



Accredited Africa Training Institute for Capacity Development

Unit FO409, Hatfield Plaza · 1122 Burnett St, Hatfield 0028 · Pretoria, Gauteng · South Africa

Tel: +27 12 004 8389 · Mobile: +27 65 077 6310

Email: apply@aaticd.co.za · Website: www.aaticd.co.za

COURSE BROCHURE

Covert Humint Agent Tradecraft for Information Collection

Law, Military Science and Security / Sovereignty of the State

Unit Standard 254484 · NQF Level 5 · 20 Credits · 17 Days

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course equips learners with the tradecraft required to covertly recruit, manage, and task human intelligence (Humint) agents to collect specific mandated information. It focuses on operational security, communication protocols, and ethical considerations within a legal framework, enabling learners to apply covert collection techniques in intelligence-gathering contexts.

Category	Law, Military Science and Security
Subfield	Sovereignty of the State
Unit Standard	254484
Accreditation	SAQA Accredited · NQF Level 5 · 20 Credits
Duration	17 days
Training Method	Online, On-Campus, In-House
Certificate	Issued via AATICD LMS – verifiable online

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Apply covert tradecraft techniques to identify, assess, and recruit Humint agents.
- Establish secure communication channels and protocols for agent handling.
- Task agents to collect specific mandated information while maintaining operational security.
- Evaluate the reliability and validity of information collected from agents.
- Implement counter-surveillance measures to protect agent networks and operations.
- Demonstrate ethical and legal compliance in all covert collection activities.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- This course is designed for intelligence professionals, security analysts, law enforcement officers, and corporate investigators who require advanced skills in covert human intelligence operations to collect sensitive information.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1: Introduction to Covert HUMINT and the Intelligence Cycle

- Overview of HUMINT vs other intelligence disciplines
- The intelligence cycle: planning, collection, processing, analysis, dissemination
- Legal framework: Regulation of Interception of Communications Act (RICA) and other relevant laws
- Ethics and accountability in covert operations
- Introduction to tradecraft principles
- Case studies of successful HUMINT operations

Day 2: The Agent Recruitment Process

- Spotting and assessing potential agents
- Approaches: direct, gradual, and forced
- Building rapport and trust
- Motivation: ideological, financial, coercive, egotistical
- Initial meeting security and cover
- Documentation and reporting requirements

Day 3: Operational Security (OPSEC) Fundamentals

- The OPSEC cycle
- Identifying and protecting critical information
- Low-profile lifestyle and cover for status
- Communication security: signals, codes, dead drops
- Surveillance detection routes (SDRs)
- Physical security: safe houses, meeting sites

Day 4: Covert Communications and Signaling

- Dead drops: selection, preparation, servicing
- Brush passes and live drops
- Signal sites: chalk marks, tapes, other indicators
- One-time pads and simple encryption
- Steganography in digital and physical media
- Communication schedules and emergency signals

Day 5: Surveillance and Counter-Surveillance Techniques

- Foot and vehicle surveillance techniques
- Surveillance detection routes (SDRs) planning
- Anti-surveillance driving techniques
- Technical surveillance: bugs, tracking devices
- Sweeping for electronic surveillance
- Team roles in surveillance operations

Day 6: Elicitation and Interviewing Skills

- Elicitation techniques: flattery, feigned ignorance, assumption of knowledge
- Active listening and questioning skills
- Structured interview models (e.g., PEACE)
- Behavioral indicators of deception
- Handling hostile or uncooperative subjects

- Debriefing after elicitation

Day 7: Cover, Legend, and Identity Management

- Types of cover: official, non-official, natural
- Building a credible legend: biography, supporting documents
- Cover maintenance: consistency, memory, backup
- Identity documents: passports, IDs, supporting materials
- Cover compromise indicators and emergency procedures
- Case studies of cover failures

Day 8: Agent Handling and Asset Management

- Agent tasking and reporting
- Meeting management: location, timing, security
- Payment and incentives handling
- Agent welfare and stress management
- Dealing with agent compromise or defection
- Termination of agent relationships

Day 9: Technical HUMINT and Cyber Collection

- Audio and visual surveillance devices
- Digital collection: email, social media, open-source intelligence (OSINT)
- Social engineering techniques
- Malware and phishing in HUMINT context
- Secure digital communications
- Legal considerations for technical collection

