



RACVIAC Newsletter

REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE CENTRE

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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENCE CONVERSION CELL WITHIN RACVIAC

Taking into the consideration the fact that the SEE region has faced many challenges in the Security Sector Reform in recent times, new ways and many steps will be required in order to modernize and make the military more reliable for the benefits of the civil society. One of the most essential and most critical steps is the restructuring, reorganizing and downsizing of the armed forces.

In support of this Defense Conversion process, RACVIAC took over a new role with the aim to introduce in more detail the afore-mentioned process to the region and to find better approaches to these issues.

The Multinational Advisory Group (MAG), as the decision-making body of RACVIAC, decided to respond positively to the Bucharest Declaration of the Ministers of Defense of SEECP countries by expanding RACVIAC's scope activities and work into the field of Defence Conversion.



NEW DEFENCE CONVERSION CELL

The Defence Conversion Cell is trying to grasp the problems and real needs of the region in order to find the best course of action to make conversion a guided process. The DC Cell is divided into three Working Groups, which tasks include to develop regional support networks, concentrate know-how on Defence Conversion and promote an integrated donors approach as follows:

- **Working Group 1 (WG1)** - on retraining and resettlement of military personnel
- **Working Group 2 (WG2)** - on the conversion of former military bases and facilities
- **Working Group 3 (WG3)** - on restructuring redundant military industries by downsizing or restructuring into civilian use,

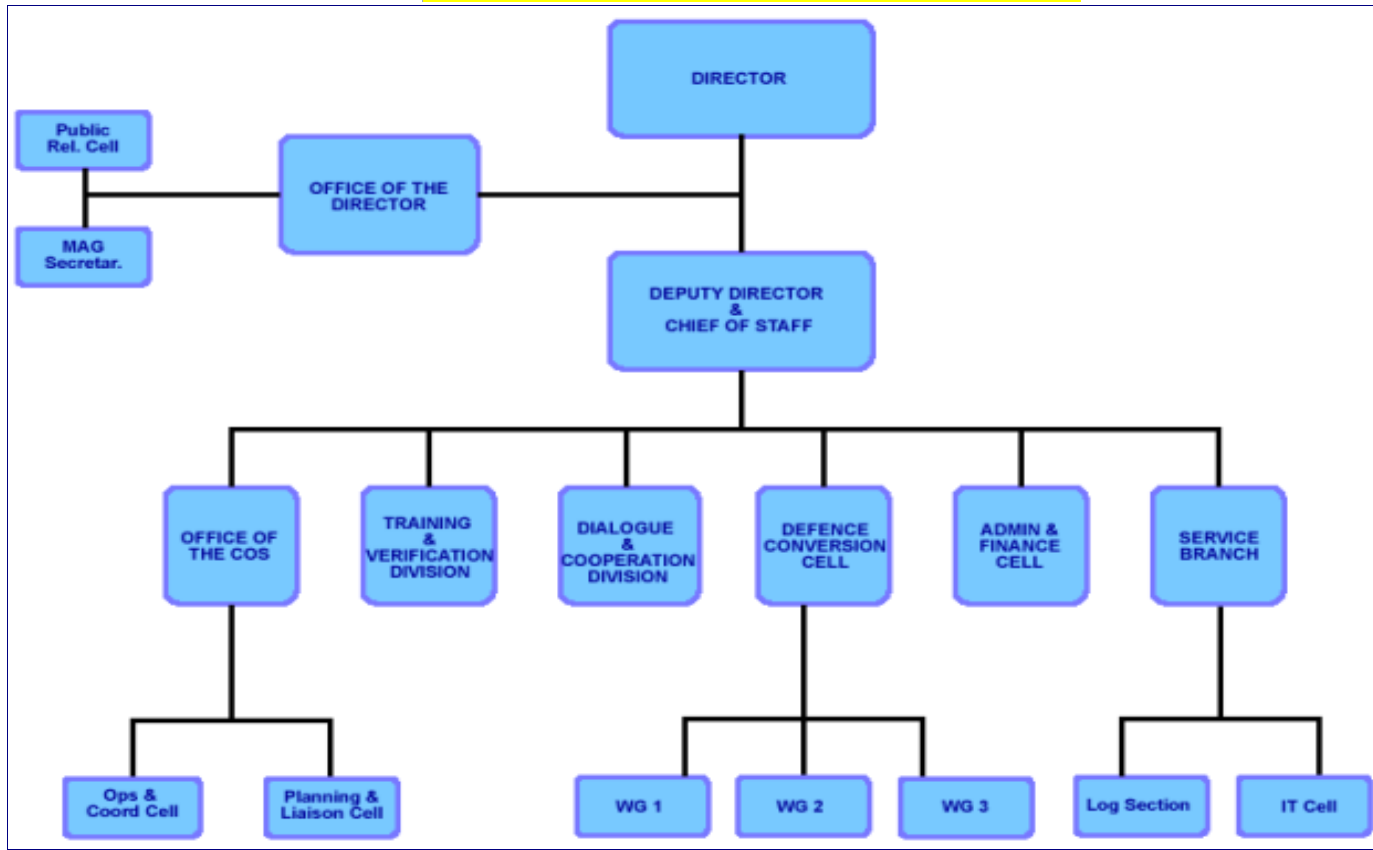
with the following aims:

