



RACVIAC Newsletter

REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE CENTRE

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12th MAG Meeting in RACVIAC

43 representatives from 19 countries met in RACVIAC, Zagreb, Croatia, from 5th to 6th July 2005, for the twelfth Meeting of the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG). Also present at the meeting were Dr. Erhard BUSEK, Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact (SP), Ambassador Janez PREMOZE, Chairman of the SP WT III, Mr. Pieter VERBEEK, Director of SP WT III, Brig. Gen (ret) Henny van der GRAAF, Co-chair on DC of SP WT III and Mr Jiri KALASNIKOV from the Stability Pact WT III, as well as Mr. Dimov DI-MIAN, Deputy Team Leader from SEESAC.

Representatives from Spain, Czech Republic, Poland and USA also attended our meeting, as observer countries or the countries, which expressed their interest in RACVIAC, in order to consider their future involvement in RACVIAC.



Col Marin RADU from Romania chaired the Meeting. All MAG member countries were invited to attend the meeting in order to discuss, among other items, the following:

- Discussion on Defence Conversion Issues
- Change in the RACVIAC structure
- RACVIAC budget issues
- Nominations and Selection of the next MAG Chairperson

At the beginning, dr BUSEK, from the Stability Pact, addressed the MAG expressing their full support for strengthening the role of RACVIAC as a Regional centre for Defence Conversion (DC), without diminishing RACVIAC's role regarding the other issues in its mandate (see page 4).

After a lively discussion on the issue of DC, the MAG brought a decision on RACVIAC's contribution to DC in SEE (see below). They tasked the Director of RACVIAC to establish a Defence Conversion Unit, using RACVIAC's existing capacities. The MAG then approved the External Auditing Report and tasked the Director of RACVIAC to prepare an Action Plan and Implementation Program on financial and administration issues of RACVIAC until the next MAG Meeting.

Furthermore, the MAG countries stated their pledges for RACVIAC's budget 2005 and agreed to postpone the discussion on the draft budget 2006 for the next MAG Meeting, because this budget will incorporate changes taking into account the DC programme. Regarding nomination and selection of the next MAG Chairperson, there were no official nomination from any country and MAG postponed it for 01. September 2005.

MAG Decision on RACVIAC's Contribution to Defence Conversion in SEE

Having in mind the MAG Decision on Defence Conversion adopted at the 11th MAG Meeting on 17-19 April 2005 in Bucharest, and acting in accordance with Article 11 of the Terms of Reference,

The MAG of RACVIAC decided:

1. To take note of the Concept Paper on Defence Conversion, prepared by the Director of RACVIAC, and to request the Director to prepare a revised version of this Concept Paper as well as a second paper indicating the practical modalities for RACVIAC's increased involvement, to facilitate further discussion on how to operationalise RACVIAC's role in the area of Defence Conversion.
2. To task the Director of RACVIAC to establish a Defence Conversion Unit, using RACVIAC's existing capacities.
3. To establish under the auspices of RACVIAC three Working Groups on key aspects of Defence Conversion, which should hold their first meetings before the end of 2005. The first Working Group should address questions regarding demobilization, retraining and

resettlement of military personnel, the second regarding conversion of former military bases and facilities to civilian use, the third regarding restructuring redundant military industries by downsizing or reshaping for civilian use. The three Working Groups should be open to all RACVIAC members, draw on existing experiences of states, institutions and NGOs.

4. To task the Director of RACVIAC to organize an open-ended, informal workshop in late September/ early October, before the next MAG Meeting, which should prepare recommendations to the MAG regarding the first meetings of the Working Groups, also taking into account the report referred to in the next paragraph.
5. To task the Director of RACVIAC to produce a first consolidated report on the answers received to the Questionnaire on Defence Conversion before the informal workshop mentioned in paragraph 4.
6. To request the Chairman of the MAG to inform the Chairmanship of the SEECF of this decision.

Farewell to members of RACVIAC

LtC Oscar TOMASCH

It was unique pleasure to have LtC Oscar TOMASCH, as a S3 Officer here in RACVIAC, since February 2004. LtC TOMASCH joined RACVIAC from the Verification Division of the Austrian Armed Forces.



During his tour of duty he was responsible for the coordination and control of basic staff work and the flow of information within RACVIAC, as well as, for the human resources management and personnel administration of international staff. He was also extremely supportive and has provided assistance to all other staff members. He successfully organized extraordinary activities for RACVIAC's staff and for his uniqueness he was a very popular and well-liked member among our international staff. His tour of duty in RACVIAC ended on 31 May 2005.

We take this opportunity to thank Oscar for all his work and friendship during this time in RACVIAC and wish him every success in the future.

