

Teaching SpyCraft: German Intelligence Open Joint Training School

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Germany's primary intelligence services have joined in a programme to train new operatives and students in the art of intelligence collection, analysis and use of. Dubbed "Berlin's Spy School" by the German media, the centre is attached to the new \$ 1.1 billion headquarters of the country's foreign intelligence Service – Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND) in the city centre; here some 4,000 personnel are stationed. Externally, the organization employs 3,000 personnel in 300 locations around the world. These are within its embassies.

The joint Center for Intelligence Education and Training, known by its acronym – ZNAF (Zentrum für Nachrichtendienstliche Aus und Fortbildung) – will be operated by BND and BfV (domestic intelligence service) teachers, and includes 20 lecture theaters, workshops, creative studies, laboratories, computer annexes and even a small cinema complex. Large enough to accommodate 700 students and teaching staff, some will be school graduates pursuing a two-year Master in Intelligence and Security. Others attending the centre will also be taught tradecraft, from surveillance to covert entry and more modern intelligence elements such as cyber warfare and information technology. All will be fully versed in German law.

As for the courses, they will run for two-to-three years, dependent on the type of occupation sought by students or envisaged by trainers. Not disclosed, the location of another ZNAF annex which will house around 100 student (accommodation).

At the opening of ZNAF, one official said the "students will be taught intelligence tradecraft from A to Z."

BND Director Bruno Kahl said: "ZNAF provides intelligence services with their most important resource: highly trained and highly motivated staff, optimally prepared for their future tasks. Good and innovative ideas for the intelligence work arise above all through an entanglement of theory and practice. Beyond education and training, the ZNAF also contributes to the conceptual development of the practice."

His counterpart in the BfV, Thomas Haldenwang said: "With ZNAF, BfV and BND are making a significant contribution to a more integrated training of intelligence services in Germany. A common and modern education geared to the needs of the digitized world is more important than ever, especially in the face of increasingly interconnected threats."

The move, whilst hailed as an initiative to share publicly the BND-BfV's mission, is part of a long going dispute between government bodies and German Intelligence regarding its training budget. Prior to ZNAF, both intelligence services operated stand alone training and educational schools. Planning for the new centre began in 2007.