



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

NEWSLETTER



PHASE TWO OF THE C-WMD NETWORK PROJECT KICKS OFF

**17TH CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION WORKSHOP
ORGANIZED IN COOPERATION WITH THE OPCW**

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE NEW RACVIAC STRATEGY

NEW RACVIAC DEPUTY DIRECTOR APPOINTED

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MG Slaven Zdilar
Mr Josip Mandić
MAJ Ivica Dželalija

FAREWELL

BG Gordana Garašić
LTC Vladimir Požgajčić



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Visit to SEEBRIG HQ



On 22 January 2020 RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, accompanied by Programme Manager for CSE Pillar COL Servet Aya, paid an official visit to SEEBRIG HQ in Tyrnavos, Hellenic Republic.

The delegation was welcomed by COMSEEBRIG BG Tudorică Petrache and briefed on SEEBRIG's history, mission, structure, capabilities, exercises and training, deployment and, lastly, its plans ahead and the plans regarding the redeployment of SEEBRIG HQ to North Macedonia.

Afterwards, MG (ret.) Bazo provided information about the scope and role of RACVIAC as a regionally owned platform for security cooperation that fosters dialogue in SEE. He also stressed the importance of both Organisations thanking SEEBRIG for its service as a military wing of the region. The Programme Manager for CSE Pillar, COL Servet Aya, briefly outlined the history, mission and activities of RACVIAC.

During the meeting further details regarding the activities that can be used as a common ground for starting mutual cooperation were discussed.

RACVIAC delegation got an opportunity to visit SEEBRIG HQ offices, the Tactical Operation Center, where they received insights on the procedures and functions, the CIS tools and equipment. ●

Meeting of the Working Group on the new RACVIAC Strategy

On 28 January 2020 the second Meeting of the Working Group on the new RACVIAC Strategy and its Action Plan 2021-2026 was held on RACVIAC premises.

The purpose of the Meeting was to discuss and coordinate details related to the inputs received from RACVIAC Members as well as to propose new topics relevant to national and regional needs regarding the proposed draft of the new Strategy and Action Plan that outline RACVIAC way ahead and main fields of interest in the future.

Opening the Meeting RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, welcomed the representatives and Subject Matter Experts from Members and Associate Members saying that the Centre greatly appreciates their outstanding support and cooperation that contribute to the Centre's future performance and overall stability and security of the region.

The Meeting continued with an introductory presentation by the Planning and Liaison Officer Col Josef Pulko who

provided brief information on the inputs and proposals received so far.

In accordance with the Meeting Agenda participants were divided into syndicates related to a specific area of interest, and discussed several details that resulted in more precise and concrete topics and activities that support the achievement of each defined objective.

The Meeting gathered representatives and subject matter experts from Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, and Turkey who, with their national inputs and expertise, invaluable contributed to better shaping the Centre's way forward. ●



Meeting of the Permanent Working Group of the Subregional Consultative Commission



RACVIAC Programme Manager for CSE Pillar, COL Servet Aya, took part in the “28th Meeting of the Permanent Working Group of the Subregional Consultative Commission of the Agreement on Subregional Armament Control” in Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 04-05 February

2020. RACVIAC participated in this Meeting as an observer in order to brief the audience about the 2020 Course Programme for the implementation of the “Agreement on Sub-regional Arms Control – Dayton Article IV Orientation Course”.

The Meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina and opened with the remarks of each signatory country representative and the OSCE. In continuation the inspections carried out in 2019 and the annual information exchanged for 2020 were analyzed. This part was supplemented by information on the preparation of the RACVIAC “Dayton Article IV Orientation Course”, planned to be hosted by Montenegro.

On the following day discussions on obligations of the Parties during the Course realization continued. During the last part of the Meeting there was an exchange of ideas and discussions were held about enhancing transparency and transfer of experience in the implementation of the Agreement. ●

Austrian Ambassador visits RACVIAC



On Monday, 10 February 2020, the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Mr Josef Markus Wuketich, paid a courtesy visit to RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

He was accompanied by COL Reinhard Stradner, the Defence Attaché.

The guests were welcomed by RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, Deputy Director BG Gordana Garašić, and RACVIAC staff members.

Following the presentation covering the history, mission, and annual Programme of the Centre MG (ret.) Bazo briefly summarized the greatest achievements and major challenges of the Centre emphasizing that it will continue to foster dialogue, mutual trust and build bridges as crucial prerequisites for stability and security of the SEE region. He also took the opportunity to express his appreciation on behalf of the Organization for the constant and invaluable contribution and support that Austria, as an Associate Member, has been providing to RACVIAC since its inception in terms of finances, expertise and overall support.

