Australian anti-corruption bodies should get encryption-busting powers: PJCIS

Economy, Insecurity and Corruption Weigh on Nigerian Elections

The AU needs to walk the talk on corruption
https://mg.co.za/article/2019-02-09-00-the-au-needs-to-walk-the-talk-on-corruption
**DRUG TRAFFICKING**

**Violent drug cartels stifle Mexican science**
*Emiliano Rodríguez Mega – Nature:* 12 February 2019

Mexico’s drug violence has caused scientists and researchers across the country to abandon field sites, interrupt experiments and even change research topics — putting a damper on scientific discovery and innovation.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00458-6

**Will El Chapo’s conviction change anything in the drug trade?**
*Ed Vulliamy – The Guardian:* 13 February 2019

Drugs have never stopped coming across the border from Mexico despite the capture and conviction of El Chapo. In 2016 and 2017, the years when the crime lord was most recently arrested and sent for prosecution in New York, Mexican heroin production increased by 37 percent and seizures of fentanyl more than doubled.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/feb/13/el-chapo-conviction-drug-war-drug-trade

*For more on this theme:*

**The drug rings flooding festivals**

**What a Fatal Fire at a Rehab Clinic Reveals About Ecuador’s Drug Policies**

**Sri Lanka leader asks rights groups not to oppose executions**
https://www.njherald.com/article/20190206/AP/302069810#

**Remarks by Vice President Pence to High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program Directors and Deputy Directors**

**Why Europe Has Dodged America’s Fentanyl Crisis**

**Duterte advises drug cops and pols to write their obits now**

**This Is Why Cocaine Dealers Should Fear Venezuelan Unrest**
https://www.ozy.com/opinion/this-is-why-cocaine-dealers-should-fear-venezuelan-unrest/92403

**Where Marijuana Is Legal, Many Teens Drive While High**

**Drugs: researchers shouldn’t just focus on the harms**
https://theconversation.com/drugs-researchers-shouldnt-just-focus-on-the-harms-110852
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Hong Kong, Crossroads of the Criminal Wildlife Trade

Hong Kong serves as a gateway into China, putting it at the crossroads for wildlife trafficking. Despite reforms, Hong Kong remains a hub for illegal smuggling of animal parts destined for China.


It can take a decade for species endangered by wildlife trade to get protection
Alex Fox – Science: 14 February 2019

From parrots to lizards, hundreds of animal species could be at risk of extinction because of a policy process that responds slowly to scientific knowledge, according to a new study.


For more on this theme:
Poachers driving African parrots to extinction in spiraling ‘exotic’ pet trade, investigation finds

How traffickers use Chinese New Year
https://chinadialogueocean.net/6150-how-wildlife-traffickers-exploit-chinese-new-year/

Africa gangs-up against rhino poaching

Customs Gets Forensic Toolkits to Counter Illicit Trade in Wildlife

Zimbabwe pangolin project working to save world’s most trafficked animal

How the case against an alleged poaching kingpin fell apart

Threat for rhinos still remains despite drop in 2018 poaching numbers

Interpol, UNODC and WCO hold global conference on detecting illicit trafficking by air

Madagascar bans illegal rosewood trade
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Human Trafficking Isn’t Just Morally Repugnant. It’s Also a Security Threat.
Rachel B. Vogelstein and Jamille Bigio – Council on Foreign Relations: 13 February 2019

Human trafficking is not only a human rights issue, argue the authors, but a security challenge as well. From bankrolling criminal syndicates and extremist groups to being used as a tactic of war, modern slavery benefits the traffickers and undermines stability and governance.

https://www.cfr.org/blog/human-trafficking-isnt-just-morally-repugnant-its-also-security-threat

Fears Australia is back on the map for people smugglers after historic asylum seeker vote
Australian Associated Press: 12 February 2019

Australian Parliament members have passed a landmark bill with an opposition amendment making it easier for sick refugees held offshore to be treated in the country.


For more on this theme:
Confronting the Challenges of Migration in West & Central Africa
http://www.ipsnews.net/2019/02/confronting-challenges-migration-west-central-africa/

Will a Border Wall Work? Look to Europe.

