



Open Source Media Summary

January 11, 2024

U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ILL-SUITED FOR CHINA COMPETITION, STUDY WARNS

Bill Gertz | *The Washington Times* | January 6, 2024

U.S. intelligence agencies are not structured to address threats and challenges posed by China and need urgent reforms, according to a report by a national security think tank. The nation's 18 intelligence agencies need to retool and refocus so they can do a better job addressing challenges posed by an increasingly aggressive China and its leaders, the report issued late last month by the MITRE Corp. warns. The report identified several intelligence areas that need "urgent attention, resources and top-level government leadership engagement." A main concern is that the agencies, which were funded with nearly \$100 billion for fiscal 2024, already face economic and technological activities from Beijing that "rival those of military threats," the report said. The intelligence community "is not positioned optimally to tackle the full spectrum of competition with the PRC," wrote report author Margaret Stromecki, a former senior U.S. intelligence analyst and now an MITRE systems engineer, using the acronym for People's Republic of China.

Read the full article [here](#).

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION PICKS NEW CIO AS PART OF CHIPS ACT IT REORGANIZATION

Nihal Krishan | *FEDSCOOP* | January 4, 2024

The National Science Foundation on Wednesday announced a major reorganization of its IT functions, including the appointments of a new chief information officer, chief technology officer, chief data officer and assistant CIO for artificial intelligence in support of the 2022 CHIPS Act. Terry Carpenter will take over the key role of CIO and CTO for the NSF, marking the establishment of a new independent and consolidated Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). Dorothy Aronson is NSF's new chief data officer and assistant CIO for artificial intelligence, while Dan Hofherr is the new chief information security officer and assistant CIO for operations, and Teresa Guillot is assistant CIO for enterprise services. "I am confident that the reorganization of our IT functions will propel NSF to new heights of innovation and efficiency," NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan said in a statement. "This strategic initiative reflects our solid commitment to delivering unparalleled IT services and solutions across the agency." The IT revitalization within NSF is meant to support the mission of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, which provides roughly \$52.7 billion to explicitly drive semiconductor research, development, manufacturing, and workforce development in the U.S.

Read the full article [here](#).

RUBIO, COLLEAGUES INTRODUCE BILL TO PROTECT U.S. SCHOOLS FROM CHINA'S INFLUENCE

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) | Press Release | January 8, 2024

Foreign adversaries, including China, have significantly increased covert tactics to infiltrate American colleges and K-12 schools. They do this to steal research, spread propaganda, and silence students and academics. U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and colleagues introduced the Protecting Education from Malign Foreign Influence Act to address and prevent foreign adversaries' influence in the U.S. education system. "The integrity of our schools is one of the most basic guarantees that we should give to our students. Current federal policies to protect our students from adversaries are incomplete and disappointing. The U.S. is being infiltrated through its educational institutions. This bill aims to close those gaps, securing a robust defense against malign foreign influence in our classrooms." – Senator Rubio
Senators Rick Scott (R-FL) and Tim Scott (R-SC) are original cosponsors. "It's a universally accepted truth that Communist China is stealing U.S. technology and intellectual property from institutions of higher learning. We cannot allow the U.S. federal government to sit back and let this dangerous espionage happen.

Read the full article [here](#).

WHY IS THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY IMPORTANT?

Vermilion China | November 27, 2023

Confusion reigns in the US on the topic of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Many Americans, particularly those in the business community, outwardly maintain the belief that the CCP can be separated from mainland Chinese society, business, and even local government. This is quite a fantastic belief. The CCP is certainly not omniscient, but it does desire to control all facets of Greater China (Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, Tibet, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, the South China Sea, and ethnically Han peoples living overseas). This article will describe the organizational machinery that the CCP uses in its quest for control. At the very top, the CCP maintains power through a small group of (currently) seven men known as the standing committee of the political bureau (politburo) which meets at a minimum weekly. This committee has varied in size from five to eleven members, and may change in size again in the near future. The first amongst equals of this group is Xi Jinping. This is because Xi currently serves in three simultaneous roles.

