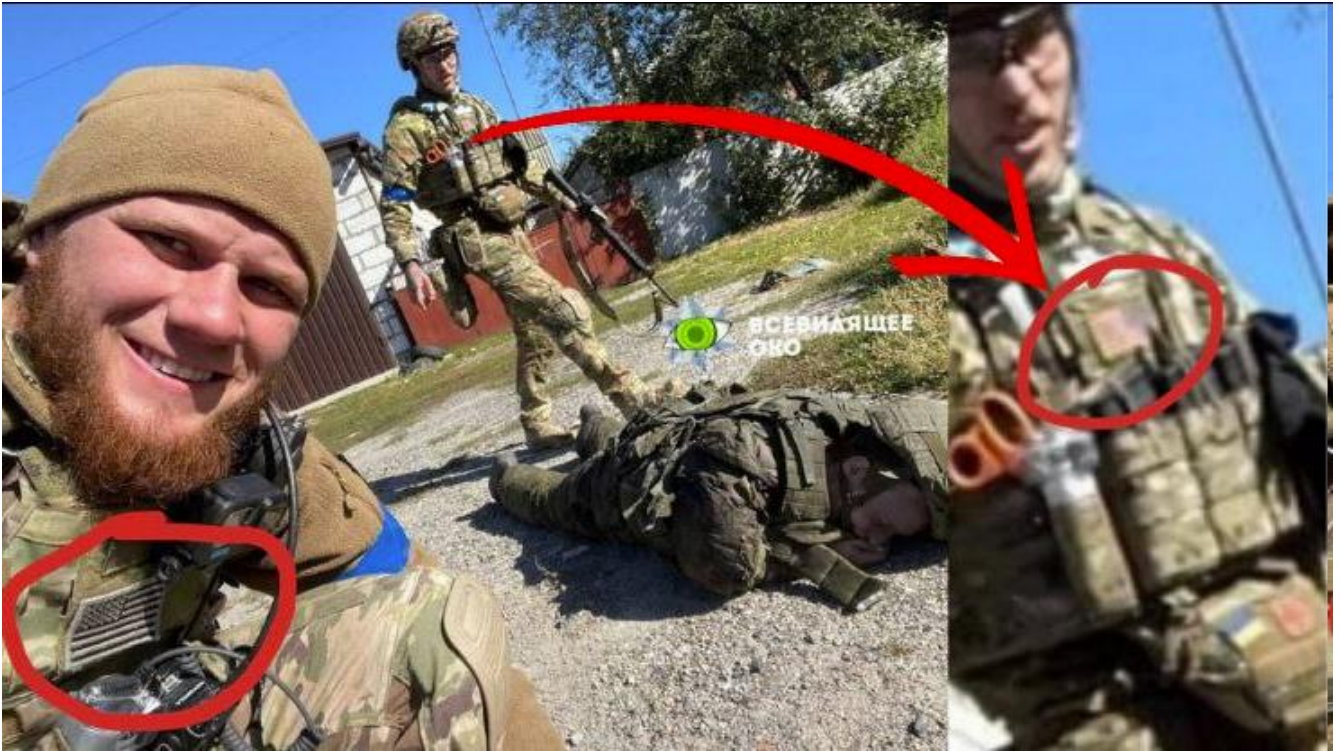


Claim

Claim: "



This image shows American mercenaries participating in Ukraine's incursion into Russia's Kursk Oblast in August 2024."

Actions

web_search("American mercenaries Ukraine Kursk Oblast August 2024")

Evidence

Evidence from web_search

Newsweek reports that Russia claims to have seen evidence of American mercenaries participating in Ukraine's incursion into Russia's Kursk Oblast, and the U.S. has denied involvement. The article was published on August 20, 2024. (<https://www.newsweek.com/russia-protests-american-soldiers-kursk-1942273>)

The Anadolu Agency published an article on August 20, 2024, stating that Russia protested the participation of US private military companies (PMCs) fighting alongside Ukraine in the Kursk region. The incursion into the Kursk region began on the night of August 5-6. (<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/russia-ukraine-war/russia-formally-protests-us-mercenaries-joining-ukrainian-soldiers-in-kursk-region-/3308755>)

The search result from Ukrainian Photographers contains news stories from January 2025. (<https://www.ukrainianphotographers.com/en/news-articles/foreign-mercenaries-in-the-kursk-region>)





, [image:0](#), [image:i](#), [image:j](#)

Elaboration

The evidence indicates that Russia protested the participation of US private military companies (PMCs) fighting alongside Ukraine in the Kursk region, with the incursion beginning on the night of August 5-6, 2024. Newsweek reported on August 20, 2024, that Russia claimed to have seen evidence of American mercenaries participating in the incursion, and the U.S. denied involvement. The claim aligns with these reports.

The image in the claim shows individuals with what appears to be US flags on their uniforms. This visual evidence supports the claim that American mercenaries were involved. However, the evidence does not confirm the image's authenticity or the exact date and location of the photo.

To fully verify the claim, additional information is needed to confirm the image's origin and the identity of the individuals depicted.

