CONTENTS

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

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)
Internet Governance
Cyber Statecraft
Cyber Attacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
Cyber Crime
Cyber Protection of Critical Infrastructure
Cyber Exercises and Training

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
ISIS and Foreign Fighters
Terrorism Around the World
Radicalization and Messaging
Irregular Warfare: Soft Power

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT
Current State of the Coronavirus
Coronavirus, National Security and International Organizations
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

South Africa’s Big Coronavirus Aid Effort Tainted by Corruption
South African coronavirus aid has been tainted with rampant corruption as citizens go hungry.

Inside the corruption allegations plaguing Malta
Jon Wertheim – CBS News: 16 August 2020
The smallest nation in the European Union is earning an unsavory reputation, with a series of scandals involving allegations of bribery, cronyism and money laundering.

For more on this theme:
Uzbekistan: Civil society hindered in ability to contain COVID-19 corruption
Fury as corruption scandals undermine South Africa’s coronavirus fight
Ex-official says former Mexico president directed corruption
https://apnews.com/572d9c84227f0ad1ca78fa8cb7422983
UPDATE 1— Saudi sacks officials suspected of corruption at tourism projects
Iranian hard-liner under fire after opening Pandora’s box of corruption
Mexican government forces out over 1,000 immigration officials accused of corruption
What’s behind corruption and money laundering scandals plaguing Kuwait?
Mauritanian Ex-President in Police Custody for Corruption Charges
Is AMLO Getting Serious About Mexico’s Anti-Corruption Fight?
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Ramped-Up Counternarcotics Op Has Denied Drug Traffickers $2.5 Billion, Navy Says
Hope Hodge Seck – Military.com: 15 August 2020

Since April, the U.S. Navy has increased its presence in Central and South America to assist with counternarcotics missions — helping to reel in more than $2.5 billion worth of illegal drugs.

The New Drug Route From Morocco To Europe With A Stopover In Spain, UN Report
Maritime Herald: 20 August 2020

Many trafficking routes have been closed to Moroccan drug traffickers during the pandemic, leading them to find complex new routes to traffic cannabis to Europe.

For more on this theme:

US Border Officials See Methamphetamine Resurgence

Asia’s prisons are filling up with women. Many are victims of the war on drugs

Colombia requests extradition of ex-paramilitary boss from United States
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-colombia-crime-idUSKBN25G1UL

Chile’s Gangs Embrace Wild ‘Narco-Funerals’

Darknet misuse, advanced technologies for drug trafficking discussed during 4th meeting of BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group

Cops Are Seizing Massive Amounts of Cocaine in Honduras During COVID-19

Southeast Asia must unite to tackle its drug problem

Sar Kheng: Laos Allowing Drugs to Enter Cambodia
https://www.voacambodia.com/a/sar-kheng-laos-allowing-drugs-to-enter-cambodia/5549431.html

2020 may set EU record for cocaine seizures

Mexican Cartel Strategic Note No. 30: “El Marro” – José Antonio Yépez Ortiz Leader of the Cártel Santa Rosa de Líma (CSRL) Arrested in Guanajuato
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Is China’s Fishing Fleet a Growing Security Threat?
Voice of America: 13 August 2020

China uses illegal fishing not only to stake maritime claims but to drive food insecurity and ecological problems. Analysts say many Chinese vessels conduct illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing that threatens the sovereignty of other nations and endangers the global food security chain.


The impact of organised crime in fisheries extends far beyond the ocean
Sophie Wood and Emma Witbooi – Eco-Business: 21 August 2020

Organized crime in the fisheries sector can take various forms, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, fraudulent-catch documentation, money laundering and corruption — crimes that have dire humanitarian implications.


For more on this theme:

Thailand’s elephant sanctuaries face crisis without tourists

These scientists are listening to the Borneo rainforest to protect biodiversity

From Taiwan to the Philippines, Chinese Illegal Dredging Ships Wreak Environmental Havoc

Five countries join forces to fight poaching

The Hunt for the Modern-Day Pirates Who Steal Millions of Tons of Fish From the Seas

New Satellite Imagery Solves Riddles of Illegal Fishing

Ghana government blamed for continued illegal logging of rosewood

Illegal Wildlife Trade Is Putting Protected Species at Risk
ORGANIZED CRIME

Could the Pandemic Response be a Starting Point for a More Engaged Security Strategy in the Northern Triangle?
Linnea Sandin and Benjamin Topa – Center for Strategic & International Studies: 18 August 2020

The COVID-19 crisis is transforming how governments in Latin America govern. Confronting major outbreaks of the pandemic, governments in the region are learning how inequality and urban density, among other factors, can undermine public health guidance, exacerbate disease transmission, and reverse years of economic growth.


For more on this theme:

Laos is a missing link in Asia’s fight against organized crime

Ocean Panel identifies organized crime as major threat to marine sustainability

India’s Most Populous Province Cracks Down on Organized Crime
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

How Can Greater Security, Safety and Trust in the Internet Be Created?
Wout de Natris – CircleID: 20 August 2020

It’s generally agreed that the internet needs to become more secure and safer. But how can this be achieved, and how does it translate into a more open internet?


