



# GRYPHON GROWL

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## SIPR

[go.intelink.sgov.gov/CPI6RmN](https://go.intelink.sgov.gov/CPI6RmN)  
 Current Intelligence Brief (Monthly)

## JWICS

[go.intelink.ic.gov/3vKnmH3](https://go.intelink.ic.gov/3vKnmH3)  
 AFLCMC CC Intel Brief (Monthly)  
 Winged Warrior (Bi-Weekly)  
 CyREN (Bi-Weekly)

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 Your input helps improve and enhance our product.

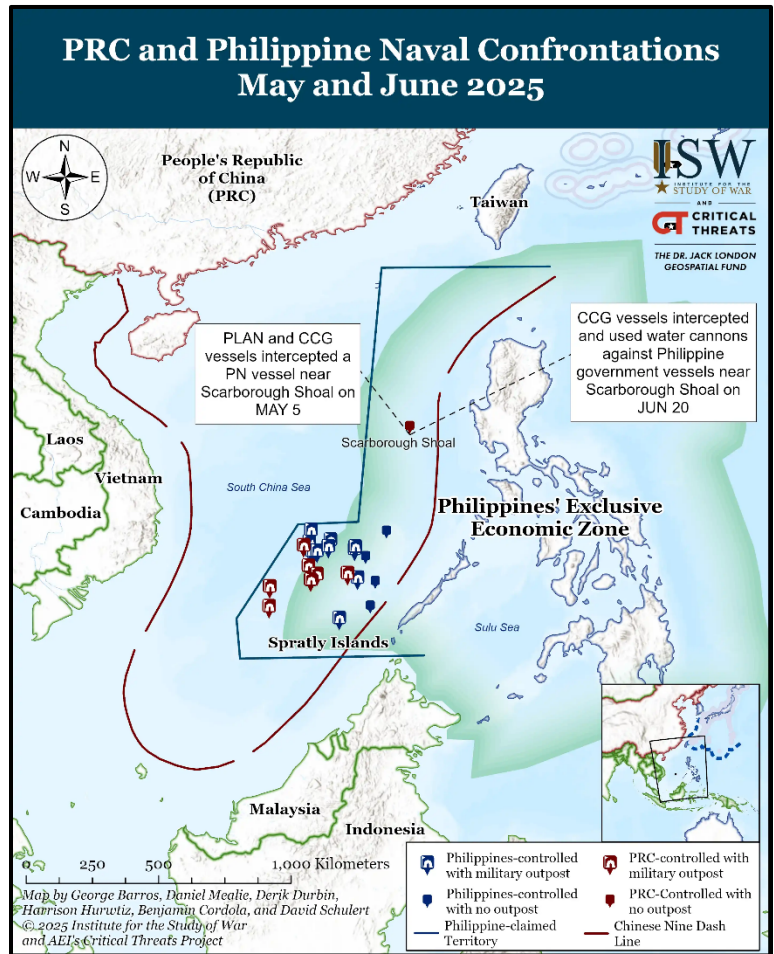
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# INDOPACOM

