CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)
Corruption
Drug Trafficking
Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)
Internet Governance
Internet Freedom
Cyber Statecraft and Strategy
Cyber Attacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
Cybercrime
Critical Infrastructure Protection

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
ISIS and Foreign Fighters
Terrorism Around the World
Crime and Conflict
Russia/Ukraine
Hybrid Threats and Irregular Warfare

The Marshall Center Transnational Weekly is a current awareness, information and policy tool for Marshall Center stakeholders to inform them about online publications by think tanks, research institutes and other organizations that deal with transnational subjects. Use of these brief excerpts and links does not reflect the views of or endorsement by the Marshall Center, the U.S. government or the German government. All original content in these compilations is copyrighted unless specifically noted otherwise. All rights to copyrighted items are reserved.
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

European legal team arriving in Lebanon in corruption probe
Kareem Chehayeb – The Associated Press: 11 January 2023

Lebanon’s justice minister says a European judicial delegation from France, Germany and Luxembourg has started to arrive in Lebanon to investigate the country’s Central Bank governor and dozens of others over suspected corruption.

https://apnews.com/article/lebanon-france-germany-riad-salameh-business-35980e85bb487c3aa-f681a10ee3fb7cd

Scandal-hit EU assembly set to move on anti-corruption plan
Lorne Cook – The Associated Press: 11 January 2023

A European Parliament official says the president of the EU assembly wants to clamp down on the activities of former lawmakers and lobbyists in response to a major corruption scandal.

https://apnews.com/article/politics-europe-european-union-belgium-government-qatar-bab165e28feed3ed-6fa43e6d1b4cc7cd

For more on this theme:

An allegory of gluttony and greed: Corruption, SA's deadly cancer

Yemen: Houthis abduct youtubers who condemned ‘corrupt’ leaders

Peru arrests generals in anti-corruption raids

Islamic Countries Establish New Phase in Fighting Corruption

Visualizing corruption risks in the illegal rhino horn trade supply chain

Gibraltar: UK police asked to help with inquiry into alleged government corruption

Bosnians flee corruption and hopelessness

Russia opts out of European anti-corruption convention
https://apnews.com/article/putin-politics-moscow-russia-government-bba868f0aefcef770041910a865bc7cf
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Dark Web Actors Fight For Drug Trafficking and Illegal Pharmacy Supremacy
Alessandro Mascellino – InfoSecurity: 9 January 2023

The annual sale of illegal drugs on the dark web exceeded U.S. $470 million in 2022, shows new data from Resecurity magazine. The report highlights the growth of the shadow economy and new communication methods used by criminals, including proprietary Android-based mobile apps and the launch of an underground marketplace called Kraken.


Hong Kong Traffickers Receive Cocaine From Across Latin America
Henry Shuldiner – InSight Crime: 11 January 2023

Hong Kong’s reputation as East Asia’s most important drug hub was enhanced as traffickers there seemingly obtained half a ton of cocaine just in time for New Year’s celebrations.


For more on this theme:
Jordan seizes six million amphetamine pills in record haul

International drug trafficking runs through Pakistan: Report

Philippine minister accuses senior police of involvement in drugs trade

Drug trade proceeds being used to fund terrorism: Amit Shah in House

The Biggest Cocaine Boom in History

Chinese dark influence coming to light in Thailand

Cartel violence in Mexico has traits of civil wars
https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2022/12/20/cartel-violence-in-mexico-has-traits-of-civil-wars/

Extradition of ‘El Chapo’ son to the US halted after 29 killed in arrest operation

‘Balkan route’ crucial in opiate drug trafficking: Report
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Sierra Madre: Fighting to save what’s left of a vital rainforest
Laura Bicker – BBC: 5 January 2023

The Sierra Madre, Filipinos will tell you, is the backbone of Luzon, the main island of the country. Illegal logging, mining and quarrying have taken a toll. Without tree roots for stability and vast canopies of the forest to absorb heavy rains, landslides and flash floods are becoming more common, especially as storms increase in frequency and severity.