‘EU must rethink its approach to migration’

Migrants calling us in distress from the Mediterranean returned to Libya by deadly ‘refoulement’ industry

‘Modern day slavery’: Why human trafficking often flies under the radar in Canada

In the fight against human trafficking, industrial engineers can help

Europe’s Invisible Wall Whets Human Trafficking
https://www.indepthnews.net/index.php/opinion/2493-europe-s-invisible-wall-whets-human-trafficking
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

**Why Russia wants to build a ‘Russian internet’**


Legislation is being drafted in Russia to ensure the operation of a Russian internet if access to overseas servers is cut off and to prevent enemies from co-opting Russian readers to undermine Moscow authorities. Critics warn the scheme is a way to increase state control over the internet and facilitate censorship.


*For more on this theme:*

*(Global) It’s Not Too Late for Social Media to Regulate Itself*


*(Global) Japan Calls for Global Consensus on Data Governance*


*(China) China and the remaking of the internet*


INTERNET FREEDOM

**Why do some countries censor the internet?**

*Open Access Government: 5 February 2019*

Though the internet is set up to be a free and open enterprise, some countries control access for their own benefit. Why?


*For more on this theme:*

*(Zimbabwe) Zimbabwe’s internet crackdown shows the ‘economic sabotage’ of shutdowns*


*(India) India leads the world in imposed internet blackouts*


*(Global) Does Technology Favor Tyranny?*

PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Additional Federal Authority Could Enhance Consumer Protection and Provide Flexibility

The Government Accountability Office finds that passage of an internet privacy law could help the federal government better protect consumer privacy, adding ammo to the recent push for a national data privacy law.

For more on this theme:

(Global) What Apple killing its Do Not Track feature means for online privacy

(U.S.) ACLU, NAACP call on Congress to address discrimination in privacy laws

(Global) For Amazon, Privacy Is a Complexifier
https://slate.com/technology/2019/02/amazon-eero-acquisition-raises-privacy-concerns-that-jeff-bezos-should-be-able-to-relate-to.html

CYBER STATECRAFT DEVELOPMENT

India Proposes Chinese-Style Internet Censorship

The Indian government wants the ability to suppress online content in the country, increase control over messaging and trace messages to their origin. The proposal has sparked a citizens’ uproar and comparisons to censorship rules in China and Russia.

For more on this theme:

(Europe) Athens At The Center Of European Cyber Security Strategy

(Norway) Norway publishes new cyber strategy focused on civil-military collaboration
https://www.janes.com/article/86404/norway-publishes-new-cyber-strategy-focused-on-civil-military-collaboration

(U.S.) Why the new Air Force’s cyber and information strategy is a return to the past
PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

C Spire, MSU Collaboration Forges an Intriguing Job Training Blueprint
Hu Meena and Mark Keenum - The Northside Sun: 14 February 2019

C Spire, a Mississippi-based diversified telecommunications and technology services company, and the Mississippi State University Research and Curriculum Unit's new Center for Cyber Education have formed a public/private partnership to build on cyber education in kindergarten through high school.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) United States: Army Cyber Institute welcomes reserve Soldiers

PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

EU Considers Response to China Hacking After U.K. Evidence, Sources Say
Natalia Drozdiak, Nikos Chrysoloras and Kitty Donaldson – Bloomberg: 11 February 2019

After learning of extensive Chinese hacking operations, European Union officials are reportedly mulling a joint response. The attacks were carried out by the China-linked hacking group Advanced Persistent Threat 10, according to British cyber experts.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) How Cyber Command's plan to 'frustrate' hackers is working

(U.S., Global) The inside track on protecting intellectual property (IP)
https://www.information-age.com/protecting-intellectual-property-ip-123479040/

(U.S.) Stolen Secrets: With Economic Espionage on the Rise, Silicon Valley Must Better Protect Secrets, Feds Warn
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

Southeast Asia’s Battle Against Disinformation
Gužiçar Hacıyakupoglu – The Diplomat: 12 February 2019

Southeast Asia is no stranger to disinformation campaigns. Across the region, countries have had very different experiences. Each nation’s individual approach to the problem may hinder a regional solution.

https://thediplomat.com/2019/02/southeast-asias-battle-against-disinformation/

For more on this theme:

(Global) The Internet Was Built on the Free Labor of Open Source Developers. Is That Sustainable?
https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/43zak3/the-internet-was-built-on-the-free-labor-of-open-source-developers-is-that-sustainable

(U.S.) Brookings survey finds 51 percent prefer digital access to government services over phone calls or personal visits to agency offices
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2019/02/13/brookings-survey-finds-51-percent-prefer-digital-access-to-government-services-over-phone-calls-or-personal-visits-to-agency-offices/

(India) Tamil Nadu soon to have exclusive cybercrime unit, ADGP to lead team

COMBATING TERRORISM AND CYBER CRIME

Cybersecurity expert discusses changing world of cybercrime
Open Access Government: 14 February 2019

Cyber security expert Asaf Ashekenazi of Inside Secure talked about a range of threats, from new car-theft methods to the unknown security risks the public faces every day.

https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/world-of-cybercrime/58967/

For more on this theme:

(Global) Corruption, cybercrime and compliance – managing the risks
https://www cio.co.ke/corruption-cybercrime-and-compliance-managing-the-risks/

(Singapore) Targeted initiatives, collaboration needed in war on cyber crime

(Global) Cyber criminals target cable cars to extort ransoms
https://www.thenational.ae/business/technology/cyber-criminals-target-cable-cars-to-extort-ransoms-1.825741
INFORMATION SHARING

**New NATO hub will gather the Alliance’s cyber defenders**

*North Atlantic Treaty Organization: 12 February 2019*

NATO launched a new community for cyber defense to facilitate the exchange of information and sharing of best practices.


For more on this theme:

*(Europe, Global)* 6 Reasons Why Cyber Threat Intelligence Matters (and how CTIA helps)


*(U.S., Global)* Experts: Info sharing key to protecting U.S. infrastructure from cyber threats


*(U.S., Global)* Why Share Cyber Threat Information

http://mikeechols.com/why-share-cyber-threat-information/

CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**Europe’s cybersecurity gap threatens infrastructure, elections**

*Ben Knight – Deutsche Welle: 15 February 2019*

In advance of the Munich Security Conference, experts and government officials are wondering when Europe will tighten security of critical infrastructure and elections.


For more on this theme:

*(U.S., China, Russia)* Russia and China Can Cripple Critical Infrastructure in United States


*(U.S.)* Increased use of natural gas exposes U.S. to cyber attacks, FERC chairman says

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS

‘The fight is not over’: fears of Isis resurgence in Philippines
Carmela Fonbuena – The Guardian: 7 February 2019

The Philippines is just over a year out from defeating ISIS in Marawi City, yet it appears the country’s fight is far from over as more attacks occur and local militants have pledged allegiance to ISIS.

The U.S. Cannot Ignore the Islamic State’s Largest African Affiliate
James Barnett – Critical Threats: 4 February 2019

“Victory” over ISIS belies the truth that ISIS remains pervasive in Southeast Asia and Africa. Even if ISIS has been defeated in Syria and Iraq, the U.S. cannot afford to ignore its African affiliate.
https://www.criticalthreats.org/analysis/the-u-s-cannot-ignore-the-islamic-states-largest-african-affiliate

For more on this theme:

Trump’s Syria Pullout Risks Islamic State Return, General Says

Mosul: Where demons, women and ‘Islamic State’ met

Interpol chief warns of continued threat of so-called Islamic State

US Says Sawadjaan Likely New Islamic State Militant leader In Philippines

Trapped in shrinking Syria holdout, Islamic State turns to human shields
https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/02/04/world/trapped-shrinking-syria-holdout-islamic-state-turns-human-shields/#.XF0_27hG3b0

Watchdog: Islamic State could retake Syrian area with U.S. withdrawal

What next as battle against ISIL nears an end?

Votel: “Tens of thousands” of ISIS fighters in Syria and Iraq
https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/10/politics/votel-on-syria/index.html

Islamic State prepares resurgence
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Al-Qaeda Calls for Fight Against ‘War on Islam’ in North Africa
Bridget Johnson – PJ Media: 13 February 2019
As Algeria and Tunisia move toward secularization of education, al-Qaida claims their governments are at war with Islam and must be stopped.