## ISW: CHINA-TAIWAN UPDATE

### Key Takeaways:

- **PRC:** The PRC condemned U.S. attacks on Iran but is unlikely to provide tangible support to Tehran. The PRC will likely closely observe U.S. military actions in Iran and the Trump administration's willingness to enter foreign conflicts.
- **Taiwan:** The ruling Democratic People's Party (DPP) could regain control of the legislature within four months. The opposition Kuomintang (KMT) has been overwhelmingly disfavored by the mass recall movement, possibly indicating that their popular support is declining.
- **Japan:** PRC state media criticized the United States-Japan-Philippines combined maritime law enforcement exercises for "hying up the China threat."
- **North Korea:** North Korea issued a belated response to the Israel-Iran conflict on 19 June and strongly condemned the United States and Israel for their airstrikes on Iran.
- **South Korea:** South Korean President Lee Jae-myung continued to signal a willingness for deeper engagement with North Korea through his selection of pro-engagement cabinet officials and official statements. Lee has not made any significant policy changes that would alter inter-Korean relations, however.
- **Southeast Asia:** China Coast Guard (CCG) vessels attempted to block a Philippine resupply mission on 20 June near Scarborough Shoal. CCG interference with such missions is a main feature of the PRC's attempt to occupy the shoal and force out the existing Philippine presence in the area.
- **Oceania:** CCP General Secretary Xi Jinping met with New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon following New Zealand's decision to cut funding to the Cook Islands over its deal with the PRC. PRC involvement in the Cook Islands expands its economic access to a Five Eyes partner state.
- **Russia:** Groups affiliated with the PRC are reportedly conducting a hacking campaign against Russian government entities and businesses to acquire Russian military secrets.



## **AP: CHINA PLANS TO SHOW OFF NEW EQUIPMENT AT PARADE MARKING 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF JAPAN'S WWII SURRENDER**

China is planning a large-scale military parade on 3 September to mark the 80th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II. President Xi Jinping, who also heads the military, will deliver a speech at the event

A key feature of the parade will be the unveiling of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) newest weaponry, including advanced hypersonic weapons and a range of electronic warfare systems. According to a senior PLA officer, the inclusion of these cutting-edge technologies demonstrates the PLA's ability to adapt to evolving warfare and its ambition to win future conflicts.

The PLA has been undergoing a significant modernization process, focusing on developing missiles, aircraft carriers, and advanced fighter aircraft. While the parade commemorates Japan's WWII defeat, much of China's military buildup is aimed at potential future scenarios, particularly the possible annexation of Taiwan, which China considers a breakaway province, and displacing the United States as the primary military power in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan invaded China in 1937, seizing much of eastern China. Most of the fighting against Japan was carried out by the Nationalists, who later withdrew to the island of Taiwan after being driven out of the mainland by the Communists.



## **AP: JAPAN CONDUCTS FIRST MISSILE TEST ON ITS OWN TERRITORY AS PART OF MILITARY BUILDUP TO DETER CHINA**



Japan conducted its first domestic missile test on 24 June, firing a Type 88 surface-to-ship missile at a target boat off the coast, firing a Type 88 surface-to-ship missile at a target boat off the coast of Hokkaido, marking a significant step in the country's efforts to bolster its military capabilities.

This move is largely driven by Japan's growing concerns over China's increasingly assertive naval activity in the region, as well as joint military exercises between China and Russia near Japanese territory. Due to past limitations in space and safety, Japan previously conducted missile tests in the U.S. and Australia. The successful test, however, drew protests from those who fear escalating tensions in Asia and the risk of Japan becoming involved in conflicts.