For more on this theme:
(U.S., Europe, China) Internet or Splinternet? The Consequences of European Tech Sovereignty
https://www.csis.org/analysis/internet-or-splinternet-consequences-european-tech-sovereignty
(China) China Embraces Bigger Internet with Virtually Unlimited IP Addresses
(Russia, U.S., Global) Russia uses US data policy shortfalls to justify campaign against internet freedom

CYBER STATECRAFT

Normalizing Arab-Israeli Relations Through Cybersecurity Cooperation
Simon Handler – Lawfare: 14 August 2020
Obstacles remain to normalizing relations between Israel and Arab states. But the potential to use cyber security cooperation as a starting point is too great an opportunity to miss.

https://www.lawfareblog.com/normalizing-arab-israeli-relations-through-cybersecurity-cooperation

For more on this theme:
(Taiwan, China) Taiwan says China behind cyberattacks on government agencies, emails
(Russia, Ukraine) NSDC reveals signs of Russia’s large cyberattack on Ukraine
(Australia) Cybersecurity must be a key part of Australian government procurement decisions
CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

CactusPete hackers go on European rampage with Bional backdoor upgrade
Charlie Osborne – ZDNet: 14 August 2020

An advanced persistent threat group is attacking financial and military organizations across Europe. Researchers say that the group likely belongs to Chinese military focused on intelligence gathering and espionage.


For more on this theme:
(Russia, Global) An advanced group specializing in corporate espionage is on a hacking spree
https://www.cyberscoop.com/redcurl-groupib-Russian-hacking-espionage/

(North Korea, Global) Over 6,000 Hackers From China, India and Russia Are Working for Kim Jong Un’s North Korea: Report

(North Korea) CISA warns of BLINDINGCAN, a new strain of North Korean malware

CYBER CRIME

International collaboration in fighting cyber-crime is a challenge, says India’s cyber-security chief
Hemani Sheth – The Hindu Business Line: 19 August 2020

The growing volume of cyber attacks around the world, including increased activity targeted at and within India, calls for nations to come together and frame cooperative policies to strengthen cyber security and resilience across the world, said Dr. Rajesh Pant, a retired lieutenant general who is India’s first national cyber security coordinator.


For more on this theme:
(India) Cyber crime soars as hackers cash in on India’s Covid-19 crisis

(U.K.) UK cyber-crime on the rise amid global disruption
https://www.teiss.co.uk/uk-cyber-crime-on-the-rise-amid-global-disruption/

(GLOBAL) Why cybercrime remains a worrying business challenge in a COVID-lockdown world
CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Grid Security And Cyber Defense Cannot Fall On Deaf Ears, Experts Warn
Ken Silverstein – Forbes: 17 August 2020

If the electrical grid is knocked out for long periods, the damage to the American economy would
be insurmountable. And the country’s enemies know that. That is why the U.S. convened a panel
of experts to study the potential issues that could arise.

deaf-ears-experts-warn/#7b047b1a399e

For more on this theme:
(U.S., China, Russia, Iran) For 2020 Election, Threat is Bigger than Russia
https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2306001/for-2020-election-threat-is-bigger-than-
russia/

(U.S.) US Cyber Command is using unclassified networks to fight election interference
https://www.c4isrnet.com/cyber/2020/08/10/us-cyber-command-is-using-unclassified-net-
works-to-fight-election-interference/

CYBER EXERCISES AND TRAINING

US agency takes part in simulated cyberattack on critical systems
Maggie Miller – The Hill: 14 August 2020

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
announced completion of a biannual simulated cyber attack, known as “Cyber Storm” and aimed
at preparing the U.S. and its partners to defend against a real attack on critical systems.

https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/512119-federal-agency-announces-completion-of-simulated-cy-
berattack-on-critical

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Air Force wants to expand training for cyber teams

(U.S., Global) How Army network modernization efforts ensure equipment works
with allies
sure-equipment-works-with-allies/

(U.S.) Improving Cyber-Oriented Education, One Cyber Clinic at a Time
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Centcom Chief: Enduring ISIS Defeat Requires Plans for Refugees, Local Security
In a conference with the U.S. Institute of Peace, a panel of experts discussed the continued threat of ISIS and the roles that disengagement and reconciliation need to play in a lasting defeat. This panel discussion was followed by an interview with the commander of U.S. Central Command.