Illegal mining has muddied tropical rivers worldwide
Paul Voosen – Science: 11 January 2023

Silt overload and mercury pollution endanger river ecosystems and the people who depend on them.
https://www.science.org/content/article/illegal-mining-has-muddied-tropical-rivers-worldwide

For more on this theme:
Brazil mining association stepping up fight against illegal mining

Gold mining invades remote protected area in Ecuador

The Gold Kacha of Konongo
https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/gold-kacha-konongo

China’s illegal fishing hordes face a new challenge: Seabirds

When fishing boats go dark at sea, they’re often committing crimes — we mapped where it happens

More Protection Measures for New Endangered Species
https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/more-protection-measures-for-new-endangered-species/

A CSU professor is using supply chain research to tackle illegal wildlife trafficking
https://biz.source.colostate.edu/a-csu-professor-is-using-supply-chain-research-to-tackle-illegal-wildlife-trafficking/

It Would Take 23 Million Years To Replace Madagascar’s Species If They Disappeared
https://www.iflscience.com/it-would-take-23-million-years-to-replace-madagascar-s-species-if-they-disappeared-67008

Dollars and chainsaws: Can timber production help fund global reforestation?
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Internet Governance Outlook 2023: Will “Digital Coop-Frontation” Become the “New Normal”?
Wolfgang Kleinwächter – CircleID: 11 January 2023

In 2022, the Internet was shaken by big contradictions.

For more on this theme:
(Global) It May Take Time But Web3 is Coming — History Tells Us So
https://thedefiant.io/it-may-take-time-but-web3-is-coming-history-tells-us-so

(Global) Unleashing the Potential of Internet Governance Professionals

(China) Big Ideas From Recent Trends in China’s Data Governance

INTERNET FREEDOM

Iran’s citizens targeted by EyeSpy spyware hidden in VPNs
Claudia Glover – TechMonitor: 11 January 2023

Iranians trying to avoid internet blackouts could unwittingly download spyware, new research has revealed.
https://techmonitor.ai/technology/cybersecurity/eyespy-spyware-iran-vpn

For more on this theme:
(Burma, China) Myanmar Regime Learning From China’s Expertise at Media Manipulation
https://www.irrawaddy.com/culture/books/myanmar-regime-learning-from-chinas-expertise-at-media-manipulation.html

(Global) WhatsApp Adds Proxy Support to Keep Users Online During Internet Blocks

(Global) Internet shutdowns cost global economy $24bn in 2022
CYBER STATECRAFT AND STRATEGY

Hong Kong’s Regulatory Landscape for Data and Technology Risk
Albert Yuen and Jasmine Yung – Regulation Asia: 9 January 2023

Hong Kong financial institutions and tech companies that undergo digital transformation and utilize technologies such as artificial intelligence and cloud computing will have to navigate myriad regulations.


For more on this theme:

(EU) Open strategic autonomy: the digital dimension

(Ghana) Learning from Ghana’s Multistakeholder Approach to Cyber Security
https://africacenter.org/spotlight/ghana-multistakeholder-cyber-security/

(India) Going On The Offensive: India’s Cyber Capabilities — Analysis

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

Iran says it foiled cyberattack on central bank
Reuters: 6 January 2023

Iran has foiled a cyberattack on its central bank, the country’s telecommunications infrastructure company said.