Mr Krešimir FILLA

Mr Krešimir FILLA assumed his post as Chief IT in RACVIAC on 9 February 2004. Among other tasks his duties covered the sections of system, network and data base administration.



One of his biggest efforts was the implementation and configuration of new servers in 2004 that improved efficiency and data security within the IT infrastructure of RACVIAC.

Due to his critical manner he exerted himself for gaining more efficiency in using IT equipment as well as minimising costs in all concerns of IT and telecommunication. Regarding his interests in IT he was always addicted to improve his knowledge by further education. Because of his outstanding performance and frankly personality Krešimir was well accepted in whole RACVIAC.

By his own request his post ended on 24th of June 2005. RACVIAC hereby expresses its best wishes for his future and professional career.

Workshop on protection of critical infrastructure

According to the RACVIAC Programme 2005 Training & Verification Division organized the course "Workshop on protection of Critical Infrastructure (CIP)" from 3rd to 5th May 2005. Aim of the event was to identify the nation's abilities to prioritize and protect their critical assets, as well as to determine gaps and lack of regional co-operation in this area and RACVIAC's possible contribution to improvement of it.

The workshop was designed for senior planning officer dealing with the issues regarding CIP and officers from the Department for Defence Policy and Planning from MoD or from another respective Ministry responsible for this issue. There were seventeen participants coming from the SEE region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia and Turkey. Invited were military and civilian Senior planning officers.

The workshop began with a keynote speech made by Ambassador Richard Narich, coming from Geneva Centre for Security Policy. He set the stage for the theory and practice of the following sessions on Protection of Critical Infrastructure. Ambassador Narich highlighted the importance of CIP in the last years; how technical causes, economic reasons and geopolitical reasons are influencing the managing CI. He stressed also four points describing the state of thinking today: common understanding of what can be considered as CI; the difference between CIP and CIIP (*Critical Information Infrastructure Protection*); importance of Risk analysis and different approach to CIP.



Both two days of the workshop, Working Groups (WG) were organized with the aim to design a Country Action Plan. The goal of WG was to begin a dialogue that would result in follow-up visits with certain officials regarding the further development of a comprehensive CIP policy. The workshop brought an added value and showed fields and ways as how to work in the future as a platform for co-operation on national and international level as well as to foster co-operation between the civilian and military sphere in SEE. Representatives from all countries present agreed on the necessity of stronger co-operation on the national and international level in exchanging different views and opinions and to share information.

Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar

The C-5 Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar was carried out in the period from 8th to 10th of June 2005, in accordance with the RACVIAC programme for 2005.

The seminar was the second activity performed in RACVIAC on the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and in cooperation with OPCW (Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons). It was the follow up of the first seminar on CWC, which was held in RACVIAC from 17th to 19th of May 2004. The aim of this seminar was to focus on specific CWC topics and to provide a platform, where the participated countries could present their experiences and exchange information on CWC related issues.

A total number of 18 participants from Albania (3), Austria (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (1), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2), Romania (3), Serbia and Montenegro (2), Slovenia (2), Turkey (1) and RACVIAC (1) attended the seminar. The seminar was conducted with the assistance of four lecturers from OPCW.

During the first day the lecturers from OPCW gave basic presentations on the Chemical Weapons Convention, in particular on Article X, as well as a short review of the past OPCW activities. In addition, one representative of each participating country gave a short presentation, which included information and examples related to the respective National Response System. The second day the seminar program included presentations on the Investigation of Alleged Use, as well as on the Challenge Inspection. The third day was organized through a top table exercise on practical implementation issues. The participants were divided into four groups and received some practical tasks. Each group dealt with a specific section of the scenario and presented particular actions and operational plan.

Personnel coming from MODs, MFAs, MOIs, NGOs and Civil Protection had a great interest for the topic of the CWC. Participants concluded that future seminars should focus on forming of a "Regional Network of Assistance and Protection" in case of any CW danger in SEE. This would be a long-term project for the following years and RACVIAC was proposed as the most proper place for the installation of this "Regional Network of Assistance and Protection".

The cooperation with OPCW ensured the presence of high-level lecturers who were able to share their knowledge and experience with the participants. There was a big interest from the countries of the region of SEE, for the continuation of this cooperation between RACVIAC and OPCW in organizing seminars on CWC topics. Therefore, RACVIAC will plan the next CWC seminar within 2006.

Address of Dr. Erhard Busek at 12th MAG Meeting

(an extract from the speech)

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to briefly address this meeting. I always come to RACVIAC with pleasure, knowing that the centre, including its steering body – the Multinational Advisory Group – is doing an extremely important job. I would also like to express special thanks to Gen. Stergios PAPTIS for his very efficient and dynamic leadership of RACVIAC.

