Dear Colleagues,

It’s my pleasure to send you the July 2021 edition of the ISP Brief, the monthly newsletter of the CSIS International Security Program. The ISP Brief features CSIS reports and analysis written by our scholars and includes externally published articles, media highlights such as video interviews and podcasts, and links to recent and upcoming virtual events.

I welcome your feedback on this newsletter and its contents at ispoutreach@csis.org. I also invite you to follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook for the very latest on ISP’s work.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Seth G. Jones
Senior Vice President
Harold Brown Chair
Director | International Security Program
Russia's Corporate Soldiers: The Global Expansion of Russia's Private Military Companies

The Transnational Threats Project's latest report examines Russia's growing use of private military companies (PMCs) to increase its influence through irregular means. Although Russian PMCs present only one of a variety of national security threats and challenges facing the United States, this report assesses that they warrant a more substantive and coordinated response from the United States and its partners. This report was composed by Dr. Seth G. Jones, Catrina Doxsee, Brian Katz, Eric McQueen, and Joe Moye.
The Real National Security Concerns over Data Localization

As the internet has grown to be an integral part of society, so too have the needs of citizens, companies, and governments to consider how and where data is stored and who has access to it. In their new brief, Erol Yayboke, Lindsey R. Sheppard, and Carolina G. Ramos focus on the real national security implications—which have received relatively little attention—of policies that mandate certain data be stored or processed within specific geographic boundaries.

READ HERE

How Beijing's Narrative of U.S. Decline Is Leading to Strategic Overconfidence

In CSIS' new Open Source Analysis Project, Dr. Seth G. Jones and Jude Blanchette examine Beijing’s view of American domestic politics. New translations show that the January 6th assault on the Capitol Building has contributed to Beijing’s view that the U.S. is experiencing a steady deterioration of its international influence.

READ HERE
Hiding and Finding: The Challenge of Security Competition

A key component of security competition between the United States and China and Russia will be the challenge of “hiding and finding”—of identifying the activities of adversaries in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and South Asia, not just East Asia and Europe, Dr. Seth G. Jones finds in his brief, "Hiding and Finding: The Challenge of Security Competition".
NEW BRIEF
When Biosecurity Is the Mission, the Bioeconomy Must Become Government’s Strategic Partner

In their latest brief, the Defense-Industrial Initiatives Group’s Andrew P. Hunter, Gregory Sanders, and Sevan Araz analyze how the government’s pandemic response has been enabled by the emerging bioeconomy. However, the government’s engagement with the bioeconomy remains insufficient to support the translation and integration of research and development (R&D) into the delivery of biosecurity capabilities.

Figure 3: Federal Contract Obligations for Bioeconomy R&D Services

Note: Builds on National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine category of Bioeconomy R&D Services. Classification assisted via Product or Service Codes.

Source: CSIS analysis; Federal Procurement Data Service via USAspending.gov Award Data Archive.
Examining Extremism: Allied Democratic Forces by Jared Thompson

Four Talking Points for Biden’s Address to the Intelligence Community by Emily Harding

Examining Extremism: Islamic State in the Greater Sahara by Jared Thompson

A Taliban Victory Is Not Inevitable: How to Prevent Catastrophe in a Post-American Afghanistan by Dr. Seth G. Jones

Covid-19 Response Update: July 9-July 16 by William Healzer, Adam Saxton, and Mark Cancian

Examining Extremism: Jama’at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin by Jared Thompson

The evolution of al-Qaida by Dr. Seth G. Jones

#Reviewing Twenty Years of Service by Tobias Switzer

Kaseya Ransomware Attack Demands Action to Match Rhetoric by Emily Harding, Riley McCabe, and James Lewis

The Pentagon Issues Order 66 to Terminate JEDI by Jake Harrington

U.S. Airstrikes in Syria and Iraq: Legal Authorities and Presidential War Powers by Adam Saxton

Examining Extremism: The Base by Grace Hwang

Stormy Waters Ahead For Amphibious Shipbuilding Plan by Mark Cancian

What the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act Gets Right (and What It Gets Wrong) by Jake Harrington and Riley McCabe

MULTIMEDIA
On July 27, Emily Harding analyzed President Biden's speech at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) on VOA News.