In continuation some aspects related to the membership, RACVIAC main Programme areas, and some future plans were discussed.

Ambassador Wuketich thanked for the information provided and expressed his appreciation for RACVIAC contribution to security of the SEE region as a whole. ●

Courtesy visit of Canadian Ambassador

H.E. Mr Alan Bowman, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to the Republic of Croatia, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on 12 February 2020.

After a presentation on RACVIAC history, mission and accomplishments of the Centre its Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, provided further explanations related to RACVIAC Members, partnerships, and execution of Programme of activities. Director Bazo emphasized that apart from enhancing dialogue and cooperation between SEE countries the Centre serves as a platform for networking thus building bridges and promoting mutual trust and supporting aspiring countries on their path towards European and Euro-Atlantic integrations.

MG (ret.) Bazo also took the opportunity to express hope to intensify cooperation with Canada as a RACVIAC Observer in the future, possibly in the fields of good governance, rule of law and human rights. ●



Meeting of the ESDC Executive Academic Board

On 19-20 February 2020 Ms Ana Ežova Kržaloska, Programme Manager for IRC Pillar, and COL Josef Pulko, Planning and Liaison Officer, attended the Executive Academic Board Meeting of the European Security Defence College (ESDC) in Brussels, Belgium.

The aim of the Meeting was to critically review the planning of ESDC activities for the second half of 2020 as well as the evaluation reports of the recent ESDC training activities.

RACVIAC delegation presented information on the CSDP Orientation Course which is planned to be conducted on RACVIAC premises on 11-16 October 2020 with the support of the Austrian National Defence Academy as the official ESDC Training Facility.

The purpose of the Course is to provide knowledge about CSDP institutions and instruments, a comprehensive approach to EU crisis management, civilian and military capability development, CSDP missions and operations and horizontal issues. The target audience are civil servants, diplomats, police officers and military personnel from EU

Members and the SEE candidate countries, institutions and agencies.

RACVIAC goal is to upgrade the CSDP Orientation Course to an advanced one in the near future thus further supporting EU integration processes of SEE aspiring countries.

RACVIAC became an ESDC Associated Network Partner in July 2019. ●



SEEBRIG Commander visits RACVIAC

On 25 February 2020 the Commander of the South-Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG), the Multinational Peace Force South-Eastern Europe (MPFSEE), BG Tudorica Petrache, accompanied by two staff members, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

The guests were welcomed by RACVIAC Director MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, Deputy Director BG Gordana Garašić, and RACVIAC staff members.

Following a presentation that covers the history, mission,



annual Programme and accomplishments of the Centre, RACVIAC Director provided some additional explanations related to the development of Programme of activities emphasizing that over the years it has been changing and evolving in order to reflect the Members' needs and requests. MG Bazo underlined that, for almost two decades, the Centre has been serving as an excellent platform for networking and building of security and confidence among the countries in the SEE region.

Afterwards BG Petarche took the opportunity to present the history, mission, structure, troop contributing countries, force strength and core activities of SEEBRIG. During the discussion that followed questions related to the activities of common interest as well as possibilities for more intensive cooperation in the future were raised.

The South-Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG) is currently a brigade-size formation established by seven participating nations in order to contribute to regional security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area, and to foster cooperation among the South-Eastern European countries. The Initiative is consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and is available for possible employment in UN, OSCE, NATO or EU-led conflict prevention and other peace support operations. During the last twenty years the Brigade went through intensive organizational development and enhancement of its operational readiness. The military personnel of the currently six participating countries are working harmoniously together under the motto "One team – one mission". ●

Annual Meeting of the Regional Steering Group on SALW

RACVIAC Planning and Liaison Officer for SEE Ms Kloalda Kamberi participated in the “Meeting of the Regional Steering Group (RSG) on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)” held in Belgrade on 04 March 2020.



Gathering annually since 2002 the RSG on SALW takes stock of progress in the implementation of the Regional Implementation Plan on Combating Proliferation of Salw in South East Europe.

RSG on SALW 2020, co-chaired by RCC and UNDP, hosted 65 participants working on a wide range of aspects of Arms Control in SEE - from government representatives of the region to representatives of international organizations such as OSCE, UNDP, UNODC, UNIDIR, GICHD, RACVIAC, ITF, etc., as well as representatives of diplomatic representations to Serbia. The Meeting participants emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and coordination as the most effective approach in exchanging expertise and sharing information, as well as the need for an integrated multi-sector approach to ensure an effective response to the illicit trafficking and misuse of firearms.

