

Cuaderno de Inteligencia

Call for papers

CESEDEN | Centro Superior de Estudios de la Defensa Nacional

Call for Papers for Issue No. 5: «Counterintelligence: A Necessary Doctrinal Framework»

The **Centro Superior de Estudios de la Defensa Nacional (CESEDEN)**, through its annual publication **Cuaderno de Inteligencia**, invites professionals, academics, analysts, and experts in intelligence, security, and defense to submit original, unpublished articles for the journal's fifth issue.

Context and Scope

Counterintelligence constitutes an essential dimension of contemporary security, yet it remains an insufficiently understood discipline.

The lack of a shared definition of counterintelligence is neither a uniquely Spanish phenomenon nor an exclusively academic concern; rather, it is a recognized challenge within intelligence studies. The term «counterintelligence» carries multiple meanings (even within the same country) which hinders the development of coherent strategies, the improvement of civil-military coordination, and the strengthening of comprehensive security frameworks.

In the military sphere, its conceptualization is more developed, although doctrinal variations persist between countries and even within the same Armed Forces. In the civilian sector (including corporations, universities, and research centers), the absence of common criteria is even more pronounced, thereby complicating its understanding, application, and dissemination.

This ambiguity is particularly visible in the corporate and academic worlds. Many organizations do not identify counterintelligence as a distinct discipline, viewing it instead as a fragmented set of practices encompassing security, data protection, or risk management. However, the complexity of contemporary threats necessitates a broader, systematic, and cross-cutting perspective.

Consequently, enhancing the knowledge of counterintelligence should be a key academic, institutional, and corporate objective. Wider dissemination would facilitate the identification of existing conceptualizations, determine their common elements, and pave the way toward a comprehensive and precise conceptual framework that fosters cooperation across military, governmental, corporate, and academic spheres.

Promoting awareness within society and professional sectors is therefore critical to advancing toward a unified general concept. This, in turn, will enable the design of coherent strategies, enhance civil-military coordination, and reinforce overarching security.

Furthermore, disseminating counterintelligence research helps foster a robust security culture, identify vulnerabilities, and mitigate organizational weaknesses. It demonstrates that the discipline extends beyond «defending secrets» to encompassing the protection of decision-making processes, critical knowledge, trusted networks, and strategic objectives. Advancing toward a shared concept will ultimately enhance multi-stakeholder cooperation, specialized training, and coherent policy design.

In summary, increasing the visibility and understanding of counterintelligence is a strategic necessity for both the military and civilian sectors.

Thematic Lines of Interest

The journal welcomes contributions addressing, but not limited to, the following areas:

- **Conceptualization and terminology:** Analyzing diverse definitions of counterintelligence to identify commonalities and divergences. Comparative counterintelligence doctrines in democratic and authoritarian states. Legal and ethical frameworks governing counterintelligence in public and private organizations.
- **Military and State Counterintelligence:** Specific characteristics, distinctive features, and operational procedures. Models for civil-military integration within security strategies and asset protection.
- **Corporate Counterintelligence:** Examining its relationship with competitive intelligence, corporate security, industrial espionage, and the safeguarding of strategic assets. The significance of cross-functional integration within an organization.
- **Counterintelligence in universities and research centers:** Analyzing the protection of knowledge, intellectual property, researchers, sensitive technologies, and international collaborations.
- **Counterintelligence and technological transformation:** Investigating the impact of emerging technologies on counterintelligence. Counterintelligence within hybrid environments, including cyberspace, disinformation, and psychological warfare.

Beyond the core thematic focus, every issue of Cuaderno de Inteligencia includes contributions dedicated to three specific, high-interest fields: «History of Intelligence», «New Technological Developments in Support of Intelligence» and «Intelligence in Bookstores».

Submission Guidelines and Process

- **Submission Deadline:** February 28, 2027.
- **Manuscript Length:** Between 4,000 and 12,000 words, inclusive of footnotes and bibliographies.
- **Formatting:** Please refer to the attached document, «Submission Guidelines».
- **Peer Review:** All submitted articles will undergo a rigorous blind peer-review process.
- **Submission Method:** Manuscripts must be submitted electronically to the following email address: *ESFAS_CuadernoInteligencia@mde.es*

For any further inquiries, please contact the Intelligence Department of the Escuela Superior de las Fuerzas Armadas at the email address provided above.