Rose Butchart joined Government Matters where she discussed why government must expand its work with bioeconomy.

Suzanne Spaulding joined an episode of Government Matters where she discussed the top cybersecurity stories of the week.

Mark Cancian spoke at the Atlantic Council's event on modern mobilization, where he discussed defense-industrial preparedness for great-power conflict.
Dr. Seth G. Jones joined CNN's The Lead with Jake Tapper to discuss the recent Chinese cyber hacks.

Dr. Tom Karako spoke on the Arms Control Wonk podcast where he discussed giving U.S. weapons systems respectable names.

Kaitlyn Johnson discussed Russia and China's investments in the Space Race on Government Matters.

CSIS Missile Defense Project and Los Alamos' recent TTX was featured in the latest edition of the National Security Science Journal.

Suzanne Spaulding joined Government Matters and discussed Russia and China's investments in the Space Race.

Research from the CSIS Missile Defense Project was featured in RUSI's Occasional Paper on the future of NATO's air and missile defense.
Matters where she discussed civics as a national security imperative.

Emily Harding discussed NATO's response to recent Chinese cyber activity and how establishing international norms is an important first step on MSNBC.

Mark Cancian spoke about Navy leadership on James Rosen TV.

Erol Yayboke joined an episode of CSIS Pandemic Planet with Katherine E. Bliss and Jacob Kurtzer where they discussed Covid-19 in fragile and conflict-affected areas.

Kaitlyn Johnson spoke on an episode of America's Choice, where she discussed U.S. space policy.

Mark Cancian was on an episode of Federal Drive with Tom Temin, where he discussed the Senate Armed Services Committee's version of a defense policy bill for 2022.

Jake Harrington discussed domestic terrorism on BYU Radio.
Mark Cancian was on All Marine Radio where he discussed how the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps fared in the Biden FY2022 Budget.

ISP PODCASTS

Future Strategy Forum: Emerging Technologies and Nuclear Weapons
Featuring: Beverly Kirk and Rose Gottemoeller

Listen on Spotify.

Hypersonic Renaissance
Featuring: Erin Kocourek

Listen on Apple and Spotify.
Remote Sensing and Sensibility
Featuring: Kari Bingen and Dr. Mariel Borowitz
Listen on Apple and Spotify.

Sensor Wars: The Quantum Menace
Featuring: Dr. Robert (Bob) Wyllie and Sarah Jacobs
Listen on Apple and Spotify.

Featuring: Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)
Hosted by: Nina Easton
Tuesday, August 10, 2021
11:30 am - 12:15 pm ET
REGISTER

The Future of Missile Defense
A CSIS Executive Education Course
Featuring: Dr. Tom Karako, Ian Williams, Todd Harrison, Mark Cancian, Brig Gen Kenneth Toddow, Maj...
October 18-20, 2021
Registration Deadline: September 17, 2021
While speaking about China's space capabilities, Todd Harrison told Defense One, "They are not as experienced a space power and they have a different risk calculus," on July 9, 2021.

On July 9, 2021, Dr. Seth G. Jones told CNN, "The Afghans haven't gotten the message. They see essentially abandonment. That has a lot of consequences if we see fragmentation [of Afghan security forces]."
“You’re seeing the proliferation of lots of drones that can fly low and slow to harass, provoke, or cause connect damage to various things. We used to say that ballistic missiles were the ‘poor man’s Air Force’ back in the 1990s, but what we’re seeing today is that UAVs are the poor man’s cruise missiles—and the line between cruise missiles and UAVs is increasingly blurred,” said Dr. Tom Karako to The Dispatch.

The ISP Brief is composed by the International Security Program’s Outreach team: Beverly Kirk, Alexis Day, and Katherine Gilyard. We welcome your ideas at ispoutreach@csis.org.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, nonprofit organization founded in 1962 and headquartered in Washington, D.C. It seeks to advance global security and prosperity by providing strategic insights and policy solutions to decisionmakers.