



# NEED TO KNOW

Need to Know is an unclassified open-source, multi-platform media collation, produced by CSIS **Academic Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement**, on issues considered relevant to Canada's broad national security interests. The objective is to highlight and share a diverse array of perspectives on Canadian and global security matters, with a focus on emerging developments and sources of expertise across disciplines. Inclusion of a document, source, expert or event does not constitute endorsement by, or affiliation with, CSIS.

7 April 2022

## Weapons of War – Proliferation and Use

**Dual use of artificial-intelligence-powered drug discovery**, Invited to a conference on the possible security implications of advances in chemical and biological fields the company Collaborations Pharmaceuticals looked at how AI technologies developed for drug discovery could be misused. This article summarizes their findings, described as a 'wake-up call' for those in the drug discovery community. The authors describe how AI was able to design virtual potentially-toxic molecules with little time or effort. The authors published their findings to initiate dialogue across disciplines about the dual use nature of these technologies noting they can delete the thousands of molecules, but not the knowledge of how they were created, *Nature*. Read [here](#).



**Comment l'Iran a intégré les Houthis dans ses chaînes mondiales de prolifération**, This article examines Iranian support for the Houthis in Yemen, coming in the form of ballistic missiles and drones, and providing another proliferation procurement avenue for the Iranian regime. The author describes the approach and methods of integrating the Houthis into Iran's proliferation network and the implications for regional balance of power and circumvention of sanctions, *Le Rubicon*. Read [here](#) [in French].



### PODCASTS OF NOTE

#### Breaking Hezbollah's Golden Rule

This podcast series aims to 'shine a bright light' on terrorist and criminal activities of Hezbollah.

[▶ LISTEN HERE](#)

#### CSCC Podcasts

This series from the Center for the Study of Contemporary China features in-depth conversations on Chinese politics, economics, law, and society.

[▶ LISTEN HERE](#)

#### extremely

This episode features a discussion with Lisa Kaplan, founder of the Alethea Group, which detects and mitigates disinformation and social media manipulation.

[▶ LISTEN HERE](#)



**Using Social Media to Extract Information About Chemical Weapons Incidents**, This report describes a project to develop an approach for analyzing social media data to derive insights about chemical incidents and a proof of concept application of that approach to the case of chemical weapons use in Syria between 2017 and 2018. They found that social media can provide low-latency, ‘warfighter-relevant’ insights, and that the blend of automated and human analytics is more effective than either on its own, *RAND*. Read [here](#).

**Blundering into a nuclear war in Ukraine: a hypothetical scenario**, The author suggest Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is a prime example of a regional conflict that could inadvertently escalate into devastating conflict, including nuclear war. The experts at the Nuclear Threat Initiative outline here one scenario for the current conflict leading to global catastrophic nuclear war. *Spoiler alert* – it doesn’t end well, *Nuclear Threat Initiative*. Read [here](#).

## Disinformation and Bio-Weapons – A Toxic Cocktail

**Programme biologique militaire en Ukraine, histoire d’une désinformation russe**, The authors analyze longstanding Russian disinformation about the existence of a biological weapons program in Ukraine and the dangerous and distorting implications of amping up that campaign in the context of the current conflict. The authors note that despite the recurring nature of these accusations Russia has never sought to invoke relevant articles of the Biological Weapons Convention (Articles V and VI). The authors highlight risks to global arms control, and the BWC in particular, in light of the current situation, *Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique*. Read [here](#) [in French].

**Articles analyzing Russia’s long history of fabrications about biological weapons and Russia’s own BW history**, *The Nonproliferation Review* has collated a number of articles published in the journal over the years on this topic. Read [here](#).

**See also:** Resources on Disinformation and Ukraine include: **How to Prevent the Spread of Disinformation about Russia’s War on Ukraine: A Tip Sheet** from *PEN America* [here](#), **Research and Resources on the Russian Invasion of Ukraine** from *Shorenstein Center* [here](#), and **Ukraine Conflict Resource Hub** from *EU Disinfo Lab* [here](#).

## UPCOMING ONLINE EVENTS

12 April 2022	<b>Lab to Impact: Scientists and Entrepreneurs Building Deep Tech Ventures</b> Harvard Belfer Center (US) Register <a href="#">here</a> .
13 April 2022	<b>The Tech That Comes Next (Book Talk)</b> New America (US) Register <a href="#">here</a>
5-7 May 2022	<b>Global Congress on Artificial Intelligence</b> Time World at Université de Montréal Register <a href="#">here</a> .
17 May 2022	<b>Your Computer is On Fire- How do we dismantle systems of oppression in technology?</b> Gender & the Economy, Rotman School Register <a href="#">here</a> .



### DIVERSIONS

Interested in learning from or citing masters of deception? Check out this comprehensive catalogue of deception quotations from Camus to Kasparov to Kierkegaard created by the author of *Deception by Design*. See [here](#).

**Feedback? Please email**  
[AO-LR@smtp.gc.ca](mailto:AO-LR@smtp.gc.ca)