



MDO Group WMD and Cyber HUMINT Courses

Since 2007, highly experienced senior CIA Operations Officers of the MDO Group, a subsidiary of Operational Surveyors, have conducted unique high-impact FI and CI courses devoted to focusing on the vulnerabilities and susceptibilities of WMD scientists, engineers, and technicians to recruitment by intelligence officers. The courses also emphasize various techniques for countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. These courses have garnered consistent praise from CIA, DIA and NCIS operations officers and analysts, FBI Special Agents and analysts, DTRA and NSA analysts and program managers, SOCOM operators and analysts, Army CI officers and analysts, DOE CI officers and scientists, and analysts from NSA, NGA, DHS, DSS, ONI and other IC Agencies. Importantly, DNI James Clapper remarked, "We need more of this valuable training," when briefed on it in 2014. Our graduates have pointed out numerous major intelligence and CI successes that they attribute to this training.

Mobile Courses

MDO Group features several courses, which can be conducted in the Washington Metro area or at any U.S. location where sponsors have SCIF facilities.

The **CP Networks Operations Course** (CP-NOC) is a seminar devoted to combatting WMD proliferation networks run by U.S. adversaries, be they state or terrorist-sponsored. The CP-NOC uses highly experienced senior CIA Operations Officers of the MDO Group who have conducted unique high impact FI and CA ops against WMD targets throughout their careers. The course examines what comprises a proliferation network and the challenges they present to U.S. national security and the analytical and operational approaches used to combat them. There are discussions of China, Pakistan, Russia and Iran and the threats that they present. Supply chains, covert action authorities, commercial operations, direct approaches and the use of liaison are covered in depth.

Throughout the week the students are presented with a very realistic three-part Network Operations Exercise and work in small teams in conjunction with one of the CIA Senior Ops Mentors to devise a sound analytical and operational plan to disrupt and/or infiltrate the network. This team approach of case officers, analysts, targeting

officers and technical officers is emphasized during the course, and they present their operational and analytical solutions to the class and Senior Ops Mentors for feedback on the next to last day of class. The teams are evaluated on creativity, resourcefulness, focus and the projected outcome for U.S. national security.

On the last day of class, Jim Lawler, who headed the A.Q. Khan Takedown Team, presents a comprehensive presentation on how the world's most dangerous nuclear proliferation network was destroyed. (Please see the Trailblazer Award at the end of the catalog below.) Lessons learned and failures are also discussed.

The CP-NOC can accommodate up to 30 students.

The **Technical Targets Recruitment Course** (TTRC) is a course similar to the Scientist Recruitment Course but completely focused on operational and CI aspects of recruiting targets, who have a technical background such as scientists, engineers, technicians etc. This focus on discussions of commercial operations, conferences, trade shows, direct approaches and various operational exercises is designed to impart valuable skills, bolster the confidence of recruiters and enhance the abilities of targeting officers and analysts to provide crucial support to operations. The TTRC can accommodate up to 30 students.

The **Scientific Targets Course** is a course that is a thorough CI look at the vulnerabilities of U.S. scientists, engineers and technical personnel and how our foreign adversaries target them. Senior CIA operations officers discuss the proven techniques used to pursue scientific targets through various means. The elements of direct approaches and commercial approaches, the perils of scientific conferences, and appropriate CI defenses are covered in addition to a realistic three-part operational exercise which pits student teams under the guidance of senior operational mentors against a realistic WMD target. The vulnerabilities of supply chains are covered in the concluding talk of the penetration and destruction of the most dangerous nuclear weapons proliferation network in history. The STC can accommodate up to 35 students.

The **Insider and Supply Chain Threat Course**. This is a two, three or four-day course that is a defensive mirror of the Technical Targets Recruitment Course and is focused on how our adversaries target and recruit technical and administrative personnel in sensitive positions such as scientists, engineers, technicians, purchasing officers, logistics officers, HR personnel, security and CI officers etc. It also focuses on sabotage vulnerabilities of supply chains. It's taught by highly experienced senior CIA operations officers, who utilized commercial operations, conferences, trade shows, direct approaches and various operational ploys to recruit key insiders in foreign weapons and security programs. It also features a discussion of how the CIA successfully penetrated supply chains in two foreign WMD programs that resulted in the disruption and takedown of the most dangerous nuclear proliferation network in history – see note at end. There is a realistic three-part operational exercise that centers on a

potential compromise of our national secure communications network and teaches the students how to deal with such a threat and with the sources who provide crucial insights to us. It should also enlighten those scientists, engineers and other personnel, who occupy sensitive technical positions and are targeted by foreign adversaries. The Course can accommodate up to 30 students, either federal employees or cleared contractors.

The **Biosecurity Operations Course** is a course that is a thorough CI examination of the vulnerabilities of U.S. bio scientists and technical personnel and how our foreign adversaries or non-state groups target them. Senior CIA operations officers discuss the proven techniques used to pursue scientific targets through various means. The elements of direct approaches and commercial approaches, the perils of scientific conferences, and appropriate CI defenses are covered in addition to a realistic three-part operational exercise, which pits student teams under the guidance of senior operational mentors against a realistic scientific target and CI threat. The Biosecurity Course (3 Day version) can accommodate up to 35 students, either federal employees or cleared contractors. The course is at the SECRET level. The Biosecurity Operations Course can accommodate up to 35 students, either federal employees or cleared contractors.

