CONTENTS

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

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)
Internet Governance
Internet Freedom
Privacy and Security
Cyber Capacity Building
Cyberattacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
Cybercrime
Protection of Critical Infrastructure

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
ISIS and Foreign Fighters
Terrorism Around the World
Radicalization and Messaging
Irregular Warfare: Proxy Forces and Private Military Groups
Irregular Warfare: Disinformation and Malign Influence
Irregular Warfare: Cyber
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Moscow court restricts Navalny's anti-corruption foundation
Daria Litvinova – The Associated Press: 27 April 2021

A Russian court barred jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny’s anti-corruption group from posting online and imposed other restrictions April 27 while considering a request to ban his network as “extremist.”
https://apnews.com/article/russia-government-and-politics-europe-philanthropy-a37ae94c42afd26e4043f-60f9c2a230

Britain Targets 22 People in First Use of Its Anti-corruption Law
Voice of America: 26 April 2021

The United Kingdom has imposed sanctions on 22 individuals, 14 of them Russians, involved in notorious corruption cases under a new anti-corruption regime. Individuals across South Africa, South Sudan and Latin America were also targeted with asset freezes and travel bans.
More on this:
Global anti-corruption sanctions: factors in designating people involved in serious corruption

For more on this theme:
The real debt burden in Kenya is corruption
https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/oped/comment/real-debt-burden-in-kenya-is-corruption-3364482

Most Cyprus passports issued in investment scheme were ‘illegal’

Coming soon: a practical tool to assess countries’ resilience to corruption

Lagos to establish Anti-Corruption Commission
https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/04/lagos-to-establish-anti-corruption-commission/

Airbus Unit Fined $39 Million After Corruption Guilty Plea

‘Possible corruption’ in 20% of Covid contracts awarded, campaigners warn
https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/covid-contracts-ppe-corruption-vip-b1835320.html

U.S. weighs anti-graft task force for Central America
DRUG TRAFFICKING

**How Fentanyl, More than Heroin, Drives US Opioid Market**

_Parker Asmann and Steven Dudley – InSight Crime_:

April 28, 2021

Based on available data, the deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl has displaced heroin as the leading driver of the ongoing opioid crisis in the United States and is contributing to a deadly scramble for market-control back in Mexico.


**Saudi Arabia bans Lebanese produce over drug smuggling**

_Al Jazeera_ – April 23, 2021

In a move likely to add to Lebanon’s economic woes, Saudi Arabia has banned Lebanese fruit and vegetables over concerns of drug smuggling. The ban was announced after Saudi Arabia foiled an attempt at Jeddah Islamic Port to smuggle 5.3 million Captagon pills in pomegranate crates.


For more on this theme:

**Officials Say Croatian Port Appears to be New Entry Point for Drugs**


**Private Jets Laden With Cocaine Travel from Brazil to Europe**


**End of Lockdown Brings Wave of Cocaine to Puerto Rico**


**How Paraguay Emerged as Major Cocaine Exporter to Europe**


**For Mexico’s drug cartels, there are big profits to be made in fentanyl**


**After decades of war, Afghanistan’s drug trade booms like never before**


**Aviation Tycoon in Argentina Organized Drug Flights Across Americas**


**Former Head Of Lebanon’s Central Drug Enforcement Office Is Accused Of Drug Trafficking**


**Nigerian journalist Frederick Olatunde Odimayo beaten over drug reporting**


**Smugglers infiltrating big shipping companies in Rotterdam, police can’t keep up**

TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Social Media Platforms Hotbeds for Wildlife Trafficking
Samantha Hawkins – Courthouse News Service: 27 April 2021

The majority of illegal wildlife trafficking occurs on social media platforms, according to testimony given in a U.S. House committee hearing.


How mangrove forests helped stall environmental crime
David Njagi – BBC: 27 April 2021

Conservation of the majestic mangrove forests of Kenya’s east coast has helped to bring down levels of poaching and logging while taking large quantities of carbon out of the air.