The RSG is composed of representatives of the governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia, and co-chaired by RCC and UNDP. ●

Croatian War College students visit RACVIAC

The 22nd generation of students of the War College "Ban Josip Jelačić" of the Croatian Armed Forces, led by Colonel Mijo Kožić, the Head, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on 04 March 2020.

The visit was a part of their Studies Program and its purpose was to familiarize students with RACVIAC as the only international organization located in the Republic of Croatia.

The students were welcomed by RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, Deputy Director BG Gordana Garašić, and other staff members.

After a presentation that covers the history, mission, and Programme of the Centre Director Bazo provided further explanations relating to the status and obligations of RACVIAC Members, secondment of personnel as well as RACVIAC role in fostering security dialogue and cooperation in the SEE region. Talking about the increasing security challenges and considering the fact that security interests and geostrategic goals of the regional countries might differ sometimes Director Bazo said that the best approach is to maintain an ongoing dialogue and cooperation.

In the discussion that followed questions about the future of RACVIAC, its new Strategy, and some new Programme areas were raised.



The 22nd generation of students of the "Ban Josip Jelačić" War College has 18 participants: 10 officers from the Croatian Armed Forces, one senior level official from the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, one police advisor from the Ministry of Interior, one member of the Croatian Fire-fighting Association, two officers from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, one from Montenegro, one from North Macedonia, and one from Slovenia.

The "Ban Josip Jelačić" War College was established in 1998 as the highest-level military school in the Republic of Croatia that is offering education for senior officers and civil servants of the Republic of Croatia and partner countries. ●

The GCMC Alumni Scholars Workshop

The George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies organized the Southeast Europe Regional *Alumni Scholars Workshop II* which was hosted by RACVIAC on 05 March 2020.

This special Workshop was designed for some GCMC Alumni members in order to review the progress and discuss the next steps in a collaborative regional alumni research project. It was a direct follow-up to the June 2019 Southeast Europe Alumni Forum "*Information, Disinformation, and Strategic Communication*". The idea was to develop timely, policy-relevant research findings that can be published and shared at related Marshall Centre seminars as well as serve as a model for other future alumni projects. The Workshop was led by Mr Matthew Rhodes, the Area Studies Chair.

SEE has been an important region for the Marshall Centre since its inception in 1993. More recently, these efforts have been taking place primarily in the context of Euro-Atlantic integration with some states achieving both EU

and NATO membership and others being in various stages of progress in achieving such goals. Over the last year-and-a-half the Marshall Centre's engagement has been further advanced through innovation via the concept of annual regional alumni fora and introduction of the Balkans 360 Initiative. ●



Visit to Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina



On 11 March 2020 Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, paid a courtesy visit to the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the meeting with Minister Fahrudin Radončić Director Bazo acquainted him with RACVIAC activities planned for 2020 and availed himself of the opportunity to thank Bosnia and Herzegovina for its ongoing and invaluable support.

In continuation the most pressing security challenges for Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the South East European region as a whole, such as illegal migration, rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as coronavirus, were discussed. Both agreed that in the future there is a lot of space for intensive cooperation in each security area.

Minister Radončić expressed the readiness of the Ministry of Security to continue cooperating with RACVIAC as well as to organize joint activities in the forthcoming period.

At the end of the Meeting RACVIAC Director underlined the full dedication of the Centre to continue supporting Euro-Atlantic integration efforts and to foster security cooperation and dialogue between its Members thus contributing to overall stability and security in the SEE region. ●

Phase Two of C-WMD Network

03-05 February 2020, RACVIAC, Croatia

The Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (C-WMD) Network has entered the fifth year of the project and at this point most of the Participating States have either completed or are in the process of completing their national WMD counterproliferation strategies and are validating them through national TTX. Currently, the project is in Phase II: Developing mechanisms and projects for future regional cooperation. Mechanisms for regional cooperation will entail a specialized e-Portal where participating states will be able to share their knowledge, information and reactions in the area of C-WMD. Furthermore, four projects have been recognized as potential areas for cooperation, ranging from creation of a Regional C-WMD Risk Atlas and a common approach to Biosecurity to Emerging Technologies Education and Training and Regional Proliferation Trends Conferences. Each of the projects will be sponsored either by RACVIAC or one of the 10 countries which participate in Phase II. One of the strategic goals of Phase II is to enhance regional ownership over the C-WMD Network.

