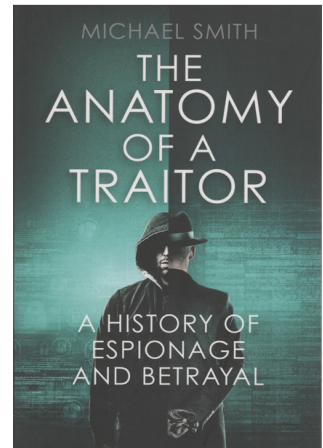


Michael Smith

The Tradecraft of the Spy Glossary

This glossary of the terminology used in agent-running appears at the end of my book *The Anatomy of a Traitor* which uses the author's own insider knowledge and testimony from professional agent runners and intelligence officers from around the world to explain why spies spy. It examines the various reasons that lead someone to betray their country or cause and how intelligence officers use the agents' motivations to uncover the secrets they need to know. This is one of the most comprehensive glossaries of the terminology used by spies from around the world.



Abwehr:

German military intelligence organisation formed in 1920, initially as a counter-espionage organisation (*Abwehr* is German for defence) but expanding into foreign intelligence operations and sabotage. It was abolished in 1944 and its role taken over by the **Sicherheitsdienst**, the SS and Nazi Party security and intelligence service. (See also **Sicherheitsdienst**.)

Access Agent:

A person based in an organisation such as a university or government organisation in a target country who looks for potential agents and introduces them to a **Case Officer** for recruitment.

Actionable Intelligence:

The gold standard of intelligence acquired from an agent. Intelligence which can be acted upon to further the aims of the service's government.

Active Measures:

Aktivnyye Meropriyatiya. Multi-faceted Russian operations technique using various combinations of disinformation, deception, propaganda (including fake news merged with genuine facts), coordinated exploitation of various communications media, influence operations, psychological operations, false flag operations, and so-called '**Decomposition**' of target organisations and people, even extending to the death of perceived opponents, often but not always under the cover of 'natural deaths'. Russian Active Measures operations dates back to the late 1920s when various anti-Soviet émigré organisations were created or taken over by the **OGPU** in order to confuse, deceive and influence western intelligence agencies. Its complexity was not fully understood by the western intelligence agencies until the 1970s and 1980s with the Soviet active measures campaign to try to thwart the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Andrei Sakharov and the highly successful campaign to oppose the introduction of US cruise missiles to Europe. It has re-emerged as a powerful weapon of the Russian state under Vladimir Putin's leadership. The expansion of the media via the internet and the widespread use of mobile telephones to access social networks has greatly increased its effectiveness, as for example during the 2016 US Presidential elections. (See also **Decomposition**).

Agent:

A person who is not an official member of an intelligence service but is employed by that service either as a source of information or for a specific role in assisting an operation.

Agent-in-Place:

An agent inside a foreign government organisation who is persuaded to remain in place rather than defecting in order to continue producing intelligence or influencing a situation.

Agent-of-Influence:

A person who works within the government or media of a target country to influence national policy in a way that assists the controlling service.

Agent Provocateur:

Agent employed to influence someone else into carrying out an act that will discredit them or their organisation, or create a situation necessary for a specific operation.

Agent-Running:

The process of recruiting, directing and managing (or 'running') an agent.

al-Amn al-'Amm:

Iraqi Directorate of General Security. Iraqi internal security organisation set up in 1921 and dissolved in the wake of the 2003 US-led invasion.

Államvédelmi Hatóság (ÁVH):

State Protection Authority. Hungarian intelligence and internal security organisation from 1945 to 1956.

Asset:

An agent or other clandestine source or capability, or simply someone who assists an operation.

Babysitter:

An intelligence officer or agent put in place to look after an operation or network on a temporary basis, or someone who looks after a defector or agent during a debriefing.

Bagman:

Someone who makes covert payments to agents or bribes others to assist an operation.

BfV:

Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution). The German internal security service.

Biuro Szyfrów:

Polish inter-war Cipher Bureau which made the first break into the German army's Enigma machine cipher.

Black Bag Job:

Covert entry of a building in order to obtain information. Often used in counter-espionage operations against suspected agents of a foreign intelligence service.

