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## Is the U.S. Developing Bioweapons in Secret Labs in Ukraine

While the Biden administration wants Americans to believe that the war in Ukraine is as simple as black and white or good versus evil, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is quite complex and has been strongly influenced by the American political establishment. Secret biological laboratories that worked with dangerous pathogens and were financed, and likely run, by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) have emerged as one of the important pieces of the Ukraine-Russia puzzle.



AP Images

### Russian Accusations

Russia has asserted numerous justifications for its invasion of Ukraine, and one of them is gaining traction with some observers: the allegation that the United States was developing bioweapons at labs in close proximity to the Russian border.

For several years, Russia has been accusing the United States of working with Ukrainian laboratories to develop biological weapons. Such allegations made by Russian top diplomats and officials increased in the run-up to Moscow's military move into Ukraine.

One of the first Russian officials to renew the accusations was the chief spokesman for the Ministry of Defense of Russia, Igor Konashenkov. On March 6, he claimed that Kyiv was "urgently eradicating" the "traces" of the U.S.-run "military-biological program."

Two days later, Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova asked Washington to provide all information on the activities of U.S.-linked biological laboratories in Ukraine.

"We confirm that, during the special military operation in Ukraine, the Kiev regime was found to have been concealing traces of a military biological programme implemented with funding from the United States Department of Defence," wrote Zakharova on her Telegram account on March 8.

She further stated that while the Ministry of Health of Ukraine had ordered the "urgent eradication" of the documentation related to the U.S.-funded Ukrainian biolabs on February 24, lab employees provided Russia with some of the papers, which showed that the labs worked with such "highly hazardous pathogens" as plague, anthrax, rabbit fever, cholera, and "other lethal diseases." Zakharova stressed, "We can conclude that components of biological weapons were being developed in Ukrainian laboratories in direct proximity to Russian territory."

"These materials can be found on the internet portal of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation," she noted.

Zakharova also accused the United States and Ukraine of violating Article I of the Biological and Toxin



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Weapons Convention, which forbids the development, production, or retention of biological weapons and their components.

## **U.S. Response: It's "Russian Misinformation"**

American mainstream-media outlets were quick to side with the U.S. establishment and dubbed the allegations "Russian misinformation."

Responding to a report posted by Real Raw News on February 24 about Russia destroying 13 bioweapons facilities across Ukraine, "fact-checkers" from Lead Stories strongly denied the existence of any U.S.-owned bioweapons labs in Ukraine.

Real Raw News stated that "[Russian President Vladimir] Putin contended the West — the American NIH, France's Institute of Health and Medical Research, and Germany's Center for Infection Research — had funneled billions of dollars into the labs under the pretense of research grants.... According to Putin, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy knew about the laboratories and had received kickbacks in exchange for letting them operate clandestinely and without official oversight."

"There are no U.S.-run bioweapons laboratories in Ukraine, according to the U.S. Department of Defense's (DOD) Threat Reduction Agency," fact-checkers said in response.

The outlet, however, did not deny a U.S. collaboration with Ukraine in running and funding "public health, animal health, and food safety labs."

Additional "fact-checking" articles, such as one from PolitiFact, echoed the claim that "there are no US-run biolabs in Ukraine," citing a member of the Arms Control Association Board of Directors and a former assistant secretary of defense for nuclear, chemical, and biological defense programs, Andy Weber. The report did acknowledge a wider U.S. collaboration with Ukraine in medical laboratories, "whose mission is analogous to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

The "false claim of US biolabs in Ukraine tied to a Russian disinformation campaign" was aimed at "discrediting the United States," posted *USA Today*, citing the Security Service of Ukraine.

Speaking at the UN Security Council on March 18, Russia's permanent representative, Vasily Nebenzya, reiterated the accusations of the United States working on bioweapons development in Ukraine, claiming that the "Pentagon's Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) directly funded and supervised military biological projects in Ukraine." The total funding amounted to \$32 million, said Nebenzya, and the recipients of those funds were labs of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine — not its Ministry of Health, as claimed by Ukraine.

