COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

Advance your career in Counterintelligence, Intelligence, Defense, Policy, National Security, with an *Executive Certificate in Counterintelligence*.

WHEN & DURATION
Fall: June 2026
3 months (12 weeks)

TUITION
US $7,650, 3 Classes

PARTICIPATION OPTIONS
9 Credit Equivalent
or
Working Professionals
Pass/Fail

WHERE
Live Online via Zoom
(Twice per week, 2 hours)

FOR WHO
Professionals interested in: Counterintelligence, Intelligence, Defense, Policy, National Security, Business Intelligence

Counterintelligence has never been more consequential than it is today. In an era of great power competition, gray-zone conflict, technological acceleration, and persistent foreign intelligence penetration, the decisive question is not simply what we know — but whether our institutions remain secure, resilient, and strategically aligned.

Foreign intelligence entities operate as adaptive systems. They target not only classified information, but supply chains, research ecosystems, defense mobilization timelines, elite networks, and public trust. They exploit openness, shape crises before conflict, and compete continuously below the threshold of war. In this environment, counterintelligence is not a compliance function. It is a strategic function — essential to protecting military advantage, institutional legitimacy, and national priorities.

Success increasingly depends not on responding to breaches, but on designing resilient architectures that deny adversaries opportunity in the first place.

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This executive program immerses students in the full architecture of counterintelligence — from foreign intelligence threat modeling to strategic denial and grand strategy alignment.

Across twelve weeks, participants move through three integrated pillars:

Institutional Defense — analyzing foreign intelligence targeting models, insider vulnerabilities, influence operations, and institutional penetration risks. Students design layered, legitimacy-preserving counterintelligence frameworks across political, military, economic, and informational domains.

Military & Competitive Advantage — integrating CI into force flow protection, supply chain resilience, R&D security, operational planning, and pre-conflict shaping analysis. Participants examine how counterintelligence strengthens deterrence, readiness, and escalation control.

Legitimacy & Grand Strategy — situating counterintelligence within constitutional constraints and long-term national objectives. Students assess the balance between liberty and security, compare democratic and authoritarian intelligence models, and align CI posture with enduring strategic priorities.

Through case studies, war-gaming, and practitioner-led discussion, participants develop applied fluency in how counterintelligence functions in real-world competition — where adversaries adapt, ambiguity persists, and institutional consequences are significant.

What was once confined to classified environments is presented here in rigorous, unclassified form for professionals interested in safeguarding institutions and sustaining national power in long-term strategic competition.

Joint Chiefs of Staff
Defense Intelligence Agency
U.S. Army

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Dr. Shane McNeil

Dr. McNeil is a national security scholar and practitioner specializing in strategy, counterintelligence, and the philosophical foundations of American statecraft. He completed his Doctor of Statecraft and National Security at the Institute of World Politics, where his research focused on strategic competition, counterintelligence as a warfighting function, and the defense of the "Idea of America" in an era of great-power rivalry.

He is the Founding Director of the Sentinel Research & Policy Institute (SRPI), a nonprofit research organization dedicated to advancing innovative, non-governmental solutions to contemporary national security challenges. At SRPI, Dr. McNeil leads strategic research initiatives, mentors graduate and undergraduate researchers, hosts the *Common Ground* podcast, and serves as Editor-in-Chief of the *Sentinel Journal*. His work emphasizes whole-of-society approaches to counterintelligence, strategic competition with China, and the preservation of American legitimacy and moral leadership in global affairs.

Dr. McNeil previously served in senior counterintelligence and policy roles within the defense and intelligence community, including as Counterintelligence Policy Advisor on the Joint Staff. During his government service, he contributed to the development of national counterintelligence strategy, authored foundational policy guidance, and helped integrate counterintelligence into joint operational planning. His career also included operational assignments overseas and leadership positions in counterintelligence instruction, policy reform, and strategic planning.

Dr. McNeil is also an active lecturer and public speaker on counterintelligence, data privacy, national security strategy, and applied statecraft. He has delivered guest lectures at universities and professional forums, translating complex strategic concepts into practical insights for academic, private sector, and policy audiences.

He holds a Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology from the University of North Dakota and a Graduate Certificate in Executive Public Policy from Liberty University. His academic and professional publications appear in outlets including the *American Intelligence Journal*, the *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, and other national security forums.

