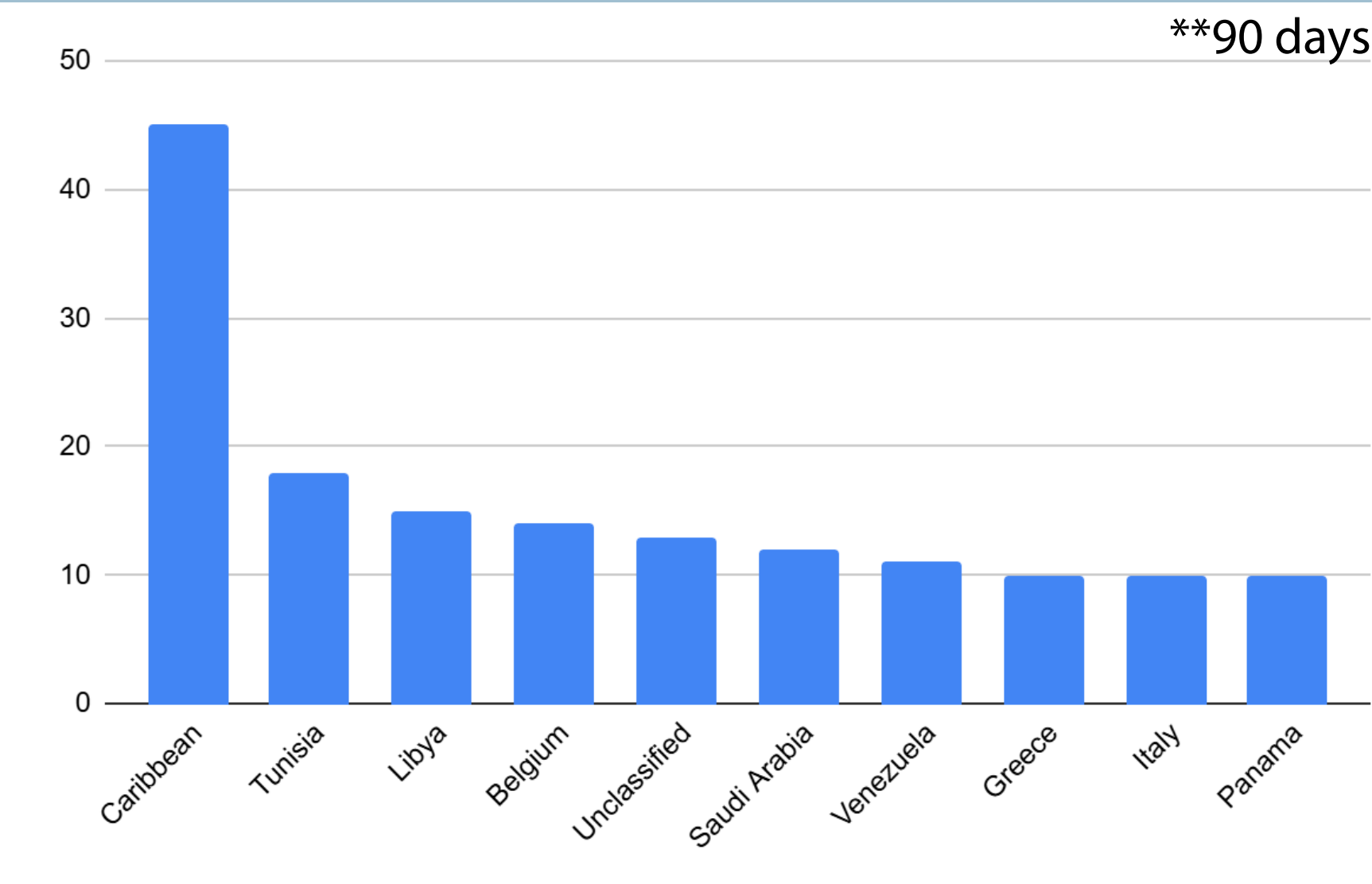
