



Summary

DFRLab conducts a **weekly** review of data based on a search query including **Ukrainian, Russian and English languages** to identify when spikes of CBRN disinformation narratives are spreading **on Telegram, X, and web**. DFRLab tracks both:

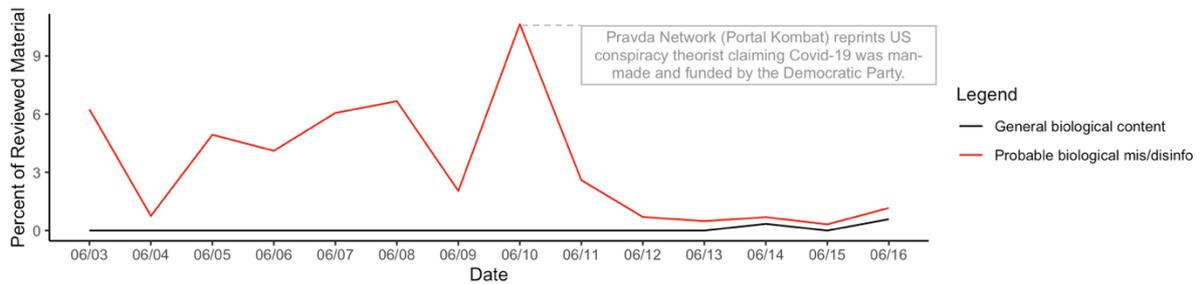
- **Chatter** – official statements, transcriptions of official statements provided with no commentary, news items presented in a factual manner
- And **disinformation** – factually untrue statements and messages manipulating facts, presenting a strong emotional case or call to action aimed at changing policy.

This report (**June 3 - June 16, 2025**) reveals:



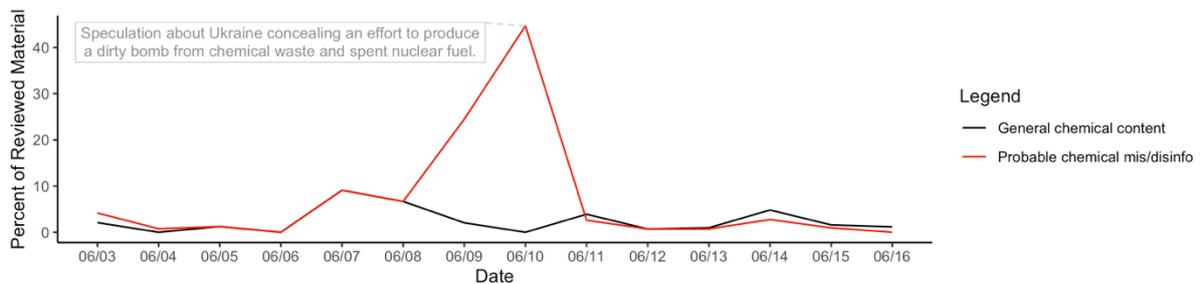
Nuclear chatter	Nuclear disinformation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massive volume of nuclear-related chatter on both Telegram and X (formerly Twitter) focused on Israel's attack against Iran's nuclear facilities, generating widespread discussion and speculation about potential consequences; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fearmongering claiming this will lead to WWII, with manipulation of the situation to suggest imminent global conflict escalation. • Speculation about Iran's nuclear capabilities became a recurring theme with claims ranging from Iran already possessing nuclear weapons to

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussion spearheaded across both platforms with generic chatter about the attack mixed with more concerning narratives;● Ownership of Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP) continues to be a topic of chatter centered around potential Ukraine and Russia peace talks.	<p>possibilities of dirty bomb development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Narratives spread about Israel's intention to use nuclear weapons against Iran leading to full destruction of multiple regional states;● Claims emerged about NATO's potential use of tactical nuclear weapons against Iran, escalating regional conflict scenarios.● Continued focus on Ukraine-related nuclear threats with multiple concerning narratives;<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Claims of AFU attacks against Zaporizhzhia NPP and Russian NPPs regularly shared by users seeking to blame Ukraine for nuclear facility targeting;○ Claims Russia is planning to use tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine, with speculation this would lead to full-scale NATO conflict.○ Speculation about nuclear escalation risks tied to continued US support for Ukraine, with claims that ongoing war serves NATO's interests as a testing ground;● Claims about IAEA observer neutrality questioned, with speculation about observers potentially serving as intelligence assets making nuclear sites into targets.
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Biological chatter and disinformation

This period denoted a lack of biological chatter and disinformation.