I welcome the fact that this meeting is mainly devoted to defence conversion again. As you may know defence conversion is also one of the key SP activities in 2005.



The key task is now to concentrate on concrete follow-up steps of the Bucharest SEECP Defence Ministerial Meeting, although I recognize that a lot has already been done. From what I can see, the most promising and essential development of the Bucharest conference is the growing willingness of SEE governments to assume regional ownership for defence conversion by creating, for the first time, a joint regional policy framework. I am very pleased to observe that you share this opinion too. I'd therefore like to express my sincere appreciation for all your efforts, including the members of the MAG, who in April this year responded positively to the suggestions regarding RACVIAC's role contained in the Declaration of the Ministers of Defence. I am aware that it was not an 'easy exercise', but indeed this was a major step ahead in the positive direction.

As mentioned above, it's crystal clear that better coordination of assistance to defence conversion programmes and enhanced regional cooperation are of great importance. Therefore, I am very pleased to inform you that at the last meetings of the SP WT III and RT, held in Sofia in mid-May, the participants endorsed the results of the SEECP MoD's conference, in particular the commitment of the participating countries to enhance cooperation and dialogue in SEE and also with international partners on specific defence conversion related processes. They expressed their full support for strengthening the role of RACVIAC as a regional centre for defence conversion, without – let me underline this- diminishing RACVIAC's role regarding

the other issues in its mandate, in particular as far as the area of arms control, democratic control of armed forces, promotion of confidence- and security- building measures or respective training courses are concerned.

Let me conclude by following: as far as defence conversion is concerned we can't move forward without your support and the support of our international partners, bilateral donors and international financial institutions.

I would like to thank all our partners for their expertise, their commitment and their support, and would like once again to reiterate that the SP will continue working closely with them.

I wish you all a very fruitful meeting."

Meetings of the SP Working Tables and the Regional Table in Sofia

The Stability Pact's biannual Regional Table, its highest decision-making forum, met in the Bulgarian capital Sofia 17-18 May 2005 to discuss issues of regional ownership.

The meeting of the Regional Table was preceded by a day (17 May) of theme-focused Working Table meetings where issues of regional ownership (Working Table I – Democracy), infrastructure development (Working Table II – Economy) and defence conversion (Working Table III – Security) were debated.

About 250 participants representing over 80 countries and organizations (including representatives of SEE Governments, EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland, the US, the European Commission and the European Council, the UNMIK, OSCE, Council of Europe, OECD, World Bank, IMF and EBRD) debated opportunities and challenges for the region to gradually take over ownership of various policy initiatives.

Brig Gen Stergios PAPTIS and Col Dragan GOSTOVIĆ participated in Regional Table and Working Table III meetings. Participants took note of the results of the SEECP MoD's meeting on 31 March in Bucharest. They expressed their support to strengthen the role of RACVIAC as a regional centre for defence conversion, without diminishing RACVIAC's role regarding the other issues in its mandate.

They asked the RACVIAC member states and international partners to provide support towards bringing about such an enhanced role for RACVIAC as a regional defence conversion centre. Defence Conversion in SEE is a crucial dimension of much wider

security sector transformation processes, and an important issue for all involved in reconstruction and socio-economic development in SEE.

The Director of RACVIAC was one of the panellists during the Working Table III meeting. He delivered a presentation on the new role of RACVIAC in the field of defence conversion, which was well received. He also mentioned that the questionnaire on defence conversion progress and needs had been distributed to all Ministries of Defence of SEECP countries and a report on the answers received would be prepared. Brig Gen PAPOTIS explained all activities that are going on in preparing Concept Paper and extraordinary MAG meeting dedicated mainly to the defence conversion for final approval of the new task by MAG countries. He asked the countries, as well as the organizations to support RACVIAC to fulfil successfully the new task.



The representatives of RACVIAC had a lot of useful meetings with the participants from various countries and institutions. They presented dealing with defence conversion.

Brig Gen PAPOTIS and Col GOSTOVIĆ also visited Bulgarian Defence and Staff College where Director of RACVIAC delivered a presentation on RACVIAC.

They also had there fruitful talks with Mr Yordan Bozhilov, Director of the International Cooperation Directorate in the Bulgarian MoD, regarding the future of RACVIAC.