1. To share experience on national defence conversion processes with regional and international partners in order to facilitate the identification of areas for cooperation among ourselves and with international partners.
2. To avoid duplication of efforts and contribute to achieving a more integrated approach between international partners.
3. To strengthen networks among regional and international partners interested in practical cooperation on specific conversion aspects and to stimulate further interest from bilateral and multilateral donors.

The tasks of Defence Conversion Cell are following:

- Collection and dissemination of conversion related data
- To organize WG Meetings/Seminars
- To provide governments, upon request, with support on DC issues
- To conduct studies (in cooperation with other institutes) on various aspects of defence conversion, including lessons learned
- To assist governments, upon request, in the preparation of project proposals which require external funding
- To communicate and co-operate with other organizations active in the field of defence conversion to avoid possible duplication
- To develop standards for evaluating defence conversion projects
- To liaise with all stakeholders to secure synergy in projects
- To enhance coordination and avoid competition

New RACVIAC`s Structure



Taking into the consideration MAG Conclusions on Defence Conversion adopted at the 12th MAG Meeting on 5-6 July 2005, RACVIAC established a Defence conversion Cell within RACVIAC on 1st August 2005. The main RACVIAC's goal is now fulfilled through:

- **Training & Verification Division** - responsible for training personnel from the Verification Agencies within South East Europe
- **Dialogue & Cooperation Division** - responsible for facilitating dialogue and cooperation amongst the countries within South East Europe
- **Defence Conversion Cell** - responsible for organizing activities of the three Working Groups (WG) on key aspects of defence conversion: resettlement of military personnel, conversion of former military bases and restructuring of defence industries

The whole organization is supported by the Director's Office, Chief of Staff's Office, an Administration and Finance Cell, and a Service Branch.



Orientation Course on CFE and the Adapted CFE Treaty

The Course C-07, titled "Orientation Course on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) and the Adapted CFE Treaty", was organized in RACVIAC for the second time, from 18 to 21 of July 2005, for military and civilian personnel of the SEE region that will be possibly engaged in the future as staff concerned with activities related to the fulfilment of the requirements of the Adapted CFE Treaty.

The aim of this Course was to provide participants with a comprehensive overview of the relevant elements of the existing or future arms control documents taken for examination, highlighting the most complete and commonly followed rules and procedures of the execution of real inspections carried out by State Parties of CFE Treaty.

The Course objectives were:

- to provide historical background of the CFE Treaty, describing the circumstances from the time of the development and establishment up to the adaptation period of that
- To overview the fundamental elements of the CFE Treaty highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules, requirements and procedures of the implementation of that
- To provide the participants with information on the current situation in this field of activities
- To deepen contacts between representatives of national organisations, agencies to be engaged in the accomplishment of recent and future arms control activities

Fifteen participants attended the Course: from Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Slovenia. In addition, one RACVIAC Staff member as well participated in the Course.

Lectures were presented by experts from CFE State Parties (IT/1, US/2) and from the Austrian National Defence Academy. The most amalgamated overview of these documents was given by the lecturer from the Arms Control and Coordination Section (ACCS) of the NATO HQ, providing four presentations.

