

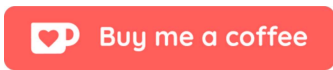
US RAN GRUESOME BIOWEAPON RESEARCH IN OVER 25 COUNTRIES. WUHAN, TIP OF AN ICEBERG

by Silviu "Silview" Costinescu



JUN 03 2021

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Article 8 of [The Rome Statute](#) of The International Criminal Court (ICC) defines biological experiments as war crimes. The US, however, is not a state party to the international treaty, and cannot be held accountable for its war crimes.

So much to take in here, no time for introductions:

THE PENTAGON BIOWEAPONS

by Dilyana Gaytandzhieva

Dilyana Gaytandzhieva is a Bulgarian investigative journalist, Middle East correspondent and founder of Arms Watch. Over the last two years she has published a series of revealing reports on weapons supplies to terrorists in Syria and Iraq. Her current work is focused on documenting war crimes and illicit arms exports to war zones around the world.

Attention: for expired/deleted links, learn to use the Wayback Machine from the Internet Archive, their apps and plugins are great.



The US Army regularly produces deadly viruses, bacteria and toxins in direct violation of the UN Convention on the prohibition of Biological Weapons. Hundreds of thousands of unwitting people are systematically exposed to dangerous pathogens and other incurable diseases. Bio warfare scientists using diplomatic cover test man-made viruses at Pentagon bio laboratories in 25 countries across the world. These US bio-laboratories are funded by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) under a **\$ 2.1 billion military program**– Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP), and are located in former Soviet Union countries such as Georgia and Ukraine, the Middle East, South East Asia and Africa.

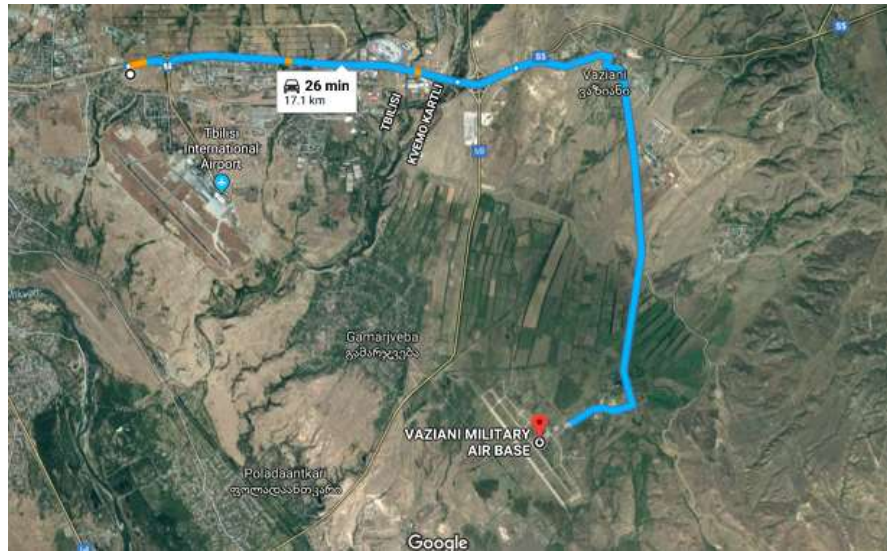


Georgia as a testing ground

The Lugar Center is the Pentagon bio laboratory in Georgia. It is located just 17 km from the US Vaziani military airbase in the capital Tbilisi. Tasked with the military program are biologists from the US Army Medical Research Unit-Georgia (USAMRU-G) along with private contractors. The Bio-safety Level 3 Laboratory is accessible only to US citizens with **security clearance**. They are accorded diplomatic immunity under the 2002 US-Georgia Agreement on defense cooperation.



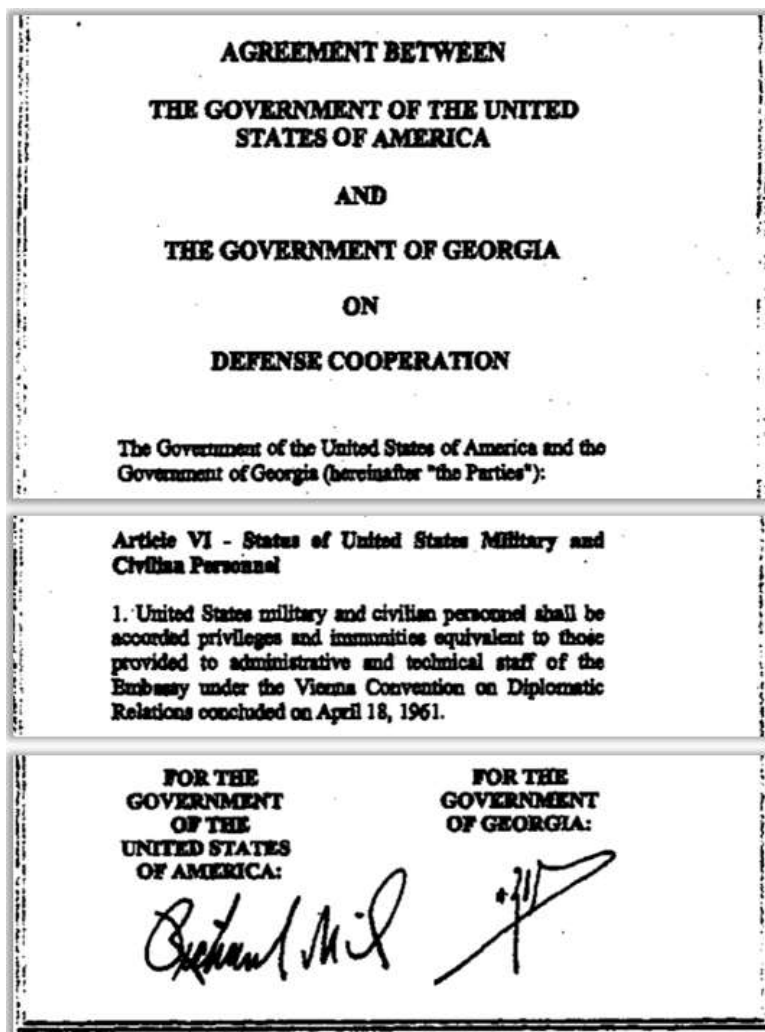
The Lugar Center, Republic of Georgia



The US Army has been deployed to Vaziani Military Air Base, 17 km from the Pentagon bio-laboratory at The Lugar Center.

#	RFP Section	Question	Proposed Answer
	Section B		
36	J- Attachment 3 (DD254) Paragraph 13b	Security Clearances The DD254 implies that ALL personnel are to be U.S citizens and have appropriate security clearances. Will the Government confirm that this will apply only to certain key individuals on a Task Order by Task Order basis, considering the likely involvement of large numbers of non-U.S. nationals in the program?	The need to be a US citizen and have appropriate security clearance is based on the need of that individual to have access to classified information or enter classified spaces.

DoD Requirements for contractors under the DTRA program in former Soviet Union countries such as Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Source: fbo.gov

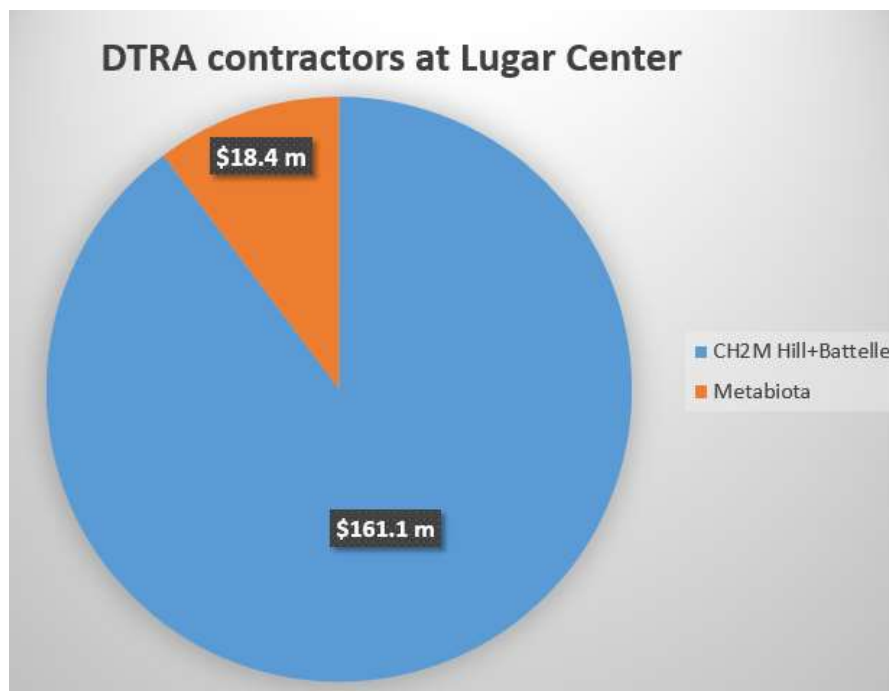


The USA-Georgia agreement accords diplomatic status to the US military and civilian personnel (including diplomatic vehicles), working on the Pentagon program in Georgia.

Information obtained from the US federal contracts registry clarifies some of the military activities at The Lugar Center – among them **research on bio-agents** (anthrax, tularemia) and viral diseases (e.g. Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever), and the collection of biological samples for future experiments.

Pentagon contractors produce bio agents under diplomatic cover

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) has outsourced much of the work under the military program to private companies, which are not held accountable to Congress, and which can operate more freely and move around the rule of law. US civilian personnel performing work at The Lugar Center have also been given diplomatic immunity, although they are not diplomats. Hence, private companies can perform work, under diplomatic cover, for the US government without being under the direct control of the host state – in this case the Republic of Georgia. This practice is often used by the CIA to provide cover for its agents. Three private American companies work at the US bio-laboratory in Tbilisi – CH2M Hill, Battelle and Metabiota. In addition to the Pentagon, these private contractors perform research for the CIA and various other government agencies.



CH2M Hill has been awarded **\$341.5 million DTRA contracts** under the Pentagon's program for bio-laboratories in Georgia, Uganda, Tanzania, Iraq, Afghanistan, South East Asia. Half of this sum (**\$161.1 million**), being allocated to The Luger Center, under the Georgian contract. According to CH2M Hill, the US Company has secured biological agents and employed former bio warfare scientists at The Luger Center. These are scientists who are working for another American company involved in the military program in Georgia – Battelle Memorial Institute.

Battelle as a \$59 million subcontractor at Luger Center has extensive experience in research on bio-agents, as the company has already worked on the US Bio-weapons Program under **11 previous contracts with the US Army** (1952-1966). Source: **US Army Activities in the US**, Biological Warfare Programs, vol. II, 1977, p. 82

The private company performs work for the Pentagon's DTRA bio laboratories in **Afghanistan, Armenia, Georgia, Uganda, Tanzania, Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam**. Battelle conducts **research, development, testing**, and evaluation using both highly toxic chemicals and highly pathogenic biological agents for a **wide range of US government agencies**. It has been awarded some \$2 billion federal contracts in total and ranks 23 on the Top 100 US government contractors list.

The CIA-Battelle Project Clear Vision

Project Clear Vision (1997 and 2000), a joint investigation by the CIA and the Battelle Memorial Institute, under a contract awarded by the Agency, reconstructed and tested a Soviet-era anthrax bomblet in order to test its dissemination characteristics. The project's stated goal was to assess bio-agents dissemination characteristics of bomblets. The clandestine CIA-Battelle operation was omitted from the US Biological Weapons Convention declarations submitted to the UN.

Top Secret Experiments

Battelle has operated a Top Secret Bio laboratory (National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center – NBACC) at Fort Detrick, Maryland under a US Department of

Homeland Security (DHS) **contract** for the last decade. The company has been awarded a **\$344.4 million federal contract** (2006 – 2016) and **another \$17.3 million contract** (2015 –2026) by DHS.



NBACC is classified as a **US Top Secret facility**. Photo credit: DHS

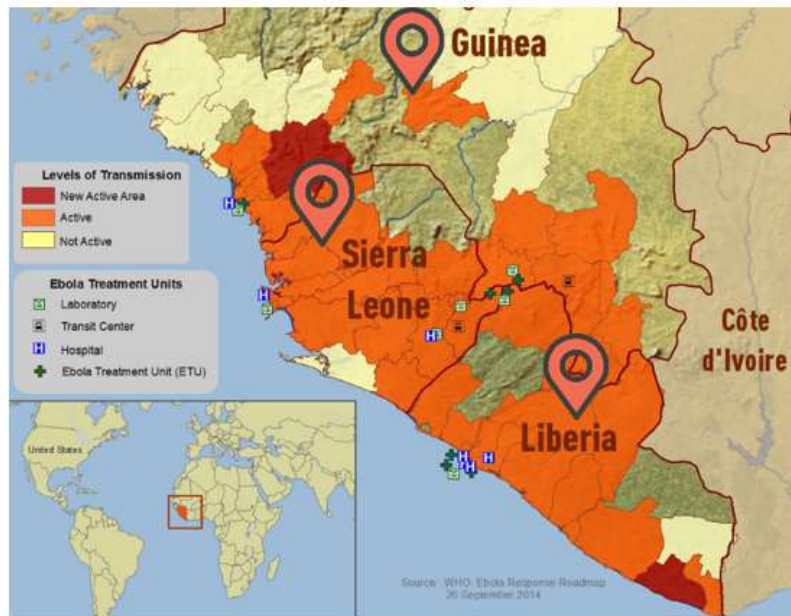
Amongst the secret experiments, performed by Battelle at NBACC, are: **Assessment of powder dissemination technology** ; **Assessment of hazard posed by aerosolized toxins** and **Assessment of virulence of B. Pseudomallei (Meliodosis)** as a function of aerosol particle in non-human primates. Meliodosis has the potential to be developed as a biological weapon, hence, it is classed as a **category B. Bioterrorism Agent**. B. Pseudomallei was studied by the US as a potential bioweapon in the past.

Besides the military experiments at the Lugar Center in Georgia, Battelle has already produced bioterrorism agents at the Biosafety Level 4 NBACC Top Secret Laboratory at Fort Detrick in the US. A **NBACC presentation** lists 16 research priorities for the lab. Amongst them to characterize classical, emerging and genetically engineered pathogens for their BTA (biological threat agent) potential; assess the nature of nontraditional, novel and non-endemic induction of disease from potential BTA and to expand aerosol-challenge testing capacity for non-human primates.



Scientists engineer pathogens at the NBACC lab. Photo credit: NBACC

The US Company Metabiota Inc. has been awarded **\$18.4 million federal contracts** under the Pentagon’s DTRA program in Georgia and Ukraine for scientific and technical consulting services. Metabiota services include global field-based biological threat research, pathogen discovery, outbreak response and clinical trials. Metabiota Inc. had been contracted by the Pentagon to perform work for DTRA before and during the Ebola crisis in West Africa and was awarded **\$3.1 million (2012-2015) for work in Sierra Leone** – one of the countries at the epicenter of the Ebola outbreak.



Metabiota worked on a Pentagon’s project at the epicenter of the Ebola crisis, where three US biolabs are situated.



A [July 17, 2014 report](#) drafted by the Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Consortium, accused Metabiota Inc. of failing to abide by an existing agreement on how to report test results and for bypassing the Sierra Leonean scientists working there. The report also raised the possibility that Metabiota was culturing blood cells at the lab, something the report said was dangerous, as well as misdiagnosing healthy patients. All of those allegations were denied by Metabiota.



2011, The Lugar Center, [Andrew C. Weber](#) (on the right) – US Assistant Secretary of Defense (2009-2014), US DoD Deputy Coordinator for Ebola Response (2014-2015), is currently a Metabiota (the US contractor) employee.

Military Experiments on biting insects

Entomological warfare is a type of biological warfare that uses insects to transmit diseases. The Pentagon has allegedly performed such entomological tests in Georgia and Russia. In 2014 The Lugar Center was equipped with an insect facility and launched a project “Raising Awareness about Barcoding of Sand Flies in Georgia and Caucasus”. The project covered a larger geographic area outside of Georgia – Caucasus. In 2014-2015 Phlebotomine sand fly species were collected under another project “[Surveillance Work on Acute Febrile Illness](#)” and all (female) sand flies were tested

to determine their infectivity rate. A third project, also including sand flies collection, studied **the characteristics** their salivary glands.

A biting fly in a bathroom in Tbilisi (photo 1), flies in Georgia (photo 2, 3)

As a result Tbilisi has been infested with biting flies since 2015. These biting insects live indoors, in bathrooms, all year long, which was not the typical behaviour of these species in Georgia previously (normally the Phlebotomine fly season in Georgia is exceptionally short – from June to September). Local people complain of being bitten by these newly appeared flies while naked in their bathrooms. They also have a strong resistance to cold and can survive even in the sub-zero temperatures in the mountains.

Biting Flies in Dagestan, Russia

Since the start of the Pentagon project in 2014 flies similar to those in Georgia have appeared in neighboring Dagestan (Russia). According to local people, they bite and cause rashes. Their breeding habitats are house drains.

Flies in Georgia (on the left). The same species in Dagestan (on the right)

Flies from the Phlebotomine family carry dangerous parasites in their saliva which they transmit through a bite to humans. The disease, which these flies carry, is of high interest to the Pentagon. In 2003 during the US invasion of Iraq American soldiers were severely bitten by sand flies and **contracted Leishmoniasis**. The disease is native to Iraq and Afghanistan and if left untreated the acute form of Leishmoniasis can be fatal.

A **1967 US Army report** “Arthropods of medical importance in Asia and the European USSR” lists all local insects, their distribution and the diseases that they carry. Biting flies, which live in drains, are also listed in the document. Their natural habitats, though, are the Philippines, not Georgia or Russia.

Source: "Arthropods of medical importance in Asia and the European USSR", US Army report, 1967

Operation Whitecoat: Infected flies tested to bite humans

Sand fly

In 1970 and 1972, Sand Fly Fever tests were performed on humans according to a declassified US Army report – *US Army Activities in the US, Biological Warfare Programs, 1977, vol. II, p. 203*. During operation Whitecoat volunteers were exposed to bites by infected sand flies. **Operation Whitecoat** was a bio-defense medical research program carried out by the US Army at Fort Detrick, Maryland between 1954 and 1973.

Despite the official termination of the US bio-weapons program, in **1982 USAMRIID performed an experiment** if sand flies and mosquitoes could be vectors of Rift Valley Virus, Dengue, Chikungunya and Eastern Equine Encephalitis – viruses, which the US Army researched for their potential as bio-weapons.