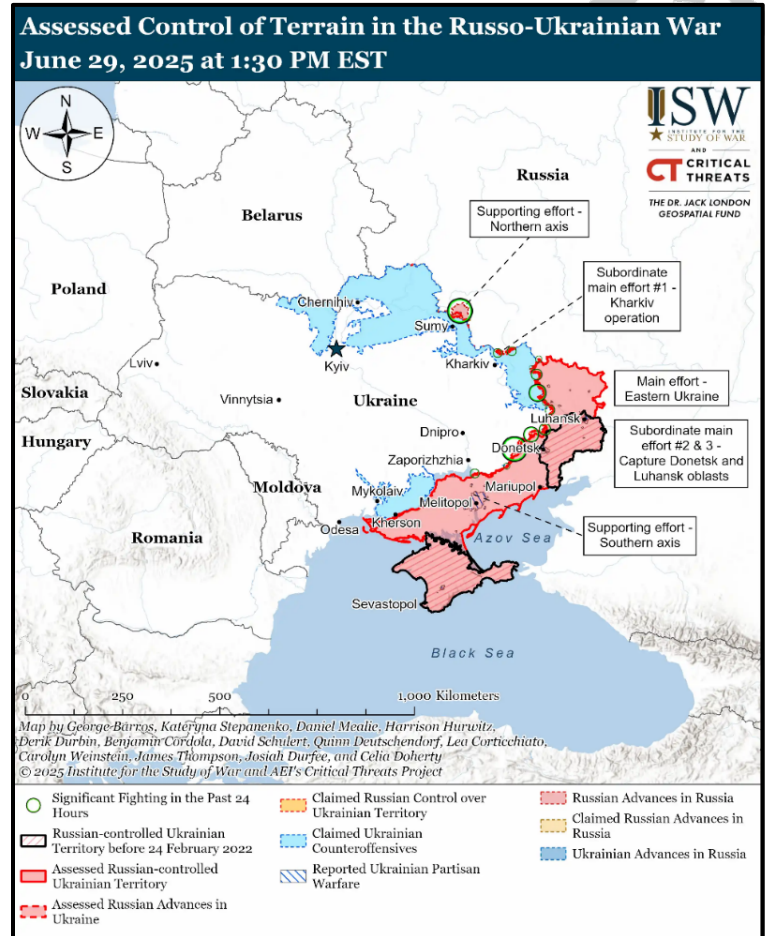
Japan's new five-year security strategy, adopted in 2022, identifies China as its biggest strategic challenge and calls for a closer Japan-U.S. alliance. As part of this shift, Japan is working to deploy long-range cruise missiles, including Tomahawks purchased from the U.S., and is also developing longer-range Type 12 surface-to-ship missiles. Furthermore, Japan is preparing to build a missile-firing range on Minamitorishima, its easternmost island in the western Pacific, an area where Chinese aircraft carriers have recently been observed operating together.



## ISW: RUSSIA-UKRAINE UPDATE

### Key Takeaways:

- Russia conducted its largest combined strike series of the war on the night of June 28 to 29 by launching over 500 missiles and drones against Ukraine.
- Russia appears to be increasingly striking civilian areas in its large-scale strike packages.
- Satellite imagery and Russian government announcements indicate that Russia is trying to increase its aircraft production in the medium- to long-term.
- Ukrainian forces advanced in northern Sumy Oblast and near Chasiv Yar.



## AP: DRONE DEBRIS FOUND IN UKRAINE INDICATES RUSSIA IS USING NEW TECHNOLOGY FROM IRAN

Ukrainian forces discovered a new, more advanced Russian attack drone that incorporates sophisticated Iranian technology, raising concerns about the evolving nature of the conflict.

The drone, recovered from the debris of a Russian assault, features an AI-powered computing platform, an advanced camera, a remote operation radio link, and new anti-jamming technology, suggesting a significant upgrade from previous models. Experts have noted the presence of English-language labels consistent with Iranian drone manufacturing, leading to speculation that Iran may be testing these advanced systems in combat through Russia.

While Russia has been improving its drone warfare tactics, including deploying decoys and thermobaric weapons, recent Israeli strikes on Iranian military facilities could disrupt the supply of critical drone components to Russia, such as engines and anti-jamming units. Despite international sanctions, both Russia and Iran have found ways to procure Western technology to enhance their drone capabilities. Russia's drone strike effectiveness in Ukraine has notably increased, particularly since March, coinciding with the introduction of advanced jammers, though the long-term sustainability of this success remains uncertain given potential disruptions to the supply chain.



## TWZ: M2 BRADLEY FIGHTING VEHICLE APPEARS IN RUSSIA WITH LOCALLY MADE 30MM CANNON



A captured M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV), originally supplied to Ukraine by the United States, has surfaced in Russia, sporting a significant modification: a Russian-made 30mm 2A72 cannon in place of its original Bushmaster M242 25mm automatic cannon.

The precise reason for this alteration remains speculative, with potential explanations ranging from operational battlefield deployment and testing of the modified vehicle for propaganda purposes and reverse engineering efforts.