Nebenzya called the very essence of the U.S.-Ukraine collaboration "a cynical use of Ukraine's territory and population for dangerous research that Washington does not want to have at home so [as] to not put its own population at risk."

## **Ukraine: The Story Is "Fake"**

The Ukrainian establishment denied the Russian accusations of developing biological weapons with American money and claimed that Russia was trying to justify a possible chemical attack on Ukraine.

Commenting on the Russian allegations, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called them "new-old fakes."



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“I am the president of an adequate country and an adequate people. I am the father of two children. No chemical or any other weapons of mass destruction have been developed on my land,” Zelensky said. He added that all Ukrainian laboratories that were set up during Soviet times were engaged in “ordinary” science and research — “NOT military technology.”

However, Russian accusations made Zelensky “really worried,” since he believes that “if you want to know Russia’s plans, listen to what Russia accuses others of.”

According to an agreement between the U.S. DOD and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine “Concerning Cooperation in the Area of Prevention of Proliferation of Technology, Pathogens and Expertise that could be Used in the Development of Biological Weapons,” the respective governments partnered on August 29, 2005 to “prevent the proliferation of dangerous pathogens and related expertise and to minimize potential biological threats.”

The agreement contains a couple of peculiarities. For instance, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine had to transfer to the DOD requested copies of the dangerous pathogen strains collected in Ukraine “for cooperative biological research in the centralized laboratories in Ukraine” and in DOD-designated labs in America.

The parties agreed to keep information about the experiments’ results secret. Notably, if the DOD decided to designate something “sensitive,” then it was also considered as such by Ukraine and was prohibited from being shared with the Ukrainian public. At the same time, if Ukraine wanted to label a piece of information concerning a lab’s work secretive, it would still be available to the DOD.

The agreement stressed that the fewer people who were engaged in the project, the better.

For sure, all of that does not prove that the labs were working on biological weapons, yet the engagement of the American DOD, the amount of funds, and a dense veil of secrecy have caused serious concerns within Ukraine.

Back in April 2020, a Ukrainian opposition party called “Opposition Platform — For Life” alleged the labs worked on biological weapons. That work, they said, had caused several unexplained disease outbreaks in the Ukrainian regions that hosted the labs.

“In fact, the laboratories are carrying out biological experiments. Their budget is \$2.1 billion, and they are funded by the American Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) [of the DOD]. This activity was joined by the Science & Technology Center in Ukraine, an international organization that is funded by the U.S. establishment and whose staff possesses diplomatic immunity. The said organization is funding the bioweapons development projects,” wrote the party leaders to President Zelensky and three top officials in his administration.

The letter further points to the outbreaks of viral diseases around the labs.

“In Ternopil in 2009, there was a hemorrhagic pneumonia outbreak. It claimed 450 Ukrainian lives. In 2011, Ukraine saw a cholera outbreak — 33 people died. In three years, 800 Ukrainians were diagnosed with cholera, and in another year, more than 100 cases in Mykolayv were reported,” per the letter.

There were other mysterious incidents, the letter noted. In January 2016, in Kharkiv, 20 servicemen died of a flu-like disease, and more than 200 were hospitalized. In two months, there were reports of 364 deaths of “swine flu that led to the pandemic of 2009.” Outbreaks were also reported in 2017 in Mykolayv, Odessa, and Zaporozhe.



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According to the “Opposition Platform,” an official inspection of the laboratories conducted in 2010-2012 found that the labs routinely violated safety and technical protocols, which “could lead to the leakage of dangerous infections.”

President Viktor Yanukovich ceased that cooperation with the United States in 2013, but his successor, Petro Poroshenko, revived it in 2014. The opposition lawmakers allege that “it is quite possible that Yanukovich lost his power due to his refusal to cooperate with the Pentagon.”

They concluded, “It cannot be excluded that the secret and non-transparent activity of foreign objects on Ukrainian territory has the objective of testing viruses and bacteria on Ukrainians,” and asked Zelensky to investigate the matter.