Killer Insects

A. Aegypti

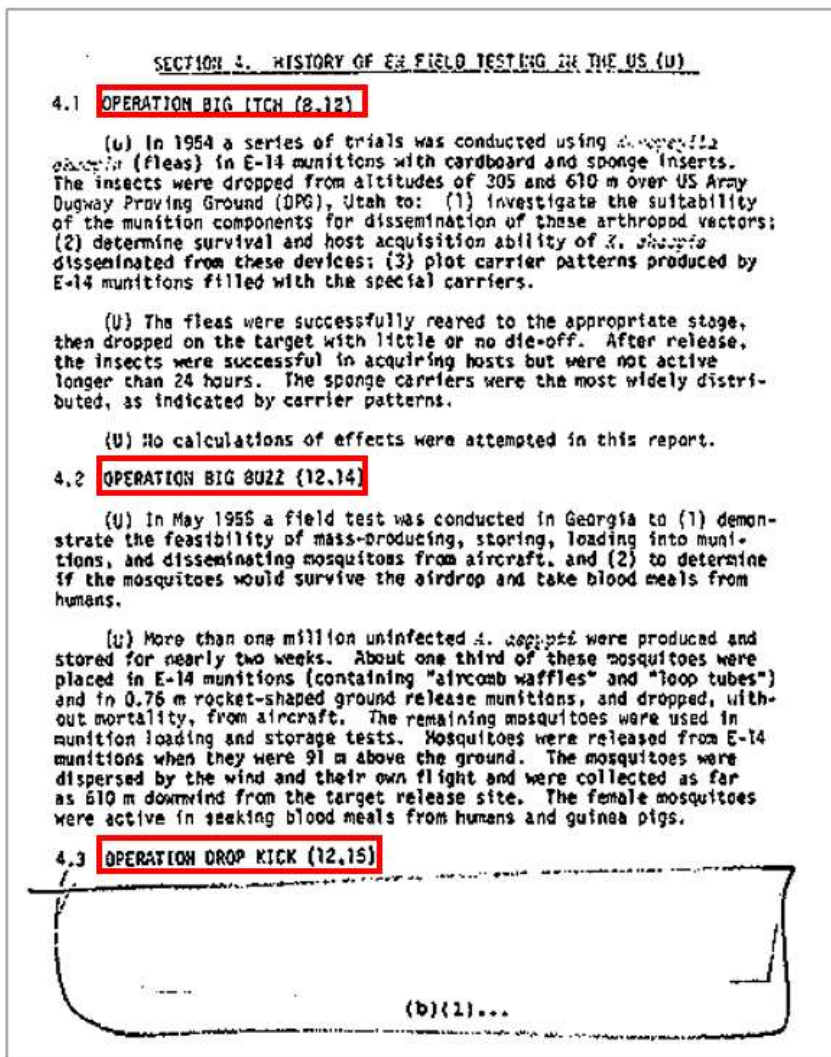
The Pentagon has a long history in using insects as vectors for diseases. According to a partially declassified **1981 US Army report**, American bio warfare scientists carried out a number of experiments on insects. These operations were part of the US Entomological Warfare under the Program for Biological Weapons of the US.

The Pentagon: How to kill 625,000 people for just \$0.29 cost per death

A US Army report in 1981 compared two scenarios – 16 simultaneous attacks on a city by *A. Aegypti* mosquitoes, infected with Yellow Fever, and Tularemia aerosol attack, and assesses their effectiveness in cost and casualties.

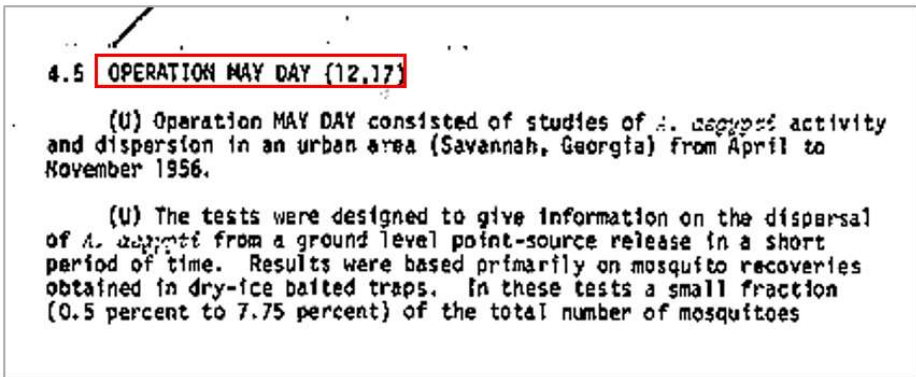
Operation Big Itch: Field tests were performed to determine coverage patterns and survivability of the tropical rat flea *Xenopsylla cheopis* for use as a disease vector in biological warfare.

Operation Big Buzz: 1 million *A. Aegypti* mosquitoes were produced, 1/3 were placed in munitions and dropped from aircraft, or dispersed on the ground. The mosquitoes survived the airdrop and actively sought out human blood.



Source: Evaluation of Entomological Warfare as a potential Danger to the US and European NATO nations, US Army, March 1981 Report

Operation May Day: *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes were dispersed through ground based methods in Georgia, USA, during a US Army operation codenamed May Day.



Parts of the 1981 US Army report such as the “Mass production of *Aedes Aegypti*” have not been declassified, potentially meaning that the project is still ongoing.

Aedes Aegypti, also known as yellow fever mosquito, have been widely used in US military operations. The same species of mosquitoes are alleged to be the vectors of dengue, chikungunya and the Zika virus, which causes genetic malformations in newborns.

Operation Bellweather

The US Army Chemical Research and Development Command, Biological Weapons Branch, studied outdoor mosquito biting activity in a number of field tests at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, in 1960. Virgin female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which had been starved, were tested upon troops out in the open air.

For reference: [Outdoor Mosquito Biting Activity Studies](#), Project Bellweather I, 1960, Technical Report, US Army, Dugway Proving Ground

Military Experiments with Tropical Mosquitoes and Ticks in Georgia

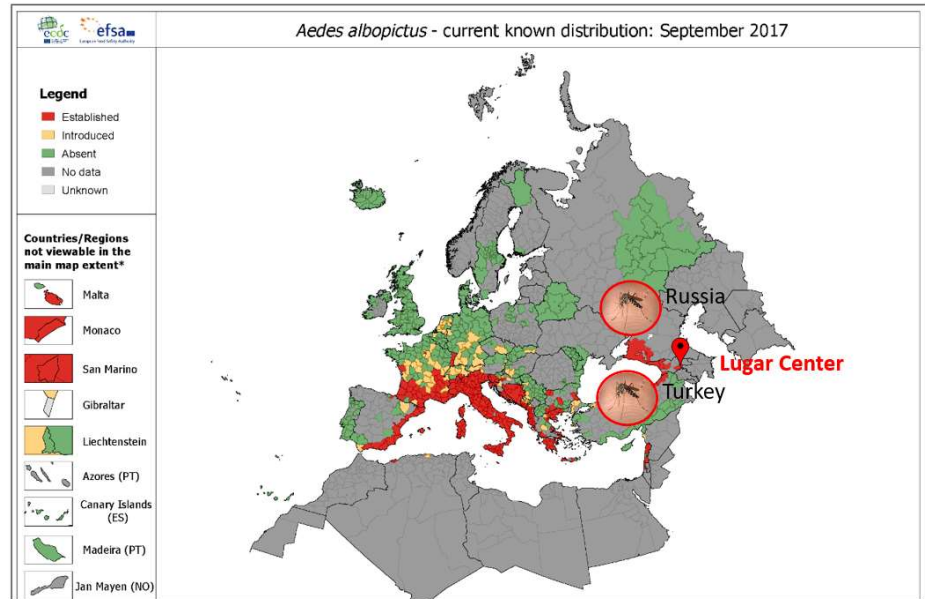
Such species of mosquitoes and fleas (studied in the past under the US Entomological Warfare Program) have also been collected in Georgia and tested at The Lugar Center.

Under the DTRA project “Virus and Other Arboviruses in Georgia” in 2014 the never-before-seen tropical mosquito *Aedes albopictus* was **detected for the first time** and after decades (60 years) the existence of *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito was confirmed in West Georgia.

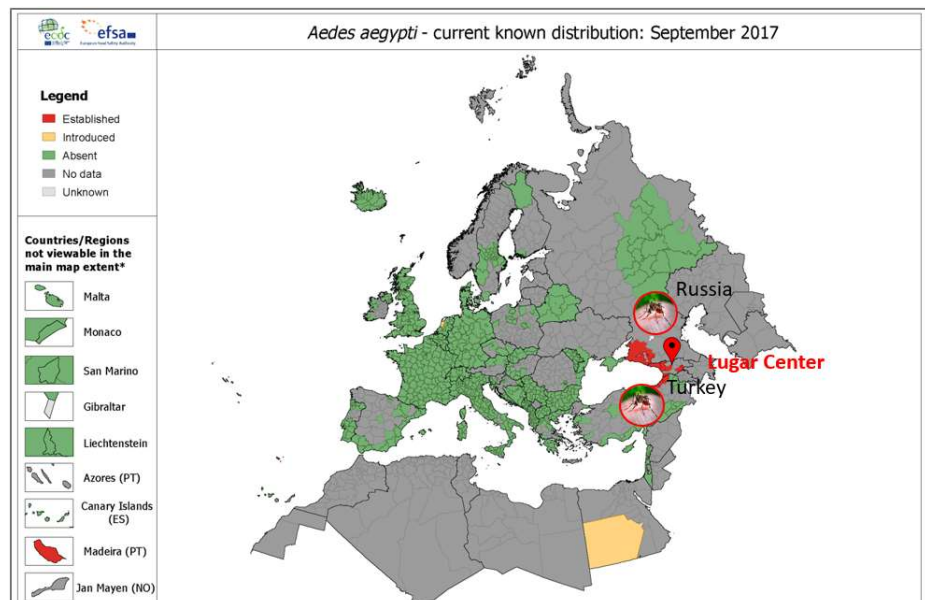


Aedes Albopictus is a vector of many viral pathogens, Yellow fever virus, Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika.

These tropical mosquitoes *Aedes Albopictus* having never been seen before in Georgia, have also been detected in neighboring Russia (Krasnodar) and Turkey, according to [data provided by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#). Their spread is unusual for this part of the world.



Aedes Aegypti Mosquitoes have been distributed only in Georgia, Southern Russia and Northern Turkey. They were detected for the first time in 2014 after the start of the Pentagon program at The Lugar Center.



Under another DTRA project “Epidemiology and Ecology of Tularemia in Georgia” (2013–2016) 6,148 ground ticks were collected ; 5,871 were collected off the cattle and 1,310 fleas and 731 ticks were caught. In 2016 a further 21 590 ticks were collected and studied at The Lugar Center.

Anthrax Outbreak in Georgia and NATO Human Trials

In 2007 **Georgia ended its policy** of having compulsory annual livestock anthrax vaccination. As a result, the morbidity rate of the disease reached its peak in 2013. The same year **NATO started human based anthrax vaccine tests** at The Lugar Center in Georgia.

In 2007 despite the anthrax outbreak the Georgian government terminated the compulsory vaccination for 7 years, 2013 saw NATO start human trials on a new anthrax vaccine in Georgia.

Pentagon Research on Russian Anthrax

Anthrax is one of the bio agents **weaponized by the US Army** in the past. Despite the Pentagon's claims that its program is only defensive, there are facts to the contrary. In 2016 at The Lugar Center American scientists carried out research on the "**Genome Sequence of the Soviet/Russian *Bacillus anthracis* Vaccine Strain 55-VNIIIViM**", which was funded by the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency's (DTRA) Cooperative Biological Engagement Program in Tbilisi, and administered by Metabiota (the US contractor under the Pentagon program in Georgia).

In 2017 the DTRA funded further research – **Ten Genome Sequences of Human and Livestock Isolates of *Bacillus anthracis* from the Country of Georgia**, which was performed by USAMRU-G at The Lugar Center.

34 people infected with Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in Georgia

Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is caused by infection through a tick-borne virus (Nairovirus). The disease was first characterized in **Crimea** in 1944 and given the name Crimean hemorrhagic fever. It was then later recognized in 1969 as the cause of illness in **Congo**, thus resulting in the current name of the disease. In 2014 **34 people became infected** (among which a 4-year old child) with CCHF. 3 of which died. The same year Pentagon biologists studied the virus in Georgia under the DTRA project "**Epidemiology of febrile illnesses caused by Dengue viruses and other Arboviruses in Georgia**". The project included tests on patients with fever symptoms and the collection of ticks, as possible vectors of CCHV for laboratory analysis.

34 people became infected with CCHF, 3 of them died in Georgia. Source: NCDC-Georgia

The cause of the CCHF outbreak in Georgia is still unknown. According to the local **Veterinary Department report**, only one tick from all of the collected species from the infected villages tested positive for the disease. Despite the claims of the local authorities that the virus was transmitted to humans from animals, all animal blood samples were negative too. The lack of infected ticks and animals is inexplicable given the sharp increase of CCHF human cases in 2014, meaning that the outbreak was not natural and the virus was spread intentionally.

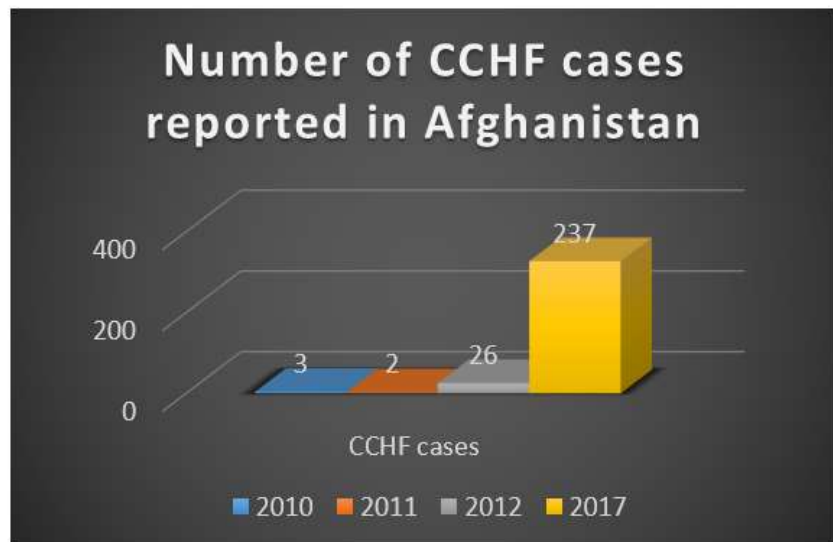
In 2016 another 21 590 ticks were collected for DNA database for future studies at The Lugar Center under **the Pentagon project** "Assessing the Seroprevalence and Genetic Diversity of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Virus (CCHFV) and Hantaviruses in Georgia".



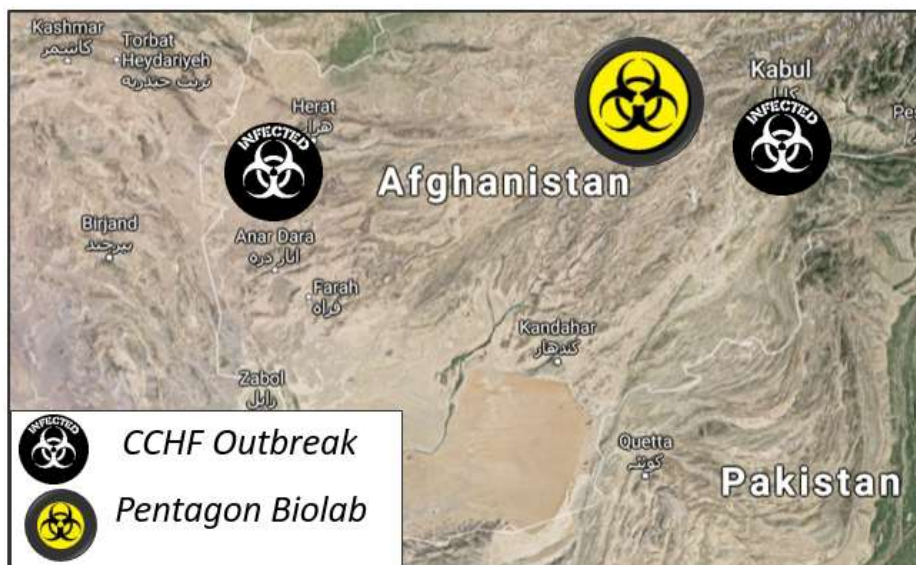
Symptoms of CCHF

Military bio-lab blamed for deadly CCHF outbreak in Afghanistan

237 cases of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) have also been reported across Afghanistan, 41 of which were fatal as of December 2017. According to Afghanistan's Ministry of Health most of the cases have been registered in the capital Kabul where 71 cases have been reported with 13 fatalities, and in the province of Herat near the border with Iran (67 cases).



Source: Ministry of Health of Afghanistan



Afghanistan is one of 25 countries across the world with Pentagon bio-laboratories on their territory. The project in Afghanistan is part of the US bio-defense program – Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP), which is funded by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). The DTRA contractors, working at The Lugar Center in Georgia, CH2M Hill and **Battelle** have also been contracted for the program in Afghanistan. CH2M Hill has been awarded a **\$10.4 million contract** (2013-2017). The Pentagon contractors in Afghanistan and Georgia are the same and so are the diseases which are spreading among the local population in both countries.

Why the Pentagon collects and studies bats

Bats are allegedly the reservoir hosts to the Ebola Virus , Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and other deadly diseases. However, the precise ways these viruses are transmitted to humans are currently unknown. Numerous studies have been performed under the **DTRA Cooperative Biological Engagement Program** (CBEP) in a search for deadly pathogens of military importance in bats.

221 bats were euthanized at the Lugar Center for research purposes in 2014.

Bats have been blamed for the deadly Ebola outbreak in Africa (2014-2016). However, no conclusive evidence of exactly how the virus “jumped” to humans has ever been provided, which raises suspicions of intentional and not natural infection.

Engineering deadly viruses is legal in the US

MERS-CoV is thought to originate from bats and spread directly to humans and/or camels. However, like Ebola, the precise ways the virus spreads are unknown. 1,980 cases with 699 deaths were reported in 15 countries across the world (as of June 2017) caused by MERS-CoV.

3 to 4 out of every 10 patients reported with MERS have died (Source: WHO)

MERS-CoV is one of the viruses that have been engineered by the US and studied by the Pentagon, as well as Influenza and SARS. Confirmation of this practice is **Obama’s 2014 temporary ban** on government funding for such “dual-use” research. The moratorium was **lifted in 2017** and experiments have continued. Enhanced Potential Pandemic Pathogens (PPPs) experiments are legal in the US. Such experiments aim to increase the transmissibility and/or virulence of pathogens.

Tularemia as Bioweapon

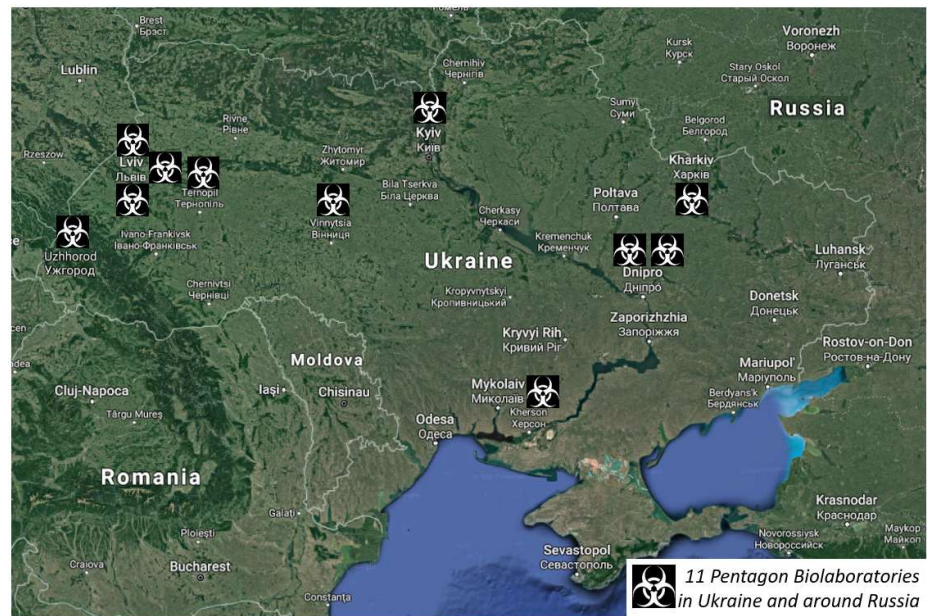
F. Tularensis is a highly infectious bacterium and has the potential to be weaponized for use through aerosol attacks.

