

The Leveling by Dan Mayland
Glossary

Agent—Typically a citizen of a foreign country who has been recruited—by a CIA operations officer—to spy for the United States. A CIA agent is not an employee of the CIA, although he may receive money or other forms of payment in return for his services.

Ambassador—The US ambassador to a foreign country is an employee of the State Department and serves as a representative of the president of the United States. A CIA station chief is supposed to inform the ambassador of all CIA operations taking place in that foreign country.

BTC Pipeline—The acronym for the 1,100-mile-long Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline which transports oil from the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean Sea via Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey.

CENTCOM—An abbreviation of United States Central Command. CENTCOM is responsible for operations in the Middle East, Central Asia, Pakistan, Afghanistan and parts of northern Africa. It is comprised of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Special Operations units assigned to that part of the world.

CIA—Acronym for Central Intelligence Agency.

Central Eurasia Division—The division within the CIA's National Clandestine Service that is believed to cover Russia and nations that were formerly a part of the Soviet Union.

Chador—A large piece of fabric, often but not always black, that is used by many Muslim women to cover their hair and bodies.

DIA—Acronym for Defense Intelligence Agency, an organization that is a member of the US intelligence community. Unlike the CIA, the DIA is part of the Department of Defense and focuses primarily on providing the secretary of defense with intelligence on military-related matters.

DoD—Acronym for the US Department of Defense.

Guardian Council—A powerful institution within the government of Iran. The council is comprised of members either directly or indirectly appointed by the supreme leader of Iran. Its primary role has been to bar candidates deemed insufficiently loyal to the Iranian regime from running for office, and to strike down laws that the council—and by extension the supreme leader—deems insufficiently Islamic.

Guoanbu—An abbreviation of Guojia Anquan Bu, which is what the Chinese Ministry of State Security is called. The Guoanbu is the Chinese version of the CIA.

KGB—Acronym for the komitet gosudarstvennoy bezopasnosti, which in Russian means Committee for State Security. The KGB was the intelligence agency of the Soviet Union and was disbanded when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. (It's successor is known in Russia as the FSB.)

Kish Island—A small Iranian-owned island in the Persian Gulf. It is unique in Iran in that foreigners are not required to obtain a visa to visit, and in that many of the religious rules that apply on the mainland don't apply on the island.

Lada—A cheap, popular car produced in Russia.

Langley—Refers to Langley, Virginia, the town in which the headquarters of the CIA is located.

Manas Air Base—Officially known as the Transit Center at Manas, this is a US air base located just north of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The base was used extensively by the US during the war in Afghanistan, and is still in use today. It's a bit of an odd setup in that the base is actually a part of Manas International Airport, which is the main civilian airport that services Bishkek; the US just leases a part of the civilian airport.

Manat—The name of the basic unit of currency in both Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan. Azeri manats and Turkmen manats are different, though, similar to the way US dollars and Canadian dollars are different.

MEK— Acronym for the Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK), which means people's mojahedin. An armed Iranian resistance group.

Ministry of National Security—In Azerbaijan, this refers to the government agency tasked with gathering intelligence on foreign nations, corporations, and people. It's the Azeri version of the CIA. (Or more accurately, the KGB—when the Soviet Union collapsed, the remnants of the KGB in Azerbaijan formed what became the Ministry of National Security.)

Mossad—Israel's version of the CIA.

Near East Division—Officially known as the Near East and South Asia Division. The division within the CIA's National Clandestine Service (the part of the CIA that does the actual spying) that is believed to cover the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Niva—A four-wheel-drive version of a Lada, which is a cheap, popular car produced in Russia.

NOC—Acronym for nonofficial cover. A CIA NOC is a CIA operations officer serving in a foreign country without the security of a diplomatic cover identity.

Office of Near East Analysis—Officially known as the Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis. It's a division within the CIA's Directorate of Intelligence (where the analysts

work) and is tasked with gathering and analyzing intelligence from, and around, the Middle East.

Operations Officer—An employee of the CIA who works for the division of the CIA known as the National Clandestine Service. They're what most people think of as spies.

Paykan—A cheap, popular car that used to be produced in Iran.

Persia House—A reasonably new division within the CIA that is tasked with Iran-related operations.

Qods Force—The special operations division of Iran's Revolutionary Guard. Translates as Jerusalem force.

Revolutionary Guard—An elite Iranian military organization with its own army, navy and air force. It is separate from the regular Iranian military.

Sayyid—A man who can claim to be a direct descendent of the prophet Muhammad. A Sayyid will often, but not always, wear a black turban.

Seventh Floor—Shorthand for the leadership of the CIA, most of whom have offices on the seventh floor of CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

Special Activities Division—A division within the CIA's National Clandestine Service that will often carry out paramilitary operations.

Station Chief—An employee of the CIA who oversees all CIA operations that take place within a particular country, or region within a country; a station chief would manage operations officers and consult closely with the ambassador.

Volga—A car produced in Russia; not great, but typically of higher quality than the common Ladas.