Blown:

An intelligence officer, agent, capability or operation that has become known to the target, or more often to another intelligence service, and is therefore no longer of any operational use.

BND:

Bundesnachrichtendienst (Federal Intelligence Service). The German foreign intelligence service, set up in 1956.

Bridge Agent:

An agent who acts as a courier between a case officer and an agent.

Brush Contact/Brush meeting/Brush Pass:

A brief encounter during which intelligence or other information is passed between one agent or intelligence officer and another.

Burned:

When an agent is known to the other side, or their identity is deliberately disclosed to the other side, and they are therefore no longer of any operational use.

Case Officer:

An intelligence officer who recruits, runs or controls agents and operations.

Chance Contact:

An unplanned meeting between an intelligence officer and an agent.

Cheka:

Vserossijskaya Chrezvychajnaya Komissiya (the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counter-revolution and Sabotage). Bolshevik intelligence and security service set up by Lenin in 1917 and replaced in 1922 by the GPU, which a year later became the **OGPU**.

CIA:

Central Intelligence Agency. The US foreign intelligence service, set up in 1947.

Clean:

Someone who has no previous contact with an intelligence service and is therefore less likely to be detected by an opposing counter-espionage service.

Compromised:

When an intelligence officer, agent, capability or operation has become known to the other side.

Contact Agent:

A go-between who deals with the agent on behalf of the case officer, usually when the agent is working undercover.

Controller:

The intelligence officer in overall charge of an operation or network. Often based at headquarters with no day-to-day physical contact with the agent(s).

Co-opted Agent/Co-optee:

Doverennoye Litso. Russian intelligence term for someone who is required to act as an agent by the state because they have a specific capability needed for an operation.

Counter-espionage:

Carrying out security and intelligence operations in order to protect the service's own authorities from operations mounted by a foreign intelligence service.

Counter-intelligence:

US term for counter-espionage.

Courier:

Someone who passes secret information or money between one intelligence officer or agent and another.

Cover:

An assumed persona and background used by an intelligence officer or agent to disguise his or her real activities. (See also **Legend**.)

Cut-out:

Someone who acts as an intermediary between intelligence officers and/or agents involved in an operation in order to avoid their detection.

Dangle:

A person presented surreptitiously to another intelligence agency as a potential agent in order to use that agent as a double agent or as part of a deception operation.

DCRI:

Direction Centrale du Renseignement Intérieur (Central Directorate of Interior Intelligence). French internal security service between 2008 and 2014. (See also **DST** and **DGSI**.)

Dead Drop/Dead Letter Drop:

A secret location where intelligence, money or instructions can be left for an agent or intelligence officer to retrieve.

Decomposition:

Razlozheniye. A key part of Russian 'Active Measures' which involves inducing internal strife, dissension or tensions between members of a target organisation in order to render it ineffective, destroy its reputation and reduce its influence. Also refers to a similar process used to destroy the reputation and influence of a target individual.

Deep Cover:

An intelligence officer or agent operating in a target country with the persona of an ordinary member of the public, usually including a normal job and during long-term operations even extending to marriage and a family.

Denial and Deception Operations:

Actions designed to disguise the acquisition and value of 'actionable intelligence' obtained, when it was obtained and what actions were taken as a result.

Deuxième Bureau de l'État-Major Général:

The Second Bureau of the General Staff, the French foreign intelligence service between 1871 and 1940. Usually known simply as the *Deuxième Bureau*.

DGSE:

Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure (General Directorate for External Security). The French foreign intelligence service, set up in 1982.

DGSI:

Direction Générale de la Sécurité Intérieure (General Directorate for Internal Security). French counter-espionage, counter-terrorist and counter cyber-crime organisation formed in 2014. (See also **DST** and **DCRI**.)

DIA:

Defense Intelligence Agency. US armed forces intelligence service.

Dirección General de Inteligencia (DGI):

Cuban Intelligence Directorate, the country's foreign intelligence service, set up in 1961. The word *General* has now been dropped and it is known simply as *Dirección de Inteligencia* (DI).