This was the first meeting of Phase II of the C-WMD Network project, organized with continuous support from U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) that facilitates the participation of experts from the U.S. Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), the International Counterproliferation Program (ICP), the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), and Republic of Croatia.



Opening the Meeting RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, said: *“Since its beginnings in 2015 the C-WMD Network aims to assist, together with our partners, in the development of C-WMD National Strategies as well as building a strong community and network of experts in this domain. Five years on the great majority of participating nations in this project have developed or adopted C-WMD National Strategies and Action Plans. The process of testing and validating at the national level is well on its way and we are hoping that the whole cycle will be completed in the upcoming year”*. He continued by underlining: *“The risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has increased due to the evolving nature of terrorism and is further complicated by the rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce. That's why it is of great importance to look for the way ahead and find practical ways to enhance further regional cooperation in the field of counter proliferation”*.

MAJ Stephen M. Siegner from USEUCOM and LtC Donald Hausser and his successor LTC Matthew Summey from DTRA-ICP shortly welcomed the Meeting participants on behalf of the co-organizers.

The Meeting gathered 26 national representatives, members from drafting/working groups of the participating states, competent authority planners and implementers engaged in the implementation of the C-WMD national strategy from Albania, Bosnia and

The three-day Meeting of the C-WMD Network, *“C-WMD National Strategies - Nuclear Material and Security”*, was organized in RACVIAC on 03-05 February 2020.

project kicks off



Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Kosovo* as well as 14 experts from USEUCOM, DTRA, US Department of Energy, European Space Agency and the US Embassy in Zagreb.

The event was designed as an expert forum and was conducted through open discussions, case studies, presentations from experts, group exercises and a tabletop exercise, focusing on:

- national strategy development;
- progress in the development of C-WMD national strategies;
- topics connected to Nuclear Material and Security (*Safety and Security of Nuclear Sites, Threats to Transfer and Movement of Material, insider Threat Nuclear Sites, etc.*);
- recent trends and emerging technologies in WMD proliferation;
- support in execution of national tabletop exercises;
- regional projects and information sharing.



Additionally, participants exercised the use of RACVIAC e Portal for the first time, established as a mechanism that will further enhance regional cooperation and information sharing in the area of C-WMD, conducting a tabletop exercise via the Portal.

The participants worked in groups based on a few fictional scenarios designed to explore national responses in the C-WMD area. The participants acknowledged that the TTX was very useful, informative and interactive, containing a great number of elements for rapid analysis and response.

The Workshop was finalized with a comprehensive discussion on the way ahead for the overall C-WMD Network with a focus on four new projects and deeper regional cooperation.

A new workshop is scheduled for September 2020 and until then the expert team and participating states will be able to communicate, exchange information and consult over the RACVIAC e Portal which will be in continued use. ●



The C-WMD Network is a project that was launched in 2015 by the Republic of Croatia and USA with the aim to facilitate the development of national WMD counter-proliferation strategies and management of response plans. The project is supported by:

- US-EUCOM
- US Defence Threat Reduction Agency
- International Counterproliferation Programme
- Proliferation Security Initiative, and
- Republic of Croatia.

* This Designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence (In accordance with Arrangements regarding regional representation and cooperation.)

17th Chemical Weapons Convention

25-26 February 2020, RACVIAC, Croatia

Workshops focusing on the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) have been organized annually since 2004 thanks to RACVIAC cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The 2020 Workshop was the 17th joint event aimed to promote the goals of disarmament, non-proliferation, peaceful uses of chemicals and full implementation of the Convention in South-Eastern Europe directly enhancing regional stability, transparency and trust. This year the main focus was on the issue of Chemical Safety and Security.

A two-day Chemical Weapons Convention Workshop, organized in partnership with the OPCW, was conducted in RACVIAC on 25-26 February 2020.



The ultimate aim of the OPCW is to achieve a world permanently free of chemical weapons and to contribute to international security and stability, general and complete disarmament, and global economic development.

The 2020 Workshop was a continuation of fruitful cooperation between RACVIAC and the OPCW in promoting the implementation of the CWC in South-Eastern Europe which directly enhances regional stability, transparency and trust. Activities focusing on the provisions of the CWC have been organized in RACVIAC annually since 2004.



