CONTENTS

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

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)
- Internet Freedom
- Cyber Attacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities
- Cyber Crime
- Cyber Capacity Building
- Cyber Protection of Critical Infrastructure
- Public/Private Partnerships
- Mass Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering

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

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT
- Coronavirus
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Pressure mounts to disband Brazil’s crack anti-corruption squad
Ricardo Brito – Reuters: 26 August 2020
Prosecutor General Augusto Aras will decide September 10 whether to renew a high-profile team of anti-corruption prosecutors for another year. Political pressure is growing to disband the team, despite its successes and continuing popular support.

Corruption Threatens Beirut Revival
Lisa Schlein – Voice of America: 23 August 2020
A special report by the United Nations Development Program describes how deeply corruption has penetrated Lebanese society. Arkan El Seblani, the chief of the program’s Anti-Corruption and Integrity unit for Arab States, says, “According to some estimates, the cost of corruption in Lebanon is equal to $5 billion a year. So, putting that number in perspective, it is about nine percent of the country’s GDP. And this is only the direct cost and does not include indirect costs, opportunity costs and also the social costs in terms of the health and well-being of citizens.”
https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/corruption-threatens-beirut-revival

For more on this theme:
Corruption Amid A Pandemic
https://theaseanpost.com/article/corruption-amid-pandemic

Vanuatu’s citizenships-for-sale scheme keeps economy afloat

Auditors scrutinizing EU support to fight grand corruption in #Ukraine

Impunity for grand corruption – a problem too big for international community to ignore

South Africa’s COVID relief fund dogged by delays and corruption

The Lebanese Civilians Fighting Corruption with Dignity

Ramaphosa Addresses South Africa’s Corruption

Corruption Cries Mount Over Pandemic Spending in El Salvador
DRUG TRAFFICKING

Chad’s illegal drug trade contributes to regional insecurity
Remadji Hoinathy – Institute for Security Studies: 25 August 2020
Curbing a tramadol trafficking cabal and other trafficking networks in the African nation of Chad requires transnational cooperation.
https://issafrica.org/iss-today/chads-illegal-drug-trade-contributes-to-regional-insecurity

Arrests, Seizures Show Colombians Processing Cocaine in Europe
Douwe den Held – InSight Crime: 24 August 2020
In discovering more cocaine processing facilities, Netherlands authorities are finding that the country’s drug traffickers are not only shipping tons of cocaine to Europe but are also involved in producing the drug, including processing unrefined or altered cocaine.

For more on this theme:
Mexico City Fentanyl Seizures May Point to Shifting Trafficking Trends
Deadly synthetic drugs ‘now mixed with cocaine and ecstasy’, addiction therapists warn
Heroin’s Hidden Ingredient Is a Chemical Made by U.S. Companies
Drug cultivators trying to beat drone surveillance during operations in Kadavu as more than 6,700 marijuana plants uprooted
More Than Drug Trafficking Drives Violence in Colombia’s Nariño
Mexican Cartels Use Drones To Eliminate Rivals In Drug-Trafficking Turf War
US and Colombia Launch New Anti-Drug Trafficking Plan
FENTANYL Results Act Aims to Fight Synthetic Drug Trafficking
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

Congoles elephant poacher sentenced to 30 years
Deutsche Welle: 25 August 2020
In a landmark case, the Republic of the Congo has jailed a notorious poacher for 30 years for ivory trafficking and the attempted murder of park rangers.

Sudan’s Jabal Maragha: Illegal gold diggers destroy ancient site
BBC: 25 August 2020
Archaeologists were devastated to find Sudan’s ancient Jabal Maragha destroyed by illegal gold diggers.

For more on this theme:
Turning the Tide on the Relentless Destruction of Cambodia’s Forests
https://e360.yale.edu/features/turning-the-tide-on-the-relentless-destruction-of-cambodias-forests
Illegal fishing threatens food supplies, livelihoods
https://share.america.gov/illegal-fishing-threatens-food-supplies-livelihoods/
Illegal gold miners ravage Brazil’s rainforest
https://apnews.com/2a1352e0f6b6c50a6e9629a726e999899
Legislative changes, eco-tourism could curb illegal wildlife trade in Laos
Special unit needed to curb illegal trade
Shocking ads selling white lion and tiger cubs to Aussies appear on Facebook
Rangunia Forest: Plundered by illegal loggers
https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/rangunia-forest-plundered-illegal-loggers-1949813
Cambodia’s Land Concessions Yield Few Benefits, Sow Social and Environmental Devastation
Fighting illegal logging in Ghana with an app
Big mammals at higher risk of extinction in world’s poorest countries
https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/08/200824105611.htm
Tourist ban leaves Brazil’s indigenous lands vulnerable to loggers
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