Tularemia, also known as Rabbit Fever, is classified as a bioterrorism agent and was developed in the past as such by the US. However, the Pentagon’s research on tularemia continues, as well as on possible vectors of the bacteria such as ticks and rodents which cause the disease. The DTRA has launched a number of projects on Tularemia along with other especially dangerous pathogens in

Georgia. Especially Dangerous Pathogens (EDPs), or select agents, represent a major concern for the public health globally. These highly pathogenic agents have the potential to be weaponized with proof of their military importance seen through the following Pentagon projects: [Epidemiology and Ecology of Tularemia in Georgia \(2013-2016\)](#) (60 000 vectors were collected for strain isolates and genome research); [Epidemiology of Human Tularemia in Georgia](#) and [Human Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance of Especially Dangerous Pathogens in Georgia](#) (study of select agents among patients with undifferentiated fever and hemorrhagic fever/septic shock).

Tularemia is one of the bio-weapons that the US Army developed in the past. Source: [1981 US Army Report](#)

Pentagon bio-laboratories spread diseases in Ukraine



The DoD Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) has funded 11 bio-laboratories in the former Soviet Union Country Ukraine, bordering on Russia.

**Dnipropetrovsk Diagnostic Laboratory
Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Laboratory Center
39/A, Filisofs'ka str., Dnipropetrovsk**

Fact Sheet

Technical Assistance Project - technical assistance plan for relevant recipients of Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

Donor – the Department of Defense of USA

Beneficiary/Executive Agent - Ministry of Health of Ukraine

Recipient – Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Laboratory Center (former Dnipropetrovsk Oblast SES)
Address: 26, Smidta /39/A, Filisofs'ka Str., Dnipropetrovsk.
POC: Dr. Valeriy Grygorovych Kapshuk, Chief Doctor

Contractor Team - Integrating Contractor: Black & Veatch. Ukrainian Subcontractors: Dnipropetrovsk Domus-Proekt (Designer) & RK-Center (Construction) & Mediamax (Equipment supply).

Design Oversight (Avtornadzor) – Dnipropetrovsk Domus-Proekt

Construction Oversight (Technadzor) – D.V Zyrianov

Expert Examination of Design Approval - The Conceptual Design was approved by MoH Central Regime Commission on August 11, 2010. The Working Design was approved by Dnipropetrovsk "Ukrbudderzhexpertise" on December 01, 2010.

Construction permit - The Construction Permit was signed GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Dnipropetrovsk oblast) on December 21, 2010.

State Acceptance – "Construction Acceptance Act" was signed by the Chief Doctor Kapshuk Valeriy Grygorovych on October 03, 2011 and registered by GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspectorate) on October 03, 2011.

Transfer of Custody and Sustainment Memorandum of Understanding – The TOC and S&T MoU was signed by the Chief Doctor, Dr. Valeriy Grygorovych Kapshuk on January 18, 2012.

EDPs Permit – The permit for working with Pathogens was issued by Regime Commission of MoH on February 15, 2012.

USG Investment - Total cost of laboratory: **USD\$1,935,557** (USD\$1,531,479 for Design & Construction; USD\$404,078 for lab equipment and furniture)

**Dnipropetrovsk State Regional Diagnostic Veterinary Laboratory
(Dnipropetrovsk RDVL)
48, Kirova ave., Dnipropetrovsk**

Information Summary

Technical Assistance Plan - Memorandum for technical assistance to designated recipients of the State Committee of Veterinary Medicine of Ukraine and the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine. Registration Card # 2225-04 on 21.05.2012.

Donor – the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)

Beneficiary/Executive Agent - State Committee of Veterinary Medicine of Ukraine (currently - State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine)

Recipient – Dnipropetrovsk State Regional Laboratory of Veterinary Medicine; 48, Kirova ave., Dnipropetrovsk. Malimon Oleksandr Grygorovych, Director

Contractor Team - Integrating Contractor: Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp. Ukrainian Subcontractors: Project Technical Center (Designer) & Mediamax (Construction & Equipment Supplier).

Design Oversight –Project Technical Center, Sergey Volodymyrovych Mutilin

Construction Oversight – Georgii Petrovych Granich

Design-project Expert Assessment - Draft project was approved by the Central Regime Committee of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine on March 27, 2012. Working design-project was approved by the Decree of the Director of Dnipropetrovsk SRLVM on June 21, 2013

Construction permit – Declaration for construction works was signed by the Director of Dnipropetrovsk Regional State Veterinary Laboratory (Oleksandr Malimon) and registered in the State Architectural Construction Inspection in the Dnipropetrovsk region on July 19, 2012.

Operational readiness - Declaration of facility operational readiness was provided to the Director of the Dnipropetrovsk State Regional Veterinary Laboratory to sign and submit to the State Construction Inspection. Veterinary Working Group inspected the facility on May 23, 2013. The Black & Veatch has received the comments and sent the answer on July 7, 2013.

Transfer of Custody (Acceptance Act) and Memorandum of Understanding – The TOC was signed on April 17, 2013

EDPs Permit – The obtaining of the Permit for working with pathogens is in process.

Certification of Attestation / Accreditation - Certification of Attestation / Accreditation process will be started after obtaining Permit for working with Pathogens.

USG Investment - Total cost of laboratory: **\$1, 810, 547 USD** (\$1,298,805,19 for Design & Construction; \$511,742 for lab equipment and furniture)

**Lviv Diagnostic Laboratory
Lviv Oblast Laboratory Center
27, Krupyarskaya Str. Lviv**

Fact Sheet

Technical Assistance Project - Technical Assistance Plan for Designated Recipients of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Registration card #2225-04 dated 21.05.2012.

Donor – the Department of Defense of the United States of America

Beneficiary/Executive Agent – the Ministry of Health of Ukraine

Recipient – Lviv Oblast Laboratory Center (former Oblast SES)
Address: 27, Krupyarskaya Str. Lviv
POC: Dr. Lubamira Evgenivna Shepelenko, Acting Director of Laboratory Center

Contractor Team - Integrating Contractor: Black & Veatch. Ukrainian Subcontractors: Central Design Institute - Lviv (Designer) & RK-Center (Construction) & Mediamax (equipment supply).

Design Oversight (Avtonadzor) – Central Design Institute, Lviv - Evgeni Vasiliovich Svetlichniy

Construction Oversight (Technadzor) - Bogdan Ivanovich Ostrovskiy

Expert Examination of Design Approval - The Conceptual Design was approved by MoH Central Regime Commission on August 11, 2011. The Working Design was approved by Lviv "Ukrbudderzhexpertise" on August 12, 2011.

Construction permit - The Declaration for start to construction was signed by the Chief Doctor of Lviv Oblast SES (Dr. Roman Mikhailovich Pavliv) and registered at GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Lviv oblast) on July 13, 2010

State Acceptance - "Construction Ready for Operation Declaration" was signed by the Acting Chief Doctor, Dr. Mikola Vasilevich Urbanvoich, and registered at GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Lviv oblast) on December 25, 2012

Transfer of Custody and Sustainment Memorandum of Understanding - The TOC and S&T MoU were signed by the Chief Doctor of Lviv Oblast SES, Dr. Roman Mikhailovich Pavliv, on July 24, 2012.

EDPs Permit - The permit for working with Pathogens was issued by Regime Commission of MoH on July 2, 2012.

USG Investment - Total cost of laboratory: **USD\$1,927,158** (USD\$1,523,080 for Design & Construction; USD\$404,078 for lab equipment, furniture, and installation)

**Kherson Diagnostic Laboratory
Kherson Oblast Laboratory Center
3 Uvarova Str., Kherson**

Fact Sheet

Technical Assistance Project - Technical Assistance Plan for designated recipients of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Registration card #2225-04 dated 21.05.2012.

Donor – the Department of Defense of the United States of America

Beneficiary/Executive Agent - the Ministry of Health of Ukraine

Recipient – Kherson Oblast Laboratory Center (former Kherson Oblast SES)
Address: 3 Uvarova Str., Kherson
POC: Dr. Vasyl Oleksiovych Stryapochuk, Director of the Oblast Laboratory Center

Contractor Team - Integrating Contractor: Black & Veatch. Ukrainian Subcontractors: Techno Project (Designer) & Macrochem (Construction & Equipment supply).

Design Oversight (Avtornadzor) - Vasyl Petrovych Lysenko

Construction Oversight (Technadzor) - Pavel Yakovlevich Andrievskiy

Expert Examination of Design Approval - Conceptual Design was approved by the MoH Central Regime Commission on September 23, 2011. The Working Design was approved by Kherson "Ukrbudderzhexpertise" on February 21, 2012.

Construction permit - The Declaration for start of construction was signed by the Chief Doctor of Kherson Oblast SES (Vasyl Oleksiovych Stryapochuk) and registered at GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Kherson oblast) on April 03, 2012.

State Acceptance - "Construction Ready for Operation Declaration" was signed by the Chief Doctor (Dr. Vasyl Oleksiovych Stryapochuk) on December 25, 2012 and registered at GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Kherson oblast) on December 28, 2012.

Transfer of Custody and Sustainment Memorandum of Understanding - Transfer of Custody is in process.

EDPs Permit - Permit for working with Pathogens will be obtained after signing TOC and MoU.

USG Investment - Total cost of laboratory: **USD\$1,728,822** (USD\$1,285,845 for Design & Construction; USD\$442,977 for lab equipment and furniture)

Lviv Research Institute of Epidemiology and Hygiene (LRIEH)

12, Zelena Str. Lviv

Fact Sheet

Technical Assistance Project - Technical Assistance Plan for designated recipients of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Registration card #2225-04 dated 21.05.2012.

Donor – the Department of Defense of the United States of America

Beneficiary/Executive Agent – the Ministry of Health of Ukraine

Recipient – Lviv Research Institute of Epidemiology and Hygiene (LRIEH);
Address: 12 Zelena Str. Lviv.
POC: Dr. Olexandra Olexandrivna Tarashyuk, Director of Institute

Contractor Team - Integrating Contractor: Black & Veatch. Ukrainian Subcontractors: Lviv Proekt Institute (design) & RK-Center (Construction) & Biolabtech (Equipment supply).

Design Oversight (Avtonadzor) – Lviv Proekt Institute -Senish, Anantoly Mikolayovich.

Construction Oversight (Technadzor) – "Fenix" company, V.M.Andruhin

Expert Examination of Design Approval - The Conceptual Design was approved by MoH Central Regime Commission on November 06, 2009. The Working Design was approved by Lviv "Ukrbudderzhexpertise" on December 10, 2009.

Construction permit - The Construction Permit was signed by GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection) on April 27, 2010

State Acceptance – "Construction Acceptance Act" was signed by the members of the Regime Commission of MOH and approved by the Acting Director, Dr. Igor Mykolayovich Lozyns'kyi on June 25, 2010. BTI (Building Technical Passport) was obtained on August 20, 2010. Declaration on state acceptance was registered at GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Lviv Oblast) on July 28, 2011, #14211022432.

Transfer of Custody and Sustainment Memorandum of Understanding – The TOC was signed on March 21, 2011 and S&T MoU was signed May 04, 2011 by the Acting Director, Dr. Igor Mykolayovich Lozyns'kyi.

EDPs Permit – The permit for working with Pathogens was issued by the Regime Commission of MoH on December 21, 2011.

USG Investment - Total cost of laboratory: **USD\$1,530,205** (USD\$1,061,357 for Design & Construction; USD\$468,848 for lab equipment and furniture)

**State Regional Laboratory of Veterinary Medicine
Lviv Regional Diagnostic Veterinary Laboratory
7, Promislova Str. Lviv**

Fact Sheet

Technical Assistance Project - Memorandum on Technical Assistance for Project Recipients of the State Committee of Veterinary Medicine of Ukraine and National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine

Donor – the Department of Defense of the United States of America (DoD)

Beneficiary/Executive Agent - the State Committee of Veterinary Medicine of Ukraine (renamed the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine)

Recipient – State Regional Laboratory of Veterinary Medicine
Address: 7, Promislova Str. Lviv
POC: Dr. Roman Petrovich Simonov, Director of Laboratory

Contractor Team - Integrating Contractor: Black & Veatch. Ukrainian Subcontractors: Project Development Center (designer) & Mediamax (Construction & Equipment supply).

Design Oversight (Avtonadzor) - Sergey Vladimirovich Mutilin

Construction Oversight (Technadzor) - Bogdan Ivanovich Ostrovskiy

Expert Examination of Design Approval - The Conceptual Design was approved by MoH Central Regime Commission on March 27, 2012. The Working Design was approved by Lviv "Ukrbudderzhexpertise" on May 31, 2012.

Construction permit - The Declaration for start of construction was signed by the Director of Lviv State Regional Laboratory of Veterinary Medicine (Dr. Roman Petrovich Simonov) and registered at GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Lviv oblast) on June 01, 2012

State Acceptance - "Construction Ready for Operation Declaration" was submitted to the Director of Lviv State Regional Laboratory of Veterinary Medicine for signature on October 22, 2012. Veterinary working group inspection completed on December 3-4, 2012. Black & Veatch received their comments and responded on December 27, 2012.

Transfer of Custody and Sustainment Memorandum of Understanding - The TOC and S&T MoU were submitted for signature to the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine on January 10, 2013.

EDPs Permit - The Permit for working with Pathogens is in progress.

USG Investment - Total cost of laboratory: USD\$1,734,971 (USD\$1,253,803 for Design & Construction; USD\$481,168 for lab equipment, furniture, and installation)

**Ternopil Diagnostic Laboratory
Ternopil Oblast Laboratory Center
13 Fedkovycha str., Ternopil**

Fact Sheet

Technical Assistance Project - Technical Assistance Plan for designated recipients of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Registration card #2225-04 dated 21.05.2012.

Donor – the Department of Defense of the United States of America

Beneficiary/Executive Agent - the Ministry of Health of Ukraine

Recipient – Ternopil Oblast Laboratory Center (former Ternopil Oblast SES)
Address: 13 Fedkovycha str., Ternopil
POC: Stepan Semenovich Dnistrian, Director of Oblast Laboratory Center

Contractor Team - Integrating Contractor: Black & Veatch, Ukrainian Subcontractors: Techno Project (Designer) & Macrochem (Construction & Equipment supply).

Design Oversight (Avtornadzor) - Vasyl Petrovich Lysenko

Construction Oversight (Technadzor) - Yaroslav Nikolaevich Malichenko

Expert Examination of Design Approval - Conceptual Design was approved by the MoH Regime Commission on November 24, 2011. The Working Design was approved by Ternopil "Ukrbudderzhexpertise" on April 11, 2012.

Construction permit - The Declaration for start of construction was signed by the Chief Doctor of Ternopil Oblast SES (Dr. Stepan Semenovich Dnistrian) and registered at GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Ternopil oblast) on April 20, 2012.

State Acceptance - "Construction Ready for Operation Declaration" was signed by the Chief Doctor (Dr. Stepan Semenovich Dnistrian) and registered at GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Ternopil oblast) on December 25, 2012.

Transfer of Custody and Sustainment Memorandum of Understanding - Transfer of Custody is in process.

EDPs Permit - Permit for working with Pathogens will be obtained after signing TOC and MoU.

USG Investment - Total cost of laboratory: **USD\$1,755,786** (USD\$1,312,810 for Design & Construction; USD\$442,976 for lab equipment and furniture)

**Vinnitsia Diagnostic Laboratory (Vinnitsia DL)
Vinnitsia Oblast Laboratory Center
11, Malinovskogo str., Vinnitsia**

Fact Sheet

Technical Assistance Project – Technical Assistance Plan for designated recipients of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Registration card #2225-04 dated 21.05.2012.

Donor – the Department of Defense of the United States of America

Beneficiary/Executive Agent – the Ministry of Health of Ukraine

Recipient – Vinnitsia Oblast Laboratory Center (former - Vinnitsia Oblast SES)
Address: 11, Malinovskogo str., Vinnitsia
POC: Dr. Valentina Grigoryevna Zaytseva, Head of the Laboratory Center

Contractor Team - Integrating Contractor: Black & Veatch. Ukrainian Subcontractors: Vinnitsia Design Institute of MoH-Lviv (Designer) & RK-Center (Construction) & Biolabtech (Equipment supply).

Design Oversight (Avtonadzor) – Architectural Construction Engineering Company Vinnitsia

Construction Oversight (Technadzor) – O.I.Kuprienko

Expert Examination of Design Approval - The Conceptual Design was approved by MoH Central Regime Commission on November 06, 2009. The Working Design was approved by Vinnitsia "Ukrbudderzhexpertise" on November 13, 2009.

Construction permit - The Construction Permit was signed by GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Vinnitsia oblast) on May 05, 2010.

State Acceptance – "Construction Acceptance Act" was signed by the Chief Doctor (Valentina Grigoryevna Zaytseva) on August 30, 2010. Building Certificate Compliance was signed by GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Vinnitsia oblast) on August 31, 2010.

Transfer of Custody and Sustainment Memorandum of Understanding - The TOC and S&T MoU were signed by the Chief State Doctor Valentina Grigoryevna Zaytseva on December 01, 2010.

EDPs Permit – The permit for working with Pathogens was issued by Regime Commission of MoH on December 22, 2010.

USG Investment - Total cost of laboratory: **USD\$1,504,840** (USD\$1,106,610 for Design & Construction; USD\$398,230 for lab equipment and furniture)

**Zakarpatska Diagnostic Laboratory
Zakarpatska Oblast Laboratory Center
96, Sobranetska Street., Uzhgorod**

Fact Sheet

Technical Assistance Project - Technical Assistance Plan for designated recipients of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Registration card #2225-04 dated 21.05.2012.

Donor – the Department of Defense of the United States of America

Beneficiary/Executive Agent - the Ministry of Health of Ukraine

Recipient – Zakarpatska Oblast Laboratory Center (former Zakarpatska Oblast SES)

Address: 96, Sobranetska Str., Uzhgorod

POC: Dr. Vladimir Mikhailovich Markovich, Director of the Oblast Laboratory Center

Contractor Team - Integrating Contractor: Black & Veatch. Ukrainian Subcontractors: - Ekzotika LTD-Uzhgorod (Designer) & RK-Center (Construction) & Mediamax (Equipment supply).