Western ammunition compatible with the Bushmaster poses a logistical challenge. Replacing the Bushmaster with the 2A72, a weapon familiar to Russian forces and compatible with readily available ammunition, could address this issue, potentially enabling the captured vehicles to be deployed more effectively. The 2A72 boasts a higher rate of fire than the Bushmaster and is already in use on various Russian armored vehicles. Alternatively, the modification could be purely demonstrative, intended to showcase captured Western military hardware in parades or exhibitions. While the number of Bradley's captured is unlikely to warrant a large-scale re-arming program, the appearance of even one modified vehicle is a noteworthy development, illustrating Russia's interest in exploiting captured assets and potentially adapting them to their own operational needs.

## CENTCOM

### ISW: CENTCOM UPDATE – ISRAEL & IRAN ROLL UP

#### Key Takeaways:

#### June 23:

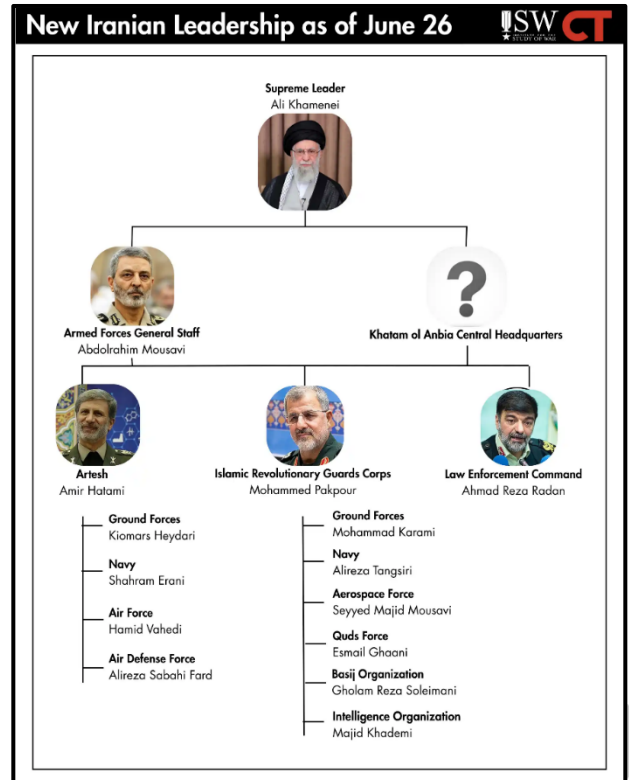
- Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Abbas Araghchi traveled to Moscow and met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on 23 June. The Kremlin condemned the U.S. strikes and issued veiled threats that are likely meant to stoke panic among Western audiences, including key decision makers.

#### June 24:

- U.S. and Israeli airstrikes on the Esfahan Nuclear Technology Center (ENTC) between 12 and 24 June reportedly destroyed components of Iran's nuclear program that would be necessary for weaponization. The strikes destroyed the Uranium Metal Conversion Plant at the ENTC, which Iran could have used to transform uranium gas into dense metal in a process called metallization. This process is one of the last steps required to form the explosive core of an atomic bomb.
- The IDF announced it thwarted a possible Iranian ceasefire violation on June 24 at 4:20 PM ET.

#### June 25:

- Iranian media reported that Iranian security forces arrested at least 700 Iranians on political or security charges since the start of the Israel-Iran War. The arrests include several individuals whom the regime characterized as "Mossad spies." CTP-ISW assessed that such arrests likely reflect Iranian recognition of the scale of Israeli infiltration and covert operations in Iran, which was revealed during Israel's opening attacks on Israel.