For more on this theme:

(China, India) China and India governments among top targets for cyber attackers

(Russia, U.S.) Russian Hackers Targeted US Nuclear Scientists
https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russian-hackers-targeted-us-nuclear-scientists-2023-01-06/

(United Kingdom) Royal Mail services hit by major cyber attack

(Denmark) Multiple Danish Banks Disrupted By DDoS Cyber-Attack
CYBERCRIME

Top Five Cyber Crimes in 2023
Muhammad Shahzad Akram – Modern Diplomacy: 12 January 2023
With the rise of technology, crime has become more lethal and untraceable. A security expert warns about the new nature of cybercrime in 2023.
https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/01/12/top-five-cyber-crimes-in-2023/

For more on this theme:
(Indo-Pacific) Ransomware: A Wake-Up Call for Cybersecurity in the Indo-Pacific
https://thediplomat.com/2023/01/ransomware-a-wake-up-call-for-cybersecurity-in-the-indo-pacific/

(Global) Why Aren’t We Winning the War Against Cybercrime?
https://readwrite.com/escalating-war-on-cybercrime/

(Global) Security Outlook 2023: Cyber Warfare Expands Threats
https://www.esecurityplanet.com/trends/cybersecurity-predictions-2023/

(Global) Why remote and hybrid work could fuel cyber attacks in 2023

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

The Cyber Liability Fight Begins
Paul Rosenzweig – Lawfare: 6 January 2023
Third-party liability for cybersecurity failures just got real.
https://www.lawfareblog.com/cyber-liability-fight-begins

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) One Small Legislative Step for Cybersecurity
https://www.lawfareblog.com/one-small-legislative-step-cybersecurity

(Australia) Developing a Data Governance Framework for Critical Infrastructure Resilience

(U.S.) Ransomware attack exposes California transit giant’s sensitive data
ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

The Islamic State and the Question of “Lone Wolves”
European Eye on Radicalization: 9 January 2023

The Islamic State group attacked a police checkpoint in Ismailia, Egypt, on December 30, killing four people, three of them policemen, and injuring 12. This is a reminder that despite the loss of its “caliphate” in 2019, the group remains dangerous across the world.

Key Official Says US Must Not Overlook Al-Qaida, Islamic State
Jeff Seldin – Voice of America: 10 January 2023

“We have still got to be really vigilant about the threat posed by those organizations that are based overseas that want to conduct attacks against Americans here in the homeland,” National Counterterrorism Center director Christine Abizaid says.

For more on this theme:
U.S. and Turkish Joint Action Disrupts ISIS Financing

Africa File: Islamic State Affiliate Attempts to Assassinate Nigerian President

Turkey’s top court rules the endorsement, promotion of ISIS, attempts to join the jihadist battle not terrorism

Fears ISIS fighters are securing Afghan passports and changing identities

UN expects more ISIS convictions for Yazidi genocide next year
https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/uk-news/2022/12/20/un-expects-more-isis-convictions-for-yazidi-genocide-next-year/

CENTCOM: ISIS, Iran are two big threats in region

Over 500 ISIS-linked people repatriated from Rojava in 2022: Official figure
https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/syria/22122022
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Don't Underestimate Al-Qaeda or ISIS in the Coming Year
Katherine Zimmerman – Critical Threats: 11 January 2023

The U.S. has to dedicate enough resources to fighting al-Qaida and the Islamic State group to prevent the threat from growing.

https://www.criticalthreats.org/analysis/dont-underestimate-al-qaeda-or-isis-in-the-coming-year

For more on this theme:

IntelBrief: Wagner Group Continues Expanding Through West Africa
https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2022-december-20/

Jihadi violence hits Benin, shows spread across West Africa
https://apnews.com/article/islamic-state-group-al-qaida-politics-benin-violence-e70ea4e0cf-5211785c1cb20c4b38487

Trends in Terrorism: What's on the Horizon in 2023?