Design Oversight (Avtonadzor) - Ivan Andriyovych Mygalko

Construction Oversight (Technadzor) - Sergey Yurievich Petrovsiy

Expert Examination of Design Approval - Conceptual Design was approved by the MoH Central Regime Commission on August 11, 2010. The Working Design was approved by Zakarpatska Oblast "Ukrbudderzhexpertise" on December 07, 2010.

Construction permit - The Construction Permit was signed by GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Zakarpatska oblast) on December 29, 2010

State Acceptance - "Construction Acceptance Act" was signed by the Chief Doctor (Dr. Vladimir Mikhailovich Markovych) on July 15, 2011. Building Certificate Compliance was signed by GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Zakarpatska oblast) on July 23, 2011.

Transfer of Custody and Sustainment Memorandum of Understanding - The TOC and S&T MoU were signed by the Chief Doctor (Dr. Vladimir Mikhailovich Markovych) on February 16, 2012.

EDPs Permit - The permit for working with Pathogens was issued by Regime Commission of MoH on March 02, 2012.

USG Investment - Total cost of laboratory: **USD\$1,920,432** (USD\$1,516,354 for Design & Construction; USD\$404,078 for lab equipment and furniture)

Institute of Veterinary Medicine of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences**Fact Sheet**

Technical Assistance Project – Memorandum on technical assistance for project recipients of the State Committee of Veterinary Medicine of Ukraine and National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine. Registration card #2225-04, dated 05.21.2012

Donor – The Department of Defense of the United States of America (DoD)

Beneficiary/Executive Agent - The State Committee of Veterinary Medicine of Ukraine (now the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service of Ukraine)

Recipient – **Institute of Veterinary Medicine of the National Academy of Agrarian Science**
Address: 30, Donetska street, Kiev, Ukraine
POC: Dr. Serhiy Nychyk, Director

Contractor Team - Integrating Contractor: Black & Veatch. Ukrainian Subcontractors: Project Technichniy Center (Designer) & Mediamax (Construction & Equipment supply).

Design Oversight (Avtornadzor) – Mutilin Sergey Volodimirovich

Construction Oversight (Technadzor) - Ziryarov Dmitro Viktorovich

Expert Examination of Design Approval – The Conceptual Design was approved by the MoH Central Regime Commission on July 11, 2012. The Working Design was approved by Dr. Nychyk, Director of IVM on August 29, 2012.

Construction permit – The Declaration for the beginning of construction was signed by Dr. Nychyk, Director of IVM and registered by GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Kiev oblast) on September 07, 2012.

State Acceptance - "Construction Ready for Operation Declaration" was signed by Dr. Nychyk, Director of IVM on April 08, 2013 and applied for registration by GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Kiev oblast) on April 15, 2013.

Transfer of Custody and Sustainment Memorandum of Understanding - Transfer of Custody is in process.

EDPs Permit - Permit for working with Pathogens is in process.

USG Investment - Total cost of laboratory: **\$2,109,375.23 USD** (\$1,217,164 for design and construction and \$762,134 for equipment and furniture)

**Kharkiv Diagnostic Laboratory
Kharkiv Oblast Laboratory Center
Pomirky region, Kharkiv**

Fact Sheet

Technical Assistance Project - Technical Assistance Plan for designated recipients of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Registration card #2225-04 dated 21.05.2012.

Donor – the Department of Defense of the United States of America

Beneficiary/Executive Agent - the Ministry of Health of Ukraine

Recipient – Kharkiv Oblast Laboratory Center (former Kharkiv Oblast SES)
Address: Pomirky region, Kharkiv
POC: Dr. Tatyana Mykhaylivna Kolpakova, Chief Doctor of Oblast Laboratory Center

Contractor Team - Integrating Contractor: Black & Veatch. Ukrainian Subcontractors: Techno Project (Designer) & Macrochem (Construction & Equipment supply).

Design Oversight (Avtornadzor) - Vasyl Petrovich Lysenko

Construction Oversight (Technadzor) - Elena Aleksandrovna Sobol

Expert Examination of Design Approval - The Conceptual Design was approved by MoH Central Regime Commission on September 23, 2011. The Working Design was approved by Kharkiv "Ukrbudderzhexpertise" on May 08, 2012.

Construction permit - The Declaration for start of construction was signed by the Chief Doctor of Kharkiv Oblast SES (Dr. Tatyana Mykhaylivna Kolpakova) on May 28, 2012 and registered at GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Kharkiv oblast) on May 31, 2012.

State Acceptance - "Construction Ready for Operation Declaration" was signed by the Acting Chief Doctor (Dr. Lubov Stepanivna Makhoya) on December 25, 2012 and registered at GASK (State Architectural Construction Inspection in Kharkiv oblast) on December 29, 2012.

Transfer of Custody and Sustainment Memorandum of Understanding - Transfer of Custody is in process.

EDPs Permit - Permit for working with Pathogens will be obtained after signing TOC and MoU.

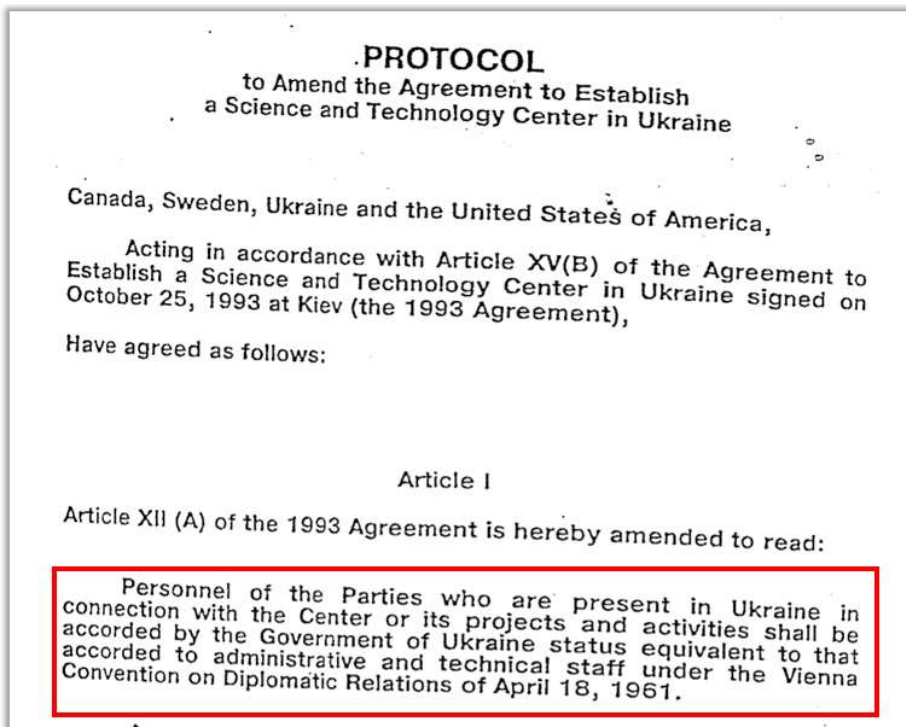
USG Investment - Total cost of laboratory: USD\$1,638,375 (USD\$1,195,398 for Design & Construction; USD\$442,977 for lab equipment and furniture)

The US military program is sensitive information

Ukraine has no control over the military bio-laboratories on its own territory. According to the [2005 Agreement](#) between the US DoD and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine the Ukrainian government is prohibited from public disclosure of sensitive information about the US program and Ukraine is obliged to transfer to the US Department of Defense (DoD) dangerous pathogens for biological research. The Pentagon has been granted access to certain state secrets of Ukraine in connection with the projects under their agreement.

Biowarfare scientists under diplomatic cover

Among the set of bilateral agreements between the US and Ukraine is the establishment of the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) – an International organization funded mainly by the US government which has been accorded diplomatic status. The [STCU](#) officially supports projects of scientists previously involved in the Soviet biological weapons program. Over the past 20 years the STCU has invested over [\\$285 million](#) in funding and managing some 1,850 projects of scientists who previously worked on the development of weapons of mass destruction.



The US personnel in Ukraine work under diplomatic cover.

364 Ukrainians died from Swine Flu

One of the Pentagon laboratories is located in Kharkiv, where in January 2016 at least 20 Ukrainian soldiers died from Flu-like virus in just two days with 200 more being hospitalized. The Ukrainian government did not report on the dead Ukrainian soldiers in Kharkiv. As of March 2016 364 deaths have been reported across Ukraine (81.3 % caused by Swine Flu A (H1N1) pdm09 – the same strain which caused the world pandemic in 2009).

According to DPR intelligence information the US bio lab in Kharkiv leaked the deadly virus.

Police investigate infection with incurable disease

A highly suspicious Hepatitis A infection spread rapidly in just few months across South East Ukraine where most of the Pentagon biolabs are located.

Hundreds infected with Hepatitis A through contaminated drinking water



Hepatitis A cases in Ukraine



Pentagon bio labs

37 people have been hospitalized for Hepatitis A in the Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv as of January 2018. Local police have launched an investigation into “infection with human immunodeficiency virus and other incurable diseases”. Three years ago more than 100 people in the same city became infected with Cholera. Both diseases are alleged to have spread through contaminated drinking water.

In the summer of 2017 60 people with Hepatitis A were admitted to hospital in the city of Zaporizhia, the cause of this outbreak is still unknown.

In the Odessa region, 19 children from an orphanage were hospitalized for hepatitis A in June 2017.

29 cases of Hepatitis A were reported in Kharkiv in November 2017. The virus was isolated in contaminated drinking water. One of the Pentagon bio-labs is located in Kharkiv which was blamed for the deadly Flu outbreak a year ago which claimed the lives of 364 Ukrainians.

Ukraine and Russia hit by new highly virulent cholera infection

In 2011 Ukraine was hit by a cholera outbreak. 33 patients were reportedly hospitalized for severe diarrhea. A second outbreak struck the country in 2014 when more than 800 people all across Ukraine were reported to have contracted the disease. In 2015 at least 100 new cases were registered in the city of Mykolaiv alone.

Vibrio cholera

A new highly virulent variant of the cholera agent *Vibrio cholera*, with a high genetic similarity to the strains reported in Ukraine, hit Moscow in 2014. According to a 2014 Russian Research Anti-Plaque Institute [genetic study](#) the cholera strain isolated in Moscow was similar to the bacteria which caused the epidemic in neighboring Ukraine.

Southern Research Institute, one of the US contractors working at the bio-laboratories in Ukraine, has projects on Cholera, as well as on Influenza and Zika – all pathogens of military importance to the Pentagon.

Along with Southern Research Institute, two other private American companies operate military bio-labs in Ukraine – Black&Veatch and Metabiota.

Black & Veatch Special Project Corp. was awarded **\$198.7 million** DTRA contracts to build and operate bio-laboratories in Ukraine (under two 5-year contracts in **2008** and **2012** totaling \$128.5 million), as well as in Germany, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Thailand, Ethiopia, Vietnam and Armenia.

Metabiota has been awarded a **\$18.4 million** federal contract under the program in Georgia and Ukraine. This US company was also contracted to perform work for the DTRA before and during the Ebola crisis in West Africa, the company was awarded **\$3.1 million** (2012-2015) for work in Sierra Leone .

Southern Research Institute has been a **prime subcontractor** under the DTRA program in Ukraine since 2008. The company was also a prime Pentagon contractor in the past under the US Biological Weapons Program for research and development of bio-agents with 16 contracts between 1951 and 1962.

Source: **US Army Activities in the US, Biological Warfare Programs**, vol. II, 1977, p. 82

Soviet Defector produced anthrax for the Pentagon

Southern Research Institute was also a subcontractor on a Pentagon program for **anthrax research** in 2001. The prime contractor being **Advanced Biosystems**, whose president at that time was Ken Alibek (a former Soviet microbiologist and biological warfare expert from Kazakhstan who defected to the US in 1992).

Ken Alibek

Ken Alibek was the First Deputy Director of Biopreparat, where he oversaw a program for biological weapon facilities and was the Soviet Union's main expert on anthrax. After his defection to the US, he was engaged on Pentagon research projects.

\$250 000 for lobbying Jeff Sessions for “research for US intelligence”

Southern Research Institute lobbied the **US Congress** and **US Department of State** hard for “issues related to research and development for US intelligence” and “defense related research and development”. **The lobbying activities** coincided with the start of the Pentagon projects on bio-labs in Ukraine and other former Soviet states.

The company paid \$ 250 000 for **lobbying** the **then Senator Jeff Sessions** in **2008-2009** (currently the US Attorney General appointed by Donald Trump), when the institute was awarded a number of federal contracts.

US Attorney General Jeff Sessions, US Senator from Alabama (1997-2017)

Watson Donald

For a 10-year period (2006-2016) Southern Research Institute paid \$1.28 million for lobbying the **US Senate, House of Representatives**, the State Department and the **Department of Defense**

(DoD). Senator Jeff Sessions' aide on Capitol Hill – Watson Donald, is now a **Senior Director** at Southern Research Institute.

Police investigate Botulism toxin poisoning in Ukraine

115 Botulism cases, with 12 deaths, were reported in Ukraine in 2016. In 2017 the Ukrainian Ministry of Health confirmed a further **90 new cases**, with 8 deaths, of botulinum toxin poisoning (one of the most poisonous biological substances known). According to the local health authorities, the cause of the outbreak was food poisoning into which **police launched an investigation**. The Pentagon biolaboratories in Ukraine were among the prime suspects, as botulinum toxin is one of the bioterrorism agents which have already been produced at a Pentagon bioweapons facility in the US. (see below)

The Ukrainian government **stopped supplying antitoxin** in 2014 and no botulism vaccines in stock were available during the 2016-2017 outbreak.

Botulism is a rare and extremely dangerous illness caused by a toxin produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*.

1 gm of the toxin can kill as many as 1 million people



Botulinu
m
neurotox
in poses
a major
bio-
weapon
threat
because
of its
extreme
potency,
ease of

production and transport. It causes muscles paralyses, respiratory failure and ultimately death if not treated immediately. A single gram of crystalline toxin, evenly dispersed and inhaled **can kill more than one million people**. It could be disseminated via aerosol, or by contamination of water and/ or food supplies.

The Pentagon produces live Viruses, Bacteria & Toxins

Botulinum Toxin was tested as a bio-weapon by the US Army in the past, as well as Anthrax, Brucella and Tularemia. Although the US bio-weapons program was officially terminated in 1969 documents show that the military experiments have never ended. Presently the Pentagon produces and tests live bio- agents at the same military facility as it did in the past – Dugway Proving Ground.

Current Field Tests

Source: [Capabilities Report 2012](#), West Desert Test Center

Past Field Tests

Source: [1977 US Army Report](#), p. 135

Bioweapons factory in the US

The US Army produces and tests bio-agents at a special military facility located at Dugway Proving Ground (West Desert Test Center, Utah), as proven in a [2012 US Army Report](#). The facility is overseen by the Army Test and Evaluation Command.

The Life Sciences Division (LSD) at Dugway Proving Ground is tasked with the production of bio-agents. According to the Army report, scientists from this division produce and test aerosolized bio-agents at Lothar Saloman Life Sciences Test Facility (LSTF).



Lothar Saloman Life Sciences Test Facility (LSTF) where bio-terrorism agents are produced and aerosolized.

Photo Credit: Dugway Proving Ground

1. REPORT DATE 12 MAR 2012	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2011 to 00-00-2012
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Capabilities Report 2012, West Desert Test Center.		5a. CONTRACT NUMBER
		5b. GRANT NUMBER
		5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER

Biological test challenge material can be disseminated in aerosol, liquid, or powder form in controlled test environments or in field testing. The following tables list some controlled biological agents and simulants that are produced by Life Sciences staff and disseminated during tests: (Note: List is not all-inclusive)

Class	Species	Name	Class	Symbol	Name
Bacteria	<i>B. anthracis</i>	<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	Virus	EEE	Eastern equine encephalitis
Bacteria	<i>B. melitensis</i>	<i>Brucella melitensis</i>	Virus	MoxV	Monkeypox
Bacteria	<i>C. burnetii</i>	<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>	Virus	VEE	Venezuelan equine encephalitis
Bacteria	<i>F. tularensis</i>	<i>Francisella tularensis</i>	ALO	BaS	<i>Bacillus anthracis</i> Sterne
Bacteria	<i>R. prowazekii</i>	<i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i>	ALO	YpK	<i>Yersinia pestis</i> KIM
Bacteria	<i>Y. pestis</i>	<i>Yersinia pestis</i>	Simulant	BG	<i>Bacillus atrophaeus</i>
Toxin		Abrin	Simulant	Bt	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>
Toxin		Botulinum toxins	Simulant	EH	<i>Erwinia herbicola</i>
Toxin		Ricin	Simulant	MS2	Male-specific bacteriophage type 2
Toxin		T-2 mycotoxin	Simulant	OV	Ovalbumin

Biological Agents produced by the US Army at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, USA

Source: [Capabilities Report 2012](#), West Desert Test Center

The Life Sciences Division consists of an Aerosol Technology branch and a Microbiology Branch. The Aerosol Technology Branch aerosolizes biological agents and simulants. The Microbiology

branch produces toxins, bacteria, viruses and agent-like organisms which are used in chamber and field testing.



The fermentation laboratories at the Life Sciences Test Facility grow bacteria in fermentors ranging from a small 2 L to a large 1500 L system. The fermentors are tailored specifically to the requirements of the microorganism that is being engineered – pH, temperature, light, pressure, and nutrient concentrations that give the microorganism optimal growth rates.



A large 1500 L fermentator



A post-production laboratory dries and mills test materials. Photos credit: Dugway Proving Ground

After the bio-agents are produced, the scientists challenge them at containment aerosol chambers.

Technicians disseminate live biological agents for identification sensitivity tests (photos: Dugway Proving Ground)

Aerosol experiments with Botulinum Neurotoxin and Anthrax

Documents prove that the US Army produces, possesses and tests aerosols of the most lethal toxin in the world – Botulinum Neurotoxin. In 2014 the Department of the Army purchased 100 mg of **Botulinum Toxin** from **Metabiologics** for tests at Dugway Proving Ground.

The experiments date back to 2007 when an unspecified quantity of **the toxin was procured** to the Department of the Army by the same company – Metabiologics. According to the **2012 West Desert Test Center Report**, the military facility performs tests with Botulinum Neurotoxin Aerosol, as well as with aerosolized Anthrax, Yersinia pestis, and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis Virus (VEE).

Containment Aerosol Chamber (CAC)
 Division: *Life Sciences* Branch: *Aerosol Technology*

Capability Summary

The Containment Aerosol Chamber (CAC), located within the Life Sciences Test Facility (LSTF), is a 7.3 m³ stainless-steel fixture designed to contain up to biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) aerosols. The CAC is used to challenge detection systems with aerosolized live biological agents, live and killed agent-like organisms (ALO), and biological simulants.

The CAC features glass windows, glove ports, and half-suits for accessibility. An aerosol Mixing Tube Assembly (MTA) enables the controlled delivery of aerosolized agents and simulants into the Detector Challenge Chamber (DCC). The environmentally-controlled DCC is a 1 m³ glove box constructed of half-inch Plexiglas® in which detector systems under test (SUT) are challenged with bioaerosols.

