

CYBER
THREAT
ANALYSIS

RUSSIA

Recorded Future®

By Insikt Group®

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Russian State-Sponsored Amplification of Bio Lab Disinformation Amid War in Ukraine

The following report reviews Russian state-sponsored and US domestic narratives of alleged US bioweapon development facilities in Ukraine, before and during Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine. This report will be of most interest to government groups, journalists, and industry professionals seeking an understanding of the historical precedent, and where, how, and why Russian influence networks target US-supported biological research facilities with false or misleading information. Research was conducted using the Recorded Future® Platform and other open sources.

Executive Summary

Insikt Group has identified a cohesive Russian state-sponsored disinformation effort attempting to undermine the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) bio laboratories based in Ukraine. These efforts revolve around the central narrative that Russian intelligence and military assets have located “proof” that Ukraine, under the direction of the United States, was developing various biological weapons for deployment in the Donbas region of Ukraine and in Russia, against ethnic Russian populations. It is almost certain these narratives are false and are yet another attempt to justify Russia's war in Ukraine.

Russian allegations of Ukrainian bioweapons development is a longstanding narrative spanning several decades, rather than a new pretext, that has been significantly amplified since the Russian government began its war against Ukraine. Unlike prior Russian government attempts at creating a pretext for the war, including Russian President Vladimir Putin's campaign to “denazify” Ukraine and allegations of genocide against ethnic Russians in the Donbas, a narrative of Ukraine developing bioweapons has likely been viewed in the Kremlin as more successful, resulting in near-constant coverage, especially among fringe media sources both Russian and Western. Given that the Russian government has dedicated resources to undermine CTR bio laboratories since the fall of the Soviet Union, these disinformation narratives have an established foundation of credulity among foreign and domestic audiences that subscribe to dangerous conspiracy theories, including those that believe in QAnon and various COVID-19 conspiracies. Traction among these sources has very likely encouraged the Russian government to further amplify this narrative through their influence ecosystem, thereby creating an amplification feedback loop.

Key Judgments

- The Russian government's influence ecosystem is very likely coordinating the spread of disinformation regarding US-supported biological research facilities in Ukraine, consistent with historical Russian influence operations.
- Historical examples of successful Russian influence efforts against US-funded biological laboratories have very likely laid a foundation of credulity regarding US involvement in these facilities and general misunderstandings about the origin of these programs and their current status.
- At the same time, US domestic actors, including those that subscribe to conspiracy theories involving QAnon, COVID-19, and the “deep state”, are also discussing and amplifying disinformation about Ukrainian biological research laboratories.
- Russian influence actors likely believe that they have identified a successful justification for its invasion of Ukraine based on coverage of the narrative in fringe sources and audiences that believe in notable dangerous conspiracy theories.
- It is almost certain that Russian influence actors will continue to promote negative bio laboratory narratives across all elements of the Russian influence network, based on perceived successes in reaching and influencing outside audiences thus far.
- Online discussions of Ukrainian bio laboratories surged only after Russia committed to a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. These mentions appeared sporadically in Russian-language sources but were nearly nonexistent among tracked English-language sources initially.
- There is no evidence provided by the Russian government indicating that Ukrainian bio laboratories were engaging in bioweapons research or development; rather, it is almost certain that these facilities are operating solely within the bounds of defensive medical research.

Background

At the height of the Soviet Union, Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR) states [stockpiled](#) the largest number of biological weapons in history, including the manufacturing of 20 tons of smallpox per year. When the Soviet Union fell and following the independence of several states under the former Soviet Bloc, the US Department of Defense (DoD) created and implemented the [Cooperative Threat Reduction \(CTR\) Program](#) (also known as the Nunn-Lugar CTR, named for US Senators Sam Nunn (D-GA) and Richard Lugar (R-IN)), within the DoD's Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA).

The program, created following the passage of the Soviet Threat Reduction Act of 1991, [sought](#) to “secure” and “dismantle” weapons of mass destruction (including biological weapons) and their associated infrastructure “in former Soviet Union states (and beyond)”. At the time, it was widely feared that remaining regimes such as Iran and North Korea would attempt to obtain these stockpiles and deploy them abroad amid the international power vacuum.

As part of these efforts, the CTR financially supported the modernization of several US-funded bio laboratories in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan under the Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) to secure Soviet-era bioweapon capabilities. Some of the BTRP's [initial successes include](#):

- The destruction of 12 tons of weaponized anthrax and 150 tons of anthrax weapons agents buried in pits on Vozrozhdeniye Island, Uzbekistan
- The dismantling of various bioweapon and pathogen production facilities in Kazakhstan and Georgia, respectively
- The creation of a destruction facility in [Shchuch'ye Oblast](#), Russia, which has been used to [dismantle](#) artillery munitions filled with nerve agents (more than 1.9 million munitions as of 2003)

As the global threat environment changed over the years, the BTRP further [extended](#) to partner with countries across the globe, including in Africa, Asia, and Europe, and has since largely transitioned into public health research, biological threat reduction, the study of infectious diseases, and medical countermeasure development.

Threat Analysis

Russian state-sponsored institutions have spread disinformation about CTR and BTRP laboratories throughout Russia's war against Ukraine. Russian state-sponsored covert and overt entities have attempted to undermine the CTR program and reshape perceptions that associated bio laboratories are an offensive US capability under the control of the DoD, potentially for deployment in Russian and other territories (including Iran and China).

The CTR program is, by most observations, a resounding [US foreign policy victory](#) and global security success in the post-Soviet geopolitical environment. The Russian government likely views CTR as a hostile actor operating within its regional and cultural spheres of influence, despite benefiting from the program itself, making regional bio laboratories an easy target for malign disinformation and propaganda.

Previous Russian Disinformation Campaign Examples Targeting Bio Laboratories

Such disinformation campaigns are not new and are part of a more historical Russian disinformation playbook. In [one such example](#), Operation Infektion, also known as Operation Denver by the East German Stasi in the 1980s, was an information operation intended to convince the international community that the US military developed HIV/AIDS at the DTRA bio lab research facility in Fort Detrick, Maryland. Intercepted Soviet KGB cables indicated that the narrative was intended to make the target audience believe that the bio laboratory-developed virus ultimately “spun out of control” and was released into the wild. In 1992, Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Director Yevgeny Primakov [admitted](#) that the Russian KGB was behind Operation Infektion. Former KGB General Oleg Kalugin [corroborated](#) these claims months later, telling Russian news outlet Moskovskaya Pravda: “[T]he AIDS disinformation campaign was dreamed up in the ‘A’ [American] Directorate of the Soviet Union KGB's First Chief Directorate”.

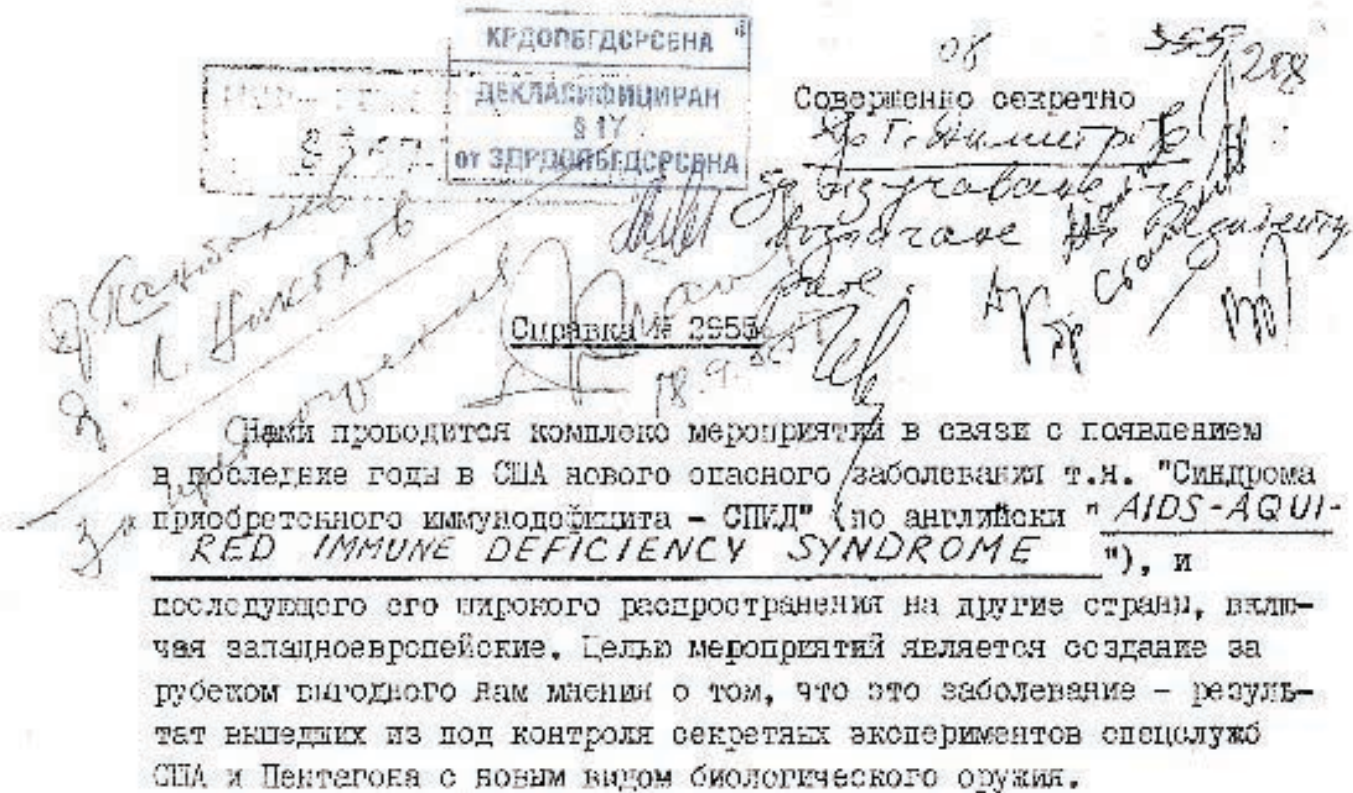


Figure 1: KGB Cable "Information Nr. 2955" to Bulgarian State Security dated September 1985 highlighting the HIV/AIDS Active Measures campaign (Source: [Wilson Center](#))

