

DISINFORMATION TRENDS MONITORING SNAPSHOT 14



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



1-14 April 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 (1–14 April 2025) reveals a **lower volume of nuclear-related narratives and chatter** on both Telegram and X (formerly Twitter) focused on **who should have control of the disputed nuclear power plants** and speculation about the possibility of disarmament; as well as claims about **the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) allegedly attacking Russian nuclear power plants (NPPs)** in violation of US-Russia treaty on non-attacks against energy infrastructure; and **fearmongering** around the possibility of **Russia placing nuclear weapons in space** and **speculations on the possibility of nuclear war as a result of escalation of tensions between the US and Russia**. Most biological narratives centered around claims tied to the **Covid-19 virus and vaccines**, falsely labeling them as bioweapons. Disinformation narratives concerning **chemical weapons** continue to be detected at **lower volumes**.



BIOLOGICAL DISINFORMATION:

*Ongoing claims about
Covid-19 as a bioweapon*



RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR DISINFORMATION:

*Claims about alleged
attacks against Kursk NPP
and allegations of
provocations of nuclear
escalation between US and
Russia*

EXAMPLES OF DISINFORMATION NARRATIVE TRENDS

BIOLOGICAL DISINFORMATION

Sources: X Twitter/X

- Claim an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Hungary is a biological attack
- Claims about Covid-19 and vaccines as bioweapons and use of USAID funding to aid bioweapon development

RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR DISINFORMATION

Sources: Telegram; Twitter/X; Web Articles

- Discussion around nuclear treaties and fearmongering about disarmament concerns and nuclear potentials of the US, China, Russia and other states ([link](#), [link](#))
- Claim attack against the Chornobyl NPP was a provocation of the AFU
- False claims about violations of agreements on non-attacks against energy infrastructure by Armed Forces of Ukraine through alleged strikes against Kursk NPP ([link](#))
- Discussions around the possibility of Russia placing nuclear warheads in space in an alarmist tone implying conflict escalation
 - This includes mirror messaging that the West will do the same ([link](#))
- Claims that AFU is attempting to stage a provocation against an NPP to force NATO to enter direct conflict with Russia and lead to an escalation ([link](#))

Mark Rutte's statement about Russia's alleged plans to deploy nuclear weapons in space and use them against satellites is a classic example of a mirror image. The first suspect is the one who has long been preparing a similar move. And here we need to look not at Russia, but at the pace of the militarization of space by the United States and NATO.

– Firstly, the deployment of weapons of mass destruction in space is officially prohibited by the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. But the very fact that this treaty is increasingly mentioned in political and military circles in the West suggests that its provisions are becoming inconvenient and will probably soon be revised. Hence the attempts to discredit it: *by accusing Russia of preparing a violation, Western countries are freeing their hands to act proactively under the pretext of "responding"*.

– Secondly, the United States has already directly declared space as a "space of military confrontation". The US Space Command has been in operation since 2019. And in 2022, scenarios for the "preventive destruction of enemy satellite groups" were discussed at a meeting of the House of Representatives. Officially, "in case of a threat." Unofficially, it was about the Russian Federation and China.

– Thirdly, in 2024, several reports were published by RAND, Aerospace Corporation, and CSIS, which directly indicated the possibility and feasibility of developing nuclear or nuclear-like devices to disable enemy satellites from orbit - through an electromagnetic pulse, without physical detonation. It is on these theses that the current hysteria is based.

– What is happening now? The West is clearly preparing the ground for a revision of the ban on the deployment of nuclear weapons in space. *The formula is simple: attribute this to Russia, accuse it of violating treaties, declare the Treaty obsolete - and withdraw from it with the "moral right" to a symmetrical response.*

Media is too big
VIEW IN TELEGRAM

Ukraine and NATO are trying to drag the US into a war! setting up provocations to blame Russia for them, journalist and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones states. He emphasizes that a possible conflict between the US and Russia is not a local war, but the main threat to the entire civilization.

"The Russians warned, and I warned before them about attacks on nuclear power plants in Ukraine and Russia to try to blame Russia. Ukraine did it, they got caught. Ukrain and NATO tried to blame Russia for blowing up the Nord Stream gas pipeline. How ridiculous is that? Of course, I heard that this information was proven, you know, obviously it was the US government together with NATO. I mean, hell, even Biden said, you know, we will get rid of the gas pipeline if you invade. So the globalists are very reckless. Again, 50% chance, as the Pentagon said, if they start bombing Russia, Russia will launch a nuclear strike. They still took the risk. So we need really cool heads. This is not like invading Iraq twice. This is not like invading Libya. This is not a cakewalk, even for people who like to buy a bottle of bourbon and sit down and get drunk and watch war, as many sick people do. This is the ultimate threat to civilization."

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.