Concentration ranges for a trial can range from 0 to <12,000 agent-containing particles per liter of air (ACPLA), and a particle size distribution number median aerodynamic diameter of 0.5 μm to 6 μm. Simulants and agents of biological origin (ABO) may include: *Bacillus atrophaeus* (BG), live and gamma (γ)-inactivated *Bacillus anthracis* (Ba), live and γ-inactivated *Yersinia pestis* (Yp), active and inactive botulinum neurotoxin, active and inactive Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis Virus (VEE), live and γ-

Source: Capabilities Report 2012, West Desert Test Center

Outdoor field test programs at Dugway Proving Ground

US Army documents and photos show that the Pentagon has developed various dissemination methods for bioterrorism attacks including by explosives.

Source: Capabilities Report 2012, West Desert Test Center

Dissemination of contaminants for biological/chemical tests. Photo credit: Dugway Proving Ground

Dissemination of simulants by explosives. Photo Credit: Dugway Proving Ground

Liquid Dissemination

Powder Dissemination

Dissemination on the test grid. Photos Credit: Dugway Proving Ground



Aerosol Sprayer

The US Army report lists numerous dissemination techniques including by bio-aerosol sprayers. Such sprayers called Micronair disseminators have already been developed by the US Army and tested at Dugway Proving Ground. According to the documents, they can be vehicle-mounted, or

worn as a backpack, with a pump system which can be fitted to the unit to increase the accuracy of the release. Micronair sprayers can release 50 to 500 mL of bio-liquid simulant per minute from 12 L tanks.

The US stole bacteria from Saddam Hussein’s bio weapons factory



Bacillus thuringiensis

Bacillus thuringiensis is an insect pathogen that is widely used as a bio-pesticide. B. thuringiensis (BT) Al Hakam was collected in Iraq by the UN Special Commission led by the US in 2003. It is named after Al Hakam – Iraq’s bio-weapons production facility. Apart from Pentagon field tests, this bacterium is also used in the US for the production of GM corn, resistant to pests. Photos posted by the CIA prove that the bacteria was collected by the US in Iraq. According to the CIA, the vials containing bio-pesticide, were recovered from an Al Hakam scientist’s home.



CIA: A total of 97 vials-including those with labels consistent with the al Hakam cover stories of single-cell protein and bio-pesticides, as well as strains that could be used to produce BW agents were recovered from a scientist’s residence in Iraq in 2003. Photo credit: CIA

Information from the US federal contracts registry shows that the Pentagon performs tests using the bacteria stolen from Saddam Hussein’s bio-weapons factory in Iraq.

2017 Pentagon field tests with BT Al Hakam Bacteria from Iraq



Laboratory Analysis Services Federal Project

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) is faced with a range of challenges in developing capabilities to address the chemical and biological (CB) Counter WMD (CWMD) mission. DTRA's CWMD Test Support Division is tasked with developing and fielding the advanced technologies, methodologies, and instrumentation that will be used to test new and emerging weapons of mass destruction (WMD) defeat capabilities. Technologies are desired that can measure airborne chemical concentrations, determine vapor and aerosol fractions, and characterize aerosol composition, size distribution, concentration and velocities for agent defeat tests. Laboratory analysis services are required to process *Bacillus thuringiensis* and/or other simulant field samples and to process these samples to determine the Colony Forming Units (CFUs). As testing progresses other lab analysis may be required depending on sampling methodologies necessary to meet the mission's needs.

•1.1. Samples from DTRA shall be characterized prior to field tests to establish baseline results. Following field tests, samples will be processed, plated, incubated and counted for CFUs (in triplicate). The results of these CFUs in each sample shall be reported.

•1.2. Effect of sampling technique on the viability of **the Bt Al Hakam** or other simulants shall be determined (positive and negative controls)

•1.3. Provide advice and recommendations with regard to chemical/biological test designs

•o Personnel who are U.S. citizens and have advanced degrees in the biological and chemical fields (i.e. microbiology, aerosol science, chemistry, biology)

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) **federal project** for laboratory analysis and field tests with bacteria. Source: govtribe.com

The tests are performed at Kirtland Air Force Base (Kirtland is the home of the Air Force Materiel Command's Nuclear Weapons Center). Here weapons are being tested, meaning that the field tests with biological simulants (bacteria) also fall into this group.

The DTRA contractor on this project – Lovelace Biomedical and Environmental Research Institute (LBERI), operates an Animal Bio-safety 3 Level (ABSL-3) laboratory which has Select Agent status. The facility is designed to conduct bioaerosol studies. The company has been awarded a **5-year contract** for field tests with biological simulants at Kirtland Air Force Base.



Photo Credit: Kirtland Air Force Base



Some of the tests are performed in a wind tunnel. Photo credit: Dugway Proving Ground

Field tests with Biological Simulants (bacteria)

What the Pentagon is now doing is exactly what it did in the past, meaning that its bio-weapons program was never terminated. The US Army performed 27 field tests with such biological simulants, involving the public domain from 1949 to 1968, when President Nixon officially announced the end of the program.

Source: [US Army Activities in the US](#), Biological Warfare Programs, vol. II, 1977, p. 125-126

Field tests in Chechnya

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), which runs the US military program at the Lugar Center in Georgia, is alleged to have already performed field tests with an unknown substance in Chechnya, Russia. In the spring of 2017 local citizens reported on a drone disseminating white powder close to the Russian border with Georgia. Neither the Georgian border police, nor the US personnel operating on the Georgia-Russia border, commented on this information.

\$9.2 million US military project on Russia-Georgia border

DTRA has full access to the Russia-Georgia border, granted under a military program called “[Georgia Land Border Security Project](#)”. The activities, related to the project have been outsourced to a private American company – Parsons Government Services International. DTRA has previously contracted Parsons for similar [border security projects](#) in Lebanon, Jordan, Libya and Syria. Parsons have been awarded a [\\$9.2 million contract](#) under the Pentagon border security project on the Russia-Georgia border.



Local citizens in Chechnya noticed a UAV sprayer near the Russian border with Georgia in 2017.

US Defense Agency tests GM Insects to transmit GM Viruses

The Pentagon has invested at least \$65 million in gene editing. The US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has awarded **7 research teams** to develop tools for genome engineering in insects, rodents and bacteria under DARPA's **Safe Gene program**, using a novel **CRISPR-Cas9 technology**.



CRISPR/Cas9-mediated disruption of genes associated with cuticle pigment caused mosquitoes to turn from black to yellow, and disruption of genes associated with eye pigment caused eye color to change from black to white.

Credit: UC Riverside



Under another military program –**Insect Allies**, GM insects are engineered to **transfer modified genes to plants**. The **\$10.3 million** DARPA project includes both gene editing in insects and in the viruses that they transmit. **Ecological Niche-preference Engineering** is a third ongoing military program for genome engineering in insects. The Pentagon’s stated objective is to engineer GM organisms so that they can resist certain temperatures, change their habitat and food sources.

Solicitation Number: DARPA-RA-16-63

Agency: Other Defense Agencies

Office: Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

12. Ecological Niche-preference Engineering

This topic seeks development of technologies that enable the genetic engineering of organism’s preference for a niche (e.g., temperature range, food source, and habitat).

Source: fbo.gov

Genetically engineered humans

Besides gene editing in insects and in the viruses they transmit, the Pentagon wants to engineer humans as well. DARPA **Advanced Tools for Mammalian Genome Engineering** Project seeks to create a biological platform inside the human body, using it to deliver new genetic information, and thus altering humans at the DNA level.



DARPA wants to insert an additional 47th artificial chromosome into human cells. This chromosome will deliver new genes that will be used for engineering the human body. SynPloid Biotech LLC has been awarded two contracts under the program totaling \$1.1 million (2015-2016 – \$ 100,600 for the first phase of the research; 2015-2017 – \$ 999,300 for work which is not specified in the federal contracts registry. The company has only two employees and no previous record on bio-research.

Top Secret Research on Synthetic Viruses

Between 2008 and 2014, the United States invested approximately \$820 million in synthetic biology research, Defense being a major contributor. Most of the military projects on synthetic biology are classified, among them are a number of classified studies by the secretive JASON group of US military advisors – e.g. Emerging Viruses and Genome Editing for the Pentagon, and Synthetic Viruses for the National Counterterrorism Center.

JASON is an independent scientific advisory group that provides consulting services to the U.S. government on matters of defense science and technology. It was established in 1960 and most of their resulting JASON reports are classified. For administrative purposes, the JASON's projects are run by the MITRE Corporation, which has contracts with the Defense Department, CIA and the FBI. Since 2014 MITRE has been awarded some \$27.4 million in contracts with the DoD.


Although the JASON Reports are classified, another US Air Force study titled **Biotechnology: Genetically Engineered Pathogens**, sheds some light on what the secretive JASON group has researched – 5 groups of genetically engineered pathogens that can be used as bio-weapons. These are binary biological weapons (a lethal combination of two viruses), host swapping diseases (animal viruses that “jump” to humans, like the Ebola virus), stealth viruses, and designer diseases. Designer diseases can be engineered to target a certain ethnic group, meaning that they can be used as ethnic bio-weapons.

Ethnic Bioweapons

Ethnic biological weapon (*biogenetic weapon*) is a theoretical weapon that aims to primarily harm people of specific ethnicities, or genotypes.

Although officially the research and development of ethnic bio-weapons have never been publicly confirmed, documents show that the US collects biological material from certain ethnic groups – Russians and Chinese.

The US Air Force has been specifically collecting **Russian RNA and synovial tissue** samples, raising fears in Moscow of a covert US ethnic bio-weapons program.

 Synovial Tissue / RNA Samples Solicitation Number: FA3016-17-U-0164 Agency: Department of the Air Force Office: Air Education and Training Command Location: 502d Contracting Squadron			
CONTRACT LINE ITEM NUMBER (CLIN)	Description Origin / Race	QTY	U/I
0001	Normal Human Fresh Frozen Synovial Tissue (<u>Russian / Caucasian</u>)	27	EA
0002	Normal Human Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) Samples (<u>Russian / Caucasian</u>)	12	EA

Technical Specifications – The proposed items must meet the following characteristics to be deemed technically acceptable (See FAR 52.212-2 (a) Addendum for details):

- All Normal Human Fresh Frozen (FF) Synovial Tissue and Normal Human Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) samples must be Russian / Caucasian origin.
- All FF Synovial tissue and RNA samples must come from normal donors, who have no musculoskeletal injuries. This shall be confirmed by pathology.
- All FF synovial tissue must have a weight greater than or at a minimum of 0.25 grams.
- All RNA samples must be frozen.
- Synovial Tissues and RNA samples can be unmatched, meaning from different donors.

Q2: Would you consider samples from Ukraine?

A2: No, all samples (Synovial tissue and RNA samples) shall be collected from Russia and must be Caucasian. The Government will not consider tissue samples from Ukraine.

Source: fbo.gov

Apart from Russians, the US has been collecting **biological material** from both healthy and cancer patients in China. The National Cancer Institute has collected biological samples from 300 subjects from Linxian, Zhengzhou, and Chengdu in China. While another federal project, titled **Serum Metabolic biomarkers** discovery study of Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma in China, includes analysis of 349 serum samples which have been collected from Chinese patients.



The US National Cancer Institute has been collecting biological material from patients of the Chinese Cancer Hospital in Beijing.

Chinese biological material has been collected under a series of federal projects including saliva and cancer tissue. Among them, **Genotyping DNA Samples** from Lymphoma cases and from controls (healthy patients), **Breast cancer tissue blocks** from breast cancer patients, **Saliva samples** of 50 families who have 3 or more cases of UGI cancer, Genotype 50 SNP'S for **DNA samples** from the Cancer Hospital, Beijing, Genotypes from **3000 cases of gastric cancer** and 3000 controls (healthy patients) in Beijing.

Tobacco Vaccines: How the Pentagon helped tobacco companies to profit from Ebola

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has invested **\$100 million** in vaccines production from tobacco plants. The companies, involved in the project, are owned by the biggest American tobacco companies – Medicago Inc. is co-owned by Philip Morris, and **Kentucky BioProcessing** is a subsidiary of Reynolds American which is owned by British American Tobacco. Currently they are producing **Flu and Ebola vaccines** from tobacco plants.

The \$100 million program Blue Angel was launched as a response to the H1N1 pandemic in 2009. Medicago being awarded \$21 million to produce 10,000 million doses of an influenza vaccine within one month.

Blue Angel program manager **Dr. John Julias** explains: “Although there are multiple plant species and other organisms being explored as alternative protein production platforms, the US Government has continued to make an investment in tobacco-based manufacturing.”

The **plant-based vaccine production** method works by isolating a specific antigen protein that triggers a human immune response from the targeted virus. A gene from the protein is transferred to bacteria, which is used to infect plants. The plants then start producing the protein that will be used for vaccinations (photos: DARPA)

It is not clear why the Pentagon chose to invest in vaccines produced from tobacco plants amongst all other plant species, which they explored. Medicago, co-owned by Philip Morris, paid **\$495,000** for **lobbying the Department of Defense, the Congress** and The Department of Health and Human Services for “funding to advance technology to support public health preparedness applications”. The Pentagon funded tobacco companies to develop new technology and to profit from vaccines. – <http://dilyana.bg/>

BULGARIAN JOURNALIST CONFRONTS US OFFICIAL OVER SECRET BIOLABS



Dilyana Gaytandzhieva gets expelled from a conference on biological weapons at the European Parliament in Brussels after confronting US Assistant Secretary Robert Kadlec.

Authored by Filip Vuković, Balkan Post

On 16 January 2018, a Bulgarian investigative journalist Dilyana Gaytandzhieva wrote a [detailed article](#) about the US bio-weapons research that spans across the world in 25 different countries. Gaytandzhieva wrote in her article that the US Army regularly produces deadly viruses, bacteria and toxins in direct violation of the UN Convention on the prohibition of biological weapons, and that hundreds of thousands of unwitting people are systematically exposed to dangerous pathogens and other incurable diseases. She added that bio-warfare scientists are using diplomatic cover test man-made viruses at Pentagon bio-laboratories in 25 countries across the world. These bio-laboratories are funded by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) under a \$2.1 billion military program called Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP), and are located in countries such as Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Jordan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, etc. Luckily, the Balkans seems to be clear.

Gaytandzhieva recently traveled to Brussels and attended the European Parliament in order to confront Robert Kadlec, Assistant Secretary at the US Department of Health, regarding the number of classified bio-weapons research labs scattered through Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Kadlec categorically denied the existence of an American bio-weapon program as well as that information surrounding the labs in question were classified. Gaytandzhieva attempted to continue her follow up but was silenced by Hilde Vautmans, the EU official sitting next to Kadlec, who stated “This is not an investigation” to applause from the audience and an embrace between herself and Kadlec. Gaytandzhieva didn’t stop there, however, following Kadlec to the elevator and continuing to ask him questions regarding the bio-weapons program which Kadlec refused to answer. Security staff then refused to let Gaytandzhieva on the elevator.

Here’s the full transcript of the exchange between Gaytandzhieva and Kadlec:

Gaytandzhieva: *Why has the Pentagon been operating military bio-laboratories in 25 countries, bordering on the US rivals Russia, China and Iran, and why has the number of deadly outbreaks, in all those countries, increased dramatically since the start of the military program of the United States in these countries?*

Kadlec: *I will say unequivocally and undeniably, the US does not have a military biological weapons program. Period. End of statement. Number two [interrupts Gaytandzhieva], we have been working, and I do know from the Department of Defense, they have been working with partners in parts the World, to ensure that those laboratories, and we trained them to do the diagnostic tests on these diseases, to ensure that they can manage them and also safely secure those facilities, so they're not accessible by terrorists, or by criminals, who would do ill with them.*

Gaytandzhieva: *Why are all these projects classified information? All these bio-laboratories of the Pentagon in 25 countries across the world? Why are they classified information?*

Kadlec: *They're not classified, they're openly available to anyone who wants to look at them.*

Gaytandzhieva: *No, I tried it. No, this is not true. They are classified information.*

Vautmans: *Ok, ok, I think I will not give you more time. We will try to answer your questions, but that's not the place here. Case closed, thank you very much [kisses with Kadlec].*

Gaytandzhieva then followed Kadlec to the elevator and continued to ask him questions regarding the bio-weapons program.

Gaytandzhieva: *Just one more question?*

Kadlec: *No more questions.*

Gaytandzhieva: *What is the need of military biolaboratories of the United States in 25 countries across the world?*

She attempted to enter the elevator, but was forcibly stopped.

Gaytandzhieva: *This is public area, sorry, I can use the elevator:*

Security man: *Sorry not this one, it's full.*

Gaytandzhieva: *I can use the elevator:*

Security man: *No more questions then [trying to prevent cameraman].*

Gaytandzhieva: *Why not? Why is the Pentagon investing 65 million dollars in gene editing? The gene editing is the part of this program.*

Elevator gates closed.

Later, Gaytandzhieva posted the [video](#) on her social media pages, simply commenting: "How a journalist gets expelled from the European Parliament when asking the Assistant Secretary at the US Department of Health questions about the Pentagon bio-laboratories around Russia, China and Iran.

Although unable to retrieve any answers from Kadlec, her article is already an impressive collection of information revealing a network of bio-weapons research facilities as well as mysterious outbreaks in their vicinities.

This is not the first time that Gaytandzhieva is exposing the US secret military programs. Last summer, she published a [bombshell report](#) which found that an Azerbaijan state airline company was regularly transporting tons of cheap Bulgarian and East European weaponry to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Turkey, under diplomatic cover as part of the CIA covert program. These weapons were found inside underground terrorist warehouses belonging to Al Nusra Front, Al Qaeda affiliate in Syria designated as a terrorist organization by the UN. The US modus operandi

was the same: using bases in the satellite countries, abuse of diplomatic channels, and dirty politics directed against Russia, Iran and Syria.

NEW DATA LEAK FROM THE PENTAGON BIOLABORATORY IN GEORGIA

By [Dilyana Gaytandzhieva](#) -September 7, 2020
http://www.facebook.com/plugins/like.php?href=http://dilyana.bg/new-data-leak-from-the-pentagon-biolaboratory-in-georgia/&layout=button_count&show_faces=false&width=105&action=like&colorscheme=light&height=21



A diplomatic car with a registration plate of the US Embassy to Tbilisi in the car park of the Lugar Center. US scientists working at the Pentagon laboratory in Georgia drive diplomatic vehicles as they have been given diplomatic immunity (photo: Dilyana Gaytandzhieva)

Leaked e-mails between the Lugar Center, the Pentagon biolaboratory in Tbilisi, the US Embassy to Georgia and the Georgian Ministry of Health reveal new information about the **\$161 million** secretive US Government biological research program in this former Soviet country.

The data allegedly originating from the Ministry of Health of Georgia has been published anonymously on Twitter and on a forum for database leaks – Raidforums. Among the documents there are internal memos, official letters and detailed information about US government projects at the Lugar Center, funding and foreign business trips.

Arms Watch volunteers have analyzed these documents and discovered very interesting facts about the Center's recent activities.

The Pentagon has planned to turn Georgia into its largest biological research center overseas, combining its military resources with the resources of the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Georgia.