* Turkey recognizes Macedonia by its constitutional name

Altogether five lecturers assisted the activity by performing presentations on the topics listed below:



- «General Overview of the History of Arms Control Initiatives»
- «CFE Treaty: Historical Importance of the CFE Treaty, Basic Overview, Main Figures and Data about the Implementation»
- «CFE Treaty: Contents, Main Components and Protocols, Basic Definitions. Commonalities and Connections between the CFE Treaty, CSBMs and the Dayton Agreement»
- «ACFE Treaty: Basic Overview, Added Value of the Adapted Treaty in the Arms Control and Confidence/Security Building Measures»
- «The CFE Treaty and the Adapted CFE Treaty – a Device for Stability in SEE»
- «Comparison of the CFE and ACFE Treaties. Significant Changes Invented during the Adaptation Process»
- «CFE Treaty: Equipment Recognition and Its Importance. Conventional Armament and Equipment Subject to the Treaty, Treaty Limited Equipment, Look-a-Likes»
- «CFE Treaty: Basics of Implementation of Inspections. Inspections to be Carried out at Object of Verification and the Challenge Inspection»

The two-day Course gave the opportunity for participants to meet their colleagues from the SEE region as well as meet representatives/experts coming from organisations and agencies being engaged for years with the execution of the CFE Treaty and/or other arms control regimes. The lecturers invited covered all the topics efficiently and presented a comprehensive and detailed overview of the relevant parts of the treaties, which were taken to work on. After each presentation there was a short discussion ("questions and answers") period proposed and aimed to clarify the questions occurred.

Ukrainian Chief of General staff visited RACVIAC



On 13th September 2005, Ukrainian delegation, headed by Chief of General Staff, General Serhij KIRICHENKO and accompanied by the Ambassador of Ukraine in Croatia, H.E. Vyctor KYRYK, visited RACVIAC. The purpose of their visit was to discuss possible future involvement of Ukraine in RACVIAC. After very fruitful discussion, General KIRICHENKO, stated that Ukraine government intends to join the MAG as a full member. It is expected that the MAG will approve Ukraine's accession to the MAG at the next MAG Meeting in RACVIAC.

Democratic Control of Armed Forces Seminar

The RACVIAC Seminar 05/2005 on "Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)", in cooperation with DCAF, took place from 11th to 13th of July 2005 in Zagreb/Croatia.

The aim of the seminar was to inform especially parliamentarians/parliamentarian staff from SEE countries according to the oversight, methods and ways of Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) as well to share experience on the control of the budget of security and armed forces by the parliaments. At the same time seminar aimed to generate fresh ideas to be implemented into the control process of the Armed Forces, considering the challenges of integration into the European security system.

The seminar emphasized the following ideas:

- to analyse, discuss democratic structures, key challenges and oversight of parliamentarians on Armed Forces

- to discuss the effects of re-structuring, modernizing and/or re-shaping of armed forces
- to assess conditions and mechanisms for effective parliamentary oversight
- to assess the complementary contribution of CSBM of Armed Forces in SEE and
- to evaluate the monitoring processes

The seminar was designed especially for parliamentarians or parliamentarian staff. Other participants were academics, journalists and staff officers working on these issues at the higher level, as well as personnel from different ministries, intelligence services, research centres, and universities. The proceeding was conducted in English with simultaneous translation into Croatian, Serbian and BA language.

A combination of lectures, as well as panel discussion and working groups promoted the knowledge for the criteria and the decisive functional factors for the establishment a constant and reliable system of democratic omission of sector of safety. Moreover, the seminar provided an international forum where the opinions and the new ideas were discussed in order to encourage a more regional approach based on the dialogue and the collaboration in all aspects relative Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

The working group session discussed the ways for "Frame of democratization of armed forces in the SEE. - theory and practice".

Lectures were provided as follows:

Keynote Speech: "Constitutional frame for the control of armed forces" – by Mr. Marcin KOZIEL (*Defence Policy and Planning Division, by NATO Hq*);

Presentation-1: "The philosophy of Democratic Control of Armed Forces"- by General Hugues DE COURTIVRON (*DCAF*);

Presentation-2: "Mechanisms for effective parliamentary oversight on Armed forces" - by Dr. Zoran DRAGISIC (*Professor at Belgrade University*);

Presentation-3: "The role of mass media for an effective control in the armed forces"- by Mr. Antonio PRLENDA (*BiH journalist*);

Presentation-4: "Nation's experiences of regional countries related with Democratic Control of Armed Forces" (*Presentation from Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Slovenia representatives*).

