



ACADEMIC SECURITY AND COUNTER EXPLOITATION PROGRAM

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# THE OPEN SOURCE MEDIA SUMMARY

**July 13, 2022**

## **CHINA: MI5 AND FBI HEADS WARN OF 'IMMENSE' THREAT**

*Gordon Corera | BBC News | July 6, 2022*

The heads of UK and US security services have made an unprecedented joint appearance to warn of the threat from China. FBI director Christopher Wray said China was the "biggest long-term threat to our economic and national security" and had interfered in politics, including recent elections. MI5 head Ken McCallum said his service had more than doubled its work against Chinese activity in the last three years and would be doubling it again. MI5 is now running seven times as many investigations related to activities of the Chinese Communist Party compared to 2018, he added. The FBI's Wray warned that if China was to forcibly take Taiwan it would "represent one of the most horrific business disruptions the world has ever seen". In response, China Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said British intelligence was trying to "hype up the China threat theory" and he advised the head of MI5 to "cast away imagined demons". He said the FBI director had also been "playing up the China threat to smear and attack China" revealing a "Cold War mentality" and urged him to stop making "irresponsible" remarks. The first ever joint public appearance by the two directors came at MI5 headquarters in Thames House, London.

Read the full article [here](#).

## **SAFEGUARDING OUR FUTURE: PROTECTING GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS AT THE U.S. STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL FROM PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) INFLUENCE OPERATIONS**

*The National Counterintelligence and Security Center | July 6, 2022*

For decades, a broad range of entities in China have forged ties with government and business leaders at the state and local levels of the United States, often yielding benefits for both sides. However, as tensions between Beijing and Washington have grown, the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) under President Xi Jinping has increasingly sought to exploit these China-U.S. subnational relationships to influence U.S. policies and advance PRC geopolitical interests.<sup>1 2</sup> In confronting this challenge, it is important that U.S. state and local leaders not cast blanket suspicion on all outreach from China, given that the threat of exploitation emanates from the PRC government and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), not the people of China generally and not Chinese Americans, who themselves are often victimized by PRC aggression.<sup>3</sup> In partnering with any foreign entity, U.S. state and local leaders should exercise vigilance, conduct due diligence, and ensure transparency, integrity, and accountability are built into the partnership to guard against potential foreign government exploitation.

Read the full article [here](#).



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## **PENTAGON ‘ENDORSES’ RECIPROCITY FOR CMMC, FEDRAMP REQUIREMENTS**

*Justin Doubleday | Federal News Network | July 6, 2022*

The Pentagon’s internal cybersecurity auditors are already giving companies credit for using services provided under the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program, but the Defense Department still needs to iron out similar reciprocity details with the Cyber Accreditation Body. Deputy DoD Chief Information Officer for Cybersecurity David McKeown says the Defense Industrial Base Cybersecurity Assessment Center (DIBCAC) is recognizing when contractors use FedRAMP-certified services to manage and protect sensitive data. DoD officials have long said they intend to offer some level of reciprocity between the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification and other cyber certifications, but the details on how such a program would work in practice have been scant. “I’m a fan of reciprocity, and I don’t want to do re-work when we’re looking at exactly the same controls,” McKeown said during a June 24 webinar hosted by Preveil. “When the DIBCAC goes out, if one of the vendors shows that they’re utilizing FedRAMP-certified services, it’s very easy to run a check there and give credit for those controls which are being satisfied by that offering.” But McKeown says DoD officials still need to discuss reciprocity with the Cyber Accreditation Body, which authorizes and accredits CMMC Third-Party Assessment Organizations (C3PAOs). “Right now, with the CMMC AB, I don’t know if we’ve broached this particular topic,” he said. “We certainly have with the DIBCAC, and we’re giving them credit. But we probably need to have that conversation with the AB as well, just to make sure that they know that we do endorse reciprocity.”

Read the full article [here](#).

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## **US TORN BETWEEN VETTING FOREIGN RESEARCHERS, NEED FOR INNOVATION**

*Jessica Stone | Voice of America (VOA) | July 11, 2022*

The directors of British and U.S. intelligence services say businesses should not underestimate Beijing’s commitment to use espionage to steal intellectual property. At issue, balancing the need for foreign-born research talent to maintain an innovative edge over China while protecting national and economic security.

Watch the full video [here](#).

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## **50 CHINESE STUDENTS LEAVE UK IN THREE YEARS AFTER SPY CHIEFS’ WARNING**

*Dan Sabbagh | The Guardian | July 6, 2022*

Fifty Chinese students have left the UK in the past three years after Britain tightened its procedures to prevent the theft of sensitive academic research, the head of MI5 said in a speech about the espionage threat posed by Beijing. Ken McCallum, the director general of the spy agency, also said that MI5 had “more than doubled” its effort against Chinese activity over the same timeframe, as part of an unprecedented joint warning with his counterpart at the FBI. The British spy chief said the “most gamechanging challenge” MI5 faced came from an “increasingly authoritarian Chinese Communist party” that was heavily targeting industrial secrets and intellectual property across the west. A particular focus on Chinese state activity was western universities, McCallum said, and after a reform of the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS), “over 50” students linked to the People’s Liberation Army had left the UK. The scheme, run by the British government, applies to international students from China and other countries subject to immigration control, who want to engage in research on military technology or other subjects deemed to be sensitive.

