



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

English Language Training Course on Arms Control Terminology

Zagreb, 09 - 20 March 2009

**Sponsored by the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland**

RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION conducted an English language-training course on arms control terminology in Zagreb, Croatia, from 09th to 20th March 2009.

dialogue on all security issues. The course also provided an excellent opportunity for establishing good relationships, sharing experience, expertise and lessons learned. Two social events during the course assisted all participants in creating and maintaining a very valuable network for their future duties.



*25 participants, 5 faculty and 3 staff
Course participants*

The course promoted a common understanding of the Arms Control Treaties by civilians and military personnel who deal with Arms Control in the Southeast European region, with an aim at enhancing regional cooperation by fostering comprehensive

***In the Arms
Control World
English is not
everything, but
everything is
nothing without
English***



*From left: CPT Čebular, AMB Hadžimusić, and LTC Nemeth
Course opening*

***Networking
=
Establishing
and
Maintaining
Contacts***

In two weeks of the course 25 students from 8 Southeast European countries improved their command of English using Arms Control Terminology as a tool. The students did not represent only arms control agencies, but also ministries, general staff, military academies as well as other organizations and institutions involved in this field. The challenging course curriculum included even the weekend as working days.

The Faculty consisted of the following instructors: three English teachers - Ms Natalija TISANIĆ (Croatia), Ms Katarina TERZIĆ and Ms Mirjana KORICA (Serbia), two Arms Control Instructors - FS Stephanie Johnson (United Kingdom) and 2nd Lt Elvir Spahić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and four RACVIAC staff - LTC Nemeth Kalman, LTC Thomas Mergel, Cpt Jože Čebular and 1st Lt Mehmed Halilović.



Faculty and staff meeting

Immediately following the course opening by Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić, all the participants of the course were appointed to three different ability groups, based on the results of both the written examination and the oral performance during the introductory session.

Working methodology

These three ability groups were established for the morning session, which was divided into two parts. The first part consisted of grammar related tasks, while the second part was focused on conversation and reading on topics closely related to Arms Control.

English grammar and military topics

The purpose of the first part was to refresh the knowledge of grammar - Present Simple and Continuous, Future, Past Simple and Continuous, Present Perfect, Past Perfect,

Conditionals, Passive Voice, Reported Speech, Modal Verbs, Articles and Prepositions. The second part focused on military life, learning through reading a specific topic followed by an open discussion, with focus on the most common words used in daily military life.

Arms Control Treaties

For the afternoon sessions the participants were divided into two groups, according to their professional experience in Arms Control. The afternoon sessions concentrated more on understanding the Arms Control Treaties e.g. VD 99, Dayton article IV, CFE etc. The instructors first explained the main objectives of a chosen topic, followed by reading and conversation in the spirit of achieving a common understanding. The course focused mainly on communication skills, but it also comprised reading, listening and some writing.

As the finale of the sessions on Arms Control topics, the participants conducted a practical inspection, through which they were able to put into practice the theoretical knowledge gathered during the two weeks. This gave the participants a clear picture of an inspection through learning how to execute it step-by-step. It also provided participants with an excellent opportunity to see how they could use the acquired terminology and theoretical knowledge in “real life” situations.



Executing an inspection

Flight Sergeant Stephanie Johnson and 2nd Lt Elvir Spahić put considerable effort in

organizing the practical part of the course and executing the inspection. The participants expressed great appreciation for this endeavor.



Checking the objects of verification

Working Saturday and Sunday - Contributions to Training and Verification Division Concept

During the weekend a shorter program was prepared for the participants. On Saturday they were divided into two groups, and launched a debate on a given topic. After a briefing by the leaders of each group, delegates of the group had to defend their position. Everybody had to give a statement in support of the group's standpoint. On Sunday RACVIAC staff briefed the participants on the 2010 program for the Training and Verification Division (T&VD), presenting it in detail by mentioning the chosen topics and target audience. The purpose of this briefing was to discuss the possibilities of assistance that RACVIAC can give to the countries of the region through its activities. The participants found the work of T&VD to be one of the most essential in the field of Arms Control, and they also recommended to RACVIAC organizing courses on more specific topics chosen from any Arms Control Agreement.

Examination day

The last day served as an examination day, where both the teachers and the instructors checked the participants' acquired knowledge from the previous two weeks. The examination



Plenary

started with a sixty-minute written test, in which the participants had to write an essay on a given topic. This was followed by the second part of the test in which the participants had thirty minutes to complete a multiple-choice test focusing mainly on Arms Control. After a short break the oral part of the test took place. The committee consisted of three teachers and one inspector, and each participant was examined for eight minutes. They had to defend their written essay by explaining it and answering questions on it.

It is a pleasure and great honor to announce that everybody successfully passed the exam in their ability groups, which means that they all received the certificate of completion.



Arms Control Instructors: from Left: Flight Sergeant Stephanie Johnson and 2nd Lt Elvir Spahić

Participants' & faculty's suggestions (Consolidated Findings)

Since the knowledge of English language is essential for common understanding and co-operation between SEE countries and the international community, the participants sincerely believe that these kind of courses need to be organized in the future. Furthermore, they are convinced that they should not be organized only on Arms Control issues, but on other topics as well.

They found the final test challenging, which brought some discomfort, especially to the lower ability group.



Looking for hot spots

Summary

The participants showed strong willingness to improve their English language skills and also high interest in increasing arms control discussion capabilities. An increase in individual progress was noted and one could say that this English Arms Control Terminology Course contributed significantly to achieving a standardized approach to the Agreements within the given audience.

The important feature of the Language Training Course is the opportunity to host the participants and lecturers from all the countries interested and observe a unique cooperative and friendly spirit among them. The period of two weeks was long enough to establish good friendly relationships, hence setting up the

foundations for strong professional networking in the future with the aim of enhancing CSBM in the SEE region.



Contacts for future networking

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