For more on this theme:
Illegal coal mine tunnels threaten a Sumatran village

Saving the Asiatic black bear from illegal wildlife trade needs nuanced conservation

Mining and logging threaten a wildlife wonderland on a Philippine mountain

How Kenya turned the tide towards ivory poachers

Poaching documentary makers ambushed and killed in Burkina Faso

Deforestation ramps up in Cambodia’s Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

Climate crisis: Deforestation of Amazon rainforest has accelerated since Bolsonaro took office, report finds
https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/amazon-deforestation-bolsonaro-brazil-b1838905.html

Ghana sends in army to enforce mining ban near rivers and lakes

Colombia police, military raid illegal gold mining operation
ORGANIZED CRIME

How Covid-19 caused an organised crime boom
Tuesday Reitano and Mark Shaw – The Irish Times: 25 April 2021
Criminal groups have capitalized on the chaos of coronavirus by adopting new methods.

For more on this theme:

‘Ndrangheta: Hunting members of the mafia that’s bigger than La Cosa Nostra

Organized crime seen behind journalist's murder

Colombia Decides EPL is No Longer Major Threat

MONEY LAUNDERING

Illegal Wildlife Trade and the Banking Sector in China
TRAFFIC: 14 April 2021
Activists fighting the illegal trade in endangered species of plants and animals have called on Chinese banks to prevent illegal wildlife traffickers from exploiting their networks to launder money. Otherwise, those banks will risk greater scrutiny and pressure from foreign governments.

Full report:
The Illegal Wildlife Trade and The Banking Sector in China: The Need For a Zero Tolerance Approach
https://www.traffic.org/site/assets/files/14335/the_illegal_wildlife_trade_and_the_banking_sector_in_china_the_need_for_a_zero-tolerance_approach.pdf

For more on this theme:

Himachal Pradesh Police set up anti-money laundering cell

Mitigating Illicit Convergence in Transnational Financial Crime

Morocco’s Parliament Amends Anti-Money Laundering Law

Is Crypto Ban the solution to Money Laundering in Nigeria?
https://thenationonlineng.net/is-crypto-ban-the-solution-to-money-laundering-in-nigeria/
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

**Governing the Internet from Rousseau’s hometown**
*Joe Matthews – SWI: 27 April 2021*

If the internet is going to serve democracy around the world, it needs to have its own global government. Such a government could live online and have a real-world headquarters in Geneva, the author suggests.


*For more on this theme:*

**(Global) Tech tools help deepen citizen input in drafting laws abroad and in U.S. states**

**(European Union) EU is becoming policeman of the internet**
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/eu-is-becoming-policeman-of-the-internet-z86v68tt7

INTERNET FREEDOM

**Myanmar junta builds ‘walled garden’ of internet services**
*Rory Wallace – Nikkei Asia: 28 April 2021*

The junta in Myanmar, also known as Burma, has relaxed internet restrictions on selected business apps, signaling the return of an old censorship board that this time will control who can access what on their digital devices.


*For more on this theme:*

**(China) The CCP is Retooling its Censorship System at a Brisk Pace in 2021**


**(Russia) The Kremlin’s digital campaign against Alexei Navalny is cranking up pressure**

**(Pakistan) Internet freedom in Pakistan declined dramatically in 2020**
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

How Apple’s Sweeping Privacy Update Will Transform the Nature of the Internet
Brad Bergan – Interesting Engineering: 26 April 2021

Apple is rolling out new updates for its iOS operating system, along with new privacy controls that aim to limit digital advertisers from tracking the activity of iPhone users, according to a new blog post on Apple’s official website.


For more on this theme:

(China) Chinese regulators issue draft rules on privacy protection for app users

(U.S.) Employee Data Privacy Lawsuits: A Growing Trend

(U.S.) Hack the Capitol Event Planned to Address Critical Cybersecurity Challenges
https://news.clearancejobs.com/2021/04/26/hack-the-capitol-event-planned-to-address-critical-cybersecurity-challenges/

CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

A Look at Why Ghana Is Attracting IT Firms
Kent Mensah – Voice of America: 22 April 2021

Why are top information technology firms such as Twitter choosing to set up offices in Ghana instead of other African nations?


