BABELSTREET

Using Babel Street to Improve Global Situational Awareness

Predicting the movements of adversaries on the battlefield. Identifying terrorist threats. Tracking the source of malware to be used in cyberattacks against the government. These capabilities are all made possible by situational awareness — or the understanding of individual elements of an environment, how they interact, and how they change over time.

Global situational awareness technologies can provide a common view of high-stakes, rapidly developing situations. This insight improves decision making at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels. But it can only be obtained through a near real-time view of unfolding events.

Gleaning insight from open-source intelligence

Open-source intelligence (OSINT) or intelligence gleaned from analyzing publicly and commercially available information (PAI/CAI), can help government agencies improve situational awareness. Babel Street Insights searches a vast array of global and regional sources of PAI and CAI. These data sources include everything from news sources to public records, social media platforms, dark web forums, and more. Insights understands information published in more than 200 languages (including Russian, Arabic, and Mandarin) and instantly translates it into the user's language of choice.

Babel Street's Elite Regional Access data augments Insights with a continuous stream of information from hard-to-reach locations around the globe, collected via a hardened, secure infrastructure. This infrastructure enables users to confidently and anonymously search and analyze meticulously compiled and validated data from the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and other regions.

Babel Street capabilities can help defense, security, intelligence, and other government agencies:

- **Monitor conflicts in near real-time** — PAI searches can help government agencies track troop movements, weapon launches, and other wartime incursions. Social media monitoring can provide similar insight — civilians often post images and videos of military vehicles, troop movements, and wartime damage.

- **Protect troops stationed abroad** — Monitoring social media chatter near military bases can help protect personnel from protests and provide early warning of an impending attack. Mapping social media relationships can help illuminate organized networks that may be planning terrorist actions.

- **Anticipate social unrest** — By monitoring posts and hashtag spikes, Babel Street Insights can spot signs of potential uprisings and other unrest.

- **Uncover military infrastructure and readiness** — Searching business procurement data, shipping records, and other documents can help agencies track utilization of dual-use facilities and technologies, uncover testing sites, and estimate weapons-development timelines.

- **Identify potential cyber threats** — Our technologies scrape hacker forums and dark web sites for discussions of planned or potential cybercrimes arising from adversarial nations or antagonistic individuals.

Using Babel Street to enhance global situational awareness

Information gathering to support global situational awareness is as varied as the situations themselves, but generally starts with terms focused on locations, people, or entities.

Structure the search

In the case of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, an analyst seeking more information about a specific area of conflict could use search terms for the location (Kursk) and the term "drone" to specifically look at drone attacks.

Figure 1: An Insights search structured to find results on drone attacks mentioned during a specific period in Russian social media posts

The Babel Street Insights smart search function utilizes a robust ontology of key terms and detects word variations across languages. Filters help limit search results to the most relevant data, including date/time ranges and specific sources.
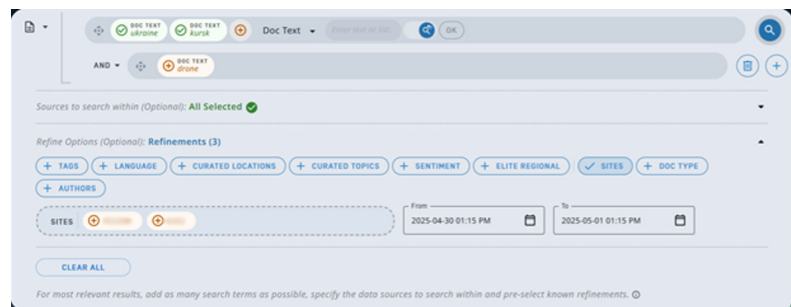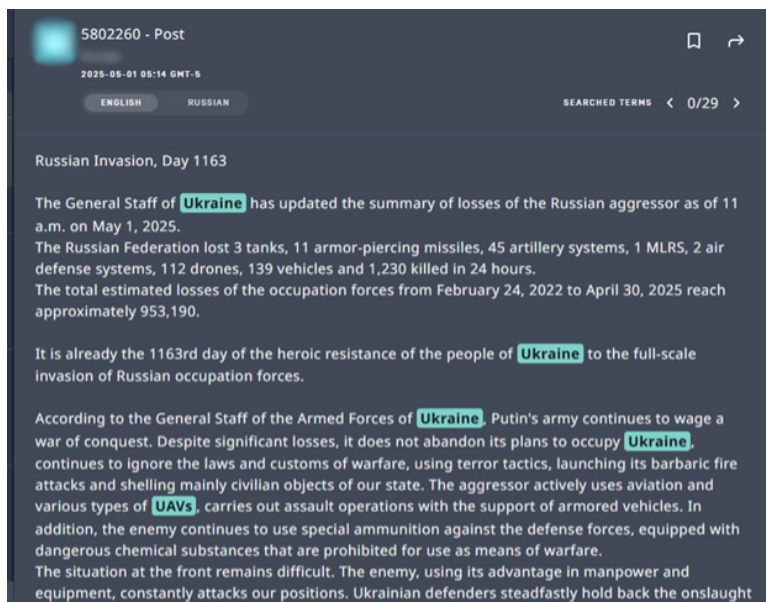