In 2021, Insikt Group [tracked](#) an instance of Operation Secondary Infektion (named for its similarities with Operation Infektion and its use of forgeries and fake documents), from a fake hacker group named Anonymous Kazakhstan, which blamed the US DoD for the COVID-19 pandemic, claiming that the strain constructed in a DTRA TsRL (Central Reference Laboratory) in Almaty and was leaked and released in Wuhan, China in December 2019. As part of this campaign, Anonymous Kazakhstan misrepresented the CTR program, claiming that CRLs were a part of a "US global military biological research project" intended to circumvent "international agreements, including the 1972 Geneva Convention for the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological Weapons, and Toxins and Their Destruction". In reality, both in 2020 and in 2021, CTR laboratories in former Soviet states were crucial for the research of COVID-19 aiding in the understanding of the virus, limiting spread, and supporting treatments of the virus in those states.



Figure 2: This infographic created by Anonymous Kazakhstan blames the US DoD for the COVID-19 outbreak, stating that the strain was constructed in an Almaty bio laboratory and then released in Wuhan, China in December 2019 (Source: [Recorded Future](#))

In other notable examples, Russian propaganda outlets have claimed that CTR bio laboratories have facilitated the creation and spread of various other bioweapons, such as the release of Zika virus¹, and testing of various “biological weapons”, citing plague, tularemia, and African swine fever (ASF). These sources have historically claimed that states in which CTR labs operate are testing grounds for how bioweapons can “work” in a “natural way”, claiming that such weapons are being prepared at the borders of China and Russia.²

1 <https://easaily.com/ru/news/2021/12/27/biologicheskoe-oruzhie-dlya-primeneniya-protiv-rossii-i-kitaya-ssha-gotovyat-u-ih-granic>

2 <https://easaily.com/ru/news/2018/09/19/laboratorii-ssha-v-armenii-kak-bioruzhie-rabotaet-u-granic-rossii-i-irana>



Figure 3: EA Daily article entitled “US Laboratories in Armenia: How do bioweapons ‘work’ near the borders of Russia and Iran?” (Source: EA Daily³)

Bioweapon Narratives Emerging out of the War in Ukraine

It is likely that Russian influence actors redoubled efforts to amplify the bioweapon narrative after observing the narrative gaining traction among domestic far-right and conspiracy theory outlets and sources, while other Russian government justifications for their war against Ukraine failed. It is equally likely that Russian influence actors are exploiting sources and audiences known for following conspiracy theories based on existing concern and fear of bio-medical technology and science following COVID-19, its origins, and the vaccine.

The Ukrainian government has repeatedly denied any offensive military biological laboratories in Ukraine. In 2020, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) [called](#) the discussion of foreign offensive military biological laboratories in Ukraine among opposition figures Viktor Medvedchuk and Renat Kuzmin “fake news”. The SBU stated that laboratories inside Ukraine are funded and operated by the Ukrainian government within the bounds of Ukrainian law as part of a 2005 framework signed between the US DoD and the Ukrainian Ministry of Health to support modernization projects of state laboratories in Odesa, Kharkiv, Lviv, Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Kherson, and Dnipro regions.

3 <https://easaily.com/ru/news/2018/09/19/laboratorii-ssha-v-armenii-kak-bioruzhie-rabotaet-u-granic-rossii-i-irana>

International audiences that subscribe to popular conspiracy theories, such as QAnon, various COVID-19 conspiracy theories, and claims of a “deep state” have widely embraced the narrative of Ukrainian bioweapons. Russian covert and overt government influence actors have created the necessary preconditions that allow these false claims to thrive through years of disinformation campaigns involving CTR laboratories.

During Russia’s war against Ukraine, we have observed a self-sustaining feedback loop whereby these discussions have first appeared in Russian state media and regional fringe disinformation and propaganda sources more historically, then in aforementioned conspiracy theory channels, and then later are reamplified by Russian influence and state-controlled media sources, as well as the Russian government itself.

Pre-Invasion Discussion

Before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Russian language sources sporadically discussed Ukrainian bio laboratories under many of the same narratives emerging out of the post-invasion information space, including “doubts” over the purpose and activities of US-supported Ukrainian laboratories and allegations of bioweapons development and testing, without evidence. In many cases, these discussions were based on statements at the time from prominent pro-Russian Ukrainian politicians, Russian political figures, Russian military figures, and various Russian biological experts.

In January, we also located sporadic posts and claims of Ukrainian weapons development and offensive biological research among low-tier pro-Russian and other fringe sources, including blog sites and Telegram channels, as evidenced in the Recorded Future timeline in Figure 4, above.

- On January 9, 2022, the Russian-language Telegram account “Рыбарь”, an account with over 225,000 followers, claimed that American biological laboratories in Almaty, Kazakhstan were conducting military experiments on dangerous bacteria and viruses and that scientists were testing hemorrhagic fever, brucellosis, plague, and anthrax on the local population.⁴ The account further added that in Ukraine, as a result of the launch of several US-funded laboratories, various “mini-epidemics have repeatedly begun” resulting in underreported “quarantines”.

4 <https://t.me/rybar/23457>

Russian Sources Discussion of Ukrainian Bio Laboratories (Pre Invasion)

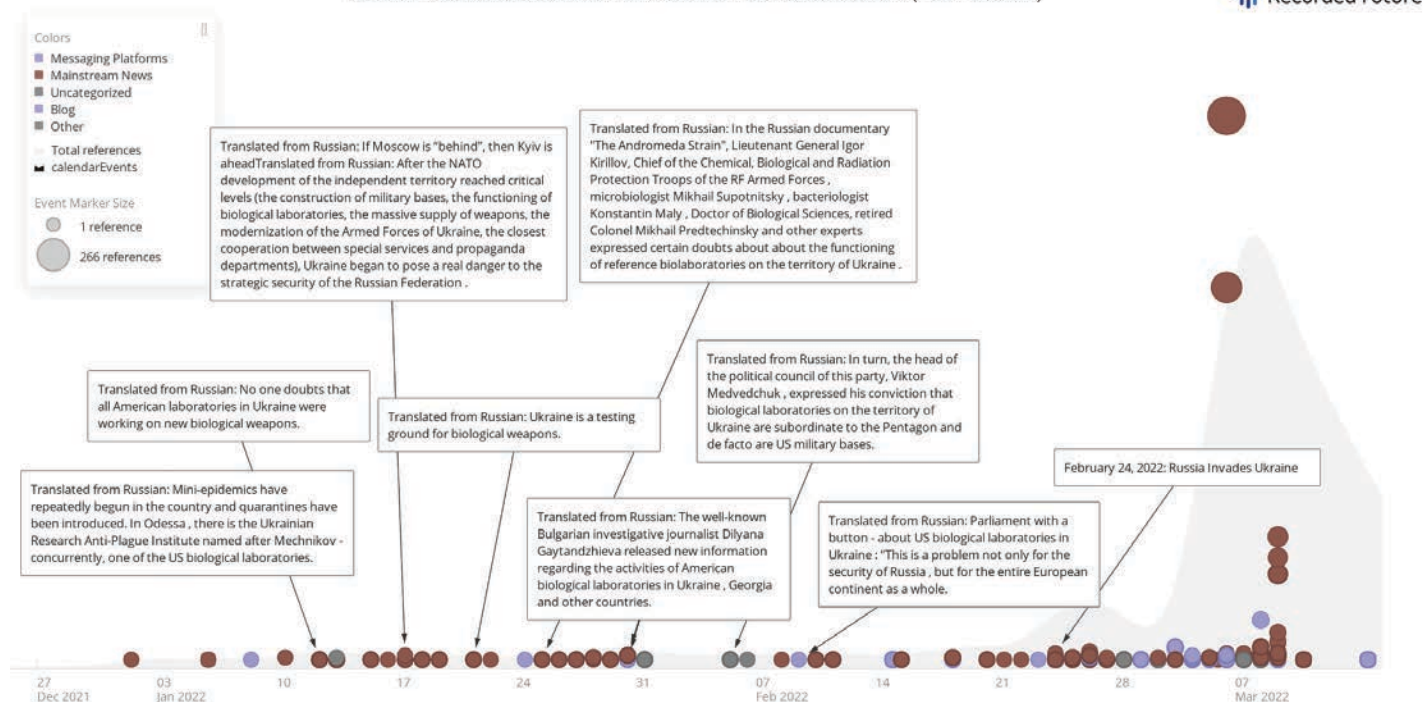


Figure 4: Russian sources discussion of Ukrainian bio laboratories pre-February 24, 2022 invasion of Ukraine (Source: Recorded Future)