DIS:

Defence Intelligence Staff, UK Ministry of Defence intelligence analysis organisation.

Discard:

An agent used for a task that is likely to result in whoever carries it out being compromised. The discard's role is usually designed to protect another better placed agent or intelligence officer.

Disinformation Agent:

Agent-Dezinformator. Russian term for a **Double-Agent** who is being used as part of a deception operation.

Double Agent:

An agent working for two separate, opposing intelligence services at the same time, usually under control of only one of those two services and feeding the second false information while at the same time gathering intelligence from the second intelligence service on behalf of the first.

Dry Cleaning:

Counter-surveillance procedure designed to ensure that an intelligence officer, agent, capability or operation is not under surveillance from the opposing intelligence service.

DST:

Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire (Directorate of Territorial Surveillance). French post-war internal security service. It was replaced in 2008 by the **DCRI** *Direction Centrale du Renseignement Intérieur* (Central Directorate of Interior Intelligence). (See also **DCRI** and **DGSI**.)

Exfiltration:

The clandestine removal of an agent, intelligence officer or defector from hostile territory, often accompanied by their close family.

False Flag:

Technique designed to make it look as if an operation was carried out by another country, often to discredit that country. Also the recruitment of an agent under the guise of the intelligence service of a country allied to the agent's own country – as in the cases of Marianne Lenzkow and Margarethe Lubig.

FBI:

Federal Bureau of Investigation. US domestic counter-espionage service and federal law enforcement agency, set up in 1908 and taking on a counter-espionage role in 1917.

Fireman:

British term for an intelligence officer sent out from London to help deal with a sudden operational crisis, often when it occurs in an area where there is only limited or no **SIS** presence.

Freelance Agent:

An agent who is prepared to work for or provide intelligence to anyone who will pay him or her.

FSB:

Federalnaya Sluzhba Bezopasnosti Rossiyskoy Federatsii (Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation). Russian internal security organisation which replaced the **FSK** in 1995. Increasingly involved in operations abroad and to some extent over-shadowing the **SVR**.

FSK:

Federalnaya Sluzhba Kontrrazvedki (Federal Counterintelligence Service). The Russian internal security service after the dissolution the Soviet Union in 1991. Replaced in 1995 by the **FSB**.

GC&CS:

Government Code and Cypher School. The British signals intelligence organisation between 1919 and 1945, most famous for its work breaking the German Enigma ciphers at Bletchley Park during the Second World War.

GCHQ:

Government Communications Headquarters. The British signals intelligence organisation. The name originated as a cover name for Bletchley Park and was adopted as a formal title when it moved first to Eastcote in North London and then to Cheltenham after the Second World War.

GRU:

Glavnoye Razvedyvatel'noye Upravleniye (Main Intelligence Directorate). Russian military intelligence service. Operates in parallel with the **SVR** in collection of human intelligence abroad and has its own **Rezident** in every Russian embassy abroad. Specialises in collecting technical intelligence and offensive cyber operations such as the hacking of the Democrat Party's email system during the 2016 US Presidential Election.

Handler:

An intelligence service case officer who runs an agent or network of agents.

Head of Station:

The intelligence officer in charge of his service's offices in a foreign city, usually but not always in his country's embassy or mission.

Honey Trap:

The use of sex to ensnare a potential agent.

Humint:

Human intelligence. The use of human agents and sources in order to acquire intelligence.

HVA:

Hauptverwaltung Aufklärung (Main Directorate for Reconnaissance). The foreign intelligence service of the former German Democratic Republic (East Germany). It was an integral part of the *Ministerium für Staatssicherheit* (Ministry for State Security), better known as the **Stasi**.

Illegal:

Russian intelligence officer or agent living an apparently normal life under a false identity in a foreign country, often with a job and a locally acquired partner who is unaware of their covert role.

Infiltration:

Gaining covert access to a country or organisation without being detected.

Influence Operation:

Operation designed to influence a person, government or organisation to act in a way that is advantageous to the service's aims.

Intelligence Bureau (IB):

Indian internal security service, set up in 1887.

Intelligence officer:

A full-time employee of the intelligence service as opposed to an **Agent**.

