

DISINFORMATION TRENDS MONITORING SNAPSHOT II



Global Partnership Against
the Spread of Weapons and
Materials of Mass Destruction



18 February - 3 March 2025

SUMMARY



DFRLab conducts a **bimonthly analysis** of data based on a search query including Ukrainian, Russian, and English languages to identify spikes in CBRN disinformation narratives. This report (18 February–3 March 2025) reveals multiple nuclear-related narratives with **allegations of Ukraine attempting to attack Russian nuclear facilities**, particularly the Kalinin nuclear power plant (NPP). Numerous posts **claimed the West is pushing Ukraine to provoke a nuclear strike from Russia**, alongside **speculation about "dirty bomb" deployment** to hinder peace negotiations. Biological threat disinformation narratives continued to dominate social media platforms, with **widespread conspiracy theories about US-funded biolabs in Ukraine** allegedly developing bioweapons. Several posts **falsely suggested Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is attempting to provoke World War III to cover up bioweapon development**. The **biolab disinformation narrative** is also expanding to other areas, including Armenia.



CHEMICAL DISINFORMATION:

*Claims about chemical
weapon labs in Ukraine*



BIOLOGICAL DISINFORMATION:

*Large wave of claims
centered around US-funded
biolabs in Ukraine and their
expansion to Armenia*



RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR DISINFORMATION:

*Returning claims of
Ukraine's alleged attempts
to develop a "dirty bomb"
and messages about
alleged attacks against
Kalinin NPP*

EXAMPLES OF DISINFORMATION NARRATIVE TRENDS

CHEMICAL DISINFORMATION

Sources: Twitter/X; Telegram

- Claims about chemical weapon labs in Ukraine

BIOLOGICAL DISINFORMATION

Sources: ◀ Telegram; ✕ Twitter/X

- Ongoing unsubstantiated claims about biolab development and operations in multiple regions:
 - Multiple claims that Ukraine is developing bioweapons in US-funded labs
 - Claims that Zelensky is trying to provoke WWII in part to cover up bioweapon development
 - Claims that the US is conducting experiments to develop bioweapons in Armenia ([link](#))
 - Claims that the full-scale invasion was inevitable due in part to biolabs in Ukraine and continued claims about 30 US-funded biolabs in Ukraine
 - Subsequent claims about Ukraine mishandling US biolabs
- Claims that the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) is using bacteriological weapons against their own soldiers



США проводят эксперименты с биологическим оружием в СНГ.

В сети публикуют документы, полученные якобы из лабораторий в Армении, связанные с Минобороны США. Сообщается, что там проводятся эксперименты по мутации вируса SAT-2 с использованием образцов, взятых на границе с Турцией.

SAT-2 – опасный вирус, уничтожающий местные популяции животных.

В 2023 году вирус, который интенсивно наблюдался в городах на границе с Арменией, был ликвидирован благодаря политике вакцинации в Турции

The US is conducting experiments with biological weapons in the CIS.

Documents allegedly obtained from laboratories in Armenia, linked to the US Department of Defense, are published online. It is reported that experiments are being conducted there to mutate the SAT-2 virus using samples taken on the border with Turkey.

SAT-2 is a dangerous virus that destroys local animal populations.

In 2023, the virus, which was intensively observed in cities on the border with Armenia, was eliminated thanks to vaccination policy in Turkey

RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR DISINFORMATION



Zelensky could use 'dirty bomb' – Medvedev

The Ukrainian leader could resort to a provocation in an attempt to hinder peace talks, the former Russian president has warned

Sources: ◀ Telegram; ✕ Twitter/X; 🌐 Web Articles

- Claims that Ukraine could use "dirty bombs" to prevent a peaceful settlement of the war ([link](#))
- Unfounded allegations that the West is pushing Ukraine to provoke a nuclear strike from Russia ([link](#))
- Claims about Ukraine allegedly attacking the Kalinin NPP in Russia's Tver region ([link](#))
- Claims about Ukraine considering spreading radioactive material through drones ([link](#))

IDENTIFYING DISINFORMATION TRENDS

The Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP) is committed to strengthening WMD disarmament and nonproliferation efforts. Disinformation campaigns significantly undermine cooperative threat reduction efforts. The GP Counter WMD Disinformation Initiative aims to track ongoing narratives, understand their impacts and counter state-sponsored or state-adjacent disinformation across Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) threats.

Narrative Trend Monitoring: As part of the GP efforts to identify, understand, and mitigate hostile CBRN disinformation, the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab (DFRLab) conducts a bimonthly search query of state-sponsored or state-adjacent disinformation narratives. This real-time detection allows the initiative to swiftly recognize, isolate and respond to disinformation narratives and networks as they occur.

Methodology: This snapshot report is created from a search query that includes content in Ukrainian, Russian, and English languages, providing an extended search base and corpus of analysis and scale. The focus of the query is centered around CBRN-related messages about the Russian War on Ukraine on social media platforms and online news websites. The report provides examples of notable messages that are likely to include disinformation or key discussions that might be used in mis/disinformation in the future.

Disclaimer: Links are provided for published news sources of official state accounts; links to private accounts are excluded for privacy preservation reasons.