**June 26:**

- The United States and Iran will reportedly resume nuclear negotiations soon. Iran will likely reject any U.S. nuclear proposal that requires Iran to halt uranium enrichment on Iranian soil given that Iran has maintained its position on uranium enrichment from before the Israel-Iran War.
- International Atomic Energy Agency Director Rafael Grossi stated on 26 June that centrifuges at the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant (FFEP) are "no longer working" due to the U.S. and Israeli strikes on the site. Grossi stated that centrifuges are very "delicate" and that "even small vibrations can destroy them."

**June 27:**

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi said that Iran could resume uranium enrichment within "a matter of months." Grossi stated that Iran could have at most "a few cascades of centrifuges spinning and producing enriched uranium" within months. U.S. and Israeli strikes targeted centrifuge production facilities and active centrifuges, damaging and destroying thousands of centrifuges. The destruction of so many centrifuges will likely hamper Iran's ability to enrich uranium soon.
- The Iranian regime continued to take counterintelligence steps that likely reflect the regime's paranoia about Israeli infiltration. First Deputy of the Iranian Judiciary Hamzeh Khalili stated that the judiciary will pursue Israeli "spies" and called on Iranians to inform the authorities of any dangerous or suspicious activities.

**June 28:**

- Israeli strikes targeted senior Iranian military and security officials across multiple branches, likely to degrade Iran's command and control structure. Iranian media confirmed that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) killed 56 Artesh members, including at least three Artesh generals and 16 conscript soldiers.
- Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC)-affiliated media reported on 28 June that Israeli strikes killed Law Enforcement Command (LEC) Intelligence Organization Deputy Director Brigadier General Mehdi Nemati. Nemati reportedly fought alongside former IRGC Quds Force Commander Qassem Soleimani in Iraq and Syria for several years. Former moderate Iranian President Hassan Rouhani argued that Iran must restore deterrence and rebuild public trust with the Iranian people as part of a revitalized national strategy. Rouhani's call for restoring trust with the Iranian people follows a similar call by Iranian Supreme Leader Adviser Ali Shamkhani on 28 June. Rouhani's statement is also notable given recent reports that Rouhani may be attempting to use Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's absence to try to play a larger and more meaningful role in regime decision-making.
- Iranian Supreme Leader Adviser Ali Shamkhani called on regime officials to resolve "disputes" with the Iranian population through "mutual understanding" in an interview on 28 June.

**June 29:**

- Iran likely began to assess damage and conduct repair operations at the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant (FFEP). Commercially available satellite imagery captured on 28 and 29 June shows Iranian heavy equipment near two clusters of three impact points on ventilation shafts at Fordow that were caused by US GBU-57 bunker-buster bombs. A U.S. weapons expert assessed that Iran may be filling the craters and conducting engineering damage assessments and radiological sampling.
- Iranian Armed Forces General Staff-affiliated outlet Defa Press published an article expressing support for the purchase of Chinese fighter jets. Defa Press argued that the Iranian Artesh Air Force "needs to employ up-to-date fighter jets" so that the Artesh Air Force can defend Iranian airspace and confront Iran's adversaries "more effectively." The Israeli Air Force established air superiority over large parts of Iran during the Iran-Israel War, as CTP-ISW previously noted. Defa Press argued that Chinese fighter jets, particularly the Chengdu J-10, can play an "important role" in helping Iran defend its airspace and confront foreign adversaries.
- Iran held funerals on 29 June for several senior military commanders who were killed during the Israel-Iran War.



## **THEGUARDIAN: IRAN'S PARLIAMENT APPROVES BILL TO SUSPEND COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

On June 25th, Iran's parliament unanimously voted to suspend all cooperation with the IAEA, the UN's nuclear inspectorate, in response to the recent joint U.S. and Israeli bombings of its key nuclear facilities. This decision awaits final approval from the Guardian Council.