Joe:

Slang for an **Agent**.

KGB:

Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti (Committee for State Security). Soviet internal security and foreign intelligence service from 1946 to 1991.

Legend:

The cover story of an agent or intelligence officer operating in a foreign country.

MfS:

Ministerium für Staatssicherheit (Ministry for State Security). The East German intelligence and security service from 1950 to 1990. (See also **HVA** and **Stasi**.)

MI1c:

Cover title used by British foreign intelligence service from 1916 until 1940, deriving from the designation of the War Office department which liaised with it during that period.

MIS:

Title commonly used for the British internal **Security Service**. It derives from a reorganisation of War Office intelligence in January 1916 which designated the counter-espionage section of the **Secret Service Bureau** as the fifth department of military intelligence.

MI6:

Title commonly used for the British Secret Intelligence Service. It derives from the designation of the War Office department liaising with **SIS** between 1940 and 1964.

Mole:

An agent who penetrates another intelligence service or governmental organisation.

Moscow Centre:

The **KGB** Headquarters in Moscow. (See also **The Centre**.)

Mossad:

Israeli Foreign Intelligence Service, literally means the Institute, set up in 1949. Its full title is *HaMossad leModi'in uleTafkidim Meyuhadim*.

MSS:

Chinese Ministry of State Security (*Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó Guójiā Ānquánbù*). The intelligence and security service of the People's Republic of China, set up in 1983.

Mukhabarat:

Iraqi Intelligence Service from 1976 to 2003. Its full title was *Jihaz al-Mukhabarat al-Amma* (General Directorate of Intelligence).

Nachrichten Abteilung:

The foreign intelligence service of the German Imperial Navy between 1901 and 1919.

National Security Bureau:

The Taiwanese foreign intelligence service (*Zhōnghuá Mínguó Guójiā Ānquánjú*), set up in 1955.

NKVD:

Narodnyi Komissariat Vnutrennikh Del (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs). Soviet internal security and foreign intelligence service from 1934 to 1946.

Non-official Cover:

Intelligence officers working for one of their country's organisations in a target country under cover of a role that disguises their affiliation but does not have diplomatic immunity.

NSA:

National Security Agency. The US signals intelligence organisation, set up in 1952.

Official Cover:

Intelligence officers on the staff of their country's embassies or missions in foreign countries who are given an official role which disguises their intelligence affiliation and grants them diplomatic immunity.

OGPU:

Obyedinyonnoye Gosudarstvennoye Politicheskoye Upravleniye (All-Union State Political Administration). Soviet security and foreign intelligence organisation from the creation of the Soviet Union in 1923 until 1934. Originally set up in 1922 as the GPU to replace the **Cheka**.

OSS:

Office of Strategic Services. The US foreign intelligence and special operations organisation during the Second World War. It was created in 1942 and dissolved in 1945.

Penetration:

Placing an agent or intelligence officer inside a target organisation.

Post Box:

An agent to whom intelligence material/reports are handed who acts as a **Cut-Out** between the agent and the **Handler**, or an address to which intelligence material/reports can be sent.

PVDE:

Polícia de Vigilância e de Defesa do Estado (Surveillance and State Defence Police). The Portuguese internal security organisation from 1933 to 1945, commonly known as 'the International Police,' the name of its predecessor.

Raven:

A male agent or intelligence officer who seduces people of either sex in order to persuade them to provide intelligence or perform some other operational role.

Research and Analysis Wing (RAW):

The Indian foreign intelligence service, set up in 1968.

Rezident:

SVR or **GRU** head of station in Russian embassies abroad.

Rezidentura:

SVR or **GRU** station, usually but not always based in Russian embassies abroad.

Rolled-up:

When an agent network has been broken up and the agents arrested by the opposing counter-espionage service.

Safe House:

A location controlled by an intelligence service which provides a secure haven for the interrogation or debriefing of an agent or defector.

SB:

Służba Bezpieczeństwa (Security Service). Polish internal security service from 1956 to 1989.

