

This briefing was developed for **The Blue Book Project**, lead by the Commonwealth of Virginia, support by CNA, and funded through a FEMA regional catastrophic planning grant.

Blue Book Project Goal: Develop a coordinated operational process to support local, state, federal, and private sector priorities; support Virginia residents; and ensure continuity of government while managing consequences from a coordinated nation-state cyberattack on critical lifeline services.



PRC threats to US critical infrastructure



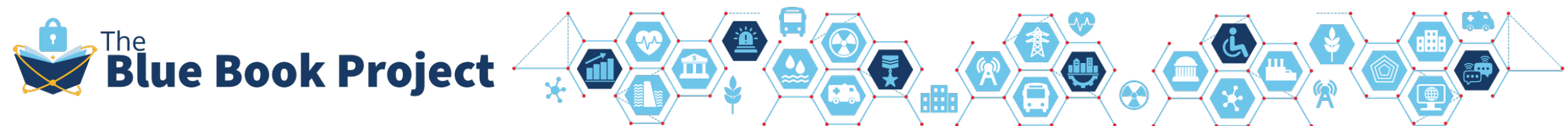
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Continuous MDM threat:

- The PRC is engaged in an ongoing global campaign to shape the information environment in its favor
- Driven by the assessment that the US/West is engaged in “public opinion warfare” with the PRC
- Would likely seek to exacerbate the impact of a cyberattack on US critical infrastructure (by the PRC or another threat actor)

Contingency-related cyber threat:

- The PRC is preparing for a potential conflict with the US over Taiwan
- Evidence suggests that PRC would likely seek to launch cyberattacks against US critical infrastructure in the run up to or during invasion of Taiwan



PRC capabilities and actors



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Propaganda/MDM

- Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has an extensive propaganda apparatus and well-developed playbook
- Directs a massive state-run PRC media complex with global footprint
 - Xinhua, CGTN, China Daily, Global Times, CRI
- Augmented by foreign media outlets, journalists, and influencers

Cyber

- Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC)
 - Ministry of State Security (MSS) (HAFNIUM, APT 31)
 - Ministry of Public Security (MPS) (I-Soon)
 - Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT)
- Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) (organization is evolving)
 - Strategic Support Force/Cyber Force/Information Support Force



British vlogger reveals truth about Xinjiang's 'concentration camps'
33K views · 2 years ago
CGTN
Jason Lightfoot is a British video vlogger who's been in China for 10 years. In his latest video, he sar



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PRC lines of effort in the public opinion war



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1. Generating pro-PRC multimedia content that is accessible, compelling, and appears credible

2. Amplifying the spread of pro-PRC content and maximizing channels for distributing it

3. Influencing local media to suppress criticism and promote China-friendly narratives

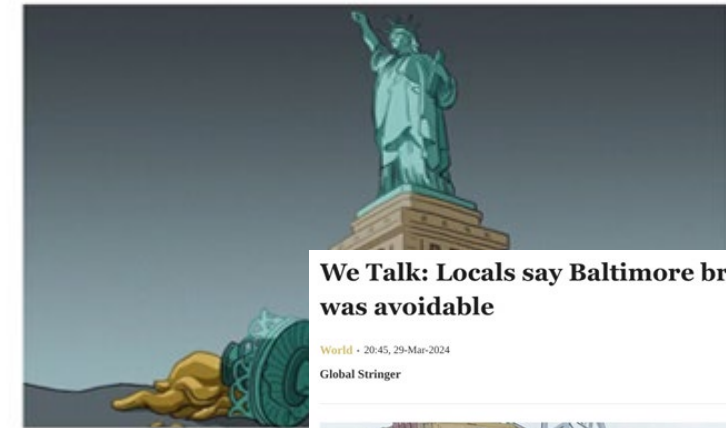
4. Using entertainment as a means of promoting Beijing's narratives

OPINION / OBSERVER

Slow rescue of Miami condo collapse shows 'beacon of human rights' is falling

By Lin Lan

Published: Jan 29, 2022 09:03 PM



We Talk: Locals say Baltimore bridge collapse was avoidable

World • 20:45, 29-Mar-2024

Global Stringer

Degradation in the Western system Illustration: Lin Lan



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Examples of PRC MDM operations

Disinformation campaign about origins of COVID-19

- PRC officials/media spread false narrative to deflect blame and undermine US credibility

PRC agents launched fake text message campaign threatening national COVID-19 lockdown

- Experimental attempt to cause social disruption
- Tactics continue to evolve...



Examples of PRC cyber/MDM operations



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Volt Typhoon

- Used "KV Botnet" malware to hijack privately-owned SOHO routers
- Gained access to US communications, energy, transportation, and water infrastructure

"The PRC has made it clear that it considers every sector that makes our society run as fair game in its bid to dominate on the world stage, and that its plan is to land low blows against civilian infrastructure to try to induce panic and break America's will to resist."
~FBI Director Christopher Wray



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Feel Free to email us with questions
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