It is essential to have a complex picture about the issues, the players – multiple agencies, military and civilian – as well as the most burning questions which may affect the present and the future of the CWC/OPCW. There are numerous challenges in terms of the implementation of the CWC and the prevention of the intentional misuse of chemicals. The purpose of this specific Workshop was to discuss relevant issues related to the CWC and to provide a broad overview of the Convention and its implementation procedures with a specific focus on chemical safety and security. A thorough understanding of chemical safety and security is an essential first step to prevent accidental or intentional misuse of these materials.



This year the focus was on the topic of Chemical Security Management through Scenario Based Strategies - an Advanced Approach. The Workshop was built on last year's results and conclusions having a more advanced approach to the topic. The feature introduced last year, namely, the tabletop exercise (TTX), was also used in the course of this event in an even more advanced format than last year.

Workshop organized in cooperation with the OPCW

Furthermore, the Workshop provided a forum for the countries of the region to present their national CWC implementation-related programmes in terms of safety and security, to exchange information, discuss problematic areas and find possible solutions. The information-sharing feature of the activity contributed to the participants' as well as the OPCW representatives' more thorough understanding of the measures and the mechanisms that are currently in place in the different countries of the region.

Opening the Workshop RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, said: *"It is essential for all players in this very complex and also specialized field, encompassed by the CWC, to have a complex picture about the issues, the ways of prevention, the other players as well as the possible solutions and*



answers if problems arise". He underlined that the Workshop would provide an updated overview of the CWC implementation issues, explore by means of scenarios the tools for managing chemical safety and security and, inter alia, provide a detailed overview of how to develop an effective action plan to cope with chemical threats. Director Bazo also took the opportunity to extend his gratitude to the representatives of OPCW, Dr Rohan Perera (Senior Programme Officer) and Mr Vaclovas Semaskevicius (Programme Officer), for their invaluable contribution and cooperation.

Speaking on behalf of the OPCW Dr Rohan Perera said: *"The work of the OPCW, a Nobel Peace Prize winning organization, has brought the international community closer to achieving a world free from an entire category of weapons of mass destruction."* He continued by saying: *"The Convention is now close to obtaining universal adherence, with a membership that currently stands at 193 countries, making it one of the most successful disarmament and non-proliferation treaties".* Speaking about safety and security management Dr Perera



underlined that the key approach is to reduce and eliminate the risks from the use of toxic chemicals through the supply chain. He also emphasized the importance of the regional approach.

The Welcome addresses were followed by the presentation of Mr Vaclovas Semaskevicius, Programme Officer, Implementation Support Branch, OPCW, titled *"CWC Implementation: Future Programme and Activities"*, providing an updated overview of the CWC with particular emphasis on the most recent developments as well as on the major achievements and challenges. Mr Semaskevicius introduced the four pillars of the CWC (Disarmament; Non-proliferation; Assistance&Protection and International Cooperation) as well as the main programmes, training and capacity-building activities. He pointed out that the present Workshop is the 17th joint event which indicates that RACVIAC has been supporting the implementation of the CWC from the very beginnings.

Dr Rohan Perera, OPCW: *"The Chemical Weapons Convention is now close to obtaining universal adherence with a membership that currently stands at 193 countries making it one of the most successful disarmament and non-proliferation treaties."*

This introductory presentation was followed by that of Dr Rohan Perera, *"Scenario-Based Studies to Manage Chemical Safety and Security Threats; Strategies, Components, and Framework"*. Dr Perera provided a basic overview of the management of chemical safety and security threats by means of scenarios. A particularly interesting and thought-provoking aspect of his presentation was the outlining of new types of scenarios due to new circumstances as well as

new developments overtaking old circumstances. He pointed out how significant it is to plan scenarios in order to rule out as well as to be prepared for the possible diversion of chemicals. Safety policy would be a must in all countries, but it is missing in several of them. Scenario-based strategies are essential in the prevention of accidents, he said, and added: "We cannot improve what we cannot measure".

Dr Perera continued with *"Development of an Effective Action Plan to Manage Chemical Safety and Security Threats through SWOT Analysis; Scenarios, Design, KPI, Road Map and Implementation Strategies"* thus introducing the Workshop participants to the basics of an effective action plan in terms of chemical safety management, followed by an overview of the high risk chemicals and their industrial application. He emphasized how important it is to identify the potential consequences for each failure, and stressed that a "hawk's-eye view" is to be applied, i.e., a systematic approach is to be taken to achieve a better result.

The afternoon was reserved for national presentations. The Workshop participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, and Kosovo* provided very interesting and valuable insights in the course of short presentations on their national systems and mechanisms as well as their agencies' core tasks with a focus on *"Chemical Safety and Security Management: Good Practices with Case Studies/National Frameworks in Relation*

to Safety and Security Issues".