ISIS Declares Humanitarian Aid Workers Are Legitimate Targets
ISIS issued a warning to humanitarian organizations in the latest issue of its weekly al-Naba newsletter, calling their workers legitimate targets who either represent enemy entities or are trying to proselytize.
https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/isis-declares-humanitarian-aid-workers-are-legitimate-targets/

For more on this theme:
CENTCOM chief says Syrian refugee camp is a breeding ground for ISIS 2.0

What Foreign Islamic State Women Think About Guilt and Responsibility

Islamic State and al-Qaeda terrorists fight it out in the Sahel

Armed fighters take hundreds hostage in Nigeria’s Borno state

SA needs to wake up to fight against Islamic State
https://www.defenceweb.co.za/featured/sa-needs-to-wake-up-to-fight-against-islamic-state/

IS Khorasan Able to Stage Attacks Despite Depleted Leadership, Experts Say
https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/khorasan-able-stage-attacks-despite-depleted-leadership-experts-say

US won’t seek death penalty against pair of IS militants
https://apnews.com/aac6b70a0a3a080375c663c3e9874b7c
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

Confronting the Challenge of ‘Post-Organisational’ Extremism
Milo Comerford – Observer Research Foundation: 19 August 2020

The fracturing and franchising of global extremist movements globally poses a critical challenge for policymakers and tech companies. Given the increasingly decentralized, post-organizational and crowdsourced nature of the global Islamist and far-right movements, it is essential that policymakers and tech companies develop policy frameworks that move beyond a group-centered approach to understanding the threat from violent extremist groups.


Insurgency Marks New Milestone in Coastal Attack in Northern Mozambique
Emilia Columbo – Center for Strategic & International Studies: 14 August 2020

The recent attack by ISIS-linked insurgents on a port in northern Mozambique underscores the insurgents’ increased capacity and operational sophistication and provides a glimpse into the group’s goals.

https://www.csis.org/analysis/insurgency-marks-new-milestone-coastal-attack-northern-mozambique

For more on this theme:
Indonesian Police Arrest Wife of MIT Militant Chief

Counterterrorism in a time of COVID

The Looming Influx of Foreign Fighters in Sub-Saharan Africa

How African Jihadists Took Root in Mali and Beyond

Islamic militant group al Shabaab attacks Somalia hotel, 15 dead

Report ties Hezbollah to ammonium nitrate imports

Lebanon’s Hezbollah ‘got power but lost the country’
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

The Route to Radicalisation for Malay-Muslim Women: Tracing the Nexus between Universals and Particulars in Malaysia
Piya Sukhani – S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies: 7 August 2020

Since the emergence of ISIS in 2013, the number of Malaysian women joining the militant group in conflict zones has grown, with some even being prepared for suicide bombing missions. Why has ISIS been able to attract these women?

For more on this theme:

The Maldives Faces a Twin Threat: COVID-19 and Rising Extremism

Responsibility of Ulemas in preventing spread of radicalization & extremism

Opinion: How to engage youths to counter COVID-19 extremist recruitment

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

Soft power challenges for Chinese propaganda machinery
Gunjan Singh – Deccan Herald: 18 August 2020

Confucius Institutes, one of the main pillars of China’s soft power outreach, have come under the scanner in the wake of global realignments underway in COVID-19 times.

For more on this theme:

With a once-in-a-generation opportunity, Taiwan should up its soft power game
https://thehill.com/opinion/international/511787-with-a-once-in-a-generation-opportunity-taiwan-should-up-its-soft-power

Turning the spotlight on China’s global effort to recruit scientists
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

CURRENT STATE OF THE CORONAVIRUS

**WHO: Wuhan may not be place where coronavirus crossed into humans**
*The Straits Times: 6 August 2020*

A study by researchers from China and Europe shows bats may have had the coronavirus for over 40 years. While the city of Wuhan was the first to detect and report the virus, it is possible that the city is not where the zoonotic disease crossed from animals to humans, according to the World Health Organization.


*For more on this theme:*

**Taking distance learning ‘offline’: Lessons learned from navigating the digital divide during COVID-19**

**Coronavirus Vietnam: The mysterious resurgence of Covid-19**

**Australian-made COVID-19 vaccine could be rolled out in the Pacific and South-East Asia, Scott Morrison says**

**Encouraging News About Coronavirus Immunity**

**Will herd immunity cure COVID19?**
https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/will-herd-immunity-cure-covid19/
CORONAVIRUS, NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

COVID-19 Pandemic Will Double Number of People Facing Hunger, Aid Group Says
Voice of America: 20 August 2020
A report by U.S.-based CARE says the number of people facing hunger around the globe could nearly double to 270 million by the end of the year, significantly aggravating the world’s food insecurity and hunger crisis.


For more on this theme:

Adapting to learning needs in the wake of COVID-19 using data and evidence

Covid-19's Gender Problem in Informal Southeast Asia

The economics of COVID19 and its implications for Africa’s Development: A Glimpse

COVID-19 and Australian aid in the Pacific

Vaccine Nationalism: The Ugly Face of Science and Politics
https://www.rusi.org/commentary/vaccine-nationalism-ugly-face-science-and-politics

The Pandemic's Squeeze on International Trade
https://www.stimson.org/2020/the-pandemics-squeeze-on-international-trade/

New Covid-19 Private Sector Engagement & Partnership Fund