Read the full article [here](#).

WHAT CHINA WANTS

Vermilion China | December 11, 2023

A quick search of "what China wants" or "what the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) wants" yields results like global domination, replacing the US economic order, becoming a world superpower, a modest revision of global governing institutions, and a whole host of other prognostications. Discussion of such abstract goals (as accurate or inaccurate as they may be) too often fails to take into account what the CCP declares its own goals to be. American observers too often rely on their American perspective to interpret the CCP's actions instead of the Chinese perspective. The CCP is often all too desperate to communicate its goals, but is handicapped by its own inability to speak without relying on the crutches of marxist-leninist CCP jargon. This overly complicated language is most often released in mandarin chinese, which only compounds the culture gap. When it comes to countering the CCP, US decision makers need to at least have a baseline understanding of the CCP's outlook, goals, and methods.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA'S 'ARMY OF SPIES' HORRIFIES GERMANY; REPORT CAUTIONS AGAINST MASSIVE INFLUX OF CHINESE STUDENTS

Ritu Sharma | EurAsian Times | January 3, 2024

The Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu underscored the importance of spies in his aphorism: "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles." About 2,500 years later, Germany fears that the People's Republic of China has raised an army of spies to keep an eye on its expatriates and glean sensitive information regarding technologies from different countries. In 2017, China put a secret service statute in place that called for "any organization or citizen shall support, assist and cooperate with state intelligence work, according to the law." In other words, it gave the Chinese government the authority to mandate any Chinese national or business to assist the intelligence agencies. In essence, it is an unrestricted permit to spy. The Chinese spy network is augmented by thousands of Chinese expatriates, guest researchers, students, and businesspeople sending information back to their homeland. Giving out the usual caveat that "not every student from China, of course, is a spy," a report in *Der Spiegel* notes about security officials in Bavaria advising to be wary of the large influx of Chinese students.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA'S AMERICA POLICY: BACK TO THE FUTURE

Thomas Fingar and David M. Lampton | Taylor & Francis Online | Winter 2024

US-China ties are worse than they have been at any time since the early 1960s, and likely will deteriorate further and more dangerously unless Washington and Beijing take steps that neither is yet willing or able to. Current tensions were years in the making, have multiple causes, and will persist for the indefinite future. There is no quick fix. The best we can achieve is wary coexistence, careful management to reduce dangers, and keeping the way open for a better day, no matter how distant or near it may be. Achieving even that goal requires a deeper understanding of China's goals, fears and behavior, and how it has fallen into an old mindset that sacrifices growth to reduce vulnerability to external ideas and interference. This is not good for China, the United States or the world. It is an old default mindset; Washington needs to avoid hardening that old thinking unnecessarily.

Read the full article [here](#).

WHERE HAVE ALL THE AMERICAN CHINA EXPERTS GONE?

Rory Truex | The Washington Post | January 3, 2024

The United States is running critically low on China expertise. At a time of heightened competition with Beijing, our education system is not generating enough American citizens with Chinese language ability, meaningful lived experiences in China and deep area knowledge. And despite the ever-present refrain in Congress about the China threat, the U.S. government is actively disinvesting in China studies. The result is a serious and overlooked knowledge asymmetry that gives China — where fluency in English and U.S. culture is common — the upper hand in understanding its strategic rival. I took a very well-trodden path to becoming a China scholar. I began studying Chinese in college and went to China every summer to study the language and teach English. After graduating I was accepted into a PhD program in political science and for my dissertation I conducted several months of fieldwork in Beijing and Hunan province over three years, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation. During one trip, I did a lengthy homestay with a Chinese family in Beijing.

Read the full article [here](#).