How one teacher equips students to stop trafficking before it starts

Teachers often take their responsibilities beyond the subjects they’re expected to teach. In Ohio, Mona Al-Hayani developed a curriculum for human trafficking that raises awareness among adults and vulnerable young people.


For more on this theme:

UNHCR, IOM: Interception at sea is not the solution to channel crossings

‘Spa’ raids in resort towns spark outrage over Mexico's human trafficking problem

UK Govt bankrolls cutting-edge tech to help fight human trafficking in Uganda
https://www.kampalapost.com/content/uk-govt-bankrolls-cutting-edge-tech-help-fight-human-trafficking-uganda

Irregular Migration Route to Spain Redirects Through Morocco to Canary Islands

He almost died migrating to Europe. Now he is warning other Gambians about it

Time to end double standards on missing persons
https://euobserver.com/opinion/149253

ORGANIZED CRIME

This is how to achieve a clean economic recovery that combats organized crime
Nadja Long, Nick Maxwell, Che Sidanius and Sean Doyle – World Economic Forum: 26 August 2020

Criminals have adapted quickly to thrive in the economic environment created by the coronavirus pandemic, exploiting the crisis to weave themselves into the legitimate economy.

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/08/this-is-how-to-achieve-a-clean-economic-recovery-that-removes-opportunities-for-organized-crime/

For more on this theme:

Organized Crime Threatens Global Ocean Sustainability

Business Is Booming for the Italian Mafia During COVID
INTERNET FREEDOM

How WeChat Censored the Coronavirus Pandemic
Louise Matsakis – Wired: 27 August 2020

In China, the WeChat messaging platform blocked thousands of keywords related to the coronavirus, according to a new report from Citizen Lab, a research group that focuses on technology and human rights.

For more on this theme:

(Global) Five Ways Telecommunications Companies Can Fight Internet Shutdowns
https://www.lawfareblog.com/five-ways-telecommunications-companies-can-fight-internet-shutdowns

(India, Kashmir) India restores 4G internet services in parts of Kashmir

(Nigeria) Criticisms as Nigeria’s new broadcasting code targets internet TV, radio stations

(Belarus) Belarus Turned Off the Internet. Its Citizens Hot-Wired It.

CYBER ATTACKS, THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES

CISA warns of BLINDINGCAN, a new strain of North Korean malware
Catalin Cimpanu – ZDNet: 19 August 2020

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency published an alert about a new strain of malware deployed by North Korean government hackers.

For more on this theme:

(U.S., China) FBI/CISA Warn US Firms of State-Mandated Tax Malware

(Iran, Global) Group of unskilled Iranian hackers behind recent attacks with Dharma ransomware

(New Zealand) New Zealand’s stock exchange down for fourth day in a row after cyber attacks
**CYBER CRIME**

**Online Crime in Africa a ‘Bigger Threat Than Ever Before’**
*Homeland Security Today: 17 August 2020*

A new Interpol report on online organized crime in Africa shows how digitalization is transforming almost every major crime area across the continent. “Online crime now represents a bigger security issue for law enforcement in Africa than ever before,” according to the report, which details how the different layers of the internet are used by organized crime groups in Africa to perpetuate crimes.

[https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/transportation/online-crime-in-africa-a-bigger-threat-than-ever-before/](https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/transportation/online-crime-in-africa-a-bigger-threat-than-ever-before/)

*For more on this theme:*

(U.S., Russia) Russian arrested for trying to recruit an insider and hack a Nevada company

(North Korea, Global) Lazarus group strikes cryptocurrency firm through LinkedIn job adverts

(Australia) NSW pledges AU$60m to create cyber ‘army’
[https://www.zdnet.com/article/nsw-pledges-au60m-to-create-cyber-army/](https://www.zdnet.com/article/nsw-pledges-au60m-to-create-cyber-army/)

(Global) As E-commerce Expands, So Does Cybercrime

**CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING**

**School is starting — and the broadband gap will be a massive problem**
*Shara Tibken – CNET: 26 August 2020*

The digital divide means millions of American children don’t have broadband connections at home, even as their schools hold virtual classes. Public and private assistance hasn’t been enough to bridge the gap for many.