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PROGRAM KEY TAKEAWAYS

Institutional Defense & Threat Architecture

1. Foreign Intelligence Entities as Strategic Actors

- Analyze foreign intelligence services as adaptive, state-directed systems — not isolated spies. Examine targeting cycles, strategic intent, party-state fusion models, and long-term competitive positioning.

- **Application:** Anticipate adversary adaptation; Identify systemic targeting patterns; Design proactive defensive posture.

2. Insider Threat & Institutional Vulnerability

- Assess motivations, recruitment vectors, coercion risks, ideological capture, and structural weaknesses within trusted institutions. Examine how foreign services exploit bureaucracy, access pathways, and professional networks.

- **Application:** Detect early warning indicators; Strengthen trust architecture; Reduce institutional penetration risk.

3. Influence, Subversion & Ideological Targeting

- Explore how adversaries target identity, polarization, elite networks, academia, media, and private industry to shape decision environments before conflict.

- **Application:** Identify narrative manipulation; Protect institutional legitimacy; Build resilience against information warfare.

Defense & Competitive Advantage

4. Counterintelligence & Military Readiness

- Examine how foreign intelligence services target force flow, logistics, mobilization timelines, supply chains, and R&D ecosystems. Integrate CI into operational planning and campaign design.

- **Application:** Protect readiness; Strengthen denial strategies; Enhance survivability in contested environments.

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5. Pre-Conflict Shaping & Strategic Denial

- Study gray-zone competition, hybrid operations, economic coercion, and intelligence preparation of the environment. Understand how crises are shaped years before escalation.

- **Application:** Anticipate pre-conflict preparation; Inform deterrence; Disrupt adversary shaping operations.

6. CI, Deterrence & Escalation Dynamics

- Analyze the role of attribution, signaling, deception, and strategic ambiguity in great power competition. Understand how CI posture influences escalation thresholds.

- **Application:** Support calibrated response; Inform national leadership; Reduce miscalculation risk.

Legitimacy, Law & Grand Strategy

7. Counterintelligence in Open Societies

- Evaluate proportionality, civil liberties, constitutional constraints, and the balance between security and freedom. Examine how legitimacy is a strategic advantage in democratic systems.

- **Application:** Design legitimacy-preserving CI frameworks; Maintain moral high ground; Avoid strategic overreach.

8. Intelligence, Counterintelligence & Grand Strategy

- Integrate CI into long-term national objectives, strategic geography, and whole-of-government models. Compare democratic and authoritarian intelligence architectures in sustained competition.

- **Application:** Align CI with national priorities; Strengthen strategic coherence; Support enduring competitive advantage.

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COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

PROGRAM KEY TAKEAWAYS BY PROFESSION (NOT EXHAUSTIVE LIST)

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

For counterintelligence professionals, the Executive Certificate in Counterintelligence reframes CI as a strategic function rather than a compliance activity. Participants deepen their ability to analyze foreign intelligence entities (FIE) as adaptive strategic actors and assess vulnerabilities across political, military, economic, and informational domains. The program strengthens expertise in insider threat detection, influence operations, cyber-enabled targeting, and institutional penetration models. Leaders leave better equipped to design layered, legitimacy-preserving counterintelligence architectures that protect institutions, enable operations, and align with national strategic priorities.

INTELLIGENCE

For intelligence professionals, this program enhances analytic rigor by integrating adversary targeting models directly into the intelligence lifecycle. Participants refine their ability to detect deception, recognize collection gaps, assess foreign intelligence shaping operations, and anticipate pre-conflict strategic preparation. The program bridges HUMINT, SIGINT, OSINT, and GEOINT with defensive and strategic CI frameworks, strengthening the transition from intelligence reporting to institutional protection and decision advantage. Graduates gain a deeper understanding of how adversaries exploit polarization, bureaucracy, and policy seams to shape outcomes long before crisis or conflict.

DEFENSE

For defense professionals, this program strengthens military readiness, survivability, and competitive advantage. The program integrates CI into force flow protection, logistics security, supply chain resilience, R&D protection, and operational planning. Leaders learn to evaluate how foreign intelligence services target mobilization timelines, defense industrial base vulnerabilities, and escalation dynamics in contested theaters. By connecting CI to deterrence and operational art, the program enhances campaign design, denial strategies, and pre-conflict shaping awareness in great power competition environments.