- On the Russian blog site cont[.]ws, an author under the name Elena Subbotina published a blog post called “American death factories ... or unanswered questions ...” stating “The whole world has long known that the United States, in its desire to become the masters of the world and that the goldfish itself would be on their errands, is ready for any crime, up to the extermination of the human race ... and in this irrepressible desire, the [US] set up bio laboratories around the world ... in which there is no access to local authorities, where these laboratories are located, and is unlikely to be, because it is there, using local biological material, that they create terrible viruses for the local population, thereby keeping local authorities in fear and submission”.⁵
- A blog post published to ukraina[.]ru on January 17, 2022, which alluded to an idea of a Ukrainian offensive in the Donbas, stated the security situation was “becoming extremely difficult” for Russia.⁶ The author, Konstantin Kevorkyan, blamed “NATO development” in Ukraine for creating a strain on Russian security “reaching critical levels”, directly citing the alleged “construction of military bases, the functioning of biological laboratories, the massive supply of weapons, the modernization of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, [and] the closest cooperation between special services and propaganda departments”. From these efforts, Kevorkyan accused Ukraine of beginning to pose a real danger to “the strategic security of the Russian Federation”.

On January 22, 2022, Russian filmmaker Arkady Mamontov [released](#) the documentary “The Andromeda Strain” which focused on US-supported bio laboratories in former Soviet territories. Mamontov’s documentary attempted to prove that “secret” activities were ongoing at these facilities, and that the laboratories posed not only a medical threat to civilians that live close to these facilities, but was also a strategic threat to Russia, suggesting that these laboratories, close to Russian territory, could be used to create bioweapons that would be deployed upon a NATO invasion of Russia. Multiple high-profile individuals were interviewed as part of the film, including Lieutenant General (Lt. Gen.) Igor Kirillov, Chief of the Chemical, Biological and Radiation Protection Troops of the Russian Armed Forces (who later becomes a central figure in Russian narratives surrounding Ukrainian bio laboratories); microbiologist Mikhail Supotnitsky; bacteriologist Konstantin Maly, Doctor of Biological Sciences; and retired Colonel Mikhail Predtechinsky. The documentary was featured on [YouTube](#), Russian streaming websites⁷, and reportedly on state-controlled channel Russia-24⁸.

⁵ <https://cont.ws/@taksist1964/2180218>

⁶ <https://ukraina.ru/opinion/20220117/1033088569.html>

⁷ <https://smotrim.ru/video/2377250>

⁸ https://t.me/caliber_az_official/4347



Figures 5, 6: January 2022 Russian documentary “The Andromeda Strain” discussing Ukrainian bio laboratories and alleged threats that these laboratories pose to Russia. Lt. Gen. Igor Kirillov, Chief of the Radiation, Chemical and Biological Defense Forces of the Russian Armed Forces was among those interviewed throughout the documentary. (Source: [YouTube](#))

On January 24, 2022, Dilyana Gaytandzhievda, a Bulgarian freelance journalist, [claimed](#) that under DTRA, the DoD was conducting “biological experiments” on Ukrainian and Georgian soldiers. Gaytandzhievda relied this assumption based only on 2 factors: first, on a 10ml blood test health procedure (used to evaluate antibodies to 14 documented pathogens) and second, a caveat in US DoD documents about the procedure stating that, in the event of “unanticipated problems involving risk to volunteers or others, and all volunteer deaths will be promptly reported (usually within 48 h[ours] of the [principal investigator] being notified) to the Georgian Military Hospital and [the US military]”. Shortly after publication, Gaytandzhievda’s report was featured in the FSB-linked outlets News Front⁹ and Veterans Today,¹⁰ Russian state-owned TV network [Russia 24](#), and several other fringe news and conspiracy theory outlets.

⁹ <https://news-front.info/2022/01/30/ssha-hranyat-na-territorii-ukrainy-opasneyshie-patogeny-i-provodyat-opyty-na-lyudyah/>

¹⁰ <https://www.veteranstoday.com/2022/03/04/documents-expose-us-biological-experiments-on-allied-soldiers-in-ukraine-and-georgia/>

On January 28, 2022, Dmitry Medvedev, former Russian president, prime minister, and current deputy chairman of the Russian Security Council, told RIA Novosti that Russia “does not understand” what the Ukrainian bio laboratories with US participation “are doing”.¹¹ Medvedev proposed that “since we do not understand what they are doing”, then (as a worst-case scenario) a virus or pathogen could be “deliberately created by some crazy person” and released into the wild. As such, Medvedev called for transparency and stated that the process for handling such “biological hazards” needs to be controlled in accordance with the biological convention.

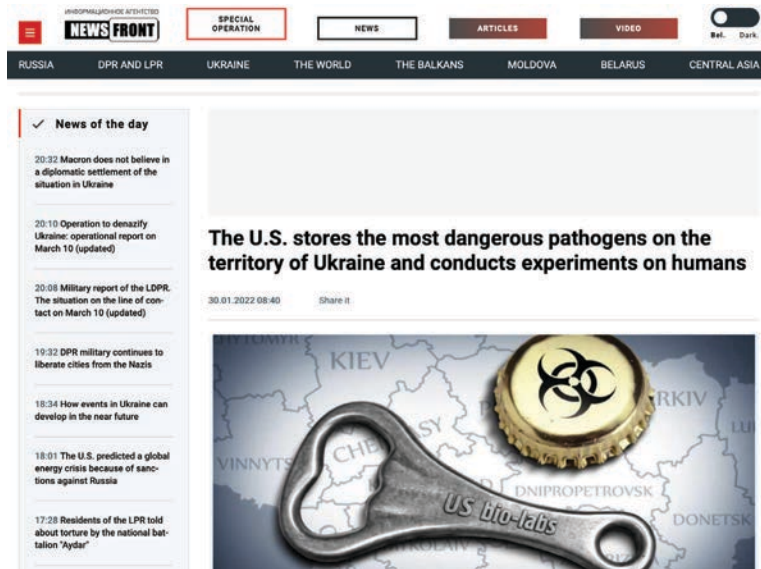


Figure 7: Original title, in Russian: “США хранят на территории Украины опаснейшие патогены и проводят опыты на людях” (Source: News Front¹²)

On February 9, 2022, “Parliament Button”, a pro-Russian Telegram account, posted that amid the “developing security crisis in Ukraine for some reason it never occurs to anyone to look at what is happening with the American military biological laboratories”, pointing to “15” “US military bacteriological laboratories operating on the territory of an inadequate southern neighbor”.¹³ The account posed the question of what could happen “if a crisis of power arises in Ukraine or a military conflict begins?” stating that the “destructive potential of these centers many times exceeds the threat of industrial facilities (citing nuclear power plants, hydroelectric power plants, and chemical plants)”.

Parliament Button made several further statements:

The beginning of the crisis could trigger the launch of devastating scenarios for the spread of deadly viruses in the Southeast. Who will do it is a technical question ...

In 2014, the Ukrainian and American intelligence services unblinkingly staged a disaster with a passenger Boeing MH-17, during which hundreds of innocent people died. What prevents them from releasing deadly viruses in the face of riots or the flight of the Kiev authorities is an open question ...

This is a problem not only for the security of Russia but for the entire European continent as a whole. It is necessary to raise the issue of international control of these laboratories under the auspices of the UN and WHO. And you need to do it right now.

Russia's Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine and Further Amplification

After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, Ukrainian bio lab discussion surged across all of Recorded Future's tracked Russian language sources, which include tracked state-controlled or state-linked propaganda information streams and amplifiers, as well as local Russian language Telegram sources with large followings, and in social media. Per Recorded Future reference data, mentions of Ukrainian bio laboratories surged by over 400% between February 24 and March 14, 2022, compared with discussion from January 1 to February 23, 2022. Examples can be seen in Figure 6 below.

