

Benjamin Cook

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SUMMARY

Subject Matter Expert (SME) in International Relations, with deep expertise in security studies, conflict analysis, and defense technology, including real-world research on the war in Ukraine. Experienced in open-source intelligence (OSINT), drone warfare, AI-enabled military systems, and strategic policy analysis. Skilled in working across academia, journalism, NGOs, and private sector consulting.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- International Security & Conflict Studies
 - Ukraine & Eastern Europe Geopolitics
 - OSINT Collection & Analysis
 - Defense Technology (C-UAS, EW, ISR)
 - AI & Emerging Military Technologies
 - Counter-UAS Curriculum Development
 - Intelligence Support & Consulting
 - Grant Writing & Nonprofit Operations
 - Strategic Communications & Policy Writing
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EDUCATION**M.A. International Security and Conflict Studies**

Dublin City University – School of Law & Government, Dublin, Ireland

B.A. Experimental Psychology

University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder / Lead Analyst — Researching Ukraine (Substack)

2019 – Present

- Created and operate a premium defense and security newsletter focused on Ukraine, Eastern Europe, and modern military technology.
- Produce in-depth analysis on AI targeting models, GNSS denial, electronic warfare, and fiber-optic UAVs based on both open-source intelligence and field expertise.
- Audience includes policymakers, defense professionals, journalists, and NGO staff.
- Frequently consulted by journalists and researchers for specialized insight.

Co-Founder — Ukraine Assistance Organization (UAO)

2022 – Present

- Co-founded nonprofit operating in southern Ukraine delivering healthcare and logistical aid in war-affected areas.
- Managed U.S.-based legal, financial, and administrative setup, partnership development, and donor engagement.
- Successfully secured major partnerships, including with BlueCheck Ukraine and international donors.

Subject Matter Expert — Counter-UAS & Defense Technology (Contract)

2024 – Present

- Serve as SME for Counter-UAS program development at accredited institutions.
- Build curriculum incorporating Ukraine battlefield data, border security case studies, domestic UAS threats, and law enforcement applications.
- Advise on electronic warfare, drone interdiction, and hybrid warfare tactics.

Contributor — OSINT & Defense Analysis

Ongoing

- Contributor to Tom Cooper's defense OSINT platform, providing research and analysis on battlefield developments, Ukrainian drone warfare, and evolving defense doctrines.
- Collaborate with journalists, academics, and intelligence professionals.

Consultant — International Security & NGO Operations

Ongoing

- Provide consulting support to NGOs, nonprofits, and defense industry clients seeking expertise on Ukraine, NATO, Russian hybrid warfare, and strategic military trends.
- Assist with grant applications, international partnerships, and strategic policy writing.

SELECTED PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS

- White Paper: *The Strategic Return on U.S. Investment in Ukraine*
- Special Research: *C-UAS Course Development with Real-Time Ukraine Data*
- Ongoing Substack Analysis: *AI, Machine Learning, and Edge Computing in Ukrainian UAV Deployment*
- Consulting input to multiple OSINT and defense journalism projects

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Data Science & Analytics (trained)
- Grant Writing & Donor Management
- International NGO Operations
- Defense Industry Market Analysis
- Public Speaking / Roundtable Briefings
- Working knowledge of Russian and Ukrainian

FIELD EXPERIENCE

- 15+ years direct Ukraine field experience, including multiple extended stays in Odesa and southern Ukraine during wartime operations.
- Direct engagement with humanitarian operations, open-source collection, and local defense industry analysis.

SECURITY & CLEARANCES

- Eligible for defense contracting roles (no active clearance; U.S. Citizen)