



# Office of Research Security Newsletter

March 2025

*From the Desk of Denise Spiller, Director*

## *Office of Research Security*

ORS has received notification from Defense Counterintelligence & Security Agency (DCSA) that they will be conducting a security review on campus May 13-14, 2025.

The security review will include an evaluation of UAH facility's internal security procedures at the working level and interviews with your employees to determine their knowledge of security procedures and responsibilities. As much as possible, I would appreciate you having key staff available for interviews during the review. April may contact you to schedule a time for your interview with the review team.

The DCSA provides the cleared community with a better understanding of the threats facing the cleared defense industrial base, the "**2024 Targeting U.S. Technologies Report**" outlines the depth and breadth of the most virulent collectors targeting U.S. technologies.

[2024 Targeting U.S. Technologies Report](#)

ORS has some great news Riley Stark (Student Assistant), has accepted a part time job in ORS she has been promoted to a Security Assistant!! Please Congratulate her when you stop by ORS.

## China builds space alliances in Africa as Trump cuts foreign aid

By Joey Roulette, Eduardo Baptista, Sarah El Safty and Joe Brock

China has forged nearly two-dozen pacts with African nations in its bid to surpass the U.S. in space. Investments in satellites and infrastructure are winning friends – and giving China more eyes on the skies – as America slashes help for developing countries.

On the outskirts of Cairo, a cutting-edge space lab was supposed to be the first in Africa to produce homegrown satellites. Step inside the plant, though, and the made-in-Africa image begins to fade. Satellite equipment and parts arrive in crates from Beijing. Chinese scientists scan space-tracking monitors and deliver instructions to Egyptian engineers. A Chinese flag hangs from one wall. The first satellite assembled at the factory, hailed as the first ever made by an African nation, was built mainly in China and launched from a spaceport there in December 2023.

The Egyptian satellite lab is the latest advancement in China's secretive overseas space program. Beijing is building space alliances in Africa to enhance its global surveillance network and advance its bid to become the world's dominant space power, Reuters has learned. China has publicly announced much of this space assistance to African countries, including its donations of satellites, space monitoring telescopes and ground stations. What it hasn't discussed openly, and which Reuters is reporting for the first time, is that Beijing has access to data and images collected from this space technology, and that Chinese personnel maintain a long-term presence in facilities it builds in Africa.

The satellite plant, which began operating in 2023, is part of a suite of space technology that China has gifted to Egypt over the past two years. Transfers that have been disclosed publicly include a new space monitoring center, which features two of the world's most powerful telescopes, plus two Earth observation satellites launched in 2023 – the one that was assembled in Egypt, and another manufactured solely in China. In addition, China that year launched a third, Chinese-made satellite for Egypt, one capable of military-grade surveillance, according to two people with knowledge of the matter.

To read the full article, use the link below: [China builds space alliances in Africa as Trump cuts foreign aid](#)



## Spy becomes cybercriminal in curious ransomware incident

By Paulina Okunytė

A China-linked espionage actor may be moonlighting as a ransomware attacker, raising questions about their motives.

A recent cyberattack has raised questions about the intersection of espionage and cybercrime after tools typically associated with China-based intelligence operations were used in a ransomware attack. In late 2024, an unknown attacker deployed a distinct toolset – previously linked to Chinese espionage groups – against a software and services company in South Asia.

While such tools, often used in espionage attacks, are shared among threat actors, many are not publicly available and have historically been used for covert intelligence-gathering rather than financial extortion.

To read the full article, use the link below: [Spy becomes cybercriminal in curious ransomware incident](#)



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