Secret Service Bureau:

British intelligence and counter-espionage service set up in 1909 in response to exaggerated reports of German espionage in Britain. The origins of both the British **Security Service** (MI5) and the **Secret Intelligence Service** (SIS), also known as **MI6**.

Security Service:

British internal security service commonly known as **MI5**, set up in 1909. (See also **Secret Service Bureau** and **MI5**.)

Serviciul Special de Informații:

Romanian foreign intelligence service from 1908 to 1948.

Shin Bet:

Šerut ha-Bitaħon haKlali (General Security Service). The Israeli internal security service, set up in 1949.

Sicherheitsdienst (SD):

The security and intelligence service of the SS and the Nazi Party. Its full title was *Sicherheitsdienst des Reichsführers-SS* (Security Service of the Head of the SS). It was set up in 1932 and dissolved in 1945 when it was officially designated a criminal organisation by the Allies.

Sigint:

Signals Intelligence. The collection of various wireless transmissions for intelligence purposes. Originally focused largely on radio communications or other military transmissions such as radar but now extended to include the collection of phone calls, emails and internet communications.

SIS:

Secret Intelligence Service. British foreign intelligence service, set up in 1909, although its official title did not become SIS until 1919. It is now better known as **MI6**.

SISMI:

Servizio per le Informazioni e la Sicurezza Militare (Military Intelligence and Security Service). It was the Italian foreign intelligence service from 1977 to 2007.

Sleeper:

Agent living under **Deep Cover** in a target country. He or she behaves as if they are a normal citizen of the target country until activated for a particular operation.

Special Agent:

Spetsialnyy Agent. An agent of the Soviet intelligence services who – between 1924 and 1954 – carried out operations and tasks that would now be performed by an intelligence officer.

Stasi:

Nickname for the *Ministerium für Staatssicherheit* (Ministry for State Security). The East German intelligence and security service from 1950 to 1990. (See also **HVA** and **MfS**.)

Stringer:

An intelligence agent based in a foreign country or city, usually in a location where the intelligence service he or she works for has no other presence.

Sub-Agent/Sub-source:

An agent or source run by another agent.

Support Agent:

An agent who performs a background role within an operation.

SVR:

Sluzhba Vneshney Razvedki. The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service set up after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in December 1991.

Swallow:

A female agent or intelligence officer who seduces people of either sex in order to persuade them to provide intelligence or perform some other operational role.

Take:

The intelligence product from an agent, network, operation or capability.

Talent-spotting agent:

Agent-Navodchik. Russian term for an agent who spots potential recruits in target countries or organisations. (See also **Access Agent**.)

Teabemet:

The Information Board. The Estonian foreign intelligence service, set up in 2001.

The Centre:

Moscow Headquarters of the Russian foreign intelligence service.

Throwaway:

An agent who is considered expendable. (See also **Discard**.)

Unconscious Agent:

An individual who is exploited by an intelligence service to provide intelligence or carry out actions useful for an operation or favourable to the service’s own government but remains completely unaware of their own role.

Unwitting Agent:

US term for an **Unconscious Agent**.

Walk-In:

An agent who volunteers his or her services as an intelligence source or an agent-in-place, often quite literally walking into the embassy of the country he or she wants to work for.

Watchers:

MI5 name for covert surveillance officers.

Work Name:

An alias used by an intelligence officer or agent during an operation.



Michael Smith is the number one best-selling author of a wide variety of books on spies and special forces. He served in British military intelligence before becoming an award-winning journalist, working for the BBC, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Sunday Times*. Smith uncovered the Downing Street Memos, which exposed the truth about the intelligence used to justify the war in Iraq and the scandal of the secret air war fought long before either Congress or the UK Parliament backed military action. Smith’s many books include, *The Anatomy of a Traitor*; *Killer Elite: The Inside Story of America’s Most Secret Special Operations Team*; *Foley: The Spy Who Saved 10,000 Jews*; *The Secrets of Station X: How Bletchley Park Codebreakers Helped Win the War*; *The Debs of Bletchley Park* and *The Secret Agent’s Bedside Reader*. He is a member of the Historical Advisory Group of the Bletchley Park Trust and a Visiting Fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford.