¹¹ <https://ria.ru/20220128/biolaboratorii-1769900223.html>

¹² <https://news-front.info/2022/01/30/ssha-hranyat-na-territorii-ukrainy-opasneyshie-patogeny-i-provodyat-opyty-na-lyudyah/>

¹³ <https://t.me/parbut/1050>

Russian Sources Discussion of Ukrainian Bio Laboratories (Post Invasion)

Recorded Future

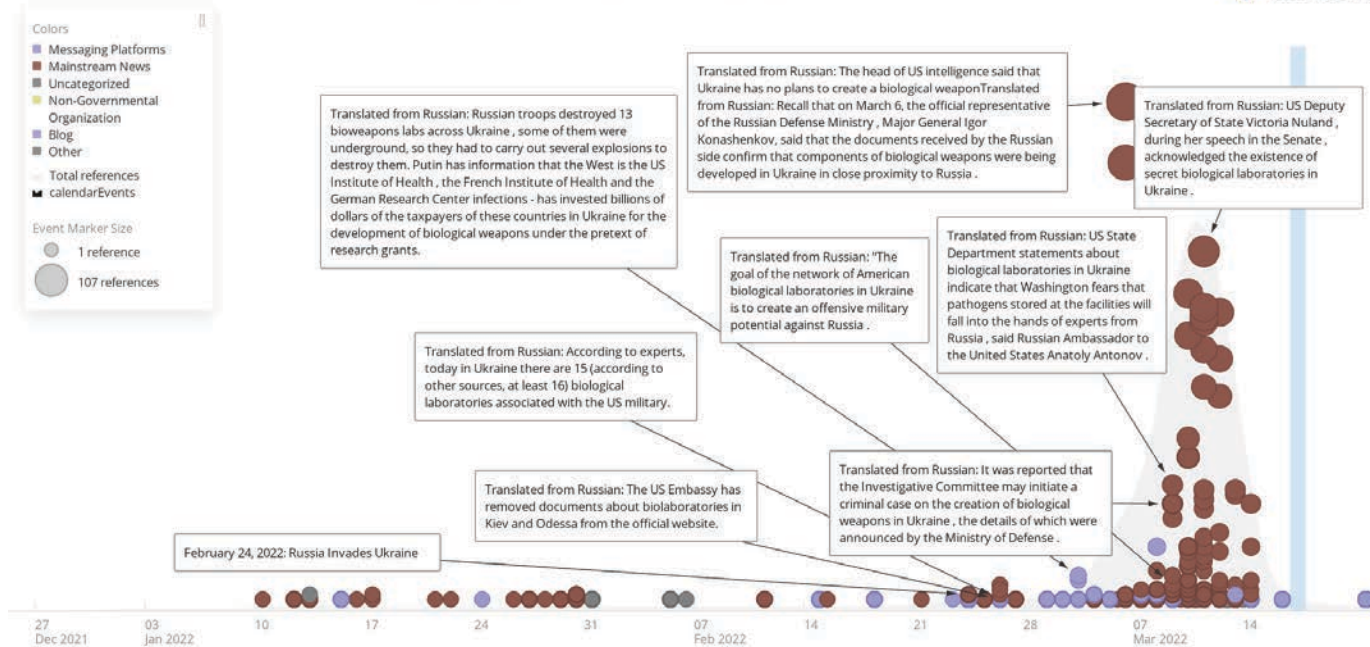


Figure 8: Russian sources discussion of Ukrainian bio laboratories on and after the February 24, 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The grey background waves indicate an increase in the total number of references that surged after the invasion commenced. (Source: Recorded Future)

On February 27, the Russian Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina issued a Facebook statement supporting claims of alleged Pentagon bioweapons development, [accusing](#) the US of “filling Ukraine with bio laboratories, which were — very possibly — used to study methods for destroying the Russian people at the genetic level”.

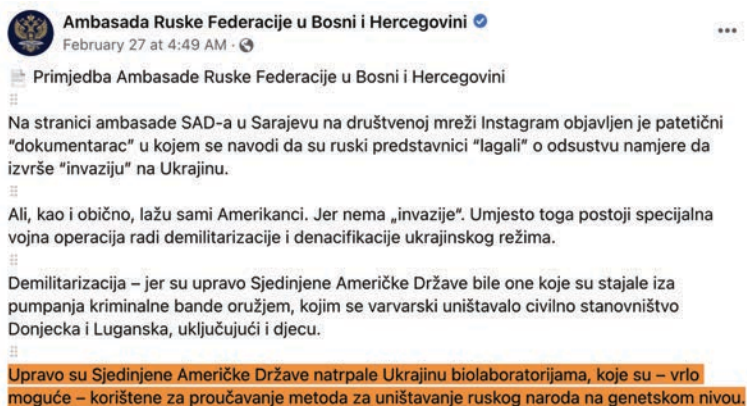


Figure 9: Statement from the Russian Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Source: [Embassy of the Russian Federation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, via Facebook](#))

Initial US Domestic Coverage

In the hours following the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, discussion of Ukrainian bio laboratories also increased on English-language social media in part thanks to [at least 1 account](#) that suggested that the initial Russian bombing offensive sought to eliminate these laboratories. The account, WarClandestine, is likely authentic, with the user claiming to be based in the US, and we have not seen any indication that the account was acting on behalf of Russian state-sponsored entities.

On February 24, 2022, WarClandestine published an infographic showing the locations of Ukrainian laboratories in Odesa, Vinnytsia, Uzhhorod, Lviv, Kyiv, Kherson, Ternopil, Crimea, and in Luhansk Oblast. WarClandestine stated that “Russia has been accusing US of creating ‘bioweapons’ at their border” rather than studying dangerous pathogens, and later added in their thread that “China and Russia indirectly (and correctly) blamed the US for the [COVID-19] outbreak, and are fearful that the US/ allies have more viruses (bioweapons) to let out”. WarClandestine noted the distribution of missile strikes against military facilities across Ukraine, stating that much of this military activity was outside of the Donbas and was unusual, citing explosions in Kyiv and Lutsk.

WarClandestine further assessed, “Yes, I know [Putin] targeted airports and military capabilities; but if Putin really believes, as his admin has stated publicly multiple times, that the US is creating bioweapons at Russia’s borders, then this entire situation could be WAY bigger ... Russia and China accused the US of creating bioweapons at their borders and none of us heard about [it], and our media wrote it off as “disinformation” and largely didn’t report on it other than to call it a conspiracy theory”. WarClandestine further attempted to amplify the post through the use of the hashtag #USBiolabs, ultimately resulting in thousands of engagements.

As noted in a later [fact-check](#) via Snopes, WarClandestine’s missile strike map and their map of the location of bio laboratories featured map markers covering in excess of 25 square miles, indicating that strikes overlapped with the approximate vicinity of the labs were actually coincidental. Furthermore, WarClandestine did not account for several dozen other missile strikes on locations with no known laboratories.

WarClandestine was later suspended from posting, likely for violating terms of service on promoting false and harmful information. However, the administrator of the account has since circumvented that ban via the creation of the account “Definitely Not Clandestine”/ClandestineNot.

We identified a notable increase of similar discussions, often citing WarClandestine and ClandestineNot, saying that “Putin is targeting the bio laboratories in Ukraine” on conspiracy theory-centric Telegram channels¹⁴, including COVID-19 disinformation Telegram sources, as well as sources that subscribe to the QAnon conspiracy theory¹⁵¹⁶.

Similar to the discussions mentioned above, discussions mentioning the term “bioweapon” in reference to Ukraine also surged upon Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, including on social media and alternative social media platforms.

Additionally, we found that reports of missile strikes allegedly targeting Ukrainian bio laboratories, and formal reports of Ukrainian biological activities from the Russian Ministry of Defense (MoD), were further amplified on the popular conspiracy theory website InfoWars and similar fringe websites.¹⁷¹⁸

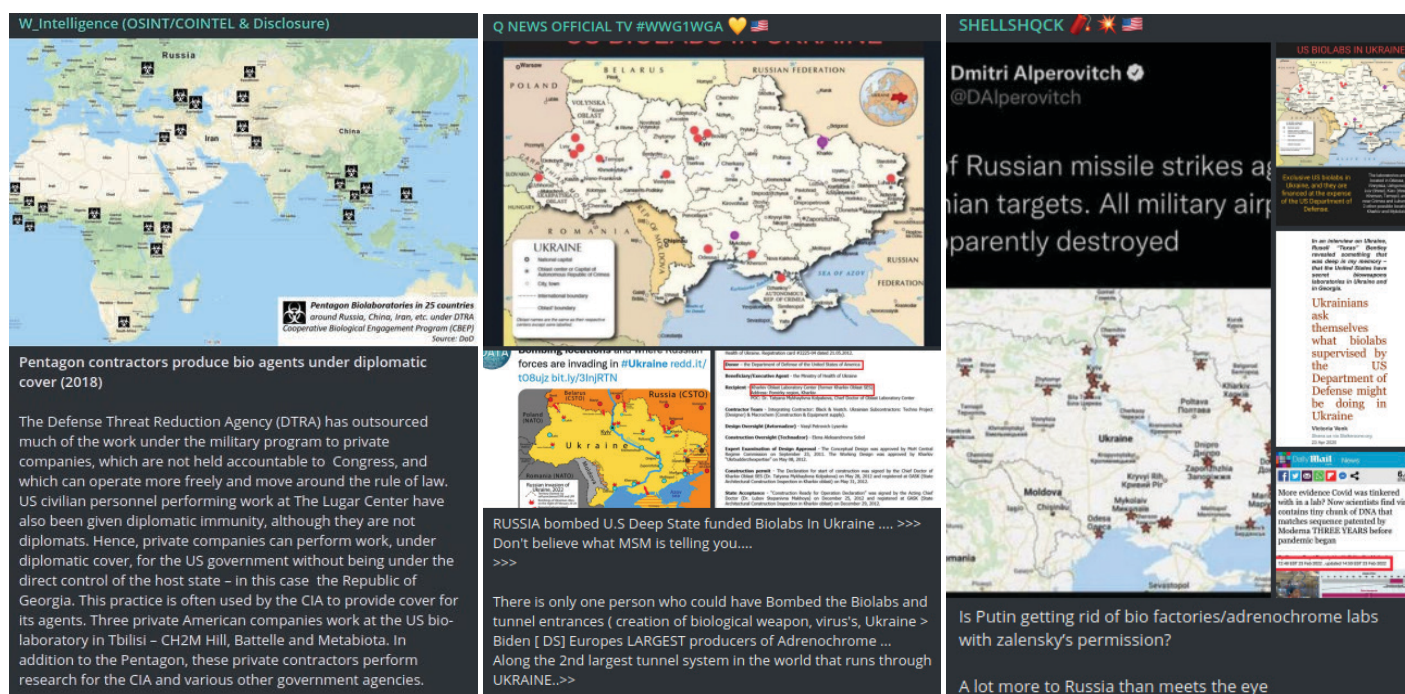
14 <https://t.me/WokeIntelDrops/11224>

15 <https://t.me/QNewsOfficialTV/43307>

16 <https://t.me/ShellShQck/3573>

17 <https://www.infowars.com/posts/what-do-hunter-biden-klaus-schwab-the-cia-have-to-do-with-us-biolabs-in-ukraine-pt-2/>