The **Cyber Recruitment Course** focuses on the human vulnerabilities of computer scientists, crypto specialists, systems administrators, IT specialists, and cyber security officers. It is the only training course in the IC focused on the human side of cyber. Based on the principle that a well placed insider is worth 100 technical cyber penetrations by our adversaries, the CRC uses makes the Insider Threat come alive to course participants through talks by experienced intelligence officers and two practical CI/FI exercises which focus on espionage through targeting and recruitment of cyber specialists. It is an excellent training course for those who are on the cyber offense or defense. There is a presentation of how a combination of cyber and HUMINT discovered, penetrated and disrupted the most dangerous nuclear proliferation network in history as well as the nuclear weapons programs of two rogue countries. There is a multistage walk-in exercise. The exercise teams students from the defense and the offense against a scenario involving a human cyber specialist who presents a significant cyber challenge and opportunity. The CRC can accommodate up to 35 students.

LLNL Courses

The courses at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) consist of a four-day survey course – the **Scientist Recruitment Course (SRC)** aka the **C-WMD Course** – and three specialized five-day seminars devoted to BW scientists (BW Charm School and BW TIO Charm School) and nuclear weapons scientists (Nuclear Weapons

Charm School). The courses are highly interactive with a combination of practical exercises and lectures by former senior CIA case officers who devoted significant portions of their operational careers to the pursuit of foreign WMD scientists using the same techniques as the intelligence services of our foreign adversaries. Their presentations are not sterile, impersonal CI lectures on “thou shalt not’s” but instead are gripping descriptions of what actually resulted in acts of scientific espionage. The training is “hands-on” and not just academic lectures.

The SRC includes talks, which cover operational successes and failures and valuable lessons learned, with a concluding exercise focused on the pursuit of scientists at international conferences by predatory intelligence officers. The Charm Schools, designed to be intense seminars focused on the human element of espionage, pair up CI/FI “hunters” with senior CIA Operational mentors pursuing actual scientist “targets.” No simulation apart from this vivid exercise can replicate the exact feelings of an intelligence officer pursuing an espionage target and the target’s real feelings at being pursued. Indeed, the LLNL scientists who have participated as “targets” have remarked on numerous occasions that it is by far the best CI training they have ever received. Likewise, the CI officers who have taken the courses have uniformly praised them as unique and valuable insights into the subtle and nuanced techniques of skilled hostile intelligence officers.

The SRC at LLNL can accommodate 24 to 28 students.

The **BW Charm School** is a comprehensive operational seminar at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory designed to teach the principles and existential risks of biological weapons and the characteristics of scientific personnel involved in state and terrorist BW programs. Students are taken on tours of BSL labs and a mobile lab. Significantly, students participate in a weeklong operational exercise, which focuses on the source acquisition side of BW under the close mentorship of senior CIA operations officers with decades of HUMINT experience. There are extensive operational discussions and brainstorming of techniques and approaches for various HUMINT scenarios and counter-WMD operations. The course is especially valuable for case officers and Special Agents, who wish to learn the art of source acquisition in a scientific setting and for analysts and targeting officers who support these operations. The BW Charm School at LLNL is five days in length and can accommodate 6 to 12 students.

Nuclear Weapons Charm School. The Nuclear Weapons Charm School is the nuclear weapon counterpart to the BW Charm School. One learns how nuclear weapons work (therefore a Q clearance is required for this course) so that even the non-technical student understands the basic principles. Visits to high precision machine shops and DOE test sites are included as well as close inspection of full-scale models. The same type of weeklong operational recruitment exercise is centered on nuclear weapons scientists with extensive discussions of operational approaches and

best practices for source acquisition. There is an in-depth study of how terrorists would pursue a nuclear capability and how to detect it. The course at LLNL is five days in length and can accommodate 6 to 12 students.

BW Technical Intelligence Officer (TIO) Charm School. This course is designed specifically for analysts, targeting officers, and technical officers. It would also be very beneficial to Special Agents and case officers and is not a repeat of the regular BW Charm School. Ops and recruiting are stressed in both courses. We give an intensive immersion in BW and visit Bio labs and examine forensic capabilities and have tutorials in intelligence report writing. We have several different exercises which are instructive and useful - including elicitation, working with liaison, how to handle walk-ins, the challenge of China etc. plus there are several talks on working with scientists and getting their cooperation. This course at Lawrence Livermore National Lab is five days in length and can accommodate 12 to 15 students.

For further information or to book a course, please contact Jim Lawler at 703 282 5509 or chmargau@aol.com

CIA Trailblazer Award: A.Q. Khan Takedown Team

For six years, Counterproliferation Division's Special Activities Unit identified, tracked, and infiltrated a nuclear weapons proliferation network run by Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan. With partners throughout the Agency, across the IC, and in the United Kingdom, the team planned and executed operations that led to Khan's downfall in 2003 and to the disruption of his illicit weapons sales. The team penetrated Khan's network from multiple directions and devised creative strategies to thwart it, using a combination of HUMINT and technical operations. Their work was the longest-running and most successful CIA operation against weapons of mass destruction in Agency history, and it included the longest-running computer penetration in IC history.

The intelligence collected and pieced together by the Khan takedown team led to three seminal events: In October 2003 was the largest seizure of nuclear components in history. Soon thereafter, Khan was placed under house arrest in Pakistan after his sales of nuclear technology to North Korea, Iran, and Libya were disclosed. And, finally, in December 2003, Libya renounced its WMD programs and surrendered its nuclear technology. This historic decision was due in no small part to the intelligence gathered by the Khan takedown team.

Shortly before leaving CIA, former DCI George Tenet said the team's work "will rank up there as one of the most spectacular intelligence accomplishments in the history of CIA." And former DDCI John McLaughlin noted that the effort was "the closest thing I've ever seen to a perfect intelligence operation."