Figure 2: A post on Russian social media with key search terms highlighted

Organize and review results

Insights conveniently highlights the key terms used in the initial query, allowing users to quickly pinpoint the most relevant section of a document. Additional ways to filter results include organizing them by date, relevance, or author. The Overview tab allows users to see trends or patterns of reporting by identifying spikes around specific attacks or incidents.

Quickly glean insights and determine credible sources

Battlefield updates reported through social media provide critical insights for analysts monitoring conflict. These reports are obtained much faster than using traditional intelligence and may include anecdotal or amplifying information not obtained through other means.

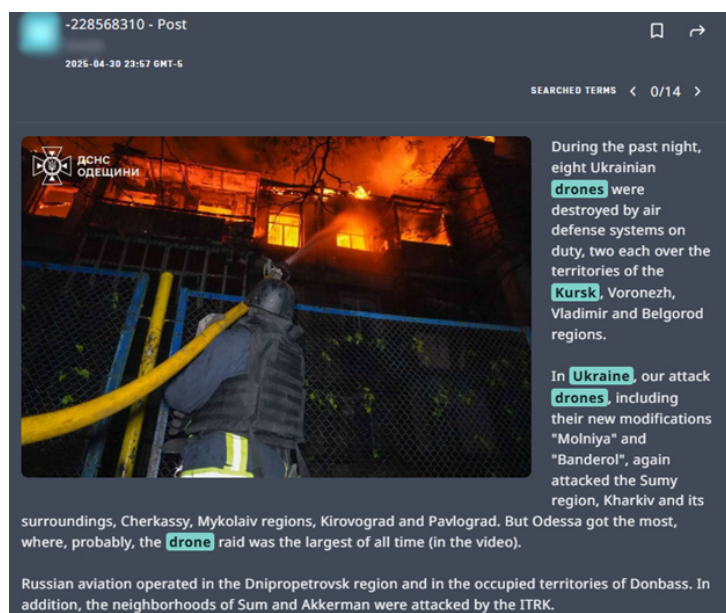*Figure 3: The Insights Overview tab illustrating spikes in the search terms*

Figure 4: Up-to-the-minute information can be obtained through social media monitoring

After looking at a conflict over time, analysts generally find social media accounts that report more credible information on a consistent basis. Once these accounts are identified, analysts can monitor these authors and further filter noise and misinformation. Analysts can set up instant or daily alerts to receive notifications when these reliable authors are posting.

Social media search and monitoring is just one aspect of Document Search within Babel Street Insights, but an important way to achieve global situational awareness.

Babel Street is the trusted technology partner for the world's most advanced identity intelligence and risk operations. The Babel Street Insights platform delivers advanced AI and data analytics solutions to close the Risk-Confidence Gap.

Babel Street provides unmatched, analysis-ready data regardless of language, proactive risk identification, 360-degree insights, high-speed automation, and seamless integration into existing systems. We empower government and commercial organizations to transform high-stakes identity and risk operations into a strategic advantage.

Learn more at **babelstreet.com.**

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