18 <https://www.infowars.com/posts/state-department-warns-russia-may-use-pentagon-funded-ukraine-biolabs-to-unleash-bioweapon-false-flag/>



Figures 10–12: Ukrainian bio laboratory commentary on prominent fringe Telegram channels (Source: Recorded Future)

Mentions of the Term "bioweapon" and Ukraine

Recorded Future

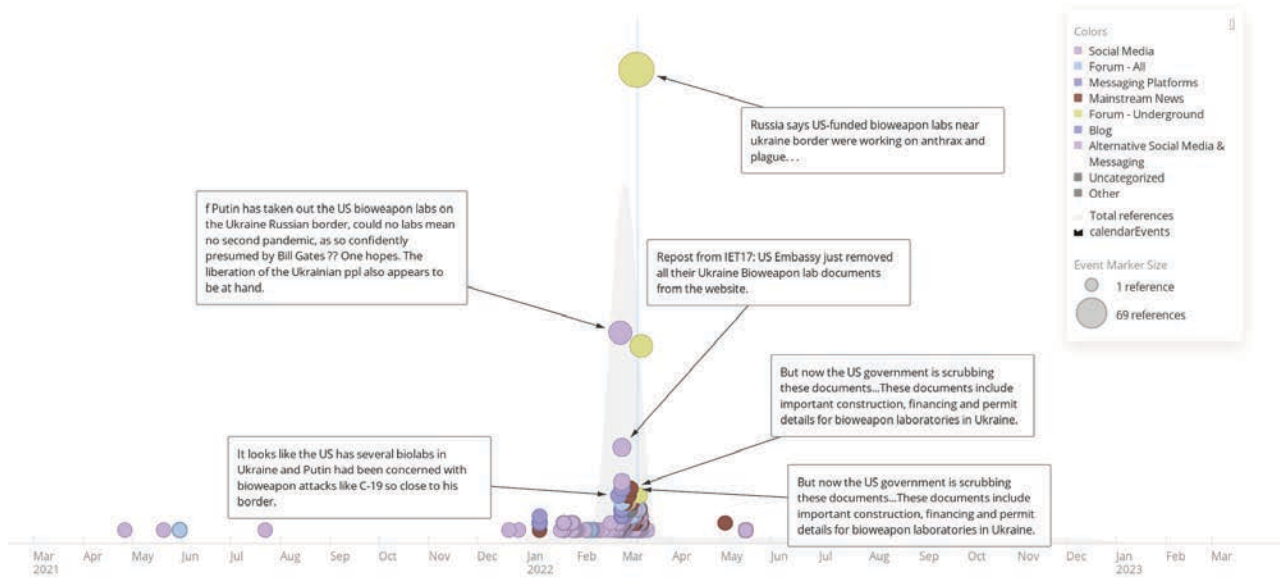


Figure 13: English-language mentions of the term "bioweapon" where Ukraine is also mentioned surged in February 2022, per Recorded Future data (Source: Recorded Future)

Figures 14–16: InfoWars conspiracy theory commentary on Russian missile strikes targeting Ukrainian bio laboratories, contents of said laboratories (Source: InfoWars^{19,20})

On March 4, 2022, the likely disinformation website thetruthpatriots[.]com published a false sensationalist headline about Russian military activities, titled "Putin Bombs Biden-Owned villa in Ukraine while Hammering Biolabs & Pedophile Rings".²¹ Citing "a Mar-a-Lago source" (likely to be untrue), the article states that President Putin recently discussed with former US President Donald Trump, in a 20-minute phone call, that the Russian military had "obliterated ... 11 US State Department/ Department of Defense-funded bioweapon facilities; 4 German toxic chemical research centers; 3 Swiss nanotechnology centers; 1 French biotech consortium; and 3 Israeli labs that were feverishly working to weaponize airborne rabies". The article further attempts to claim that President Putin informed President Trump that the Russian military "carried out precision strikes on mobile (18-wheelers unsafely retrofitted into makeshift labs) bio laboratories attempting to transport lethal pathogens across the Ukrainian border into Poland".

19 <https://www.infowars.com/posts/what-do-hunter-biden-klaus-schwab-the-cia-have-to-do-with-us-biolabs-in-ukraine-pt-2/>

20 <https://www.infowars.com/posts/state-department-warns-russia-may-use-pentagon-funded-ukraine-biolabs-to-unleash-bioweapon-false-flag/>

21 <https://thetruthpatriots.com/putin-bombs-biden-owned-villa-in-ukraine-while-hammering-biolabs-pedophile-rings/>

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Putin Bombs Biden-Owned Villa in Ukraine while Hammering Biolabs & Pedophile Rings

By Truth Patriot · March 4, 2022

Like 223



Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday told President Trump that Russia's military destroyed a multitude of foreign bioweapon facilities that had been running carte blanche in Ukraine until his military took decisive and strategic action to rid the corrupt nation of what he called satanic influence, a Mar-a-Lago source told The Truth Patriots.

Figure 17: Fringe disinformation outlet "True American Patriots" alleging that President Putin had relayed his military activities in Ukraine with former President Trump (Source: True American Patriots²²)

Likely False Claims of the US Embassy in Kyiv Removing BTRP Documents

Among US domestic sources found amplifying allegations of Ukrainian bioweapons production, many sources, including Russian influence sources, cited the removal, or "scrubbing", of various PDFs linked on the US Embassy in Kyiv's BTR Program page. Insikt Group has determined that this is likely false.

On February 26, 2022, Bulgarian journalist Dilyana Gaytandzhieva [posted](#) to social media that "the US Embassy in #Ukraine has just deleted from its website all documents about 11 Pentagon-funded bio laboratories in Ukraine", adding, "these are the documents which the US Embassy does not want you to see". Between February 26 and March 10, 2022, multiple Russian propaganda sources reported that the documents were inaccessible on the embassy's website, fueling speculation among BTRP skeptics that the documents had been removed nefariously.^{23 24} Some discussions suggested that the contents

22 <https://thetruthpatriots.com/putin-bombs-biden-owned-villa-in-ukraine-while-hammering-biolabs-pedophile-rings/>

23 <https://www.globalresearch.ca/why-did-us-embassy-official-website-just-remove-all-evidence-ukrainian-bioweapons-labs/5772798>

24 <https://news-front.info/2022/03/06/v-ukrainskih-biolaboratorijah-osushhestvlyalas-razrabotka-komponentov-biologicheskogo-oruzhija-minoborony-rf/>

included sensitive information about the program, which would prove Russian MoD assessments that these bio lab activities were researching offensive weapons capabilities (such as the study of bird migrations [allegedly](#) to train birds to deploy biological weapons on ethnic Russian populations). In an interview with Russia's REN TV, Gaytandzhieva called the alleged removal "censorship".²⁵

Insikt Group cannot confirm when the website ceased to host the files; however, it is likely inaccurate to state that the files were "deleted" shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. [Wayback Machine](#) and [archive.today](#) data indicates that the documents were last archived in mid-2021, likely indicating that at some point between May 2021 and February 2022, these documents were no longer accessible on the website for archiving. However, on March 10, 2022, Insikt Group confirmed that the documents were again [available](#) on the website under an updated WordPress directory. Based on their renewed availability and the updated directories, it is likely that link access to these documents during this time frame failed and was only identified as Russia further invaded Ukraine and the subsequent viral online discussion about Ukrainian laboratories drew attention to the web page.

Gaytandzhieva's posts attracted international attention to the alleged "deleted" documents, including from the Brazilian English-language newspaper The Rio Times, which issued a [headline](#) on February 28, 2022, titled "Pentagon doesn't want you to see these documents about bio laboratories in Ukraine, says journalist". This article likely served as a primary source for significant amplification and coverage, with high engagement across social media and in open sources, including with backlinks to Chinese-state controlled CGTN²⁶ and Russian-state controlled RT²⁷, resulting in thousands more engagements. To a lesser degree, The Rio Times article was also featured in several other Russian and Chinese influence amplifiers, such as the alternative news website Signs of the Times²⁸, Mondialisation[.]ca²⁹ (a French mirror to the Canadian-based Russian propaganda website Global Research), and Aletho News³⁰.