Furthermore, the number of US projects and grants have increased as well as the number of US scientists deployed to the Lugar Center. The Pentagon-funded facility is planned to temporarily accommodate 16 CDC specialists from Atlanta, for whom Georgia will build a separate BSL-2 laboratory, administrative building and a campus near the Lugar Center. In addition, Georgia will become a regional CDC hub for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, internal documents reveal.



The Lugar Center is a \$161 million Pentagon-funded biolaboratory in Georgia's capital Tbilisi (photo: Dilyana Gaytandzhieva)

The Lugar Center already sparked controversy about possible dual-use research in 2018 when **leaked documents** revealed that US diplomats in Georgia were involved in the trafficking of frozen human blood and pathogens for a secret military program.

The Lugar Center is just one of the many **Pentagon biolaboratories in 25 countries** across the world. They are funded by the US Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) under a **\$ 2.1 billion military program – Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP)**, and are located in former Soviet Union countries such as Georgia (the motherland of former Soviet leader Joseph Stalin) and Ukraine, the Middle East, South East Asia and Africa.

Pentagon research on bioterrorism agents at the Lugar Center

US military scientists have been deployed to Georgia for research on bioterrorism agents at the Lugar Center, according to the new data-leak. **These bio-agents** have the potential to be aerosolized and used as bioweapons. Among them anthrax, tularemia, Brucella, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, Hantavirus, Y. pestis (causing the disease plague).

The US military biological research projects in Georgia have been funded by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). According to internal data, American and Georgian scientists are currently working on the following DTRA projects in the Lugar Center:

Project 1059: Zoonotic Infections with Fever and Skin Injuries in Georgia

The project includes isolation of new orthopoxviruses in humans, rodents, domestic and wild animals in Georgia, and collection of rodents (as a natural reservoir for this virus) for their further study.

Duration: 01/11/2015-31/10/2018 (extended to 2020)

Funding: \$702,343

Project 1060: Characterization of the Georgian National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) Strain Repository by New Generation Sequencing

Description: characterization and genome research on 100 strains from four endemic species: *Y. pestis* (causing the disease plague), *B. anthracis* (anthrax), *Brucella*, and *F. tularensis* (causing the disease tularemia).

Duration: 01/11/2015-31/10/2018

Funding: \$ 518,409

Project 1439: Molecular Virological Research in Georgia

Description and objectives:

- Identify and characterize Hantavirus and Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV) strains by molecular methods;
- Characterize and study genetic diversity of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus and hantavirus strains isolated from rodents and ectoparasites;
- Serological examination of febrile patients with Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever and hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome;
- Collection of rodents and ectoparasites (ticks, fleas);

Duration: 16/08/2017-15/08/2021

Funding: \$612,614

Project 1497: Molecular Epidemiology and Ecology of Yersinia Species in Georgia and Azerbaijan

Description: 1) Ecological research on rodents in Kerb on the Georgian-Azerbaijani border 2) Isolation of different strains of Yersinia; 3) Molecular screening of collected rodent and flea samples. 4) A comparative analysis of the genomes of Yersinia strains obtained during the fieldwork; 5) Spatial analysis of the distribution of Yersinia strains.

Duration: 01/09/2017-31/08/2018 (extended to 2022)

Funding: \$134,090.00DTRA Projects in Georgia 1 of 8

3	დონორი ორგანიზაცია	ამშ საფრთხის შემცირების სააგენტო (DTRA BAA)
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	პროექტის განხორციელების ვადა	16/08/2017 - 15/08/2022
	პროექტის ბიუჯეტი	610 000.00 ამშ დოლარი
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1	დონორი ორგანიზაცია	ამშ საფრთხის შემცირების სააგენტო (DTRA BAA)
	საგრანტო პროექტის სახელწოდება	" ცხელებით და კანის დაზიანებებით მიმდინარე ზოონოზური ინფექციების შემთხვევების გამოვლენისა და დიაგნოზის შესაძლებლობების გაძლიერება საქართველოში "
	პროექტის განმახორციელებელი/გრანტის მიმღები	სსიპ ლ. საყვარელიძის სახელობის დაავადებათა კონტროლისა და საზოგადოებრივი ჯანმრთელობის ეროვნული ცენტრი
	პარტნიორი ორგანიზაცია	ამშ დაავადებათა კონტროლისა და პრევენციის ცენტრები (US CDC)
	პროექტის მოკლე აღწერა	პოქსვირუსების გამოვლენისა და დიაგნოსტიკისასთან დაკავშირებული ტექნიკური შესაძლებლობების გაძლიერება და ცხელებით და კანის დაზიანებებით მიმდინარე ზოონოზური ინფექციებზე ზედამხედველობის სისტემის შექმნა საქართველოში
	პროექტის განხორციელების ვადა	01/11/2015 - 31/10/2020
	პროექტის ბიუჯეტი	702,343 ამშ დოლარი
	პროექტის განხორციელებაზე პასუხისმგებელი პირი, პოზიციისა და საკონტაქტო ინფორმაციის მითითებით	ეკატერინე ხმალაძე - უფროსი სპეციალისტი, ვირუსოლოგიის, მოლეკულური ბიოლოგიის და გენომის კვლევის დეპარტამენტი; ტელ.:577387017, ელ. ფოსტა:e.khmaladze@ncdc.ge
4	დონორი ორგანიზაცია	ამშ საფრთხის შემცირების სააგენტო (DTRA)
	საგრანტო პროექტის სახელწოდება	" რიკეტსიებისა და კოქსილას ინფექციების ზედამხედველობა საქართველოსა და აზერბაიჯანში "
	პროექტის განმახორციელებელი/გრანტის მიმღები	სსიპ ლ. საყვარელიძის სახელობის დაავადებათა კონტროლისა და საზოგადოებრივი ჯანმრთელობის ეროვნული ცენტრი
	პარტნიორი ორგანიზაცია	სამხედრო სამედიცინო-კვლევითი ცენტრი (NMRC), ამშ; ტექსასის უნივერსიტეტის სამედიცინო განყოფილება (UTMB), ამშ
	პროექტის მოკლე აღწერა	შესწავლილ იქნება რიკეტსიებისა და კოქსილას ინფექციების გავრცელება საქართველოსა და აზერბაიჯანში; მოხდება სამედიცინო პერსონალის ცნობიერების ამაღლება აღნიშნულ დაავადებებზე; განისაზღვრება დაავადების რეზერვუარები და გადამტანები; შეიქმნება შესაბამისი რეკომენდაციები.
	პროექტის განხორციელების ვადა	23/09/ 2019 -22/09/ 2022
	პროექტის ბიუჯეტი	690 00.00 ამშ დოლარი (NCDC ბიუჯეტი), 945 000.00 ამშ დოლარი (პროექტის სრული ბიუჯეტი)
	პროექტის განხორციელებაზე პასუხისმგებელი პირი, პოზიციისა და საკონტაქტო ინფორმაციის მითითებით	გიორგი ჩახუნაშვილი - ძირითადი მკვლევარი; 591-40-10-86, g.chakhunashvili@ncdc.ge

Project 1742: Risks of bat-borne zoonotic diseases in Western Asia

Duration: 24/10/2018-23 /10/2019

Funding: \$71,500

EASL – International Liver Foundation	ტექნიკური მხარდაჭერა C - პეპატიტის მეექვსე ორდღიანი ეროვნული სემინარისთვის, რომელიც ჩატარდება 2019 წლის 6 და 7 მარტს	\$ 4,000	7/03/19-7/05/19
GIZ გერმანიის საერთაშორისო თანამშრომლობის საზოგადოება	დარგობრივი ინსტიტუტების მხარდაჭერა საქართველოში- დასავლეთ აზიური ქსელის შექმნა კავკასიის რეგიონში ბიოუსაფრთხოების გასაუმჯობესებლად	GEL 73,006	01/01/19-31/12/19
EcoHealth Alliance ეკოჰელს ალიანსი	დასავლეთ აზიაში ღამურის მიერ გამოწვეული ზოონოზური დაავადებების რისკების ანალიზი	\$ 71,500	24/10/18-23/10/19
UNFPA-United Nations Population Fund გაეროს მოსახლეობის ფონდი	საშვილოსნოს ყელის კიბოს სკრინინგის რეგისტრის შექმნა	\$ 83,220	01/02/19-31/12/19
Evero commission ევრო კავშირი	რისკების თაობაზე ცნობიერების ამაღლება და თბური ტალღების ტრანსსასაზღვრო ზემოქმედების შემცირების კომუნიკაცია	€ 29,275	01/02/19-31/01/21
LIFER - The Liver Institute and Foundation for Education and Research ღვიძლის ინსტიტუტი და განათლებისა და კვლევის ფონდი	ნარკოტიკების ინექციურ მომხმარებელთა (ნიმ) პოპულაციაში C პეპატიტის ვირუსით პირველადი ინფიცირებულთა და რე-ინფიცირებულთა კოჰორტის დახასიათება, საქართველოში ზიანის შემცირების ქსელის ორ შერჩეულ ცენტრში, გლობალური პეპატიტების ეპიდემიოლოგიის და ზედამხედველობის - ტექნოლოგიის (GHOST) გამოყენებით	\$ 20,000	11/06/19-20/06/20

In 2017 the US Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) launched a **\$6.5 million project on bats and coronaviruses** in Western Asia (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Jordan) with the Lugar Center being the local laboratory for this genetic research. The duration of the program is 5 years and has been implemented by the non-profit **US organisation Eco Health Alliance**.

The project's objectives are: 1. Capture and non-lethally sample 5,000 bats in 5-year period (2017-2022) 2. Collect 20,000 samples (i.e. oral, rectal swabs and/or feces, and blood) and screen for coronaviruses using consensus PCR at regional labs in Georgia and Jordan. According to **the project presentation**, Eco Health Alliance already sampled 270 bats of 9 species in three Western Asian countries: 90 individual bats in Turkey (Aug 2018), Georgia (Sept 2018), and Jordan (Oct

EcoHealth Alliance and Georgian scientists [sampling a bat](#) for coronavirus research in 2018 (Facebook, Keti Sidamonidze)

Coincidentally, the same Pentagon contractor tasked with the US DoD bat-research program – Eco Health Alliance, USA, also collected bats and isolated coronaviruses along with Chinese scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. EcoHealth Alliance received a [\\$3.7 million grant](#) from the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) to collect and study coronaviruses in bats in China from 2014 to 2019.

Project 1911: Rickettsia and Coxiella infection surveillance in Georgia and Azerbaijan (US federal grant [HDTRA1-19-1-0042](#) awarded to NCDC-Georgia)

Duration: 23/09/2019 – 22/09/2022

Funding: \$945,000

Despite the official claims of Georgia and USA that the Lugar Center is under the full control of the government of this Caucasus country internal documents show otherwise. Not only has the Pentagon funded biological research projects but it has also paid all the expenses for security and maintenance including utility bills – water, gas, electricity, and cleaning. Tasked with the operational and scientific support to the Lugar Center is USAMRU-Georgia, a special unit deployed to Georgia by the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). WRAIR has paid: \$524,625 (2016-2018), \$650,000 (2017-2019) and \$1,062,400 (2017-2021) for utility bills, and a further \$158,050 (2016-2017) and \$322,000 (2018-2021) for security guards.

The Pentagon has also awarded a private US contractor, Technology Management Company (TMC) an [\\$8 million contract](#) for science services to support USAMRU-Georgia in the Lugar Center (2016-2021). WRAIR Projects at the Lugar Center 1 of 5

Tularemia research on soldiers

The Pentagon unit USAMRU-Georgia has conducted extensive research on tularemia involving Georgian soldiers, [scientific papers](#) reveal.

Tularemia is a rare infectious disease that typically attacks the skin, eyes, lymph nodes and lungs. Tularemia, also called rabbit fever or deer fly fever, is caused by the bacterium *Francisella tularensis*. It is categorized as a [category A bioterrorism agent](#). Tularemia was weaponized for mass aerosol dissemination by the US Army in the past, according to a recently declassified military report.

UNCLASSIFIED

Table 1. (U) **Resource Cost Summary for an *F. tularensis* Aerosol Attack on a Battalion.**

Item	Cost (1976 \$)
Planning	8,750
Agent Production	10,000
Munition Acquisition	9,897
Weapon Employment	5,700
TOTAL:	34,347

Table 4. (U) **Resource Cost Summary for an *F. tularensis* Aerosol Attack on a City.**

Item	Cost (1976 \$)
Planning	547
Agent Production	174,000
Munition Acquisition	1,435
Weapon Employment	3,250
TOTAL:	179,232

Tularemia is one of the bio-weapons that the US Army developed in the past. Source: 1981 US Army Report

900 volunteers (soldiers and civilians) were recruited for the **DTRA project GG-19** “Epidemiology and Ecology of Tularemia in Georgia” from 2014 to 2017. Blood samples were collected from those volunteers and tested for tularemia.

According to the study, 10 soldiers (2%) of the 500 soldiers tested had antibodies for *F. tularensis*. The seropositive soldiers were men, the majority of whom were between 30 and 39 years of age. Seven cases had current residences in known endemic areas (i.e. Kakheti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli, Shida Kartli, and Tbilisi). Three were from areas without previously known *F. tularensis* transmission (i.e. Imereti).

Of the 783 residents approached to participate in this study, 35 (5.0%) volunteers had antibodies to *F. tularensis*.

While the civilian volunteers were all residents of two areas with naturally occurring foci of tularemia in Georgia, the military personnel were soldiers visiting Georgia’s military hospital. The study does not provide any explanation as to why soldiers were enrolled in this project nor how exactly they contracted the disease in the army. Project GG-19: Tularemia in Georgia 1 of 8

PROJECT AGREEMENT COVER SHEET

A. Project Title US-UK Epidemiology and Ecology of Tuberculosis			
B. Recipient Contact Information			
Institution	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health		
Project Director Name	Gloria Soto-Camacho		
Address Line 1	P.O. Box 1200		
Address Line 2	N/A		
Country/State/Postal	USA/DC/20001		
Telephone	+1 202 205 2000		
Fax	+1 202 205 2000		
E-Mail	gsoto@cdc.gov		
AGREEMENT INFORMATION			
C. CRDF Agreement #	CRDF-11-001-10-13	G. Sponsor	CRDF/US
D. Duration	May 11, 2011 - July 31, 2013	H. Funding Agreement	US-UK-11-01-100-100
E. Agreement Amount	\$1,000,000	I. CRFA Number	001
F. CRDF Program			11000 - Assistance Program (AP) 13
AGREEMENT CONTACT INFORMATION			
CRDF Agreement Officer		Sponsor Technical Representative	
Name/Title	Lisa Robinson, Associate Director	Steph Holtzclow, MD, PhD	
Institution	U.S. Civilian Research & Development	CRDF/US	
Address Line 1	1776 Wilson Boulevard	4 Freedom Square, CRDF Plaza	
Address Line 2	Suite 300	N/A	
City/State/Zip	Arlington, VA 22209	4001 Dulles, Georgia	
Telephone	703-726-6781	404-345-3420	
E-mail	lisarobinson@crdf.gov	steph.holtzclow@crdf.us	
<p>The U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation, a nonprofit corporation established under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, USA ("CRDF") enters into a project agreement with you and your institution to fund the project. CRDF hereby awards on behalf of the Sponsor, this Agreement to the Recipient Institution identified in section II above. By signature of both institutional representatives below, CRDF and Recipient Institution (the "Parties") enter into this Agreement ("Agreement") and the terms of execution of this Agreement by all Parties. Participating Recipient agencies conduct activities in accordance with the following terms of which, together with applicable laws and regulations of the Recipient, is hereby incorporated as part of this Agreement.</p> <p>Agreement/ User Sheet: Attachment A, Project Description; Attachment B, ACRF Standard Provisions (US); Base Lines: Attachment B, Budget; Attachment C, ACRF as Incorporated by Reference; Attachment D, Inventory & Payment; Attachment E, Intellectual Grant Agreement.</p> <p>This agreement is the Parties' entire and only agreement, superseding all other agreements, promises and representations, whether written or oral. Recipient agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to hold the respective Parties harmless from all third-party claims, demands and other actions against the Parties. Recipient agrees to hold the respective Parties harmless from all third-party claims, demands and other actions against the Parties. Recipient agrees to hold the respective Parties harmless from all third-party claims, demands and other actions against the Parties. Recipient agrees to hold the respective Parties harmless from all third-party claims, demands and other actions against the Parties.</p>			
Authorized Recipient Signatory Institution	Typed Name/Title	Date	
	American Government, 2012 Pub. Director General	10.10.2012	
CRDF signatory	Typed Name/Title	Date	

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BASIC TERMS

1. **Project Description.** The purpose of the Agreement is to support the work as directed by the Sponsor and described in Attachment A, Project Description (hereafter referred to as "Project"). Recipient agrees to use all Project support only for such activities.
2. **Project Support.** Project support may include any one or more of the following types of activities, without limitation, as set forth in the Project or as otherwise subsequently agreed by CRDF and the Sponsor: (a) individual support payments paid directly to Project Personnel; (b) equipment, materials, supplies and/or services purchased by CRDF on behalf of the Recipient; (c) travel-related direct payments to individual Project Personnel or to vendors on their behalf; and (d) direct transfers of funds to institutional accounts for project-related expenses.
3. **Agreement Period.** Unless/until extended by Amendment, the Agreement Period commences and terminates upon the dates noted in the Project Agreement Cover Sheet.
4. **Budget.** The Recipient agrees to comply strictly with the Budget set forth in Attachment B (hereafter referred to as "Budget"). The Budget includes line items for all types of Project support. Costs of Project support not expressly specified in the Budget or in excess of line items therein, are not eligible costs and may not be charged under this Agreement unless subsequently approved in writing by CRDF.
5. **Eligible Costs.** The Recipient may use Project support only for its verifiable, reasonable, allocable and allowable direct costs necessary for performance of the activities specified in the Project and consistent with the direction of the Sponsor. All such costs must comply with the terms and conditions of the Agreement and must be incurred and expended in the Agreement Period. In incurring costs, as to other matters relating to implementation, the Recipient is expected to exercise prudent management and to make sound administrative judgments under the circumstances prevailing at the time a decision is made. Documentation supporting expenditures and other actions in implementing the Agreement must be made in advance of the action, be consistent with the Recipient's established policies and procedures, comply with the terms of this Agreement and current CRDF policies and procedures, and reflect appropriate approvals within the organization.
6. **Agreement Amount.** Funds for Project support have been provided by the Sponsor identified in the Project Agreement Cover Sheet. The amount and distribution of these funds, including schedule of disbursements and availability of costs, are determined solely by the Sponsor. CRDF's aggregate liability arising out of or relating to the Agreement, regardless of the type(s) and size of Project support provided, may not exceed any amount stated in the Agreement Amount. Recipient is solely responsible for any overruns.
7. **Reports.** The Recipient may be required to submit technical and financial reports in a format to be provided by CRDF or the Sponsor. Unless alternate instructions have been provided by the Agreement Officer, reports shall be submitted electronically in accordance with the schedule specified herein to the attention of the Agreement Officer. Apart from the aforementioned reports, the Recipient shall provide such reports as may be required by the Sponsor to detail project progress and results.
8. **Project Personnel.** The Project Director and/or other staff ("Project Personnel") as identified in the CRDF Global Project Personnel Data Form and listed below are deemed essential to successful implementation of the work to be performed under this Agreement. These individuals may not be replaced without prior written approval of CRDF and the Sponsor.