The first day of the Workshop was finalized with Dr Perera's presentation on practical examples on why the human factor matters in terms of chemical safety and security and a detailed preparation for the TTX. Dr Perera also elaborated on the SHEL model, one of the main tools to be used during the TTX.

The second working day was completely devoted to the *"TTX – Human Factor in Terms of Chemical Security and Safety"*. During the introduction, Dr Perera explained why TTXs matter and why scenarios are essential. In the course of the TTX the participants worked in three groups on the basis of scenarios, designed in a way that even those who were not experts in the chemical field could understand them. The participants were to present their findings at the end of all phases of the TTX. The TTX was extremely informative and interactive: the participants enjoyed it to a large extent and considered it very useful.

At the end Mr Vaclovas Semaskevicius provided a brief insight into the national implementation framework. He added some final remarks concluding that all objectives of the activity were completed.

The event was closed with an evaluation and a brief closing ceremony. ●



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Major General Slaven Zdilar assumed the position of RACVIAC Deputy Director on 16 March 2020 after being seconded to the Centre by the Croatian Ministry of Defence. His last assignment was as Inspector General at the Defence Inspectorate, Croatian Ministry of Defence. Prior to that, in the course of his military career that spans over 30 years, he performed several commanding duties in the Croatian Armed Forces and the Croatian Defence Academy. He has completed numerous national and foreign schools and courses, most notably the "Ban Josip Jelačić" War College in Zagreb, Croatia. He has been awarded several military medals and orders throughout his career. Major General Zdilar holds a Master's degree from the Faculty of Science at the University of Zagreb (1999) and has earned a PhD in 2007. He is married and has three children.

Mr Josip Mandić, LL.M. has been seconded to RACVIAC as a C-WMD Network Leader from Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia in February 2020. During his 15-year long service in Croatian MoD he has held various positions dealing with international law, with a focus on International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law. Mr Mandić passed the bar exam in 2009 and during his professional career has gained impressive experience in such areas as Negotiations, Strategic Planning and Creating Legal Documents. He is happily married and a father of a son and lives in Zagreb. He enjoys a good book or a movie and trains in amateur triathlon under the motto: „why suck at one sport when you can suck at three.“



MAJ Ivica Dželalija joined RACVIAC in February 2020 as Chief of Service Branch. MAJ Dželalija is a naval officer and has been serving in the Croatian Navy for the past 24 years, including two tours with the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) as a military observer. He is an experienced Mechanical engineer and during his military career he was responsible for maintenance of naval vessels, missiles, engines and other mechanical systems. He is also an experienced fire prevention officer, which includes conduct of theoretical and practical exercises for fire prevention. His other interests and roles include training (mentoring and performance appraisal), financial management and procurement.





RACVIAC bade farewell to its Deputy Director **BG Gordana Garašić** on 15 March 2020. It has been a great pleasure working with her during her three-and-half-year tour of duty at RACVIAC. Thanks to her extensive professional and international experience and knowledge BG Garašić made a great contribution to RACVIAC, not only in planning and developing RACVIAC Programme activities, but also in daily routine work. As an experienced gender expert she put invaluable personal efforts into greater recognition and promotion of the Centre as a regional hub for gender training. BG Garasic was not only an efficient and successful Deputy Director, but also a good colleague. We would like to express our gratitude for her dedicated and professional work and wish her all the best in both future military career and private life.

LTC Vladimir Požgajčić ended his four-year tour of duty at RACVIAC on 31 January 2020. He will be remembered for his exceptional professionalism, reliability and attention to organization of RACVIAC Programme activities as well as smooth performance of all daily tasks, reflected in his work as the Chief of the Service Branch. He proved to be an excellent team player, able to carry out his duties to the benefit of our Organization but also a trustworthy and supportive colleague to all of us. LTC Požgajčić is continuing his career at the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia and we are sure he will prove to be an invaluable asset in his new position at the Service for Project Management.



In view of the rapidly evolving situation due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and related restrictions in the Republic of Croatia and all our Member countries please be informed that the RACVIAC Programme Activities that were scheduled for March, April, May and beginning of June are postponed.

We will observe the situation carefully and in accordance with the recommendations of the Institutions for Public Health and other relevant government agencies, as well as the information provided by our Members, we will inform you about the new dates for the said activities timely.

Possible new dates you can find on our webpage:
www.racviac.org



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

fostering dialogue
and cooperation
on security matters

20 YEARS

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