25 <https://ren.tv/news/v-mire/944516-zhurnalist-ob-udalenii-dannykh-o-biolaboratorijakh-na-ukraine-eto-tsenzura>

26 <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-03-07/Russia-reveals-evidence-of-U-S-funded-bio-program-in-Ukraine-18cUbBIPXhu/index.html>

27 <https://www.rt.com/russia/551468-china-details-pentagon-biolabs/>

28 <https://www.sott.net/article/465286-China-urges-US-to-reveal-details-of-US-backed-biological-labs-in-Ukraine-including-types-of-viruses-stored>

29 <https://www.mondialisation.ca/le-pentagone-ne-veut-pas-que-vous-voyiez-ces-documents-sur-les-laboratoires-biologiques-en-ukraine-affirme-une-journaliste/5665851>

30 <https://alethonews.com/2022/03/08/china-urges-pentagon-to-open-up-about-biolabs-in-ukraine/>

The conspiracy theory and Russian propaganda-laden website [strangesounds\[.\]org](https://strangesounds.org), issued a similar report as The Rio Times, with the headline “US embassy just REMOVED all their Ukraine BIOWEAPON LAB DOCUMENTS from the website ... Here they are ...” which itself reached tens of thousands of views internationally.³¹ This piece in particular was featured on other disinformation websites such as the Daily Expose³², Global Research³³, InfoWars³⁴, the Romanian outlet Ziarul National³⁵, and German conspiracy theory site Uncut-News³⁶.

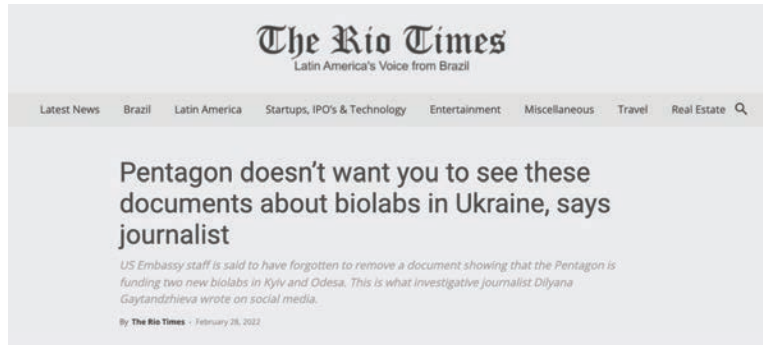
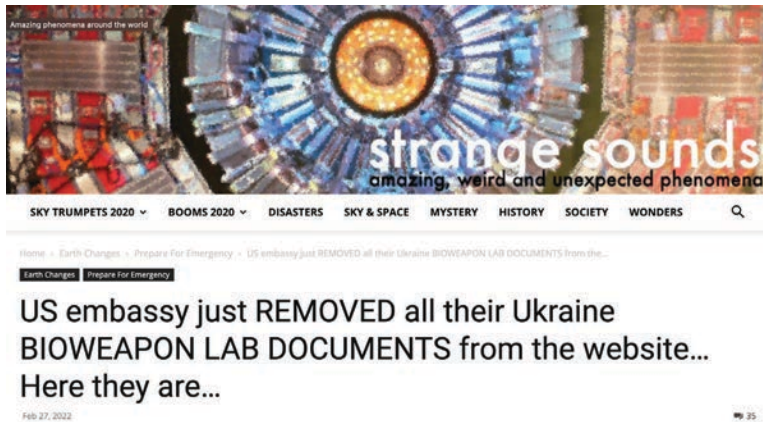


Figure 18: The Rio Times, citing Gaytandzhieva, amplified claims that the US Embassy in Kyiv was deleting previously available public documents on BTRP activities in Ukraine (Source: The Rio Times³⁷)



31 <https://strangesounds.org/2022/02/us-embassy-just-removed-all-their-ukraine-bioweapon-lab-documents-from-the-website-here-they-are.html>

32 <https://dailyexpose.uk/2022/03/07/ukraine-destroying-evidence-of-us-funded-bioweapons/>

33 <https://www.globalresearch.ca/why-did-us-embassy-official-website-just-remove-all-evidence-ukrainian-bioweapons-labs/5772798>

34 <https://www.infowars.com/posts/why-did-the-us-embassy-official-website-just-remove-all-evidence-of-ukrainian-bioweapons-labs/>

35 <https://www.national.ro/stiri-externe/americanii-fac-experimente-in-ucraina-ca-la-wuhan-omenirea-din-nou-in-pericol-755147.html>

36 <https://uncutnews.ch/usa-unter-schock-15-pentagon-biolabore-in-der-ukraine-koennten-in-die-haende-russlands-fallen/>

37 <https://www.riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/modern-day-censorship/pentagon-doesnt-want-you-to-see-these-documents-about-biolabs-in-ukraine/>



Figures 19, 20: Discussion of US Embassy “deletion” of Ukrainian bio laboratory documents on conspiracy theory website Strange Sounds and Romanian outlet National (Source: Strange Sounds,³⁸ National[.]ro³⁹)

The Rio Times report included a link to a US Federal contract opportunity, “[Exception to Fair Opportunity for Countering Especially Dangerous Pathogen Threats in Ukraine](#)” (HDTRA120F0054P00002), claiming that “the Pentagon is funding two new bio laboratories in Kyiv and Odesa”. The Rio Times report suggested that the documents and contents within were secret; this is very likely an inaccurate statement given that federal contracting data on the laboratories already existed and is publicly available in multiple online sources:

- The 2 labs, State Scientific Research Institute of Laboratory Diagnostics and Veterinary-Sanitary Expertise (Kyiv IDL) and “State Service of Ukraine for Food Safety and Consumer Protection Regional Diagnostic Laboratory” (Odesa RDL), are existing labs with newly constructed biosafety labs, previously disclosed in open sources on numerous occasions among the US Embassy in Kyiv, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, the State Service of Ukraine for Food Safety and Consumer Protection, as well as Ukrainian news reports.
- According to a Ministry of Health [statement](#), DoD contracting provided funds for assistance to Ukraine in preventing the spread of technologies, pathogens and knowledge and other “objects” which can be “used in the development of biological weapons”, adding that such are located in the Research Institute of Epidemiology and Hygiene (Lviv), the Ukrainian Research Anti-Plague Institute (Odesa), and the institutions of the Ministry of Health, as well as at other facilities”.

38 <https://strangesounds.org/2022/02/us-embassy-just-removed-all-their-ukraine-bioweapon-lab-documents-from-the-website-here-they-are.html>

39 <https://www.national.ro/stiri-externe/americanii-fac-experimente-in-ucraina-ca-la-wuhan-omenirea-din-nou-in-pericol-755147.html>

- A US Embassy statement [provided](#) to Ukrainian outlet ZN added that the BTRP “is working with the Government of Ukraine to consolidate and neutralize pathogenic microorganisms and toxins of concern at Ukrainian government facilities while allowing for peaceful research and vaccine development”. Further, the US Embassy noted that the purpose of its cooperative activities are intended to detect and report outbreaks of dangerous pathogens before they pose a threat to security or stability” and “are helping to prevent dangerous pathogens from falling into the wrong hands”.

Per review of the [contracting materials](#), the contract services indicate that the funds were used for lab modernization and compliance: “The BTRP requires Jacobs/CH2M Hil (CH2M), to remediate all deficiencies identified in each laboratory’s site assessment report and complete any remaining equipment installation in order to commission and operationalize both facilities to be compliant with the local and the World Health Organization standards to which each facility was designed”.

The Rio Times falsely stated that “Ukraine has no control over the military bio labs” whereas the contract addendum itself states that “both facilities are owned by and in the custody of GoUA (Government of Ukraine)”. The original task order requested design, renovation, and commissioning of biological containment laboratories at “several sites” but did not account for these activities to take place at [Kyiv ILD](#) and [Odesa RDL](#). In 2020, Ukrainian news outlet ZN, citing statements from the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, [confirmed](#) that “funds allocated by the United States go mainly to [the labs’] modernization”.

Additional Russian Propaganda Amplification

In the last 2 weeks, we have noticed a continual increase in the level of discussion of alleged Ukrainian bioweapon activities among Russian state-owned media organizations and government officials. Between March 7 and March 10, RT,⁴⁰ TASS,⁴¹ and other Russian state-controlled outlets, quoting a press conference from Russian Lt. Gen. Igor Kirillov, accused Ukrainian labs of “hastily destroying”⁴² documents and materials proving that the labs were studying “highly pathogenic bacterial and viral agents”. Per TASS, studies in Lviv included “plague, anthrax and brucellosis”, and in Kharkov and Poltava “diphtheria, salmonellosis and dysentery”. According to Kirillov, the “excessive” number of pathogens at the labs was “clear evidence [that] experiments under military-biological programs had been staged there”, and assessed that if studied by Russian specialists “it would be possible to prove with a high degree of probability that Ukraine and the United States were in breach of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention”.