*For more on this theme:*

(U.S.) Army gets prototype for cyber visualization tool

(U.S.) DOD Leaders Provide Digital Modernization Updates
[https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2315094/dod-leaders-provide-digital-modernization-updates/](https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2315094/dod-leaders-provide-digital-modernization-updates/)

(South Africa) Laptops, internet connectivity for rural youth
CYBER PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Red Cross chief: cyber attacks increasing on hospitals

The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross warned that the frequency of sophisticated cyber attacks against hospitals, electricity and water supplies, and other critical civilian infrastructure is increasing.
https://apnews.com/3676505e1426752f90b87e490e90e4ebbb

For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Dismissing Cyber Catastrophe
https://www.csis.org/analysis/dismissing-cyber-catastrophe
(U.S.) Zoom is now critical infrastructure. That’s a concern
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2020/08/27/zoom-is-now-critical-infrastructure-thats-a-concern/

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

How to Compete in Cyberspace
Paul M. Nakasone and Michael Sulmeyer – Foreign Affairs: 25 August 2020

Gen. Paul Nakasone, head of the National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command, and Michael Sulmeyer, senior advisor to the commander, argue that partnering with the government is not only necessary for success in cyberspace, but is mutually beneficial.
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-08-25/cybersecurity

For more on this theme:
(U.S., Global) Post-Pandemic Digitalization: Building a Human-Centric Cybersecurity Strategy
(U.S.) Public and Private Sectors Team to Fight Election Interference
https://www.afcea.org/content/public-and-private-sectors-team-fight-election-interference
MASS SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

Hackers Leak Alleged Internal Files of Chinese Social Media Monitoring Firms
Lorenzo Franceschi-Bicchierai – VICE: 21 August 2020

A group of hackers claims to have breached three Chinese companies that specialize in social media surveillance.


For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Who thought it was a good idea to have facial recognition software?
https://www.brookings.edu/research/who-thought-it-was-a-good-idea-to-have-facial-recognition-software/

(India) Access to Welfare Programs in India Could Soon Depend on Facial Recognition Scans
https://onezero.medium.com/access-to-welfare-programs-in-india-could-soon-depend-on-facial-recognition-scans-a09d21a96b1d

(China) Blockchain Now Powers Parts of China’s Social Credit System
https://decrypt.co/39905/blockchain-now-powers-parts-of-chinas-social-credit-system
PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

Niger Attack Demonstrates Islamic State in West Africa’s Growing Reach
Jacob Zenn – Council on Foreign Relations: 25 August 2020
The ISIS-affiliated groups in the Sahel and Nigeria are becoming harder to distinguish from one another as their areas of operation blur.
https://www.cfr.org/blog/niger-attack-demonstrates-islamic-state-west-africas-growing-reach

For more on this theme:
ISIS-Affiliated Fighters Take Control Of A Strategic Port In Mozambique

Twin bombkings kill 15, wound scores in Philippine south

UN: Over 10,000 Islamic State fighters active in Iraq, Syria
https://apnews.com/2c8b169591a6b21e73dc253d997f038e

Repatriating Detained Foreign Fighters, Their Families Key to Combating Threat Posed by Islamic State, Counter-Terrorism Officials Warn Security Council
https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/repatriating-detained-foreign-fighters-their-families-key-combating-threat-posed-islamic

Islamic State operative planning ‘sensational’ attack nabbed in Istanbul

Islamic State’s India Dilemma
https://thediplomat.com/2020/08/islamic-states-india-dilemma/

Islamic State begins to gain foothold in Mozambique

COVID-19 and Terrorism in the Southern Philippines: More Trouble Ahead
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

**Why power-broker Hezbollah is still rocked by Beirut blast**  

Experts say Hezbollah is now facing a major challenge to protect its influence and shape the country’s future government because many protesters see it as part of the government that became an obstacle to ending corruption in the political system.


