



**CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION**  
**Training & Verification Division**

**English Arms Control Terminology Course**

**Zagreb, 10 – 21 March 2008**

*In cooperation with JACIG  
(Joint Arms Control  
Implementation Group) UK,  
Ministry of Defence of the  
Republic of Serbia and  
Ministry of Defence of the  
Republic of Croatia*

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, in cooperation with JACIG, MoD Serbia and MoD Croatia conducted English Arms Control Terminology Course in Zagreb, Croatia, from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2008.



*Course participants*

By conducting these English Arms Control Terminology Courses,

RACVIAC is assisting the countries in the region in increasing English conversational capabilities of the officers and civilians dealing with Arms Control and Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs) in the Southeast European (SEE) region.

As a regional centre, RACVIAC has been providing an open forum for discussions regarding existing agreements and encouraging and assisting representatives of the region to participate even more effectively in the implementation of many Arms Control Agreements they have concluded. At the same time, RACVIAC has also been

*Avoid  
misunderstanding,  
establish a common  
understanding*

materializing the principle of regional ownership by closely co-operating with English lecturers, interpreters and Arms Control inspectors. The purpose of this course was to avoid misunderstanding by establishing a common understanding of the wording, hence increasing English conversational capabilities of civilians and officers dealing with Arms Control in the SEE region and improving the knowledge of the Arms Control treaties with a view to enhancing the regional co-operation by



fostering comprehensive dialogue on security issues.



*Learning English*

The course objectives were to refresh the knowledge of English grammar, to build and enlarge the vocabulary of the Terminology of Arms Control Treaties, to share specific knowledge and expertise about Arms Control and CSBMs, to initiate conversation on Arms control treaties and topics related to the military life and global organizations cooperating with military and to increase English conversational capabilities in general.



*Working in groups*

Thirty representatives either military and/or civilian personnel, experienced or non-experienced members of Verification Agencies dealing with Arms Control and other CSBMs measures, namely from: Austria, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and RACVIAC participated in this course. Lessons, presentations and workshops were given by Ms Natalija TISANIĆ, Translator / Croatian Verification Agency; Ms Katarina TERZIĆ, Senior Desk Officer / Sector for Defence Policy, MoD Republic of Serbia; Ms Mirjana KORICA, Desk Officer/MoD Republic of Serbia; Interpreter/Inspector Chf Tech Ian Megennis and Interpreter/Inspector FS Stephanie Johnson both from JACIG UK.

**Working methodology**

The course focussed mainly on communication skills, but it also comprised reading, listening and limited writing fragments. The participants were divided into three individual morning

*Working in groups;  
increasing  
conversation skills*

groups and two individual afternoon groups due to their results on the initial

Grammar / Vocabulary test on the first day. The participants had seven lessons of English language a day, starting with



*Preparing for an inspection*

\* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.



the grammar work and followed by three lessons focussing on conversation, reading and writing skills. During the afternoon lessons the participants concentrated more thoroughly on the Arms Control Treaties (e.g. VD 99, Dayton article IV, CFE, etc).



**Executing an inspection**

The practical part of the course, which was organized and executed as an inspection on the last day of the course, provided the participants with an excellent opportunity to see how they could use the acquired terminology and theory knowledge in the “real life” situations.

### **Summary**

All the participants showed strong willingness to improve their English language skills and, in particular, high interest in increasing arms control discussion capabilities. An increase in individual progress has been noted and one could say that this English Arms Control Terminology Course contributed significantly to achieving a standardized approach to the Agreements.

Chf Tech Ian Megennis and FS Stephanie Johnson put in a considerable effort in organizing the practical part of the course and executing the inspection.

In this way the participants were provided with the opportunity to exercise the usage of the acquired terminology and theory in practice. The participants expressed great appreciation for this endeavour.

Since the knowledge of the English language is essential for common understanding and co-operation among the countries, participants from the SEE countries expressed their strong interest in continuation of such courses in the future.

We strongly believe that such Arms Control Terminology Courses would improve the current situation in the SEE countries by assisting the countries in the region to engage into closer dialogue, thus ensuring more active involvement in other activities organized by RACVIAC.

The representatives from all the countries agreed on the necessity of even greater co-operation on the national and international level in exchanging different views and opinions and sharing information.

The important feature of the Language Training Course is the opportunity to host the participants and lecturers from all the interested countries and to observe a unique cooperative and friendly spirit among them. The period of two weeks was long enough to establish good friendship hence, setting up the foundations for a strong professional networking in the future with a view to enhancing CSBMs in the SEE region.

The costs of the activity were completely covered by the United Kingdom.

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