Is the terrorism threat over?
https://theconversation.com/is-the-terrorism-threat-over-195706

The Azadi Briefing: Taliban's NGO Ban Could Put Millions Of Afghans At Risk

Al-Qaeda’s ‘bizarre’ silence over Zawahiri successor

The growing threat of lone-wolf terrorism
https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-growing-threat-of-lone-wolf-terrorism/

Women Literally Being Erased from Public Life in Afghanistan, Speaker Tells Security Council, Sounding Alarm over Country’s Dire Situation

Al Qaeda releases video it claims is narrated by leader al-Zawahiri who was believed dead - SITE

Processes and Trends of Global Jihad on the African Continent
https://ict.org.il/jiha-on-the-african-continent/

Weaponized Aerial Drones and the Homeland: Increasing Domestic Terrorism Concerns

Al-Shabaab and the Grim Realities of Somalia’s Forever War
CRIME AND CONFLICT

A Tsunami of Crime Washes Over Post-Coup Myanmar
Naw Theresa – The Diplomat: 11 January 2023

There has been a general breakdown of law and order in the two years since the coup, as the military junta prioritizes the pursuit of political opponents.

https://thediplomat.com/2023/01/a-tsunami-of-crime-washes-over-post-coup-myanmar/

For more on this theme:

Russia must face tribunal for ‘crime of aggression’ in Ukraine, say UK cross-party leaders
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/08/russia-tribunal-crime-aggression-ukraine-uk-cross-party-leaders

Year Ahead – The Coming Year’s Law of Armed Conflict Evolution
https://lieber.westpoint.edu/coming-years-law-armed-conflict-evolution/

ICC Investigation in Georgia: A Success Story?

El Salvador Deploys Security Forces to Contain Criminal Groups
https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/el-salvador-deploys-security-forces-to-contain-criminal-groups/#.Y77pEC-B2X0

Honduras declares war against gangs — and for control of popular narrative

Ukraine: Russian Cyber-Attacks Should Be Considered War Crimes

Africa: Conflicts, Violence Threaten Rights

Russian war crimes must be judged
https://www.startribune.com/russian-war-crimes-must-be-judged/600241102/?refresh=true

Finnish appeals court begins Liberia war crime hearing

U.S. says Iran may be ‘contributing to widespread war crimes’ in Ukraine
https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/u-s-says-iran-may-be-contributing-to-widespread-war-crimes-in-ukraine

Is war crimes prosecution in Serbia just “ticking boxes”?

Nepal: Impunity Reigns, Fueling New Rights Violations

The Tigray conflict in Ethiopia: Rape weaponized
CRIME AND CONFLICT

For more on this theme:

A Dark Year Despite the Truce
https://mwatana.org/en/annualbrief2022/

Most Notable Human Rights Violations in Syria in December 2022

Roma Tell Long-Neglected Stories of Kosovo War’s Enduring Impact

RUSSIA/UKRAINE

Top Russian military officer put in charge of Ukraine action
Vladimir Isachenkov – The Associated Press: 11 January 2023
The move appears to reflect the Kremlin’s dissatisfaction with the current leadership and flaws in the military’s performance.

For more on this theme:

What Ukraine — or Russia — must do to win

Russia’s Shrinking and Deteriorating Arsenal Meets Ukraine’s Growing and Improving Air Defenses

To Achieve Deterrence on the Northeastern Flank — We Need to Use Counterterrorism Tools
https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/achieve-deterrence-northeastern-flank-we-need-use-counterterrorism-tools

How Russia’s War Is Impacting the Global Environmental Agenda
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88773

Can Ukraine and Germany Overcome Their Disagreements Over Russia?
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88764

Russia Faces Three Pivotal Moments in 2023
https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/88753

Lessons for the Next War
https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/01/05/russia-ukraine-next-war-lessons-china-taiwan-strategy-technology-deterrence/#rose-gottemoeller
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Ukraine: Can We Shorten a Path to Peace in 2023?
https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/01/ukraine-can-we-shorten-path-peace-2023

Russia's Wagner group ramping up operations outside of Ukraine, U.S. warns

Russia is now fighting NATO in Ukraine, top Putin ally says
https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/putin-ally-patrushev-says-russia-is-now-fighting-nato-ukraine-2023-01-10/

Russia's Defeat in Ukraine Will Deter China Attack on Taiwan: Ex-NATO Chief

Ukraine's nation-building progress spells doom for Putin's Russian Empire

Putin's faltering Ukraine invasion exposes limits of Russian propaganda

Rebuilding Ukraine the right way
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/rebuilding-ukraine-the-right-way/