**Afghan Leaders: US-Backed Peace Talks with Taliban to Begin Next Week**  
Ayaz Gul – Voice of America: 27 August 2020

Highly anticipated peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban could begin as early as the first week in September after repeated delays amid disputes over a prisoner swap of hundreds of Taliban fighters who have been linked to deadly attacks since the war began nearly two decades ago.


For more on this theme:

- **Cryptocurrency and the Dismantling of Terrorism Financing Campaigns**  

- **Mutating terror threat still looms over Europe**  

- **Weakened in battle, Shabaab now opts for softer targets**  

- **Divisions emerge within Al-Shabaab after murder of top commander**  

- **Al-Qaeda Blows up Yemen Clinic After Executing Dentist**  

- **Cameroon: Boko Haram Suicide Bombers Strike Displacement Site**  

- **The Rise Of Mullah Yaqoob, The Taliban’s New Military Chief**  

- **Taliban Attacks on Afghan Forces Cause Dozens of Casualties**  
RADICALIZATION AND MESSAGING

How are women transforming Indonesia’s extremist landscape?
Umair Jamal – ASEAN Today: 25 August 2020

In recent years, Indonesian women have taken on active roles in terror groups. But because jihadi groups are traditionally dominated by men, the government has yet to develop strategies to address the radicalization of women.


For more on this theme:
How the world’s longest internet shutdown has failed to counter extremism in Kashmir

Countering terrorism and violent extremism at Facebook: Technology, expertise and partnerships

Deradicalizing Militants the High-Tech Way
https://tol.org/client/article/deradicalizing-militants-the-high-tech-way.html

Understanding the full spectrum of hate

IRREGULAR WARFARE: SOFT POWER

Confucius Institutes advance Chinese propaganda on campuses
Leigh Hartman – Share America: 27 August 2020

China must now reveal more about its role in supporting Confucius Institutes’ activities on U.S. college campuses, which include propaganda and censorship. The U.S. Department of State on August 13 designated the Washington-based headquarters of the Confucius Institute network a foreign mission of the People’s Republic of China.

https://share.america.gov/confucius-institutes-advance-chinese-propaganda/

For more on this theme:
China alone

How Qatar uses soft power to conquer the world
IRREGULAR WARFARE: PROXY FORCES

The Role of Russian Private Military Contractors in Africa
Anna Borshchevskaya – Foreign Policy Research Institute: 21 August 2020

Moscow is increasingly using so-called private military contractors as proxy forces to pursue foreign policy objectives across the globe, especially in the Middle East and Africa.

For more on this theme:
Chinese Boats Return as South China Sea Fishing Ban Ends

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

Twitter takes down ‘Dracula’ botnet pushing pro-Chinese propaganda
Catalin Cimpanu – ZDNet: 26 August 2020

Social media research group Graphika said it identified a Twitter botnet of about 3,000 bots that pushed pro-Chinese political spam, echoing official messaging released through state propaganda accounts.

For more on this theme:
Ex-IDF Intelligence official: Russian cyber, disinformation trends converge with vaccine

How the Chinese Communist Party steals science
https://share.america.gov/how-chinese-communist-party-steals-science/

Covid-19 disinformation campaigns shift focus to vaccines
CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

CORONAVIRUS

UK will pay low-income residents to self-isolate because of COVID-19

*Reuters*: 27 August 2020

The United Kingdom will pay low-income residents to self-isolate if they have a confirmed or suspected case of coronavirus as the government steps up measures to keep the virus under control.


*For more on this theme:*

Papua New Guinea Demands China Explain COVID-19 Vaccine Trial on Miners


Further coronavirus heart impact discovered; new clues to why women fare better than men


What’s an ‘essential service’? Not knowing could block access to key digital services during COVID

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/08/defining-essential-services-ensure-access-to-key-digital-services-during-covid/

This $5 rapid test is a potential game-changer in Covid testing


COVID-19 Travel Bans Are Boost For “Golden Passport” Market


Covid-19 and Ghana’s December Elections


International Financial Institutions’ Ongoing Response to the Covid-19 Crisis


We’re not doing enough to protect COVID-19 vaccine research from cyber espionage

https://inhomelandsecurity.com/were-not-doing-enough-to-protect-covid-19-vaccine-research-from-cy-ber-espionage/

China’s offer of coronavirus tests for all in Hong Kong meets with public distrust