Last Name	First Name	Institute	Last Name	First Name	Institute
Orskov	Geoffrey	NIH	Trimmer	Tim	NIH
Gratwick	Neil	NIH	Shyne	Esther	NIH
Archer	Eric	NIH	Parabata	Esther	NIH
Paulsen	Frank	NIH	Zanetti	Mark	NIH
Archer	Tyler	NIH	Reuter	David	NIH

- E. Any change in a Project Director's institution, mailing address, telephone or fax numbers, or e-mail address;
- F. Any change in or absence of a Project Director or project key personnel for a period longer than thirty (30) days;
- G. Any change in Project Personnel's level of effort devoted to the Project;
- H. Any significant change in the Project objectives or scope.

All changes to Project Personnel, budget reallocation requests, and/or changes in Project objectives or scope are subject to Sponsor and CRDF approval.

- 10. **Notice:** Unless otherwise approved by CRDF on a case-by-case basis, all notices in connection with this Agreement shall be made in writing to the Agreement Officer specified on the Cover Sheet. All of the Recipient's written or verbal communications with or to DTRA, or with federal, state, or local agencies, relative to services under this Agreement must be through or with the knowledge of CRDF and CH2MHill.
- 11. **Authority of CRDF Agreement Officer:** The assigned Agreement Officer maintains the sole authority to interpret, modify or amend any provision of this Agreement. All financial, administrative and contractual issues should be addressed to the Agreement Officer. CRDF reserves the right to assign a new Agreement Officer at any time over the course of the award through written notification to the Recipient. All technical oversight of the Project is the sole responsibility of the assigned Sponsor Technical Representative identified in the Project Agreement Cover Sheet.

**ATTACHMENT A:
PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

GG15: Epidemiology and Ecology of Tuberculosis in Georgia

Project Summary

The overall scientific goals of this study are to study the epidemiology of human and animal tuberculosis in Georgia. We will accomplish this through several specific objectives. First, we will examine the interconnectivity of tuberculosis among exposed (people living in geographic areas known to be natural foci for tuberculosis) and healthy individuals; we will estimate risk factors for seropositivity. In parallel, we will also establish active surveillance for human tuberculosis clinical cases with the goal of assessing the efficiency and diagnostic capability to identify the disease; we will collect isolates from human cases for comparison to both current environmental isolates and historical isolates (currently in the NCDC collection). From an environmental surveillance emphasis, we will establish active surveillance for *F. tularensis* in the environment including small rodents and associated vectors and to identify the sources of outbreaks among humans. This effort includes linking environmental and animal cases with human cases. Additionally, in all strains isolated we will evaluate diagnostic methods for detecting *F. tularensis*, and monitor patterns of antimicrobial resistance with these isolates. There will be a backspillage component to this project that will study isolated *Francisella tularensis* strains using genomic sequencing, proteomics analysis and phage discovery (expanding our efforts from our discovery of lytic *Francisella bacteriophage*). The results of this project will be a more accurate assessment of the baseline prevalence and geographic distribution of *F. tularensis* pathogen in humans and animals, and an improved recognition and detection of the disease in this region. Both goals will be achieved by providing better laboratory diagnostics, enhanced GIS data, and modern laboratory-based characterizations for *F. tularensis*.

**ATTACHMENT B:
BUDGET**

Participant	Title	2013		2014					2015	
		Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
NCDC										
Quentera Chanturia	Project Manager/PI	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Neil Chakravorty	Project Administration/Submanager	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Miso Akhvatadze	Biostatistics professor/PI	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	
Tatiana Kumbakidze	Animal husbandry professor Co-PI	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	
Tamar Akhvatadze	Animal husbandry professor Co-PI	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	
Nino Tsigalava	Scientific Advisor	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	
Shota Tsanava	Field work & Microbiology / Group leader	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	
Gela Mgeladze	Biostatistic / Lead expert	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	
Lela Batsarova	Field biologist / Expert	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$640.00	
Ilia Shvachava	Vector surveillance / Lead expert	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	
Lisa Malakh	Microbiology / Lead expert	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	
Bettina Chikvadze	Microbiology, Repository	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	
Maria Gotschikova	Microbiology, Repository	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	
Misa Gubelina	Microbiology, Repository / Support personnel	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Yegor Bakhtadze	Microbiology, Repository / Support personnel	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Tamar Obagatze	Microbiology	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	
Natalia Akhvatadze	Microbiology	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	
Sopiko Davitashvili	Microbiology, virology & proteomic study	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Miran Skajashvili	Field work & Microbiology	\$720.00	\$720.00	\$720.00	\$720.00	\$720.00	\$720.00	\$720.00	\$720.00	
Lavro Beridze	Field work & Microbiology / Expert	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Linda Dzemalava	Field work, zoolgy	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Tina Vardishvili	Field work & Microbiology / Support personnel	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Rusudan Aghvashvili	Field work & Microbiology / Support personnel	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Mira Chigatze	Field work & Microbiology / Support personnel	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Margareta Skarvadze	Field work & Microbiology / Support personnel	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Tamara Mkipavel	Support personnel	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Julita Maravelas	Field work, entomology & GIS	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	
Zhena Sefarova	Field work, entomology	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	
Ivaid Shavashvili	Field work, zoolgy	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	

From: Maia Nikoleishvili
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:31 PM
To: Rurua, Tamar LN (GEO)
Subject: RE: თბილისში ახალი სამხედრო ჰოსპიტალის შესახებ

თამარ,

დიდი მადლობა, წარმოგიდგენთ ინფორმაციას ქალბატონ ელჩთან მოთხოვნილი შეხვედრის სასაუბრო თემასთან დაკავშირებით:

მოგესხენებათ, კორონავირუსის პანდემიის წინააღმდეგ ბრძოლაში გორის სამხედრო ჰოსპიტალი აქტიურადაა ჩართული, რომელმაც გამოავლინა მაღალი მობილიზაცია პანდემიასთან ბრძოლაში და უზრუნველყო მოსახლეობისთვის კვალიფიციური და მაღალი დონის სამედიცინო მომსახურების მიწოდება. ეს შედეგი მნიშვნელოვანწილად ეფუძნება ამერიკული მხარის მხარდაჭერას, მათ შორის, სამედიცინო პერსონალის/მენეჯმენტის პროფესიული გადამზადების მიმართულებით, რაც ჩვენი მხრიდან უაღრესად დასაფასებელია.

აქვე აღნიშნავთ, რომ საქართველოს მთავრობის გადაწყვეტილებით მიმდინარეობს მუშობა ა(ა)იპ „საქართველოს სამედიცინო ჰოლდინგის“ განვითარების მიმართულებით. ჰოლდინგი ამ ეტაპზე აერთიანებს 5 სახელმწიფო საკუთრებაში არსებულ კლინიკას: თბილისის რესპუბლიკური საავადმყოფო, უნივერსალური სამედიცინო ცენტრი (ონკოლოგიური), ბავშვთა ინფექციური საავადმყოფო, რუხის ჰოსპიტალი, ბათუმის ინფექციური საავადმყოფო.

ნატოს სამშვიდობო მისიებში საქართველოს აქტიური მონაწილეობისა და ჯანდაცვის სფეროში აშშ-სა და საქართველოს შორის ნაყოფიერი თანამშრომლობის გათვალისწინებით, ქალბატონი ეკატერინე ტიკარაძის თხოვნაა, ამერიკული მხარის დაინტერესების შემთხვევაში მოხდეს მხარეთა შორის თანამშრომლობის ინიცირება სამედიცინო ჰოლდინგის ბაზაზე არსებული სამედიცინო დაწესებულების მენეჯმენტისა და სამედიცინო პერსონალის გადამზადების მიმართულებით.

ჰოლდინგის ბაზაზე არსებული სამედიცინო დაწესებულებების რეაბილიტაცია/აღჭურვა განხორციელდება მსოფლიო ბანკის მიერ გამოყოფილი სესხის ფარგლებში, სამედიცინო სფეროში არსებული თანამედროვე მოთხოვნების შესაბამისად.

ამ ინიციატივის განხორციელება როგორც ჯანდაცვის, ისე თავდაცვის სამინისტროსთვის უაღრესად მნიშვნელოვანია, ვინაიდან საქართველოს მოსახლეობას, მათ შორის სამხედრო პირებს ექნებათ მაღალკვალიფიციურ სამედიცინო სერვისებზე უკეთესი გეოგრაფიული ხელმისაწვდომობა და ქვეყანა შემლესს პანდემიურ სიტუაციებზე უფრო ეფექტურ რეაგირებას.

პატივისცემით,

მაია

From: Rurua, Tamar LN (GEO) <tamar.rurua2.ln@mail.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 7:48 PM
To: Maia Nikoleishvili <mnikoleishvili@moh.gov.ge>
Subject: თბილისში ახალი სამხედრო ჰოსპიტალის შესახებ

მაიკო, როგორც სატელეფონო საუბრისას გითხარით, სამხედრო ჰოსპიტალთან დაკავშირებით გვინტერესებს შემდეგი ინფორმაცია:

1. რა საჭიროება და მოთხოვნა არსებობს თბილისში სამხედრო ჰოსპიტალის გახსნასთან დაკავშირებით იმის გათვალისწინებით, რომ გორში უკვე არის მსგავსი ჰოსპიტალი?
2. რა პროფილის იქნება ჰოსპიტალი და ვის მოემსახურება? იქნება თუ არა რაიმე ფორმით განსხვავებული გორის ჰოსპიტალისგან?
3. იქნება თუ არა ახალ ჰოსპიტალს გორის ჰოსპიტალის მსგავსი იურიდიული სტატუსი - იქნება თუ არა ის თავდაცვის სამინისტროს დაქვემდებარებული სსიპ?
4. თუ ეს ასეა, არის თუ არა თავდაცვის სამინისტრო საქმის კურსში ამ ინიციატივის თაობაზე?
5. სასურველია თუ ასევე გვეცოდინება არსებობს თუ არა უკვე ჰოსპიტალისთვის შენობა, თუ საჭიროა ახალი შენობის აშენება? რა მასშტაბებზეა საუბარი? და აშშ-ს საელჩოსგან რა მიმართულებით დგას მხარდაჭერის საჭიროება?

გვესმის, რომ ეს ინიციატივა ამ ეტაპზე შესაძლოა მხოლოდ იდეის დონეზე იყოს, მაგრამ ელჩთან ამ საკითხის განსახილველად შეხვედრის დაგეგმვამდე მეტი ინფორმაცია დაგვჭირდება.

მადლობა თანამშრომლობისთვის და დაველოდებით თქვენგან პასუხს.

საუკეთესო სურვილებით,
თამარი

Tamar Rurua
Humanitarian Assistance Program Manager
Office of Defense Cooperation, Bilateral Affairs Office
US Embassy Tbilisi, Georgia
Office: +995 322 91 14 73 (ext. 100)
Cell: +995 595 42 61 63; +995 557 26 75 05

Below is Google translation in English of this correspondence:

GEORGIAN - DETECTED ENGLISH SPANISH FRENCH ENGLISH SPANISH ARABIC

From: Rurua, Tamar LN (GEO) <tamar.rurua2.ln@mail.mil>
 Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 7:48 PM
 To: Maia Nikoleishvili <mnikoleishvili@moh.gov.ge>
 Subject: თბილისში ახალი სამხედრო ჰოსპიტალის შესახებ

Maiko, როგორც სატელეფონო საუბრისას გითხარით, სამხედრო ჰოსპიტალთან დაკავშირებით გვაინტერესებს შემდეგი ინფორმაცია:

1. რა საჭიროება და მოთხოვნა არსებობს თბილისში სამხედრო ჰოსპიტალის გახსნასთან დაკავშირებით იმის გათვალისწინებით, რომ გორში უკვე არის მსგავსი ჰოსპიტალი?
2. რა პროფილის იქნება ჰოსპიტალი და ვის მოემსახურება? იქნება თუ არა რაიმე ფორმით განსხვავებული გორის ჰოსპიტალისგან?
3. ექნება თუ არა ახალ ჰოსპიტალს გორის ჰოსპიტალის მსგავსი იურიდიული სტატუსი - იქნება თუ არა ის თავდაცვის სამინისტროს დაქვემდებარებული სია?
4. თუ ეს ასეა, არის თუ არა თავდაცვის სამინისტრო საქმის კურსში ამ ინიციატივის თაობაზე?
5. სასურველია თუ ასევე გვეცოდინება არსებობს თუ არა უკვე ჰოსპიტალისთვის მენობა, თუ საჭიროა ახალი შენობის აშენება? რა მასშტაბზეა საუბარი? და აშშ-ს საელჩოსგან რა მიმართულებით დგას მხარდაჭერის საჭიროება?

გვესმის, რომ ეს ინიციატივა ამ ეტაპზე შესაძლოა მხოლოდ იდეის დონეზე იყოს, მაგრამ ელჩთან ამ საკითხის განსახილველად შეხვედრის დაგეგმვამდე მეთი ინფორმაცია დაგეჭირდება.

მადლობა თანამშრომლობისთვის და დაველოდებით თქვენგან პასუხს.

საუკეთესო სურვილებით,
 თამარი

Tamar Rurua
 Humanitarian Assistance Program Manager
 Office of Defense Cooperation, Bilateral Affairs Office
 US Embassy Tbilisi, Georgia
 Office: +995 322 91 14 73 (ext. 100)
 Cell: +995 595 42 61 63; +995 557 26 75 05

From: Rurua, Tamar LN (GEO) <tamar.rurua2.ln@mail.mil>
 Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 7:48 PM
 To: Maia Nikoleishvili <mnikoleishvili@moh.gov.ge>
 Subject: About the new military hospital in Tbilisi

Maiko, as I told you during the telephone conversation, we are interested in the following information about the military hospital:

1. What is the need and demand for the opening of a military hospital in Tbilisi, given that there is already a similar hospital in Gori?
2. What profile will the hospital have and who will it serve? Will it be different from Gori Hospital in any way?
3. Will the new hospital have the same legal status as Gori Hospital - will it be a LEPL subordinate to the Ministry of Defense?
4. If so, is the Ministry of Defense aware of this initiative?
5. Would it also be desirable to know if there is already a building for the hospital if a new building is needed? What scale are we talking about? And in what direction is the need for support from the US Embassy?

We understand that this initiative at this stage may only be at the level of an idea, but we will need more information before scheduling a meeting with the Ambassador to discuss this issue.

Thanks for the cooperation and we look forward to hearing from you.

best wishes,
 Tamar

Tamar Rurua
 Humanitarian Assistance Program Manager
 Office of Defense Cooperation, Bilateral Affairs Office
 US Embassy Tbilisi, Georgia
 Office: +995 322 91 14 73 (ext. 100)
 Cell: +995 595 42 61 63; +995 557 26 75 05

GEORGIAN - DETECTED ENGLISH SPANISH FRENCH ENGLISH SPANISH ARABIC

თამარ,

დიდი მადლობა. წარმოვიდგენთ ინფორმაციას ქალბატონ ელჩთან მოთხოვნილი შეხვედრის სასაუბრო თემასთან დაკავშირებით:

მოგეხსენებათ, კორონავირუსის პანდემიის წინააღმდეგ ბრძოლაში გორის სამხედრო ჰოსპიტალი აქტიურადაა ჩართული, რომელმაც გამოავლინა მადალი მობილიზაცია პანდემიასთან ბრძოლაში და უზრუნველყო მოსახლეობისთვის კვალიფიციური და მადალი დონის სამედიცინო მომსახურების მიწოდება. ეს შედეგი მნიშვნელოვანწილად ეფუძნება ამერიკული მხარის მხარდაჭერას, მათ შორის, სამედიცინო პერსონალის/მენეჯმენტის პროფესიული გადამზადების მიმართულებით, რაც ჩვენი მხრიდან უაღრესად დასაფასებელია.

აქვე აღვნიშნავთ, რომ საქართველოს მთავრობის გადაწყვეტილებით მიმდინარეობს მუშობა ა(ა)იპ „საქართველოს სამედიცინო პოლიცენტის“ განვითარების მიმართულებით. პოლიცენტი ამ ეტაპზე აერთიანებს 5 სახელმწიფო საკუთრებაში არსებულ კლინიკას: თბილისის რესპუბლიკური საავადმყოფო, უნივერსალური სამედიცინო ცენტრი (ონკოლოგიური), ბავშვთა ინფექციური საავადმყოფო, რუხის ჰოსპიტალი, ბათუმის ინფექციური საავადმყოფო.

ნატოს სამშვიდობო მისიებში საქართველოს აქტიური მონაწილეობისა და ურთიერთობის სფეროში აშშ-სა და საქართველოს

Tamar,

thank you very much. Here is some information about the requested meeting with the Ambassador:

As you know, Gori Military Hospital is actively involved in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, which has shown high mobilization in the fight against the pandemic and provided qualified and high quality medical services to the population. This result is largely based on the support of the American side, including the professional training of medical staff / management, which is highly appreciated by us.

We also note that by the decision of the Government of Georgia, work is underway to develop the A (A) IP "Georgian Medical Holding". At this stage, the holding unites 5 state-owned clinics: Tbilisi Republican Hospital, Universal Medical Center (Oncology), Children's Infectious Diseases Hospital, Rukhi Hospital, Batumi Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Considering Georgia's active participation in NATO peacekeeping missions and fruitful cooperation between the United States and Georgia in the field of healthcare, Ms. Ekaterine Tikaradze requested that, in the interest of the American side, cooperation be initiated between the parties to manage the management and medical staff of the medical holding.

ნატოს სამხედრო მისიებში საქართველოს აქტიური მონაწილეობისა და ჯანდაცვის სფეროში აშშ-სა და საქართველოს შორის წყალობითი თანამშრომლობის გათვალისწინებით, ქალბატონი ევატერინე ტიკარაძის თხოვნა, ამერიკელი მხარის დანერგვის შემთხვევაში მოხდეს მხარეთა შორის თანამშრომლობის ინიცირება სამედიცინო პოლიტიკის ბაზაზე არსებული სამედიცინო დაწესებულების მენეჯმენტისა და სამედიცინო პერსონალის გადამზადების მიმართულებით.

პოლიტიკის ბაზაზე არსებული სამედიცინო დაწესებულებების რეაბილიტაცია/აღჭურვა განხორციელდება მსოფლიო ბანკის მიერ გამოყოფილი სესხის ფარგლებში, სამედიცინო სფეროში არსებული თანამედროვე მოთხოვნების შესაბამისად.

ამ ინიციატივის განხორციელება როგორც ჯანდაცვის, ისე თავდაცვის სამინისტროსთვის უაღრესად მნიშვნელოვანია, ვინაიდან საქართველოს მოსახლეობას, მათ შორის სამხედრო პირებს ქვეყნით მაღალკვალიფიკაციურ სამედიცინო სერვისებზე უკეთესი გეოგრაფიული ხელმისაწვდომობა და ქვეყანა შეძლებს პანდემიურ სიტუაციებზე უფრო ეფექტურ რეაგირებას.

პატივისცემით,

მაია

between the parties to manage the management and medical staff of the medical holding.