Citing official sources, Interfax-Ukraine reported in May 2020 that the U.S.-Ukraine agreement was primarily aimed at “modernizing” state laboratories located in the Odessa, Kharkiv, Lviv, Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Kherson, and Dnipropetrovsk regions. Those efforts included making repairs, updating equipment, and purchasing supplies.

The Security Service of Ukraine told the outlet that the laboratories, “financed from the state budget, are subordinate to the Ministry of Health and the state service on food safety and consumer protection.”

At that time, the U.S. embassy in Ukraine called the allegations cited in the letter “Russian disinformation,” yet confirmed that there are some biological programs in Ukraine “overseen” by the DOD. Notably, it was added that the Department of Defense of Ukraine is one of the U.S. partners in some of the projects.

## **OK, There Are Labs, but Nothing to Worry About**

Fast forward to today, and the story of the alleged U.S.-run biolabs in Ukraine took an unexpected twist when the United States admitted that there are bioresearch facilities in Ukraine partnered with the DOD.

Answering a question on whether Ukraine “has biological or chemical weapons,” Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland told the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a hearing on March 8, “Ukraine has biological research facilities, which in fact we are now quite concerned about Russian troops, Russian forces may be seeking to gain control of, so we are working with the Ukrainians on how they can prevent any of those research materials from falling into the hands of Russian forces should they approach.”

The very next day, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki called the allegations of biological research facilities in Ukraine “conspiracy theory” and “disinformation,” despite the State Department’s confirmation to the contrary.

As reported by *The New American* in early March, the extent of the United States’ involvement with Ukrainian labs that allegedly worked on biological weapons development is unclear, and it seems likely the U.S. government is not being fully transparent about it.

According to the website for the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, the U.S. Department of Defense’s Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) constructed two biolabs in Ukraine and upgraded others. The BTRP, the website says, “collaborates with partner countries to counter the threat of outbreaks (deliberate, accidental, or natural) of the world’s most dangerous infectious diseases.”



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A few of the viruses these labs were working with as a part of the BRTP included swine flu, avian flu, Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever virus, and hantavirus — the same viruses that caused several disease outbreaks reported by Ukrainian lawmakers.

As Nuland testified before the U.S. Senate, The National Pulse reported that it had unearthed a since-deleted 2010 article revealing that then-Senators Dick Lugar (R-Ind.) and Barack Obama (D-Ill.) had been involved in setting up a level-3 biosafety laboratory in Odessa, Ukraine, since 2005. The lab was tasked with handling “especially dangerous pathogens” such as anthrax, tularemia, and Q fever, as well as other dangerous pathogens, per the article.

As noted by The National Pulse, the lab in question was referenced in a 2011 report from the U.S. National Academy of Sciences’ Committee on Anticipating Biosecurity Challenges of the Global Expansion of High-Containment Biological Laboratories. The report detailed how the Odessa-based lab “is responsible for the identification of especially dangerous biological pathogens.”

Rosemont Seneca Technology Partners, owned by Hunter Biden, helped raise money for biolab projects in Ukraine, according to e-mails from the laptop Hunter abandoned at a Delaware repair shop in 2019. The e-mails reveal that the fund invested \$500,000 in the San Francisco pathogen-research company Metabiota.

The e-mails also show how the younger Biden introduced Metabiota to officials at Burisma Holdings, the Ukrainian natural-gas operator where he was a board member, for a “science project” involving biolabs in Ukraine. In the subsequent e-mails, he bragged to investors that his company organized funding for Metabiota and helped it “get new customers,” including “government agencies.”

“Why is Hunter Biden in the middle of all this? Why is the disgraced son of the vice president at the heart of this — the guy with no discernible skills and a cocaine habit?” wondered ex-CIA officer Sam Faddis, adding, “There does seem to be something that needs to be explored here.”

It is reasonable to conclude that the DOD-run labs in Ukraine were set up to circumvent the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention as well as congressional oversight concerning activities related to bioweapons development, while also offshoring any health-related risks. Notably, the alleged program has been run in a country that is known for its immense corruption and ties with the globalist establishment of the United States, including the Biden family.

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