For more on this theme:

(Global) COVID-19 pandemic laid threadbare issue of digital divide: Ravi Shankar Prasad

(Singapore, Global) Singapore will work with UN member states to bridge digital divide: Iswaran

(Australia) Australian government’s major IT shops to help others with cybersecurity
CYBERATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

DC Police personnel files obtained by hackers in recent ransomware attack, acting police chief says
Rashard Rose, Paul LeBlanc and Brian Fung – CNN: 29 April 2021

The Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department said its computer network was breached in a targeted cyberattack. A ransomware group called Babuk threatened to release sensitive data on police informants.


For more on this theme:
(France) French champagne group Laurent Perrier has been victim of cyber attack
https://www.reuters.com/article/france-champagne-laurentperrier-idUSFWN2MH0GP

(Australia) UnitingCare Queensland hit by cyber attack

(Global) Apple supplier Quanta confirms ransomware attack

CYBERCRIME

When it comes to ransomware, it’s time to think globally and act now
Jen Ellis and Chris Painter – The Hill: 27 April 2021

The impact of ransomware attacks can be catastrophic to everything from power grids to waste treatment plants, and we must stop thinking of them as a niche criminal activity that has only a local impact. The sheer size, growth and international scope of the problem requires a global response, which unfortunately is lacking today.


For more on this theme:
(Global) Inside the Cyber Attack “Machine”: What Hospitals Need to Know about the Dark Web and Post-Pandemic Threats

(U.K.) NCSC offers free training to schools after rise in cyber attacks

(U.S.) A civilian cybersecurity reserve corps is needed for the Pentagon and DHS, lawmakers from both parties say
PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Department of Energy Warns of Increasing Cyber Threats to Electricity
Peter Suciu – Clearance Jobs: 23 April 2021

The U.S. Department of Energy launched an initiative to enhance the cybersecurity of electric utilities’ industrial control systems, as well as to secure the energy sector supply chain. It’s one part of the Biden administration’s efforts to safeguard critical infrastructure.


For more on this theme:

(Canada) Canada’s aging critical infrastructure strategy an increasing concern, say cybersecurity experts

(U.S.) White House Endorses Inclusion of Cybersecurity in Water Infrastructure Bill

(U.S.) Cyber Attack Haunts a Public Water Supply System. Again!
ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Policing as Rebel Governance: The Islamic State Police
Beatrice de Graaf and Ahmet S. Yayla – George Washington University: April 2021

How did ISIS establish a sophisticated form of administration and provide considerable public goods to civilians, which were supported or at least obeyed by large sections of the local population?

https://isisfiles.gwu.edu/downloads/j6731378s?locale=en

For more on this theme:

They are not sleeping': Analysts flag fears over Mozambique jihadists' next move

Will Total confront another Islamic State-linked insurgency in Uganda?
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/will-total-confront-another-islamic-state-linked-insurgency-in-uganda

Is Indonesia ready to tackle the growing challenge of female militants?

The Islamic State's Signing Bonus

Switzerland urged to repatriate two girls from Syria camp - U.N. experts

CTC releases declassified tactical interrogation reports on current Islamic State leader
https://ctc.usma.edu/ctc-releases-declassified-tactical-interrogation-reports-on-current-islamic-state-leader/

Hundreds In Afghan Jails Are Members Of Islamic State, Afghan Security Chief Says
https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/afghan-jails-islamic-state-militants/31227151.html

Mozambique to form special unit to prosecute terrorism cases - attorney general
https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-mozambique-insurgency/mozambique-to-form-special-unit-to-prosecute-terrorism-cases-attorney-general-idUSKBN2CF1DZ
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Just how much of a threat is jihadism in Central Asia?
Christian Mamo – Emerging Europe: 27 April 2021

Since the turbulent 1990s, Islamist extremism has refused to completely disappear from Central Asia. Over the past decade, the unending conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria have reignited fears that extremists pose a real threat in the region, particularly in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.