Read the full article [here](#).



# THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S CHINA POLICY: AN INVENTORY OF ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGE

Philip Mousavizadeh | *Just Security* | July 8, 2022

President Joe Biden and his administration have made clear since taking office that its primary foreign policy challenge is what it sees as China's increasingly aggressive actions that threaten the international order cultivated over decades by the United States and its allies. While Russia's war in Ukraine has become the immediate concern and has heightened awareness of Russia's persistent threat, China remains a strategic priority for the United States, as demonstrated by Secretary of State Antony Blinken's May speech outlining the administration's policy toward China. Just last week, Biden and other NATO leaders meeting in Madrid for their annual summit cited China's "challenge" to "our interests, security and values" in their updated Strategic Concept 2022 for the alliance going forward. In an attempt to understand the U.S. position and its aims in navigating the China challenge, it is useful to catalog the most significant measures the Biden administration has taken to date.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## CHINA REGIONAL SNAPSHOT: EXPOSING THE CCP'S GLOBAL MALIGN INFLUENCE

Lead Republican Michael McCaul (R-TX) | House Foreign Affairs Committee Republicans

For far too long, the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) global campaign for influence and quest for dominance has gone largely unchecked on the world stage. In an effort to better understand the full scale of the CCP's growing influence around the world, House Foreign Affairs Committee Lead Republican Michael McCaul (TX-10) led an in-depth assessment to detail their activities and investments, particularly through their Belt and Road Initiative. The research found a number of disturbing trends negatively affecting the world in sectors that include trade, investments, security and arms sales, technology, and soft power initiatives to advance the CCP's foreign policy interests. An in-depth assessment led by House Foreign Affairs Committee Lead Republican Michael McCaul (TX-10), found that global investment and commercial efforts by the People's Republic of China (PRC), mainly through its predatory Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), are negatively affecting many countries and their citizens around the world.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## WHY FOREIGN TALENT IS CRITICAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY: A CONVERSATION WITH JOSEPH VOTEL AND CHRISTINE FOX

The Honorable Christine H. Fox, General (ret.) Joseph L. Votel, Jude Blanchette, and Ryan Hass | Brookings Institution and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) | July 7, 2022

How does human capital impact America's national security? In the face of unprecedented competition from China, more than four dozen former national security leaders wrote to Congress this spring urging political action to safeguard America's competitive edge in attracting global STEM talent. On July 7, two signatories of this letter, former Commander of the U.S. Central Command General (Ret.) Joseph Votel and former Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Christine Fox, offered insight on the national security importance of STEM talent and high-skilled immigration. Co-hosted by the Brookings Institution and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), they drew from their own experiences at the highest levels of U.S. defense policymaking and military command to share their perspectives on the role of human talent as a national security asset. Brookings Senior Fellow Ryan Hass and CSIS Freeman Chair Jude Blanchette moderated the discussion.

Watch the full video [here](#).



## U.S. AIMS TO EXPAND EXPORT BANS ON CHINA OVER SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

*Edward Wong and Ana Swanson | The New York Times | July 5, 2022*

When Russian forces invaded Ukraine nearly five months ago, the Biden administration led dozens of governments in banning the export of advanced technology to Russia to hobble its economic and military development. Now, the U.S. government is using the lessons it learned from those actions to expand restrictions on exports to China and other countries in cases where companies or groups might threaten U.S. national security or violate human rights, current and former American officials say. President Biden and his aides call China the greatest long-term rival of the United States, surpassing Russia. The effort involves broadening the circumstances under which so-called export controls would be imposed and getting partner nations on board. It also aims to redefine what technologies are considered sensitive or critical and of potential use to militaries and security agencies — to encompass things like artificial intelligence, for example. In trying to develop a strategy on China, U.S. officials are not just looking at traditional military uses of technologies, but they are also considering the roles of Chinese companies in creating a surveillance state or building a security infrastructure and using forced labor camps to repress ethnic minorities in regions such as Xinjiang and Tibet.

Read the full article [here](#).

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## CHINA MORE DEPENDENT ON U.S. AND OUR TECHNOLOGY THAN YOU THINK

*Min-Hua Chiang | The Heritage Foundation | July 7, 2022*

The Biden administration has been wrong to frame U.S.-China competition as a technological competition. This is because, in most areas, there is no technology competition between the two countries. There is only China's reliance on the U.S.—a far more technologically advanced nation with far more technologically advanced allies and trading partners. And it's in the U.S. interest to keep it that way and maintain—and even expand—America's tech advantage. The lack of technological superiority means China's economic advancement is subject to other countries supplying it with critical chips and capital equipment. That's why China has been making efforts to reduce its reliance on foreign suppliers and produce more technology domestically. Apart from economic reasons, the ability to produce key technology of its own would allow China to further pursue its geopolitical ambitions without restraint, such as its self-declaration of sovereignty over Taiwan and the South China Sea.

Read the full article [here](#).

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