The Seminar was very successful and the participants found a good possibility to discuss topics and generate fresh ideas by round table discussion and case study. After two days seminar in RACVIAC, all the participants agree with the necessity for having a common approach in the area of DCAF in the region. For that they propose to have more common initiatives in the future. They also agreed that the process for Democratic Control of Armed Forces has to be implemented under the control of the Parliament to be fully transparent for the media, civil society, and public opinion.



The lectures of the seminar, combined with active participation in round table discussions and working group session, motivated the participants and gave them necessary tools to develop a positive approach towards the importance of true democracy in today's constantly changing world, focusing specifically within the SEE region and to launch a think tank as follows:

- Without good Governance and Reform of the Security Sector there will be no peace, no rule of law, no democracy, no investment, no development and no human security.
- DCAF does not cover only Armed Forces but also includes all components of the security sector.
- Democratic control of security forces or civil-military relations differs from country to country. It should depend on the needs of the countries.
- Democratic Control of Armed Forces is a permanent process. Even developed countries should permanently update the level of DCAF and Security Sector as well.
- According to new threat perception security forces should be reshaped and laws should be changed.

- Political parties should have enough interest in DCAF. The Parliamentary committees should include representatives from different parties. Transparency is important.
- The control of the security budget is the strongest DCAF tool. The Government should be convinced in the real needs of security institutions.
- Mutual trust between security authorities and political authorities is essential and should be strengthened.
- Efficient collaboration between military and civil servants inside of the security institutions is essential. Key areas of Defence management are policy, planning and financing and are best addressed by mixed teams of civilian and military people.
- Armed Forces should have professional autonomy within the principles of Democracy.
- DCAF by state Parliament requires necessary expertise in support of the Parliamentary tasks.
- Civilian staff in security institutions should receive specialized training in the field of security sector.
- A successful DCAF requires a change in the mindset of people. The state should provide transparency and encourage the co-operation between the Governmental authorities and civil society in the field of DCAF. The network of NGO's and civilian specialists in Defence Policy should be improved.
- Law should regulate Private military/security companies. The licence procedure to these companies should be under the control of the Parliament

RACVIAC at 3rd Organizing Committee Meeting for SEEC

LtC Frank ODENDAHL, RACVIAC's Planning and Liaison Officer, participated at the 3rd Organizing Committee Meeting for Southeast European Clearing House (SEEC), which was held from 1st till 2nd September this year in Danish MOD in Copenhagen.

The aim was to prepare the 3rd SEEC Meeting in Zagreb, which is scheduled for 13th till 14th December 2005. The main effort was the administrative preparations for the 3rd SEEC Meet, but the other subjects were included, as follows:

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- The presentation of the latest status of the SEEC Database (mainly by Slovenian MOD), which looked very promising and may be quite helpful for RACVIAC Defense Conversion.
- The Defense Conversion issue, as seen by Stability Pact, RACVIAC and DCAF, was also presented, with an additional opportunity offered at the 3rd SEEC Meeting itself (Stability Pact leading).
- The presentations by the working groups of the regional countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia* and Serbia&Montenegro)

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RACVIAC visited Croatian Mine Action Centre in Sisak

On 12 September this year, Deputy Director of RACVIAC and Chief of Staff, Col Rajko DUMANČIĆ, together with Chief of Training and Verification Division, Col Emilio LIVERANI, visited the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) in Sisak. Mine action in the Republic of Croatia and CROMAC organization and activities were presented to the guests by CROMAC Deputy Director Mr Mirko IVANUŠIĆ and Head of Plan and Analysis Department, Mrs Nataša MATEŠA MATEKOVIĆ. It was agreed that CROMAC representatives will soon visit RACVIAC in Rakitje. Representatives of RACVIAC and CROMAC established a number of points of reference and as a future action, they are planning to sign Memorandum of Understanding between these two organizations.

The Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) was established by government decree on 19th February 1998 with the basic task of planning and conducting mine action in the Republic of Croatia. The landmine problem was recognised as an development, ecological and safety problem and one of the impediments to normal life and development. Accordingly, the highest state authorities are involved in the efforts to overcome the problem - the Croatian Parliament and the Government, which appoints the CROMAC Council, a body with the task of coordinating the work of CROMAC. The Croatian Mine Action Centre develops Annual Demining Plan proposals and submits them to the Government for approval. In October 2000 the Croatian Parliament passed the National Mine Action Program, determining the objective: to demine the Croatian territory by the year 2010.