Al-Qaeda ‘shadow of former self’ decade after Bin Laden death
Agence France-Presse: 28 April 2021

Ten years after the killing of its founder, Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda bears little resemblance to the terror network that struck the U.S. on September 11, 2001, but remains a threat even under a starkly different leadership structure.


For more on this theme:

More Than 100 Chibok Girls Still Missing Seven Years Later
https://www.voanews.com/africa/more-100-chibok-girls-still-missing-seven-years-later

Commander says Africa is too important for Americans to ignore
https://www.africom.mil/article/33698/commander-says-africa-is-too-important-for-americans-to-ignore

Tech giants and cops at least agree thwarting terrorist or extremist activity is a joint effort

Enhancing medical preparedness to meet the changing threat of terrorism

EU adopts law giving tech giants one hour to remove terrorist content

US Army chief warns of possible Al Qaeda return in Afghanistan

Biden Says White Supremacists Have Replaced Jihadists as ‘Most Lethal Terrorist Threat’ to U.S.

Somalia nears falling into al-Qaeda hands
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

The Next Generation of Terrorists are Growing in Plain Sight
Jason Criss Howk – ClearanceJobs: 29 April 2021
Gen. Kenneth “Frank” McKenzie said radicalization would remain a problem unless countries repatriate and reintegrate the children of suspected Islamic State fighters.

For more on this theme:
UNODC launches programme to rehabilitate, reintegrate jailed Boko Haram insurgents
The Pulwama Suicide Bombing and Youth Radicalization in India-Administered Kashmir
How algorithmic recommendations can push internet users into more radical views and opinions

IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES AND PRIVATE MILITARY GROUPS

China’s Fishing Fleet Drives Beijing’s Global Ambitions
Governments and conservation groups accuse Chinese vessels of fishing illegally and advancing military goals.

For more on this theme:
Czechs Round Up Suspects Allegedly Planning To Join Russia-Backed Fighting in Ukraine
More Iranian Missiles to Syria: A Problem that a “Working Group” Cannot Solve
https://www.cfr.org/blog/more-iranian-missiles-syria-problem-working-group-cannot-solve
The Fatemiyoun Army: Iran’s Afghan Crusaders in Syria
Iraqi Kurds Fear Escalation of Iran-Backed Rocket Attacks
IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

‘Ghostwriter’ Disinformation Campaign Targets NATO Allies
Scott Ferguson – BankInfo Security: 28 April 2021

An ongoing disinformation campaign dubbed “Ghostwriter,” which leverages compromised social media accounts, is targeting several NATO member countries in Europe. It’s attempting to undermine confidence in the defensive organization as well as spread discord in Eastern Europe, according to the security firm FireEye.

https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/ghostwriter-disinformation-campaign-targets-nato-allies-a-16481

For more on this theme:
How India Is Confronting Disinformation On Social Media Ahead Of Elections

Russia, China sow disinformation to undermine trust in Western vaccines, EU report says

Russia’s Disinformation Ecosystem - A Snapshot
https://clintwatts.substack.com/p/russias-disinformation-ecosystem

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

HP Study: Nation-State Cyber Attacks Double Between 2017 and 2020 as World Edges Toward Open Cyber Warfare
Scott Ikeda – CPO Magazine: 22 April 2021

A new study from information technology company HP has reviewed over 200 nation-state cyber incidents going back more than a decade, finding new connections between state-backed hacking groups and the criminal underworld. Cyberattacks of this nature have not only doubled since 2017 but are increasingly incorporating attacks on physical assets (such as infrastructure).


For more on this theme:
NATO tests its hand defending against blended cyber-disinformation attacks
https://www.cryptocoins.co/nato-blended-cyber-disinformation-defense-locked-shields-article-v/

Defend Forward Amid a New Era of Cyber Espionage

Cyber Attack Targeting America’s Remote Workers Points To China

Ukraine says it prevents cyber attack ordered by Russia
https://news.trust.org/item/20210427105522-at0y4/