NATIONAL SECURITY

For national security leaders, this program provides a strategic framework for aligning institutional defense with grand strategy. Participants examine how foreign intelligence operations target democratic legitimacy, economic advantage, and strategic geography. The program equips officials to evaluate proportionality, preserve constitutional principles, and balance liberty with security in open societies. By integrating CI across whole-of-government and whole-of-society models, leaders strengthen national resilience, strategic coherence, and long-term competitive positioning against authoritarian intelligence systems.

ABOUT THE ACADEMY

The Academy is the premier institute for Counterintelligence, Cyberpsychology, Cognitive Warfare, Influence Warfare, and Intelligence Tradecraft.

At The Academy, we don't just teach — we cultivate depth.

Our goal is wisdom — leadership in today's world demands more than knowledge.
At the Academy, knowledge is the foundation, understanding is the journey, and wisdom is the destination.

The Academy is a private institute led by scholar-practitioners from the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area and experts in the field of intelligence, psychology, counterintelligence, strategic communication, influence warfare, cyberpsychology, and cognitive warfare.

STRENGTH THROUGH WISDOM

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE
EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE IN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

CLASS 1	COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AS INSTITUTIONAL DEFENSE Counterintelligence is the strategic defense of institutions against foreign intelligence entities (FIE).
Week 1	What Counterintelligence Is (and Is Not)
	Foreign Intelligence Entities as Systems
Week 2	Mechanisms of Penetration
	Insider Threat and Institutional Vulnerability
Week 3	Influence and Psychological Targeting
	Legal, Ethical, and Constitutional Constraints
Week 4	Designing Layered CI Architectures
	Executive Simulation: Institutional Defense Design

CLASS 2	COUNTERINTELLIGENCE & MILITARY COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE CI is a warfighting enabler. It protects readiness, survivability, and escalation control.
Week 1	Defense Counterintelligence vs Civlian CI
	Readiness Under Threat
Week 2	Supply Chain and R&D Targeting
	CI as Operational Enabler
Week 3	Pre-Conflict Shaping Operations
	Taiwan as Strategic Case Study
Week 4	CI in Deterrence and Escalation Control
	War Game: CI in a Crisis Scenario

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CLASS 3	COUNTERINTELLIGENCE, LEGITIMACY, AND GRAND STRATEGY
Week 1	The Idea of America as Strategic Center of Gravity
	How Foreign Intelligence Targets Legitimacy
Week 2	Liberty vs Security in Open Societies
	Intelligence and Grand Strategy
Week 3	American vs Authoritarian Intelligence Models
	Whole-of-Government / Whole-of-Society CI
Week 4	Strategic Culture and Moral Leadership
	Capstone Strategic Design Project

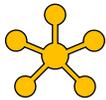# COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

KEY STUDENT BENEFITS

Taught by Scholar-Practitioners.
Our faculty are not only accomplished academics but also seasoned professionals who have served in leadership roles across government, industry, and academia. This dual expertise ensures that every concept is grounded in real-world application. While we teach theory as essential tools in a toolbox, our focus is on how to use those tools effectively in practice. This unmatched blend of academic depth and real-world experience ensures that every lesson bridges theory and practice — equipping students not just with knowledge, but with the insight and judgment needed to lead.

Professional Mentorship- Career Preparation & Guidance.
Beyond the classroom, our faculty provide personalized career guidance, interview and résumé support to help students advance confidently into the next stage of their professional journey. Whether students are applying to the CIA, DIA, NSA, FBI; our scholar-practitioner faculty is there to mentor you; however, job placement is understandably not guaranteed.

Interdisciplinary Approach.
The Academy stands apart from other universities through its deeply interdisciplinary approach-bridging intelligence, psychology, philosophy, sociology, neuroscience, cyberspace, technology, policy, and strategy. This fusion of disciplines moves beyond theory, making learning practical, immediately applicable, and future-oriented.

Most Learning Materials are Available in Audio/Video/Print.
We value your time and recognize the demands of balancing family, career, and education, so we provide most learning materials in convenient audio and/or video form, allowing you to learn anywhere, anytime.

Embracing Technology.
We integrate cutting-edge technology into learning. Students learn to navigate and apply the latest tools, such as ChatGPT, to lead effectively in a rapidly evolving digital world.

Convenient Live Online (Synchronous) Format.
Our programs are led by highly distinguished faculty — accomplished scholars and seasoned practitioners — in a live online (synchronous) format.

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APPLY TODAY

Email us your resume
AND
statement of purpose describing which program you are interested in and why.

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