Russia's cyberattacks aim to ‘terrorize’ Ukrainians

Russia preparing to mobilise extra 500,000 conscripts, claims Ukraine
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/06/russia-preparing-mobilise-extra-500000-conscripts-claims-ukraine

Ukraine war: life on Russia's home front after ten months of conflict

VOA Interview: What to Know About Russia's Manipulated War Statistics

Ukraine war: why Russian soldiers' mothers aren't demonstrating the strong opposition they have in previous conflicts

Is There Any Possibility for Peace Talks on the Ukraine Crisis?
https://thegeopolitics.com/is-there-any-possibility-for-peace-talks-on-the-ukraine-crisis/

Ukrainian citizen uprising is the war Russia didn't see coming
https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3800333-ukrainian-citizen-uprising-is-the-war-russia-didnt-see-coming/
RUSSIA/UKRAINE

For more on this theme:

Framing the Operational Environment: Insights from the Russia-Ukraine Conflict

News From Thin Air
https://cepa.org/article/makiivka-news-from-thin-air/

Sanctions On Russia Will Work, But Slowly – Analysis
https://www.eurasiareview.com/11012023-sanctions-on-russia-will-work-but-slowly-analysis/

Putin’s Lonely Christmas Amid His Hopeless War
https://jamestown.org/program/putins-lonely-christmas-amid-his-hopeless-war/

Russia Expanding Cossack Military Presence
https://jamestown.org/program/russia-expanding-cossack-military-presence/

The Russian Armed Forces on Steroids
https://jamestown.org/program/the-russian-armed-forces-on-steroids/

Russia’s New Foreign Policy Orientation
https://jamestown.org/program/russias-new-foreign-policy-orientation/

‘Let’s Make A Deal’? Ukraine And The Poor Prospects For Negotiations With Putin

China ‘Gobbles’ Russia’s Market Share In Africa; Increases Defense Cooperation As Ukraine War Keeps Moscow Busy

Four Reasons Why Supporting Ukraine Is a Good Investment

The Ukraine Crisis: Escaping the Armageddon
https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/01/10/the-ukraine-crisis-escaping-the-armageddon/

Russia-Ukraine war in 2023: Can there be a way out?
https://news.northeastern.edu/2023/01/05/russia-putin-ukraine-war-2023/

Is Russia losing the cyber warfare?
https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/01/09/is-russia-losing-the-cyber-warfare/
HYBRID THREATS AND IRREGULAR WARFARE

How NATO can keep pace with hybrid threats in the Black Sea region and beyond
Arnold C. Dupuy – Atlantic Council: 4 January 2023

Russian attacks on Ukraine’s infrastructure have highlighted the devastation of 21st century warfare and the vulnerability of civilian life. A major component is the hybrid threat, in which Russia is a most aggressive perpetrator.


For more on this theme:

How Serbia’s Cyber-War Outreach Taught Legions of Serbian Schoolchildren the Art of Hacking

Experts: Bangladesh must prepare for hybrid warfare
https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2022/12/18/experts-bangladesh-must-prepare-for-hybrid-warfare

Russia-Ukraine war: Are we about to see a new kind of ‘super-combat’?
https://www.middleasteye.net/opinion/russia-ukraine-war-new-kind-super-combat

The year in Russian disinformation campaigns

Book Review: The Complexity of Modern Asymmetric Warfare

It’s time to focus on information warfare’s hard questions
https://www.cyberscoop.com/russia-information-operations-facebook/

How warfare tech is changing
https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/opinion-analysis/columnists/how-warfare-tech-is-changing--4083424

Countering Chinese multi-domain war in 2023
https://organiser.org/2023/01/07/103669/world/countering-chinese-multi-domain-war-in-2023/

Strategic Thinking for a Complex World: A Middle East Perspective of Required Skills