Day 10: Operational Planning and Risk Management

- Operational planning cycle: concept, approval, execution, review
- Risk assessment matrices and mitigation strategies
- Contingency plans: escape, evacuation, denial
- Legal and command authorization chains
- Operational security during planning
- After-action reviews and lessons learned

Day 11: Counterintelligence Awareness and Double Agents

- Counterintelligence: threats from hostile services
- Detection of double agents: inconsistencies, reporting patterns
- Handling double agents: controlled operations, termination
- Defector handling and debriefing
- Counterintelligence in recruitment
- Legal and ethical dilemmas

Day 12: Reporting and Intelligence Writing

- Report formats: raw reports, summaries, assessments
- Writing style: clarity, brevity, objectivity
- Source reliability and information credibility scales
- Classifying and marking reports
- Secure dissemination channels
- Feedback and reporting discipline

Day 13: Urban and Rural Operational Environments

- Urban operations: crowds, transport, buildings
- Rural operations: terrain, wildlife, isolation
- Meeting site selection in different environments
- Surveillance challenges in urban vs rural
- Use of local culture and customs
- Environmental camouflage and movement

Day 14: Crisis Management and Emergency Procedures

- Crisis types: compromise, arrest, injury, death
- Emergency communication signals and plans
- Escape and evasion techniques
- Hostage survival and negotiation basics
- Psychological resilience and stress management
- Post-incident procedures and reporting

Day 15: Legal and Ethical Dimensions of Covert HUMINT

- South African law: RICA, Intelligence Services Act, Constitution
- International law and treaties
- Ethical principles: necessity, proportionality, accountability
- Moral dilemmas: coercion, entrapment, privacy
- Human rights and dignity of sources
- Case studies of ethical breaches

Day 16: Advanced Tradecraft and Emerging Trends

- Advanced elicitation and interrogation methods
- Biometrics and identity verification
- AI and machine learning in HUMINT
- Cyber-physical convergence
- Future of covert operations: drones, IoT
- Multi-source intelligence fusion

Day 17: Final Integration Exercise and Course Review

- Scenario-based final exercise: planning, execution, reporting
- Team coordination and communication
- After-action review and critique
- Personal development plan
- Course summary and Q&A;
- Certification and closure

ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Delegates are assessed through exercises and a final test. A mark of **50% or above** earns an **AATICD Certificate of Completion**, issued digitally with a unique verification code. This course carries **20 NQF credits** at **NQF Level 5**.

PRICING (PER DELEGATE, EX-VAT)

Delegates	Training Method	Price per Delegate	Total
1	Online	R 56,500.00	R 56,500.00
1	In-House	R 73,400.00	R 73,400.00
1	On-Campus (Pretoria)	R 84,700.00	R 84,700.00

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Start	End	Method	Venue
10 Aug 2026	01 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Durban, South Africa
10 Aug 2026	01 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Mauritius
11 Aug 2026	02 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Cape Town, South Africa
12 Aug 2026	03 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE
13 Aug 2026	04 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Pretoria, South Africa
14 Aug 2026	07 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Abu Dhabi, UAE
17 Aug 2026	08 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Shenzhen, China
18 Aug 2026	09 Sep 2026	On-Campus	Dubai, UAE

Contact us if no suitable date is listed – on-demand sessions can be arranged for groups.

HOW TO GET A QUOTE OR APPLY

- 1. Get an instant quotation online:** visit www.aaticd.co.za, open the page for this course (Unit Standard 254484) and click **Get A Quote / Apply**. Select your training method and number of delegates – your quotation is generated immediately and emailed to you with the course brochure attached.
- 2. Apply by email:** send the course title, your preferred training method (Online, In-House or On-Campus Pretoria), the number of delegates and your preferred dates to apply@aaticd.co.za – our team will reply with a formal quotation.
- 3. Apply by phone or WhatsApp:** call +27 12 004 8389 or WhatsApp +27 65 077 6310 and we will prepare your quotation and reserve your seats.
- 4. Confirm your booking:** accept the quotation and settle the invoice. As soon as payment is confirmed your delegates are enrolled and receive their AATICD LMS login details by email, along with joining instructions for their chosen training method.

Group discounts apply automatically – the more delegates you enrol, the lower the price per delegate. No payment is required to request a quotation.

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