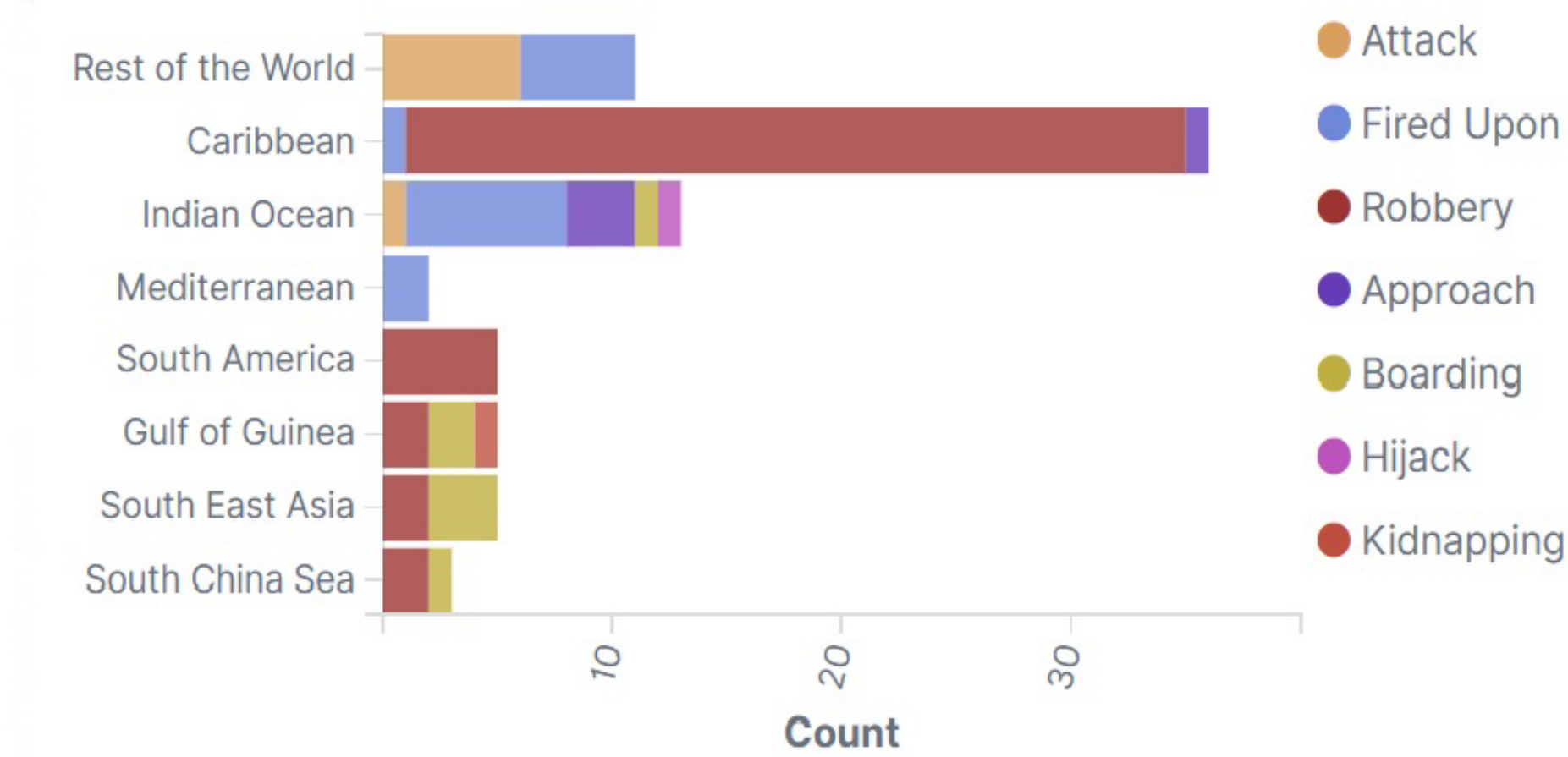