First Workshop on Defence Conversion in RACVIAC

For the first time RACVIAC organized a two-day open-ended, informal "Workshop on Defence Conversion" in RACVIAC, Zagreb, from 22nd to 23rd of September 2005.

The main topics of the workshop on Defence Conversion were as follows:

- to discuss a revised version of the Concept Paper prepared for the MAG
- to discuss a second paper indicating the practical modalities for RACVIAC's involvement in the area of Defence Conversion
- receive a report on the establishment of the RACVIAC Defence Conversion Unit
- to discuss the RACVIAC report on the answers received from SEE countries to the Questionnaire on Defence Conversion Progress and Needs
- to prepare recommendations to the MAG on composition and chairs of the three Working Groups
- to prepare recommendations to the MAG for the organization and draft agenda of the first meetings of the WGs to be held before the end of 2005
- to discuss a draft programme for RACVIAC's Defence Conversion activities in 2006
- to receive a report on the estimated cost of RACVIAC's Defence Conversion activities in 2005 and 2006 and to clarify the possibilities of financial and other support by SEE governments and international partners

The workshop was organized for all MAG countries and international partners, which are ready to support Defence Conversion in SEE.

Invitations to participate in the workshop were sent to one expert from each MAG country that is authorized to speak on behalf of his/her state about defence conversion needs and financial issues (support, contributions) and to one representative of relevant organizations.

The aim of this workshop was to operationalise RACVIAC's role in the area of Defence Conversion and to prepare recommendation for the first meeting of the Working Groups at the beginning of December.

Visits outside of RACVIAC

- 08 - 14 July — **International summer seminar “PKO in SEE”**, Šipan, Croatia,
Director of RACVIAC
- 16 - 19 July — **Meeting in MOD and MFA**,
Chisinau, Moldova
Director of RACVIAC
- 19 - 20 July — **Meeting in MFA**,
Kiev, Ukraine,
Director of RACVIAC
- 6 September — **Meeting regarding Defence Conversion**,
Brussels, Belgium
Director of RACVIAC
- 09 - 11 Sept — **International summer seminar “NATO and SEE”**, Šipan, Croatia
Director of RACVIAC

Visits to RACVIAC

- 20 Jul — **Mr. Kristian FISCHER**,
Danish Assistant Minister in MOD,
— **Ms. Patricia EVANS**,
representative of Nordic Initiative
- 02 Aug — **H.E. Mr. Grégoire GOODSTEIN**,
IOM, Head of Mission in Croatia
— **Mr. Ivan ČEKO**,
RASPD Project Manager, IOM, Croatia
- 03 Aug — **H.E. Ms. Helga KONRAD**,
Austrian Ambassador to Croatia
- 13 Sep — **Gen Sergiy KIRICHENKO**,
Chief of GS of the Ukrainian AF
— **H.E. Mr. Vyctor KYRYK**,
Ukrainian Ambassador to Croatia
— **Col Vadim KHANIN**,
Deputy Chief of IMCD in Ukrainian GS
— **Col Volodymyr KONDRATIUK**,
Ukrainian Defence Attaché to Croatia

Forthcoming events - 2005.

Disaster Management

03 October - 07 October

Main Goals: ● To discuss national and regional issues on Disaster Preparedness and Prevention in SEE to deepen contacts between representatives of national, regional and international organisations, both from civilian and military institutions

Target Audience: - Representatives from MOD, MFA, MOI of SEE countries experienced in dealing with CIMIC and disaster management

Dual Use/Export Control - WG Meeting

10 October - 14 October

Main Goals: ● To examine the context and need for export control to inform about legal and administrative issues

Target Audience: - Staff from MODs and MOIs

13th MAG Meeting (*Budgetary Meeting included*)

17 October - 19 October

Main Goals: ● To guide the operation of RACVIAC, to take decisions on operation and work of RACVIAC, to approve annual programme and to decide on budget plan

Target Audience: - MAG countries, countries and international organizations which are interested in RACVIAC

Orientation Course for Site Commanders

24 October - 27 October

Main Goals: ● To inform site commanders about their respective duties and responsibilities under the requirements of the relevant documents

Target Audience: - Site commanders and staff officers from units

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 (DC).

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) and from 2005, through Workshops, RACVIAC covers DC issues.

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, September 2005.

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