This action significantly hinders independent assessments of the damage inflicted on Iranian nuclear sites and makes it harder to track the location of highly enriched uranium. The move reflects Iran's desire to strengthen its negotiating position with the West after a period of intense attacks, though supported by European governments only with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

Despite some Iranian officials admitting to severe damage at the nuclear facilities, the parliament's defiance underscores an internal debate about the country's strategic vulnerabilities and the need for concessions. International reactions have been critical, with the IAEA expressing concern over its inability to monitor Iran's enriched uranium stockpile and Russia lamenting the diminished prospects for reviving nuclear deal talks. The possibility of Iran withdrawing from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) is also being discussed, potentially signaling a shift towards a nuclear deterrent strategy, although Iran may opt for strategic ambiguity to prevent further aggression. While the Iranian government portrays the situation as a defiant victory, critics warn against triumphalism and call for a focus on long-term stability and strategic depth.



## **CNN: IRAN'S DEFENSE MINISTER GOES TO CHINA ON FIRST REPORTED FOREIGN TRIP SINCE CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL**



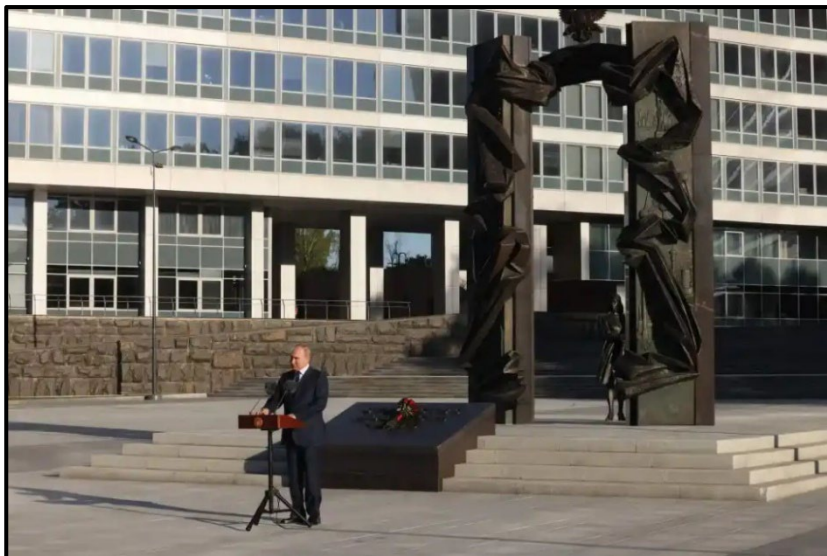
Iranian Defense Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh made his first reported international trip to China to attend a Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) defense ministers' meeting, following a recent conflict with Israel that briefly involved the U.S.

The gathering in Qingdao underscored China's growing influence as a global player and the significance of its relationship with Iran, a key diplomatic and economic ally. During the meeting, Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun subtly criticized the U.S. by promoting China's alternative vision for global security, condemning unilateralism and protectionism. Nasirzadeh expressed gratitude for China's support of Iran's position and sought its continued assistance in de-escalating regional tensions.

While China has condemned Israel's actions and the U.S. intervention, it has refrained from committing to military support for Iran, emphasizing its commitment to regional peace and stability through diplomatic efforts. The SCO, a security bloc led by China and Russia, aims to counter the U.S.-led alliance system, but internal frictions and conflicting interests among member states, including India and Pakistan, present challenges to its cohesion. The meeting also saw the first visit of an Indian defense chief to China since a deadly border clash in 2020, highlighting the complex dynamics within the SCO.



## CYBERCOM

**CYBERSCOOP: RUSSIAN HACKERS POSE AS STATE DEPARTMENT IN 'SOPHISTICATED' ATTACKS ON RESEARCHERS**

A sophisticated hacking attempt, believed to be the work of a Russian government-backed group (potentially APT29/Cozy Bear/ICECAP), targeted Keir Giles, a prominent researcher and Russian military expert, using a novel method to bypass multi-factor authentication.

The attackers employed convincing social engineering, impersonating the State Department with a realistic email and domain, to gain Giles' trust. This allowed them to trick him into creating and sharing an app-specific password (ASP), which granted access to his Google accounts. Google detected the compromise and locked the accounts. The attack, dubbed UNC6293 by Google, stands out for its patience and focus on individual targets, contrasting with typical attacks on larger organizations.