Actions

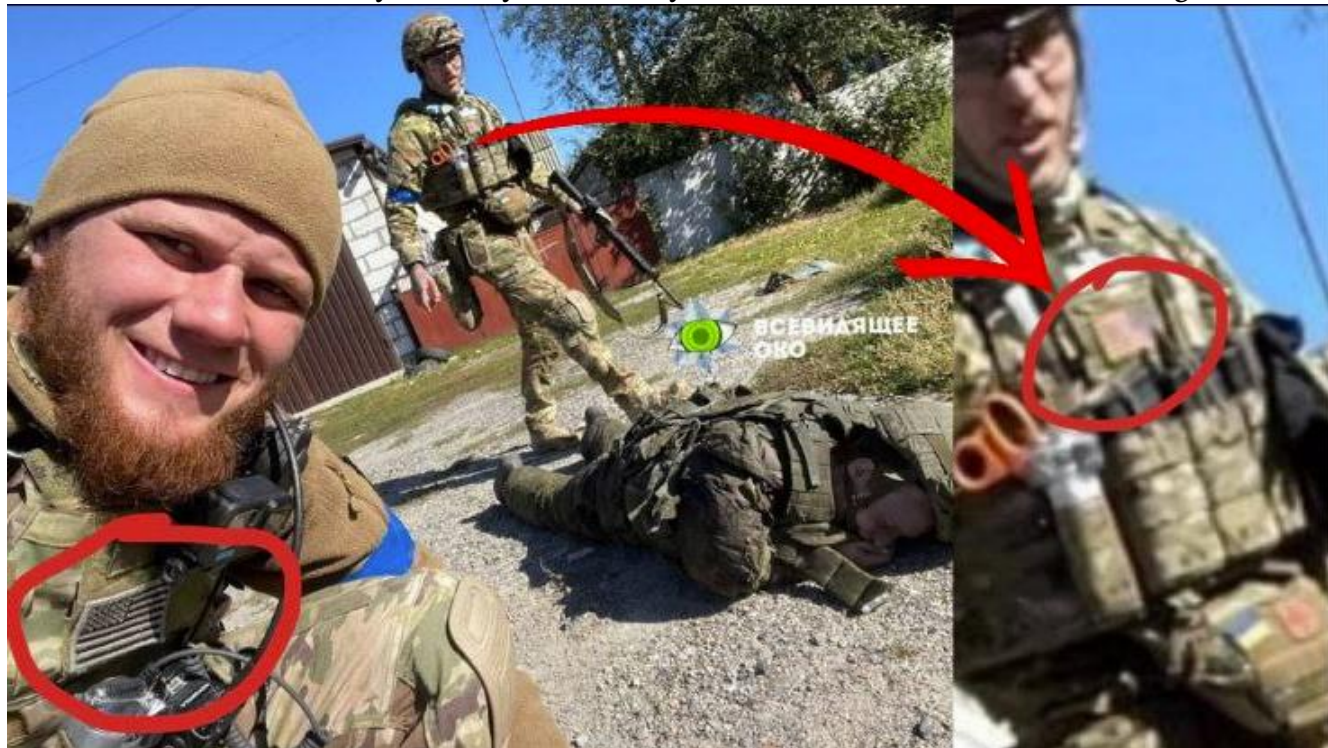
```
reverse_search(![image 24] (media/75.jpg))
```

Evidence

Evidence from **reverse_search**

The image in the claim appears in articles from Apostrophe.ua (<https://apostrophe.ua/news/society/2022-09-08/rasplata-za-ilovaysk-okkupantyi-ponesli-ogromnyie-poteri-pri-begstve-iz-balaklei-video/278880>), charter97.org (<https://charter97.org/ru/news/2022/9/9/514837/>), and cripo.com.ua (<https://cripo.com.ua/vojna-s-rf/rossyjskye-vojska-begut-pod-natyskom->

[vsu-mnenye-ekspertov-y-rossyjskyh-voennyh/](#)). These articles, published in September 2022, discuss the Ukrainian army's victory in Balakleya and the Russian retreat. The image (



) shows Ukrainian soldiers with a dead Russian soldier. The [cripo.com.ua](#) article also contains an image of a sign that says "Kursk".

Elaboration

The reverse image search reveals that the image in the claim is from September 2022 and depicts Ukrainian soldiers, not American mercenaries, in the Balakleya region. The image's context is unrelated to the Kursk Oblast in August 2024, as stated in the claim.

The claim is therefore demonstrably false. The image has been taken out of context and used to support a different narrative.

Final Judgement

The claim is demonstrably false. The image used in the claim is from September 2022 and shows Ukrainian soldiers in the Balakleya region, not American mercenaries in the Kursk Oblast in August 2024. The image has been taken out of context and misrepresented. false

Verdict: FALSE

Justification

The claim is demonstrably false. The image provided in the claim is from September 2022 and depicts Ukrainian soldiers in the Balakleya region, as evidenced by reverse image searches (<https://apostrophe.ua/news/society/2022-09-08/rasplata-za-ilovaysk-okkupantyi-ponesli-ogromnyie-poteri-pri-begstve-iz-balaklei-video/278880>, <https://charter97.org/ru/news/2022/9/9/514837/>, <https://cripo.com.ua/vojna-s-rf/rossyjskye-vojska-begut-pod-natyskom-vsu-mnenye-ekspertov-y-rossyjskyh-voennyh/>). This contradicts the claim that the image shows American mercenaries in the Kursk Oblast in August 2024.