FIVE EYES LAUNCHES THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF SECURE INNOVATION

National Protective Security Authority (UK) | October 17, 2023

MI5 Director General Ken McCallum, alongside his Five Eyes counterparts, launched the 5 Principles of Secure Innovation at an event hosted by Secretary Condoleezza Rice and FBI Director Christopher Wray on Emerging Threats, Innovation, and Security in San Francisco on Tuesday. These 5 principles are grounded in our Secure Innovation campaign:

Director General, Ken McCallum said: "The Five Eyes is the world's oldest and most significant intelligence alliance. The strength of our partnership saves lives in our countries and around the world. Across all five of our countries we are seeing a sharp rise in aggressive attempts by other states to steal competitive advantage. This contest is particularly acute on emerging technologies; states which lead the way in areas like artificial intelligence, quantum computing and synthetic biology will have the power to shape all our futures. We all need to be aware, and respond, before it's too late.

Read the full article [here](#).

NIST CALLS FOR INFORMATION TO SUPPORT SAFE, SECURE AND TRUSTWORTHY DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

National Institute of Standard and Technology Center | December 19, 2023

The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has issued a Request for Information (RFI) that will assist in the implementations of its responsibilities under the recent Executive Order on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The order directs NIST to develop guidelines for evaluation, red-teaming and more; facilitate development of consensus-based standards; and provide testing environments for the evaluation of AI systems. These guidelines and infrastructure will be a resource to help the AI community in the safe and trustworthy development and responsible use of AI. "President Biden has been clear — AI is the defining technology of our generation, and we have an obligation to harness the power of AI for good while protecting people from its risks.

Read the full article [here](#).

MOBILE HACKING, TYPES, INDICATORS & COUNTER MEASURES

Sarita Sangrez | LinkedIn | January 1, 2024

Mobile hacking refers to the unauthorized access, manipulation, or exploitation of mobile devices, applications, or networks. It involves various techniques and tactics to compromise the security of mobile devices, extract personal information, gain control over the device, or engage in malicious activities. As mobile devices have become an integral part of our daily lives, they store a vast amount of sensitive information, including personal photos, contacts, banking information, emails, and more. This makes them an attractive target for hackers who seek to exploit vulnerabilities and access this valuable data.

Read the full article [here](#).

REST, PREVENT, BUILD: A STRATEGY TO WIN AMERICA'S ECONOMIC COMPETITION WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

United States Congress | The Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between The United States and The Chinese Communist Party

For a generation, the United States bet that robust economic engagement would lead the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to open its economy and financial markets and in turn to liberalize its political system and abide by the rule of law. Those reforms did not occur. Since its accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001, the CCP has pursued a multidecade campaign of economic aggression against the United States and its allies in the name of strategically decoupling the People's Republic of China (PRC) from the global economy, making the PRC less dependent on the United States in critical sectors, while making the United States more dependent on the PRC. In response, the United States must now chart a new path that puts its national security, economic security, and values at the core of the U.S.-PRC relationship.

Read the full article [here](#).

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USEFUL RESOURCES

KNOW THE RISK: RAISE YOUR SHIELD

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center | June 20, 2023

Foreign intelligence entities, which may include foreign governments, corporations, and their proxies, are actively targeting information, assets, and technologies that are vital to both U.S. national security and our global competitiveness. Increasingly, U.S. companies are in the cross-hairs of these foreign intelligence entities, which are breaching private computer networks, pilfering American business secrets and innovation, and carrying out other illicit activities. The National Counterintelligence and Security Center is dedicated to raising awareness among government employees and private industry about these foreign intelligence threats, the risks they pose, and the defensive measures necessary for individuals and organizations to safeguard that which has been entrusted to their protection.

View the full resource [here](#).

ZERO-TRUST ARCHITECTURE

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center | April 7, 2023

Zero-Trust Architecture (ZTA) is a cybersecurity model based on the absence of implicit trust. Zero Trust assumes distrust among assets, accounts, individuals, or organizations despite physical or network proximities, shared locations, or common ownership. Zero Trust assumes breaches will occur or have already occurred. ZTA is a practice to defend against threats that exist both inside and outside of traditional network boundaries.

View the full resource [here](#).

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