In early March 2022, TASS supplemented evidence of alleged “biological weapons” development with unverified documents, and these documents were very likely misrepresented by the Russian government, which have been described, falsely, as proof of covert research activities. These documents were disseminated widely among Russian state-controlled media sources, including RIA Novosti⁴³ and NTV⁴⁴. Vladimir Soloviev, a political commentator on Russian state-television, who is now under international sanctions following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, further shared the documents among his social media and messaging networks. ASBMilitary, a now-suspended popular social media account, perhaps best known for aligning itself with Russian propaganda narratives, also shared images of the documents among its network, consisting of over 200,000 followers.

⁴⁰ <https://www.rt.com/russia/551440-ukraine-us-financed-biolaboratories/>

⁴¹ <https://tass.com/world/1418311>

⁴² <https://www.rt.com/russia/551661-us-intelligence-ukraine-biolabs/>

⁴³ <https://ria.ru/20220306/biooruzhie-1776951830.html>

⁴⁴ <https://www.ntv.ru/novosti/2690580/>

The documents, translated by Insikt Group, called for the “emergency destruction of biological pathogenic agents” per existing quality procedures “in case of military emergencies” and are carried out “by certain responsible persons with higher or secondary special education, who are assigned to the position in accordance with the established procedure, have been trained in laboratory biosafety and biosecurity, have a certificate of admission to work with autoclaves, have experience working with biological pathogens agents”. The documents themselves are not out of the ordinary, particularly for biological laboratories with accredited standard operating procedures for cleaning and disposal of bacteria. The bacteria listed in the documents are not among deadly pathogens or weapons agents as described by the Russian MoD (for example, E. coli versus anthrax).

Russian Ministry of Defense spokesperson Major General Igor Konashenkov called the documents proof of “an emergency cleansing by the Kiev regime of traces of a military biological program being implemented in Ukraine, funded by the US Department of Defense”. Again, these statements mischaracterize the existence of such pathogens in Ukrainian laboratories as part of an offensive bioweapons program, rather than the actual study of these pathogens for biodefense and medical purposes, including medical countermeasure development and vaccines.

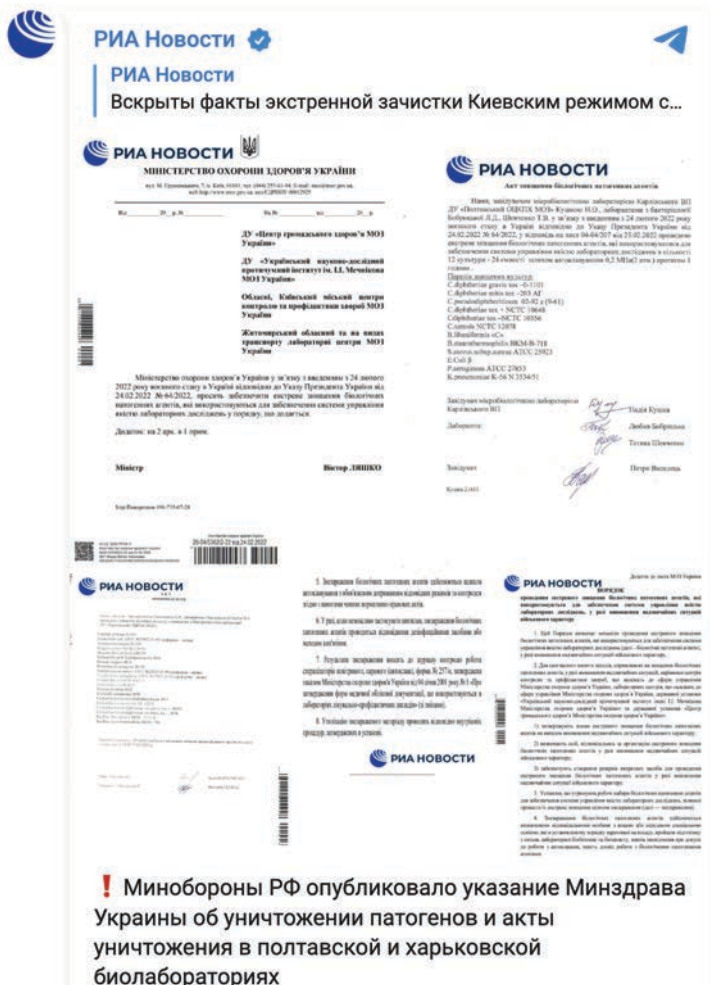


Figure 21: RIA Novosti presenting alleged documents showing an approved emergency cleaning procedure at Ukrainian bio laboratories (Source: RIA Novosti, Telegram)^{45,46}

45 <https://ria.ru/20220306/biooruzhie-1776951830.html>

46 https://t.me/rian_ru/151636

Components of biological weapons were developed in Ukrainian biolaboratories – RF Ministry of Defense

03/06/2022 19:33

Share

SPUTNIK International

Kiev Regime Sought to Scrub Evidence of Pentagon-backed Biowarfare Programme, Russian MoD Reveals

15:41 GMT 06.03.2022 (Updated: 17:23 GMT 06.03.2022)

Figures 22, 23: Additional amplification of Ukrainian bio laboratory documents presented by the Russian MoD (Source: News Front, Sputnik International)^{47,48}

РАДИО SPUTNIK

В мире

17:05 07.03.2022 (обновлено: 17:13 07.03.2022) 2545

На Украине реализовывались военно-биологические программы НАТО

Начальник войск РХБЗ России Кириллов: на Украине работали над усилением патогенных свойств микробов

Figure 24: Additional amplification of Ukrainian bio laboratory documents presented by the Russian MoD (Source: Radio Sputnik)⁴⁹

47 <https://news-front.info/2022/03/06/v-ukrainskih-biolaboratorijah-osushchestvlyalas-razrabotka-komponentov-biologicheskogo-oruzhija-minoborony-rf/>

48 <https://sputniknews.com/20220306/kyev-regime-sought-to-scrub-evidence-of-pentagon-backed-biowarfare-programme-russian-mod-reveals-1093637704.html>

49 <https://radiosputnik.ria.ru/20220307/rkhhbz-1777057394.html>

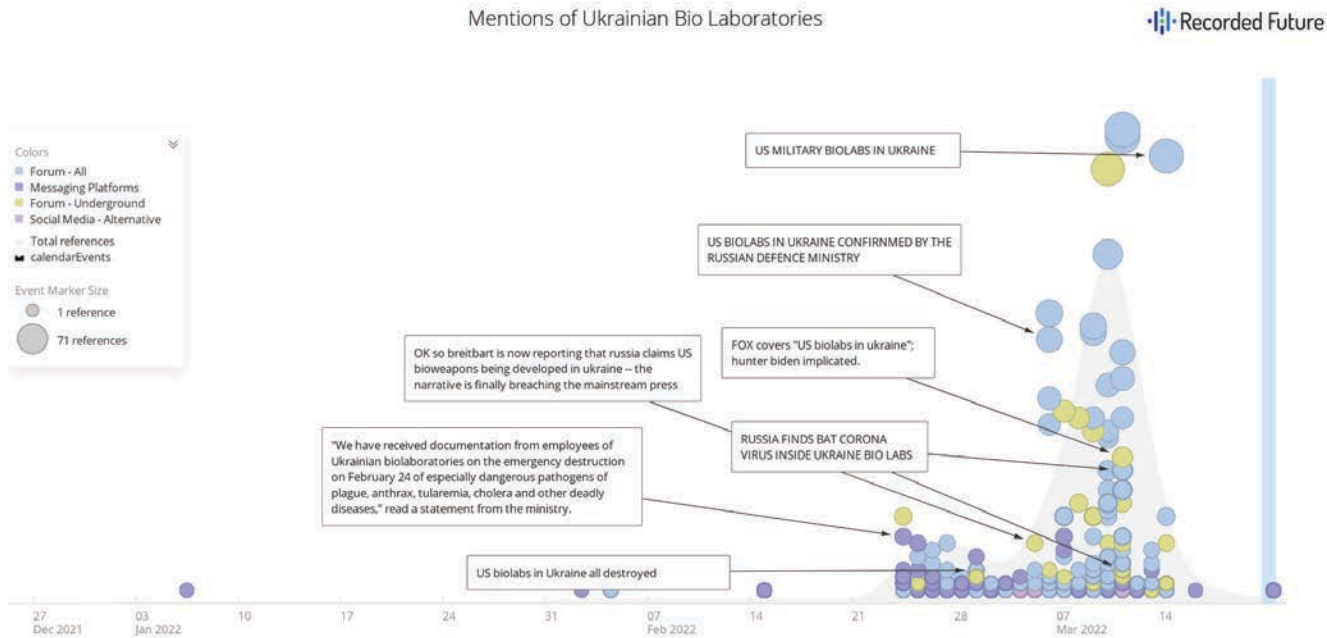


Figure 27: Discussion of Ukrainian bio laboratories in XRW sources have surged since the start of the invasion (Source: Recorded Future)

Maria Zakharova, official spokesperson for the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called the emergency destruction of pathogens evidence of “facts of violations by Ukraine and the United States of Article I of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)”.⁵⁰

On March 10, 2022, “Time Will Tell”, a political talk show on Russia’s Channel One, featured a lengthy segment discussing Ukrainian bio laboratories, and further spreading the narrative that Ukraine was involved in bioweapons development funded by the US DoD.⁵¹ In part of the segment, panelists highlighted an overlay map of Russian missile strikes with locations of Ukrainian laboratories, echoing prior international theories that Russia was targeting laboratories rather than conventional Ukrainian military targets.