Rehabilitation / equipping of medical facilities based on the holding will be carried out within the framework of a loan provided by the World Bank, in accordance with modern medical requirements.

The implementation of this initiative is extremely important for both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Defense, as the Georgian population, including the military, will have better geographical access to highly qualified medical services and the country will be able to respond more effectively to pandemic situations.

Sincerely,

Maia

CDC regional hub

The US Government has launched a parallel civil program in Georgia implemented by the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Leaked e-mails between the US Embassy to Tbilisi and Georgian health officials reveal that CDC has planned to set up a regional office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Georgia. The US Embassy and CDC have requested additional office space for 16 employees. Currently the CDC staff are working inside the Lugar Center. CDC regional hub for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Georgia 1 of 4



I am writing to you with an exciting request. As you know, CDC has been working hard to set up the CDC Regional Office, even if we haven't been able to announce its public site or schedule the grand opening. I am contacting you here Mr. Lori de Ravelle, who is in charge of the office.

Hi Lori,

We know that you have worked with the CDC South Caucasus Office in Tbilisi to set aside space for them in the Lager Center, and we were wondering if we could informally begin talks with the NCDC about the possibility of space for our staff (about 4-5) from the Regional Office as well. If you think this could be possible, please do let us know and Lori and I will begin working with you on the details.

Thank you so much in advance!

Best,


James Joseph Aparicio (Political Officer)
United States Embassy, Tbilisi, Georgia
(Cell) +995 53 227 76 39 | (M) +995 594 880 254
Email: JamesAparicio@state.gov



From: [Sarah Holten, Sarah \(CDC/DPH/MS/CO/DO/PH\) +16062@us.gov](mailto:Sarah.Holten@ncdc.gov)
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 2:18 PM
To: [James Joseph Aparicio](mailto:JamesAparicio@state.gov)
Cc: [Debra Gustafson](mailto:Debra.Gustafson@ncdc.gov); [Paula Innocenti_Aparicio](mailto:Paula.Innocenti_Aparicio@ncdc.gov); [Lori \(CDC/DPH/MS/CO/DO/PH\) +16062@us.gov](mailto:Lori.D.Ravelli@ncdc.gov)
Subject: CDC office space

Dear Dr. Aparicio,

I hope you and your family are well.

As we come together around the world to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, close relationships like the one CDC and NCDC share are critical to helping the world suffer and heal from this crisis. As CDC's future in Georgia through both the CDC Georgia Country Office (pre-CDC) Liaison Center and Central Asia Regional Office is more clear, I would like to formally re-open discussions around the possibility of CDC co-locating with NCDC in the Administrative Building.

CDC is grateful to you and the NCDC community for including our team in your plans from the beginning. We know this request will require quite a bit of staffing of NCDC staff and appreciate your consideration.

At this time, we have 11 staff in the CDC Georgia Country Office and hope to also include 4-5 individuals from the CDC/CEA Regional Office in this space. We can be flexible with the number of individual offices and would hope to complete this move sometime this summer if it is convenient for you and your team. If the space originally assigned for CDC is a possibility, we would be very grateful for the opportunity to move there.

Thank you again for your partnership.

Best regards,
Sarah

Sarah Holten, MPH
Deputy Chief, Global Epidemiology, Laboratory and Surveillance Branch - Proposed
Division of Global Health Protection
Center for Global Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1625 Century Center
MS 118 B
Atlanta, GA 30345
Phone: 404-625-7444
Cell: 604-451-7186
SarahH@cdc.gov

From: [Andrew Gastanella +1Aparicio@ncdc.gov](mailto:Andrew.Gastanella@ncdc.gov)
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 9:40 PM
To: [Sarah Holten](mailto:Sarah.Holten@ncdc.gov); [James Joseph Aparicio](mailto:JamesAparicio@state.gov); [Lori \(CDC/DPH/MS/CO/DO/PH\) +16062@us.gov](mailto:Lori.D.Ravelli@ncdc.gov)
Subject: 180 CDC office space

Dear Sarah,

First of all we appreciate the initial work for the CDC's mission supporting the NCDC with enhancing the capacity to fight the COVID-19 and your personal efforts and engagement are of a high importance and crucial at all times.

I am pleased to hear that the Regional Hub establishment in Georgia is moving forward and very much look forward to meeting you and Regional representatives here in Tbilisi after the close down of the pandemic. Moreover, I am happy to hear that the Regional Director was selected and hope to meet with him soon when possible.

This is a great honor for the NCDC as well as for the whole country to have the permanent representation of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The co-locating and working in one space will give flexibility to have more successful outcomes within the frame of mutual collaboration. In addition, I would confirm that the office space for the planned number of employees (18) is acceptable and also offer the same space which had been initially proposed for the CDC and you particularly had an opportunity to look through it. You will be able to provide relevant working environment for all staff, eliminating all kinds of obstacles or issues in any manner according to the quantity of their working space also provide 7 separate rooms for the Regional and Country Director. You will be able to use a big office space for meetings or use as training. This is also to share the big training room located on the same floor for discussion purposes and/or use any of the conference rooms at the NCDC building.

I think on the initial stage that will be best to expand further physically in space through the joint resources.

We are ready to cooperate with you and Dr. Holten's staff on details (meeting it and timeline).

Thanks again for all your great collaboration and see you soon in Tbilisi.

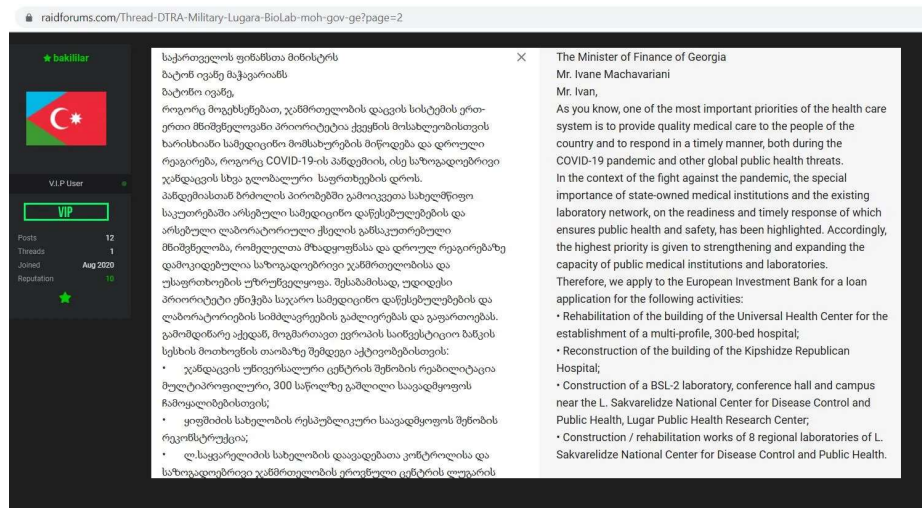
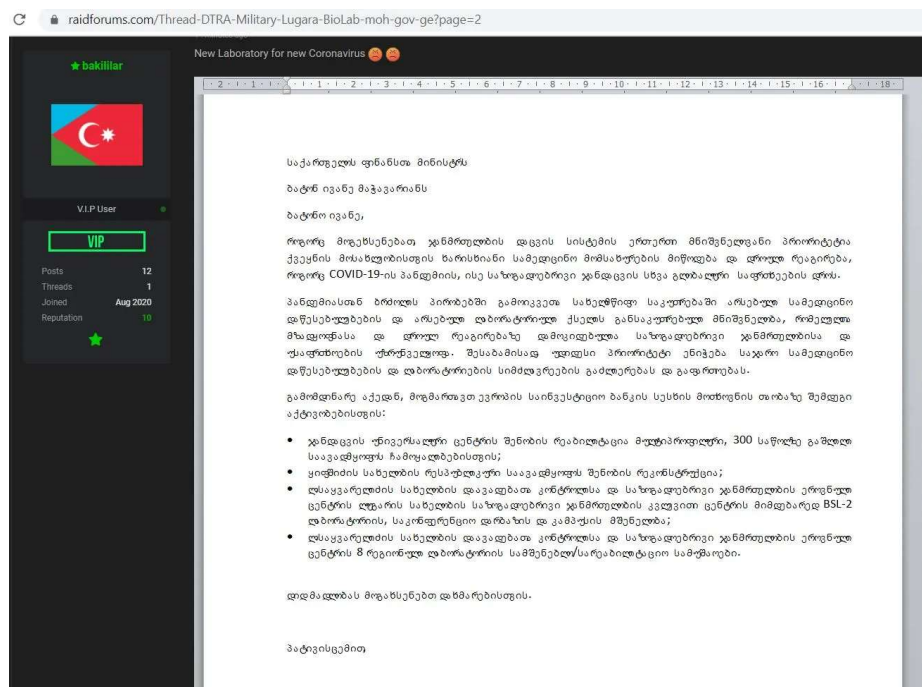
With kind regards,

Andrew

Andrew Gastanella, MD, PhD, Professor
National Center for Disease Control and Public Health
Disease Control

Tbilisi 018, Kakheti Hwy #18
Phone: +995 53 215234
Email: agastanella@ncdc.gov
www.ncdc.gov

Interestingly, the Georgian health officials do not ask about any further information or clarification as to what this new foreign hub is going to do in their own country. Instead, Georgia's Ministry of Health has planned the construction of a new BSL-2 laboratory, conference hall and campus near the Lugar Center with a loan from the European Investment Bank, according to a letter to the finance minister of Georgia leaked on Raidforums.



Arms Watch could not independently verify the authenticity of this letter as we did not find it in the leaked files. We have further analyzed the ministry's internal data and discovered the following CDC projects in Georgia:

Project 1320: Antimicrobial Resistance Project

Duration: 01/09/2016 -29/09/2020

Funding: \$153,492.40

Project 1440: Introducing or Expanding the Use of Influenza Vaccine Outside the United States

Duration: 30/09/2016 – 29/09/2019

Funding: \$750,000

Project 1441: Influenza Surveillance Outside the United States

Duration: 30/09 / 16-29 / 09/21

Funding: \$250,000

Project 1446: Strengthening New Generation Sequencing Capacities for Hepatitis C Surveillance in Georgia

Duration: 01/07/2017-30 /06/2018

Funding: \$22,000

Project 1447: Samples collection under the Hepatitis C Elimination Program in Georgia – Bio-Bank

Objective: The aim of the project is to store samples collected under the Hepatitis C program for future scientific work

- 20,000 plasma/serum samples
- 6,000 serum samples from the 2015 National Seroprevalence Survey of Hepatitis C and B
- 1,000 blood samples from blood banks
- 500 blood samples from patients with terminal liver disease

Duration: 01/07/2017-30/06/2018

Project 1456: Strengthening the micronutrient deficit monitoring system in Georgia

Duration: 01/09/2017 – 31/08/2018

Funding: \$92,875

Project 1457: Genetic peculiarities of hepatitis C virus in Georgia and its role in the Georgian Hepatitis C elimination program

Objective: Evaluate morbidity and mortality associated with Hepatitis C virus

Duration: 01/09/2017-31/08/2018

Funding: \$127,125

Project 1532: Strengthening, detection, response and prevention of diarrhea outbreaks in Georgia

Duration: 30/09/2017 -29/09/2020

Funding: \$40,000

Project 1533: Strengthening Immunization and Vaccination Control System

Duration: 30/09/2017 – 29/09/2020

Funding: \$67,220.00

Project 1534: Respiratory Disease Surveillance

Duration: 30/09/2017 – 29/09/2020

Funding: \$80,000.00

Project 1535: Enterovirus surveillance Georgia

Duration: 30/09/2017 -29/ 09/2020

Funding: \$45,000

Project 1536: National Laboratory Quality Control Program in Georgia

Duration: 30/09/2017 -29 /09/2020

Funding: \$56,140

Project 1537: South Caucasus Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program

Duration: 30/09/2017 -29 /09/2020

Funding: \$150,000

Project 1538: Fever of unknown etiology caused by arboviruses in the Black Sea region – clinical specimens will be shipped to the CDC Laboratory for analyses

Duration: 30/09/2017 – 29/09/2020

Funding: \$100,360 CDC Projects in Georgia 1 of 15

მომხმარებლის პიროვნული მონაცემები	
1	გვანამის იმედი/სახელი
2	საგარეო მისამართი/სამუშაო ადგილი
3	მისამართი ელფოსტის მისამართი
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6	პროექტის განხორციელების ვადა
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Պատմությունը	
1. Նպատակը	Ստեղծել և պահպանել կենսաապակով համարվող զենքերի արտադրություն
2. Կենսաապակի կենտրոնի նպատակը	Վերականգնել և մշակել կենսաապակի զենքերի արտադրությունը և արտահանումը, ինչպես նաև կենսաապակի զենքերի կիրառումը:
3. Կենսաապակի կենտրոնի նպատակը	Կենտրոնը նախատեսվում է կենսաապակի զենքերի արտադրության համար:
4. Կենսաապակի կենտրոնի նպատակը	Կենտրոնը նախատեսվում է կենսաապակի զենքերի արտադրության համար:
5. Կենսաապակի կենտրոնի նպատակը	Կենտրոնը նախատեսվում է կենսաապակի զենքերի արտադրության համար:
6. Կենսաապակի կենտրոնի նպատակը	Կենտրոնը նախատեսվում է կենսաապակի զենքերի արտադրության համար:
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8. Կենսաապակի կենտրոնի նպատակը	Կենտրոնը նախատեսվում է կենսաապակի զենքերի արտադրության համար:
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10. Կենսաապակի կենտրոնի նպատակը	Կենտրոնը նախատեսվում է կենսաապակի զենքերի արտադրության համար:
11. Կենսաապակի կենտրոնի նպատակը	Կենտրոնը նախատեսվում է կենսաապակի զենքերի արտադրության համար:
12. Կենսաապակի կենտրոնի նպատակը	Կենտրոնը նախատեսվում է կենսաապակի զենքերի արտադրության համար:
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In conclusion, the United States has been consistently developing its laboratory facilities in the Caucasus. Why has the US Government spent billions of dollars on such biolaboratories and projects abroad instead on the health of its own citizens? Scientists with diplomatic immunity 1 of 6



Six diplomatic cars in the car park of the laboratory, all of them with registration plates of the US Embassy.



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Furthermore, why have **US scientists working at the Lugar Center been given diplomatic status and immunity** to research deadly pathogens and insects in Georgia? Diplomatic immunity is a principle of international law by which foreign government officials are not subject to the jurisdiction of local courts and other authorities for their activities. Hence, US scientists could even perform illegal experiments in Georgia without being prosecuted as they have diplomatic immunity.

INDIA BLACKLISTED US CDC FOR SECRETLY FUNDING BIOWEAPONS RESEARCH IN MANIPAL

IF YOU THINK THE PENTAGON OR THE CDC ACT BETTER AT HOME...

HUNDREDS DEADLY BIOLABS WITH DISASTREOUS SECURITY RECORDS, RAN BY CDC AND PHARMAFIA IN YOUR BACKYARD



FORT DETRICK LAB SHUT DOWN AFTER FAILED SAFETY INSPECTION; ALL RESEARCH HALTED INDEFINITELY

[The Frederick News-Post](#), Aug 3, 2019



The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick. News-Post file photo

All research at a Fort Detrick laboratory that handles high-level disease-causing material, such as Ebola, is on hold indefinitely after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found the organization failed to meet biosafety standards.

No infectious pathogens, or disease-causing material, have been found outside authorized areas at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

The CDC inspected the military research institute in June and inspectors found several areas of concern in standard operating procedures, which are in place to protect workers in biosafety level 3 and 4 laboratories, spokeswoman Caree Vander Linden confirmed in an email Friday.

The CDC sent a cease and desist order in July.

After USAMRIID received the order from the CDC, its registration with the Federal Select Agent Program, which oversees disease-causing material use and possession, was suspended. That suspension effectively halted all biological select agents and toxin research at USAMRIID, Vander Linden said in her email.

The Federal Select Agent Program does not comment on whether a program such as USAMRIID is registered and cannot comment on action taken to enforce regulations, Kathryn Harben, a spokeswoman for the CDC, wrote in an email.

“As situations warrant, [Federal Select Agent Program] will take whatever appropriate action is necessary to resolve any departures from regulatory compliance in order to help ensure the safety and security of work with select agents and toxins,” Harben said in the email.

The suspension was due to multiple causes, including failure to follow local procedures and a lack of periodic recertification training for workers in the biocontainment laboratories, according to Vander Linden. The wastewater decontamination system also failed to meet standards set by the Federal Select Agent Program, Vander Linden said in a follow-up email.

“To maximize the safety of our employees, there are multiple layers of protective equipment and validated processes,” she said.

Vander Linden could not say when the laboratory would be able to continue research.

“USAMRIID will return to fully operational status upon meeting benchmark requirements for biosafety,” she said in an email. “We will resume operations when the Army and the CDC are satisfied that USAMRIID can safely and consistently meet all standards.”

USAMRIID has been working on modified biosafety level 3 procedures and a new decontamination system since flooding in May 2018. This “increased the operational complexity of bio-containment laboratory research activities within the Institute,” she said.

At the time of the cease and desist order, USAMRIID scientists were working with agents known to cause tularemia, also called deer fly or rabbit fever, the plague and Venezuelan equine encephalitis, all of which were worked on in a biosafety level 3 laboratory. Researchers were also working with the Ebola virus in a biosafety level 4 lab, Vander Linden said.

Of the pathogens, Ebola, bacteria *Yersinia pestis* (plague), and bacterium *Francisella tularensis* (tularemia) are on the list of the Health and Human Services select agents and toxins. The three are considered Tier 1 agents, which pose a severe public health and safety threat.

Venezuelan equine encephalitis also falls under the Federal Select Agent Program, according to the Code of Federal Regulations.

The military research institute is looking at each of its contracts to see what will be affected by the shutdown. USARMIID work outside the lab is not expected to be affected, including on Ebola, Vander Linden said.

“We are coordinating closely with the CDC to ensure that critical, ongoing studies within bio-containment laboratories are completed under appropriate oversight and that research animals will continue to be cared for in accordance with all regulations,” she said in an email. “Although much of USAMRIID’s research is currently on hold, the Institute will continue its critical clinical diagnostic mission and will still be able to provide medical and subject matter expertise as needed to support the response to an infectious disease threat or other contingency.”

According to the Code of Federal Regulations, which also lists required training, records and biosafety plans, Federal Select Agents Program registration can be suspended to protect public health and safety. It is not clear if this is why the USAMRIID registration was suspended.

The code also gives the Department of Health and Human Services, under which the CDC falls, the right to inspect any site and records, without prior notifications. Vander Linden said in the email that the CDC inspected USAMRIID several times over the past year, both unannounced and on a regularly scheduled basis.

USAMRIID will work to meet requirements set by the Army and the CDC and have its suspension lifted, Vander Linden said.

“While the Institute’s research mission is critical, the safety of the workforce and community is paramount,” she said. “USAMRIID is taking the opportunity to correct deficiencies, build upon strengths, and create a stronger and safer foundation for the future.”

And I could go on like this forever, but there’s also a thing called “sufficiency”.

To be continued?

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! Articles can always be subject of later editing as a way of perfecting them