NEW PEOPLE IN RACVIAC

LtC Heinz TRENK

RACVIAC welcomes LtC Heinz TRENK from Austria, who joined our staff as a new S3 officer in May this year. He was born on 20 December 1959 in Graz, Austria. Before coming to RACVIAC he worked as ADC/CG/1st Army Corps till 2002 and, after the reorganisation of Austrian Armed Forces, in the Verification Division. He has made inspections/evaluations from 2002 till 2005 in GB, SK, DE, HU, GR and SI. He is married with wife Carina.



“Arms Control Regimes in SEE - An instrument to foster security and to access EU”

The RACVIAC Seminar 03/2005 on “Arms Control Regimes in SEE -An instrument to foster security and to access EU-” took place from 25th to 27th of April 2005 in Zagreb/Croatia. The seminar proposed several aims:

- to discuss about the role of Arms Control agreements as an instrument of integration of SEE in Europe
- to seek to foster a lively and constructive discourse on the role of Arms Control (AC) Agreements in SEE for increasing transparency and improving the level of stability and security in entire Europe
- to clarify the importance/effects of media to increase security awareness among people

The Seminar was designed for parliamentarians, journalist, staff officers or civilian equivalents working in arms control and disarmament sections of MOD and MFA. The participants came from Albania, Bosnia&Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia&Montenegro and Slovenia and Moldavia in addition with representative from OSCE.

Dr Blandzic (OSCE) and Dr Lachowsky (SIPRI), as lecturers, encouraged with their presentations people to express their opinions and ideas and at the end they were the principal actors of the panel discussion. Really appreciated was the presentations given by national representatives. It was a useful way to explain and show to the rest of regional countries their national point of view and the work in progress in this field.



The topic of the Panel discussion was: *“Steps that should be taken in order to enhance/strengthen mutual trust and confidence among regional countries to make easier the integration of the whole SEE into Europe”*. This final panel discussion, driven principally by Dr Lachoswky and Dr Bilandzic, with the representative of Serbia and Montenegro as chairman, gave a good opportunity to all representatives to explain their personal opinions, and produce, at the end, a good summary of ideas, suggestions, new ways to follow.

6th Meeting of the Demobilization and Reintegration

The 6th Meeting of the Demobilization and Reintegration Working Group was jointly organized by RACVIAC and DCAF in Zagreb, from 31 May to 2 June 2005.

The Working Group comprised personnel managers from Ministries of Defense and General Staffs from countries in SE Europe (AL, BA, HR, MK, S&M, RO) as well as from Denmark; representatives of international organizations and researchers specialized in Demobilization and Reintegration issues from BICC, DCAF, IOM, NATO, OSCE, and SP.

Representatives from Ministers of Labor in the SEE countries joined the Working Group, as permanent members. Altogether, 29 persons attended this event, including RACVIAC and DCAF Staff.

The meeting offered to the Working Group members the possibility to discuss consequences of defence reform in the five SEE countries, focusing on problems of demobilization of personnel, retraining, job creation and employment development. A Romanian MP, regarding the Romanian experience in this regard,

presented a comprehensive and well-documented presentation of Defence Industry Conversion and Subsequent Creation of Jobs.

The Working Group members presented also the progress achieved on their national reintegration and retraining programs in an effort to identify and share best practices.

Particular attention has been paid to the new role of RACVIAC in the aftermath of the SEEC- Defence Ministerial Conference, which took place on 30-31 March 2005.



RACVIAC at the SEEC Meeting in Skopje

LtC Frank ODENDAHL, RACVIAC's Planning and Liaison Officer, participated at Southeast Europe Clearinghouse (SEEC) Meeting held in Skopje, from 06 to 08 June 2005.

SEEC, an initiative launched by US European Command and the Government of Slovenia in Ljubljana in November 2004, had its second Meeting in Skopje.

Participants from 24 nations and 8 organizations, together with RACVIAC, joined in a very fruitful discussion on following subjects:

- how to coordinate efforts on bi-/multinational support measures within SEE (on military/ security issues) to avoid duplication;
- how to produce a database / website to assist the coordination efforts.

The devised system of having “Focus” nations supported by one or more “Lead” nation(s) within a Working Group was put into practice for the first time and worked quite well for “country briefings”, as well as for the “Working Group presentations”, where the most urgent requirements of each focus country were discussed.

Overall, a very well organized event that went quite a way to convince some critics of the first SEEC Meeting.