This highlights the evolving tactics of sophisticated hacking groups who are constantly seeking new vulnerabilities, such as ASPs, to exploit. While not a widespread phenomenon, the attack demonstrates the need for increased vigilance and awareness of these evolving threats, and Giles' transparency in sharing his experience serves as a valuable lesson for others.

**THEHACKERNEWS: U.S. HOUSE BANS WHATSAPP ON OFFICIAL DEVICES OVER SECURITY AND DATA PROTECTION ISSUES**

The U.S. House of Representatives has implemented a formal ban on congressional staff members using WhatsApp on government-issued devices, including mobile, desktop, and web browser versions, citing significant security risks.

The House Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) stated that this decision was driven by concerns over the app's lack of transparency in how it protects user data, the absence of stored data encryption, and other potential security vulnerabilities.

In response, WhatsApp has strongly refuted these concerns, emphasizing that messages sent on the platform are end-to-end encrypted by default, offering a higher level of security than many apps already approved by the CAO. Meta's Communication Director expressed disagreement with the CAO's characterization and highlighted the widespread use of WhatsApp by members and their staff, expressing hope that House members would eventually be able to use the app officially, mirroring the practice in the Senate.

The CAO's memo recommends alternative messaging apps like Microsoft Teams, Amazon's Wickr, Signal, and Apple's iMessage and FaceTime as acceptable options. This ban on WhatsApp is the latest in a series of restrictions imposed by the House, following similar prohibitions on TikTok, OpenAI ChatGPT, and DeepSeek. The decision comes as WhatsApp recently announced plans to introduce ads to monetize the platform, while also assuring users that these ads would be implemented without compromising user privacy.





# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



AFMFC A2: World Threat Brief CAO: 16 April 2024

<https://usaf.dps.mil/sites/22244/SitePages/Command-Intel-Threat-Brief.aspx>



**China Aerospace Studies Institute:** CASI supports the Secretary of the Air Force, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other senior leaders of the Air and Space Forces. CASI provides expert research and analysis supporting decision and policy makers in the Department of Defense and across the U.S. government.

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/>



**Research and Development Corporation (RAND):** RAND is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization that provides leaders with the information they need to make evidence-based decisions.

<https://www.rand.org/>



**Institute for the Study of War:** The Institute for the Study of War (ISW) is a non-partisan, non-profit, public policy research organization. ISW advances an informed understanding of military affairs through reliable research, trusted analysis, and innovative education.

<https://www.understandingwar.org/>



**Stockholm International Peace Research Institute:** SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. Established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.

<https://www.sipri.org/>



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<https://worldview.stratfor.com/>



**Defense Intelligence Agency Military Power Publications:** an intelligence agency and combat support agency of the United States Department of Defense, specializing in defense and military intelligence.

<https://www.dia.mil/Military-Power-Publications/>



**Perun:** An Australian covering the military industrial complex and national military investment strategy.

<https://www.youtube.com/@PerunAU>



**Task & Purpose:** Task & Purpose was founded in 2014 with a mission to inform, engage, entertain, and stand up for active-duty military members, veterans, and their families. The site quickly became one of the most trusted news and investigative journalism sources for the military, with its journalists reporting everywhere from the Pentagon to The White House and beyond.

<https://www.youtube.com/@Taskandpurpose>



**The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS):** is a bipartisan, nonprofit policy research organization dedicated to advancing practical ideas to address the world's greatest challenges.

<https://www.csis.org/>



**FRONTLINE** examines the rise of Xi Jinping, his vision for China and the global implications. Correspondent Martin Smith traces the defining moments for President Xi, how he's exercising power and his impact on China, and relations with the U.S. and the world.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/china-the-u-s-the-rise-of-xi-jinping/>