Figures 25, 26: Russian-state controlled television channel Channel One's daily political talk show “Time Will Tell”, with a featured segment on Ukrainian bio laboratories and correlation with Russian missile strikes (Source: Vkontakte⁵²)

⁵⁰ <https://russian.rt.com/world/news/973385-zaharova-ukraina-konvenciya-biooruzhie>

⁵¹ https://vk.com/wall-25380626_2862067

⁵² https://vk.com/wall-25380626_2862067

Recorded Future data further indicates that English-language coverage of Russian government bioweapon narratives have filtered back into extreme right-wing (XRW) sources, such as 8kun's /QResearch/QAnon subboard⁵³, 4chan's /pol/ board, patriots[.]win, greatawakening[.]win, alternative social media platforms, and fringe Telegram sources⁵⁴. There is also ongoing evidence of Russian military and other Russian government narratives gaining additional traction in prominent traditional forums, such as Reddit, including fringe subreddit r/conspiracy.

Before the invasion, Recorded Future tracked less than 50 mentions of Ukrainian bio laboratories in the above-mentioned XRW sources between January 1 and February 23, 2022. Since the start of the invasion, through March 14, 2022, discussion of Ukrainian bio laboratories in these sources surged to over 16,500 mentions, a percentage increase of more than 40,100%.

This invasion was all about the biolabs. It was about stopping a genocide.

Posted in 4chan Pol Forum
Posts in thread 49
First posting Mar 06 2022, 15:24
Most recent posting Mar 06 2022, 16:30

It was about stopping a genocide.
That's why the shilling went into overdrive.
More so than probably ever before.
It is all about the biolabs.
The US and Ukraine were developing viruses that specifically attacked people who were genetically Russian.
This is why Putin is threatening nuclear war if they try to stop him.
It's because this whole thing is about his, and his country's survival.
This is not a drill.
This is not shit posting.
This is not Russian propaganda.
This is real.
We(the west) are the bad guys.
If this comes down to WW3, refuse to serve, take whatever punishment they throw at you, even if it's death.
Do not be on the wrong side of this one.
Do not be a minion for the synagogue of satan.
Think for yourself and leave this world with a clear conscious.
Do not go to war and kill people because your country wanted to genocide an entire race of people.
Attached File: 1646588490708.png

Post 1 of 49 by kRB5q24j on Mar 06 2022, 15:24

Figure 28: Russian government invasion justification narratives filtering back onto 4chan /pol/ threads (Source: Recorded Future)

⁵³ <https://8kun.top/qresearch/res/15834131.html>

⁵⁴ <https://t.me/CovidVaxTruths/128026>

↑

494

↓

r/conspiracy

Posted by u/Mint_Waves 12 hours ago

Russia Tells the US: 'We Have Found Your Biological Weapons of Mass Destruction'

newspunch.com/russia...

79% Upvoted

↑

178

↓

r/conspiracy

Posted by u/adhishakthi007 4 days ago

Did Russia actually launch an invasion under the pretext of presence of weapons of mass destruction in Ukraine (bio-weapons), but this time there actually were weapons of mass destruction?

greatgameindia.com/us-rem...

79% Upvoted

↑

1.3k

↓

Posted by u/hyte1 7 days ago

6 2 2

CONFIRMED: bioweapons were being developed in Ukraine

*By Russia

Moscow received documents from employees of Ukrainian biological laboratories confirming that components of biological weapons were being developed in Ukraine, in close proximity to Russian territory. This was stated to journalists by the official representative of the Russian Ministry of Defense, Major General Igor Konashenkov. "In the course of a special military operation, the facts of an emergency cleansing by the Kiev regime of traces of a military biological program being implemented in Ukraine, funded by the US Department of Defense, were uncovered," he said.

Figures 29–31: Example discussion of Russian propaganda narratives filtered into popular Reddit subreddit r/conspiracy (Source: Reddit)^{55 56 57}

⁵⁵ https://www.reddit.com/r/conspiracy/comments/td2xaz/russia_tells_the_us_we_have_found_your_biological/

⁵⁶ https://www.reddit.com/r/conspiracy/comments/ta5uoa/did_russia_actually_launch_an_invasion_under_the/

⁵⁷ https://www.reddit.com/r/conspiracy/comments/t82y64/confirmed_bioweapons_were_being_developed_in/

Anonymous 03/10/22 (Thu) 22:06:44 ID: abecf4 (5) No.15834434 >>15834461 >>15834486 >>15834692
 File (hide): d7765727643851...png (529.05 KB, 768x432, 16:9, ClipboardImage.png) (t) (u)



Top US spies explain Ukrainian 'biolabs'

Look at Wray's goofy look at this briefing

Nuland didn't want to get caught lying to the Senate, but these assholes have no problem with it. It's pretty bad when I believe Russian reports before our own government, but it is understandable, given how much they lie all the time.

US intelligence community has pushed back against Russian allegations of "bioweapons" labs operating in Ukraine
 Top US spies explain Ukrainian 'biolabs'

The US Senate Intelligence Committee holds a hearing at the Capitol in Washington, on March 10, 2022. © AP / J. Scott Applewhite

The heads of US intelligence agencies rejected allegations of bioweapons research and development taking place in Ukraine with Washington's during Senate hearings on Thursday.

Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines told the Senate Intelligence Committee that Ukraine "operates a little over a dozen," admitting that the US has "provided assistance" to the facilities at least in the past. Said "assistance" came only "in the context of biosafety," she claimed, adding that it was "something we have done with a variety of different countries."

"We do not assess that Ukraine is pursuing either biological weapons or nuclear weapons," Haines said, dismissing the new allegations as "consistent with long-standing Russian efforts to accuse the United States of sponsoring bioweapons" and a "classic move by the Russians."

A similar statement was produced during the hearings by the CIA Director and a former US ambassador to Moscow William Burns. The CIA boss flatly accused Russia of possessing biological and chemical weaponry itself, suggesting the new allegations came as a prelude for a "false-flag operations" with the illicit weaponry.

"Unlike Russia, which does have chemical and weapons and has used them, and does do biological weapons research and has for years, Ukraine has neither," he claimed, adding that Russian "propaganda" gave the American spies "pretty serious concerns."

The allegations of US-sponsored bioweapons research taking place in secretive laboratories scattered across Ukraine were raised Moscow attacked its neighbor in late February, following a seven-year standoff over Ukraine's failure to implement the terms of the Minsk agreements, and Russia's eventual recognition of the Donbass republics in Donetsk and Lugansk.

The German- and French-brokered protocols had been designed to regularize the status of those regions within the Ukrainian state. Russia has now demanded that Ukraine officially declare itself a neutral country that will never join the US-led NATO military bloc. Kiev insists the Russian offensive was completely unprovoked and has denied claims it was planning to retake the two republics by force.

On Monday, the commander of the Russian radiological, chemical and biological defense force, Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov said the secretive Ukrainian laboratories started hastily destroying the documents and materials they had been working on amid the offensive, including highly pathogenic bacterial and viral agents. Still, Moscow was able to obtain some documents related to the covert research, he claimed.

Patriot News

Forwarded from Real Raw News Daily 🤖

Top US spies explain Ukrainian 'biolabs'

<https://www.rt.com/russia/551661-us-intelligence-ukraine-biolabs/>

RT



Top US spies explain Ukrainian 'biolabs'

US intelligence has denied existence of bioweapons program in Ukraine, accusing Moscow of seeking to stage a "false-flag" attack

t.me/PatriotNewsGroup/29973

299 👁 Mar 10 at 21:14

Figures 32, 33: Content from RT reshared on 8kun's/QResearch/ board, and another prominent fringe Telegram source, Patriot News (Source: 8kun⁵⁸, Telegram⁵⁹)

⁵⁸ <https://8kun.top/qresearch/res/15834131.html>

⁵⁹ t.me/PatriotNewsGroup/29973

Outlook

Russian influence operators will very likely continue to promote the Ukrainian bioweapons narrative among Russian-language sources for as long as the Russian government feels that the narrative is having an intended effect on swaying public opinion in favor of Russia's war in Ukraine.

It is very likely that Russian disinformation on the topic of US and Ukrainian bioresearch facilities and the broader BTRP will continue. It is likely that the Russian government views the US support of these facilities as an encroachment on Russia's sphere of influence and international standing, despite knowing that these are not offensive or bioweapons production facilities. Russian influence actors, prominently known for closely monitoring metrics and engagement of their disinformation narratives, are very likely tracking their successes in infiltrating fringe thinkers and those that subscribe to dangerous conspiratorial beliefs.

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Insikt Group is Recorded Future's threat research division, comprising analysts and security researchers with deep government, law enforcement, military, and intelligence agency experience. Their mission is to produce intelligence on a range of cyber and geopolitical threats that reduces risk for clients, enables tangible outcomes, and prevents business disruption. Coverage areas include research on state-sponsored threat groups; financially-motivated threat actors on the darknet and criminal underground; newly emerging malware and attacker infrastructure; strategic geopolitics; and influence operations.

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