Hezbollah Is in Venezuela to Stay
Colin P. Clarke – Foreign Policy: 9 February 2019
Hezbollah has a long-standing relationship with Venezuela, and regime change will do little to solve that issue. Hezbollah has built up drug trafficking, smuggling and money laundering networks throughout the country that will be difficult to sever.
https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/02/09/hezbollah-is-in-venezuela-to-stay/

For more on this theme:
From the IRA to the Islamic State: The Evolving Terrorism Threat in Europe

Taliban continues to host foreign terrorist groups, despite assurances to the contrary

Resilience: Al Shabaab Remains a Serious Threat
https://www.acleddata.com/2019/02/11/resilience-al-shabaab-remains-a-serious-threat/

Al Qaeda Attempting to Exploit Rising Hindu-Muslim Tensions, Says Report

ISIS is all but gone, but al-Qeda is still going strong
https://www.athensnews.com/opinion/commentary/isis-is-all-but-gone-but-al-queda-is-still/article_6e76c650-2fbc-11e9-8422-5b9a2e4e2c2a.html

Profile: What is Jaish-e-Muhammad?

Boko Haram: from Islamist sect to armed threat

Can bitcoins save Hamas from its financial crisis?

Hamas arrests dozens of Islamic Jihad terrorists
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

An inside look at the first US domestic deradicalization program
Ivy Kaplan – The Defense Post: 12 February 2019
A judge in Minnesota pioneered the first domestic deradicalization program in the U.S. The program is now in the spotlight as the U.S. figures out what to do with hundreds of ISIS detainees.
https://thedefensepost.com/2019/02/12/us-minnesota-deradicalization-program-inside-look/

Australia needs to do more to support women’s participation in efforts to counter violent extremism
Louise Allen – Australian Strategic Policy Institute: 11 February 2019
Australia needs to embrace its women, peace and security agenda and incorporate more women into its efforts to counter violent extremism.

For more on this theme:
Former Al Shabaab, gang members, recruited to combat terrorism at the Coast
https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001312951/al-shabaab-returnees-ex-gang-members-join-war-on-terrorism

Hidden Messages on TV: How Hamas Recruited West Bank Palestinians for Terror Attacks

Public Safety Canada Launches National Expert Committee on Countering Radicalization to Violence

Philippines: The Black Flag Flies on Facebook
https://asiafoundation.org/2019/02/13/philippines-the-black-flag-flies-on-facebook/

A 10-point plan to combat violent radicalisation in Wallonia
http://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/14039/a-10-point-plan-to-combat-violent-radicalisation-in-wallonia

How this de-radicalisation programme by ATS is changing those who came under ISIS influence

What if Canada stopped preventing violent extremism or countering violent extremism: would it make a difference?
FOREIGN FIGHTERS

US forces have 1,000 ISIS detainees — and don’t know what to do with them
Kyle Rempfer – Military Times: 14 February 2019

As the war against ISIS nears a possible end, what is to be done with the nearly 1,000 fighters that have been detained?


For more on this theme:
Trump’s Syria Withdrawal Order Forces Allies to Weigh Return of ISIS Detainees

Islamic State returners: Are they victims or criminals?
https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/views/ourview/islamic-state-returners-are-they-victims-or-criminals-904566.html

The West Should Let Islamic State Recruits Come Back Home

Analysis: Will the Isis brides be prosecuted?
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/analysis-will-the-bethnal-green-shamima-begum-isis-brides-be-prosecuted-bf5x0pg5w

COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES

Another chance for Nigeria to get counter-terrorism right
Akinola Olojo – Institute for Security Studies: 15 February 2019

The new Nigerian president must learn from the mistakes of past administrations in dealing with extremism.

https://issafrica.org/iss-today/another-chance-for-nigeria-to-get-counter-terrorism-right

For more on this theme:
Proxy warfare: The strategic dilemma of relying on proxy counterterrorism forces

https://wamu.org/story/19/02/14/how-global-is-the-global-war-on-terrorism-for-the-u-s-very-global/

Ex-Shin Bet chief tells how he altered the rules for combating terrorism

European Commission adopts new list of third countries with weak anti-money laundering and terrorist financing regimes