



February 2025



**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.

Need to Know: February 2025 Issue

Preserving Canada's Connected Battlespace Ambitions – In this article, the author examines the challenges and opportunities for Canada in maintaining its integrated military network capabilities. The author stresses the need for strategic investments and collaboration with the private sector. The piece underscores the critical role of a connected battlespace in national security, urging policymakers to prioritize these advancements, *Canadian Global Affairs Institute*. Read [the article](#).

Experts react: Everything you need to know about the Israel-Hamas ceasefire and hostage deal – In this article, experts provide insights into the recent agreement between Israel and Hamas, which includes a temporary ceasefire. The piece argues that while the ceasefire offers immediate relief to civilians, particularly in Gaza, it does not address underlying issues or clarify a path to reconstruction or political resolution. The article underscores the complexities of the ceasefire, suggesting that without a broader political strategy, the deal might fail to provide a long-term solution to the conflict, *Atlantic Council*. Read [the article](#).

Looking Back: A Review of the Pacific in 2024 – This article examines the significant geopolitical developments in the Pacific Islands during 2024. It highlights the region's strategic importance due to critical shipping lanes, abundant maritime resources, and its role in connecting the United States with global allies. The piece discusses the intensified efforts by the United States and its allies to counter China's growing influence. The article suggests that strategic influence in the Pacific remains contested, emphasizing the need for the U.S. and its allies to reassess their Pacific strategies to safeguard national security interests, *Center for Strategic and International Studies*. Read [the article](#).

Podcasts of Note



International Security Podcast

This episode of the Belfor Center for Science International Affairs' *International Security* podcast explores an important question that has shaped our world: do autocrats need a foreign enemy?



The Global Security Briefing

The Global Security Briefing podcast offers a New Year Special with experts weighing in on security challenges past, and those we should expect in the coming months. From the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI).



National Security Podcast

From the Australian National University's *National Security* podcast comes a discussion on mis/disinformation and what it takes to identify false information online.



NEED TO KNOW

Will the Shake-up in Syria Undermine the Fight Against ISIS? – This brief examines the potential impact of Syria’s recent political upheaval on counterterrorism efforts. It highlights concerns that the fall of Bashar al-Assad’s regime could create a power vacuum, potentially allowing ISIS to regroup and strengthen. The piece emphasizes the importance of continued U.S. and Western collaboration with Kurdish forces to prevent an ISIS resurgence, despite the challenges posed by Türkiye’s opposition to Kurdish autonomy, *Council on Foreign Relations*. Read [the article](#).

How do China and America think about the energy transition? – In this research report, the authors explore the distinct energy systems and strategies of China and the United States in their shift towards clean energy. The piece highlights China’s dominance in green technology manufacturing, such as wind turbines, solar panels, and electric vehicles. In contrast, the United States focuses on deploying clean energy technologies and reducing dependence on Chinese imports, aiming to develop its own green supply chains. The analysis underscores the importance of cooperation between the two nations to achieve global climate goals, despite their differing approaches and geopolitical competition, *Brookings Institution*. Read [the article](#).

See also: Cyber Defence Cooperation to Deter North Korea, *Canadian Global Affairs Institute*, read [the article](#). **10 Conflicts to Watch in 2025**, *International Crisis Group*, read [the commentary](#).

Upcoming Events



Canada First, Not Canada Alone: The Past, Present, and Future of Canadian Foreign Policy

Centre for International Policy Studies

Event in Ottawa, Ontario [online available]

Click [here](#) for more information.

5 February, 2025
15:30 – 17:00 EST

Intent to Destroy: Russia’s Two-Hundred-Year Quest to Dominate Ukraine

Munk School of Global Affairs

Event in Toronto, Ontario [online available]

Click [here](#) for more information.

28 February, 2025
17:00 – 20:00 EST

93rd Ottawa Conference on Security and Defence

CDA Institute

Event in Ottawa, Ontario

Click [here](#) for more information.

5-6 March, 2025

Global Prosperity Forum

Atlantic Council

Event in Washington, D.C.

Click [here](#) for more information.

19 March, 2025

Diversions



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