Cyber Security Abroad

- Too Many Secrets: Attackers Pounce on Sensitive Data Sprawl
- Ransomware Still Tops Maritime Cyber Riskz, Role-based Training a Priority
- Qilin ransomware escalates rapidly in 2025, targeting critical sectors with 700 attacks amid RansomHub shutdown

All Data - Incidents SignificantTag by Maritime Region

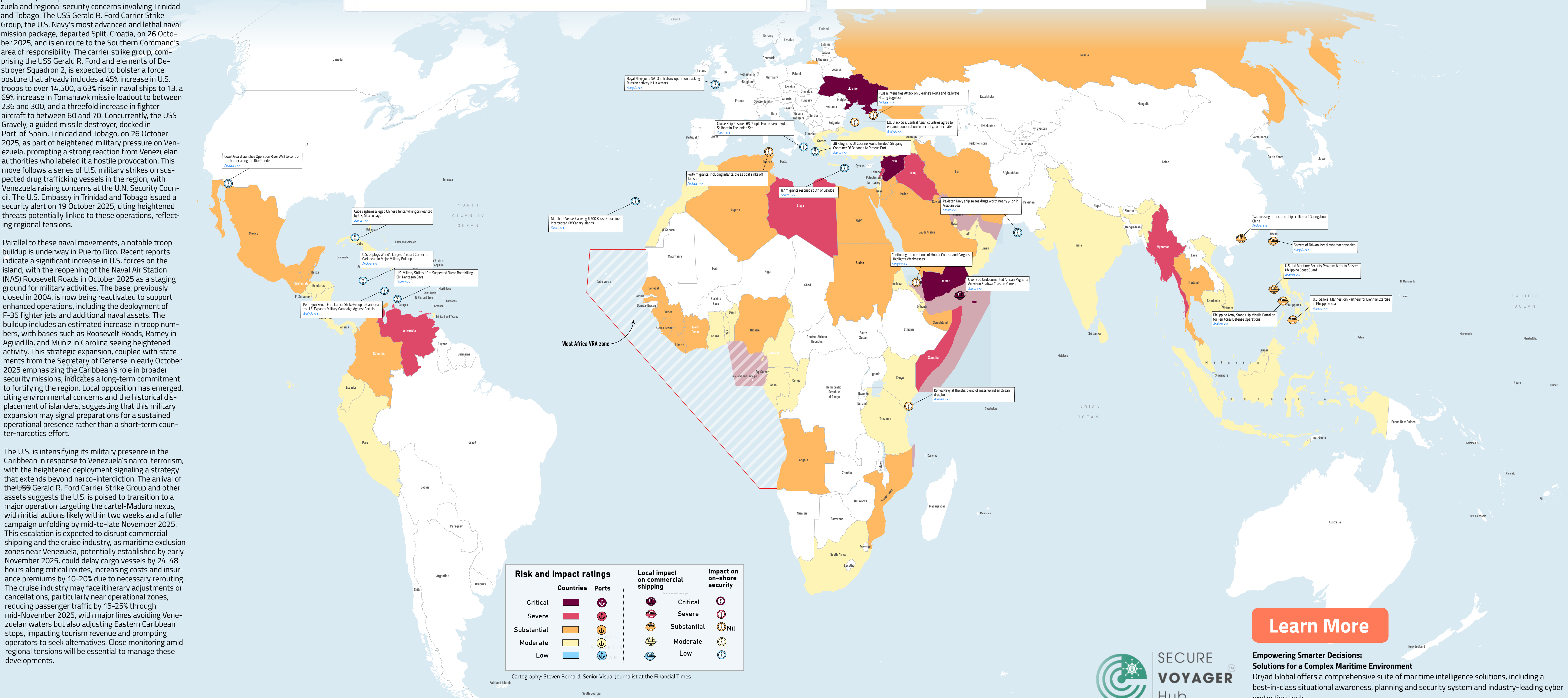


Military Activity in the Caribbean

Recent military developments in the Caribbean indicate a significant escalation of U.S. naval presence, particularly in response to activities linked to Venezuela and regional security concerns involving Trinidad and Tobago. The USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group, the U.S. Navy's most advanced and lethal naval mission package, departed Split, Croatia, on 26 October 2025, and is en route to the Southern Command's area of responsibility. The carrier strike group, comprising the USS Gerald R. Ford and elements of Destroyer Squadron 2, is expected to bolster a force posture that already includes a 45% increase in U.S. troops to over 14,500, a 63% rise in naval ships to 13, a 69% increase in Tomahawk missile loadout to between 236 and 300, and a threefold increase in fighter aircraft to between 60 and 70. Concurrently, the USS Gravelly, a guided missile destroyer, docked in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 26 October 2025, as part of heightened military pressure on Venezuela, prompting a strong reaction from Venezuelan authorities who labeled it a hostile provocation. This move follows a series of U.S. military strikes on suspected drug trafficking vessels in the region, with Venezuela raising concerns at the U.N. Security Council. The U.S. Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago issued a security alert on 19 October 2025, citing heightened threats potentially linked to these operations, reflecting regional tensions.

Parallel to these naval movements, a notable troop buildup is underway in Puerto Rico. Recent reports indicate a significant increase in U.S. forces on the island, with the reopening of the Naval Air Station (NAS) Roosevelt Roads in October 2025 as a staging ground for military activities. The base, previously closed in 2004, is now being reactivated to support enhanced operations, including the deployment of F-35 fighter jets and additional naval assets. The buildup includes an estimated increase in troop numbers, with bases such as Roosevelt Roads, Ramey in Aguadilla, and Muñiz in Carolina seeing heightened activity. This strategic expansion, coupled with statements from the Secretary of Defense in early October 2025 emphasizing the Caribbean's role in broader security missions, indicates a long-term commitment to fortifying the region. Local opposition has emerged, citing environmental concerns and the historical displacement of islanders, suggesting that this military expansion may signal preparations for a sustained operational presence rather than a short-term counter-narcotics effort.

The U.S. is intensifying its military presence in the Caribbean in response to Venezuela's narco-terrorism, with the heightened deployment signaling a strategy that extends beyond narco-interdiction. The arrival of the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group and other assets suggests the U.S. is poised to transition to a major operation targeting the cartel-Maduro nexus, with initial actions likely within two weeks and a fuller campaign unfolding by mid-to-late November 2025. This escalation is expected to disrupt commercial shipping and the cruise industry, as maritime exclusion zones near Venezuela, potentially established by early November 2025, could delay cargo vessels by 24-48 hours along critical routes, increasing costs and insurance premiums by 10-20% due to necessary rerouting. The cruise industry may face itinerary adjustments or cancellations, particularly near operational zones, reducing passenger traffic by 15-25% through mid-November 2025, with major lines avoiding Venezuelan waters but also adjusting Eastern Caribbean stops, impacting tourism revenue and prompting operators to seek alternatives. Close monitoring amid regional tensions will be essential to manage these developments.



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