Visits outside of RACVIAC

- 11 Apr — **Visit to Wilton Park**, London, UK, *Director of RACVIAC*
- 12 Apr — **Meeting regarding Defence Conversion with NATO and SP**, Brussels, Belgium, *Director of RACVIAC*
- 17 May — **SP WT III and Regional Meeting**, Sofia, Bulgaria, *Director of RACVIAC*
- 17 May — **CEENCOP Exercise “CAX 05”**, Zagreb, Croatia, *COS of RACVIAC*
- 26 May — **Meeting regarding Defence Conversion Concept Paper with BICC and SP**, Bonn, Germany, *Director of RACVIAC*

- 23 Jun — **Meeting in MOD and MFA**, Ankara, Turkey, *Director of RACVIAC*

Visits to RACVIAC

- 12 May — **LtC Richard van den ANKER**, Dutch Defence Attaché to Croatia
- 23 May — **Mr. Justin P. FRIEDMAN**, Political Advisor at USA Embassy in Zagreb
— **Dr. Raffi GREGORIAN**, Co-Chairman at Defence reform Commission, NATO Political Advisor
- 02 Jun — **LtC Pierre DESJEUX**, French Defence Attaché to Croatia
- 15 Jun — **Col Jaromír SKÁKAL**, Czech Defence Attaché to Croatia

Forthcoming events - 2005.

Democratic Control of Armed Forces	11 July - 15 July
<p><i>Main Goals:</i> ● To inform about methods and to share experience on the control of the budget of security and armed forces by parliaments</p> <p><i>Target Audience:</i> - Parliamentarians, Parliamentarian staff, and Academics</p>	
Orientation Course on CFE / Adopted CFE	18 July - 22 July
<p><i>Main Goals:</i> ● To inform interested countries on the CFE Treaty/Adapted CFE Treaty</p> <p><i>Target Audience:</i> - Personnel involved in Arms Control matters</p>	
Workshop on Defence Conversion Issues (2 days)	19 September - 23 September
<p><i>Main Goals:</i> ● To operationalise RACVIAC’s role in the area of Defence Conversion and to prepare recommendation for the first meeting of the Working Groups</p> <p><i>Target Audience:</i> - MAG countries, international organizations, institutions dealing with DC issues</p>	
Security Sector Reform in SEE—meetings on specific fields	26 September—30 September
<p><i>Main Goals:</i> ● To evaluate projects regarding downsizing and reintegration, elimination of surplus ammunition stocks, transformation of redundant military facilities and involvement of institutions</p> <p><i>Target Audience:</i> - Staff from governmental institutions, MODs, MFAs, MOIs, NGOs Media, Universities and technical experts</p>	

RACVIAC was established in 2000 by Croatia and Germany with the aim of supporting Working Table III of the Stability Pact, mainly in the field of arms control - in its widest sense - and related security matters. There are now twenty nations involved in RACVIAC*, and military and civilian members from fourteen of the above nations staff this multinational body. RACVIAC epitomizes the expression "Regional ownership" - it is located in the region, it includes personnel from all countries in the region who fill key positions on the staff, and it exists specifically for the countries in the region.

The overall direction of RACVIAC is determined by the Multinational Advisory Group, (MAG), made up of representatives from the 20 nations involved in RACVIAC. Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Poland, Spain and USA have received observer status in the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG).

At the 7th MAG meeting in Ljubljana in April 2003, representatives from the MAG nations discussed refocusing RACVIAC's activities. RACVIAC has redirected and steadily concentrated its activities towards providing a regional forum for even more comprehensive discussions on politico-military issues. Future tasks will include contributing to transparency and co-operation in the region by encouraging exchange of information, views and ideas on, for example: Compliance with the OSCE's Code of Conduct, Reform of Armed Forces, Disaster and Border Management Issues.

After the MAG Meeting in July 2005, it was

also agreed to use existing capacities of RACVIAC in the field of Defence Conversion.

Regarding Arms Control training, RACVIAC will continue to facilitate and to assist the implementation requirements for the countries in the region and will extend training to arms control experts in the wider sense.

This should be accomplished in co-operation and co-ordination with relevant international organizations and institutions in order to achieve synergetic effects, to avoid duplications and to invest means economically.

In its Seminars and Training Courses, RACVIAC deals with all confidence and security building measures and related security sector reform and security policy issues, (Small Arms and Light Weapons, Code of Conduct, Democratic Control of Armed Forces etc), as well as the major arms control treaties and agreements, (Vienna Document 1999, Dayton Peace Accords, Aerial Observation/Treaty on Open Skies, Treaty on Conventional Forces Europe).

RACVIAC is located in the "Vitez Damir Martić Barracks", 10 km west of Zagreb and has completely modern, fully equipped offices. Its facilities include a Seminar room capable of holding up to 30 participants, including simultaneous translation capabilities, as well as two large working group rooms and high standard accommodation for up to 30 personnel.

* (AL, AT, BA, BG, DE, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IT, MD, MK, NL, NO, RO, RU, SI, S&M, TR)



RACVIAC's PERMANENT STAFF, June 2005.

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