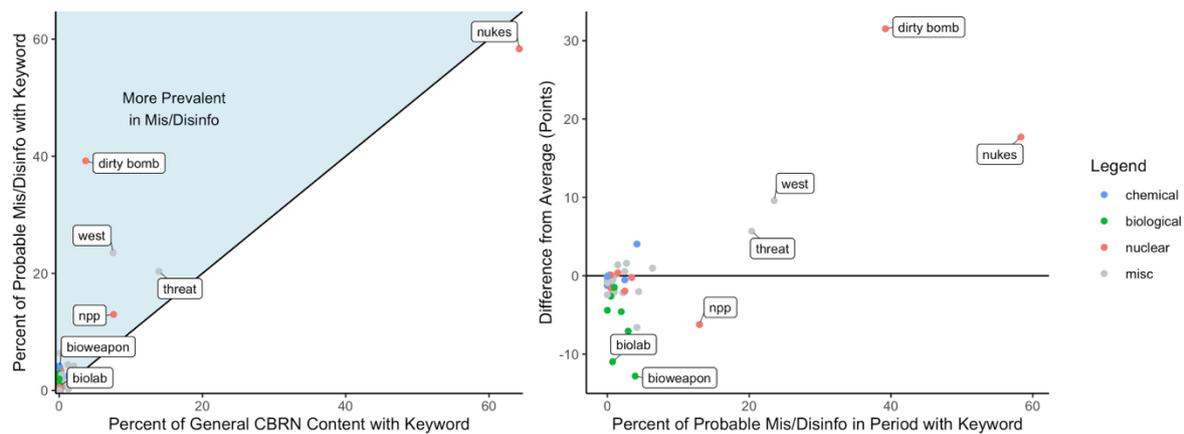


Chemical chatter and disinformation

Chemical weapons discussion centered on claims of AFU drone attacks using chemical agents and broader narratives about Ukraine's chemical plant targeting in Russia.

Dominant keywords

This period we see a rise in messages mentioning nukes or nuclear weapons – however, the rise in nuclear disinformation is proportional and connected to the general rise in chatter messages about nuclear weapons.



Prevalence of Keywords in CBRN Disinformation from monitoring period relative to prior periods (*Keywords above the line were mentioned in an above average number of posts, while keywords below the line were discussed less frequently than usual. Note that each keyword accounts for variation in the term. For example, “NPP” captures not only the acronym, but also “nuclear power plant” and “nuclear plant” across all three languages.*)

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 tailored search queries that includes content in Ukrainian, Russian, and English languages, providing an extended search base and corpus of analysis and scale. The results of the query are exported and stored in standardized file formats. DFRLab then extracts a standard subset of the results for manual review. This material consists of 1000 top posts from X and Telegram.

The 1000 posts output by the data preparation step are manually reviewed to determine whether they are 'relevant' (part of general CBRN discussion/ "chatter") and 'in-scope' (probable mis/disinformation).

Relevance: Relevant posts are either *specifically about CBRN/WMD issues or include substantial discussion of them*, even if the main topic is something else. A post would *not* be relevant if it:

- uses CBRN terms figuratively (ex. "That cold snap totally *nuked* my vegetable garden!");
- hijacks CBRN hashtags to farm engagement (ex. "GlorpCoin is the hottest new crypto on the market. Buy now!!! *#biolab*");
- briefly mentions CBRN as a descriptor or aside (ex. A lengthy post that contains the phrase "nuclear weapons state" once and no other mention of CBRN/WMD.);
- is written in a language other than English, Ukrainian, or Russian.

Scope: Posts are in scope if they *discuss CBRN/WMD in an emotionally charged or otherwise sensationalist way meant to provoke a negative audience reaction or political change*. A post may be in scope if it:

- speculates or fearmongers about CBRN development and/or use;
- calls for CBRN proliferation and/or use;
- fearmongers about nuclear escalation;
- uses the possibility of CBRN deployment to call for policy change.

A post is likely *not* in scope if it:

- jokes about CBRN with no clear disinformation motive or call to action;
- presents information or news about CBRN in a neutral, factual tone;
- describes historical facts about WMD development/use without tying them to current events.