



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

“Vienna Document 1999 Orientation Course”

30 June – 04 July 2008

Sponsored by the Federal Republic of Germany

I. INTRODUCTION

RACVIAC Training & Verification Division organized and executed the Course C-05 from **30th June – 04th July 2008** pursuant to the RACVIAC programme 2008. The Course was conducted in two phases, a theoretical phase, comprising lectures and presentations, and a practical phase, executed in Croatia (**RACVIAC / Rakitje, and at the 91st Air Base Pleso in Zagreb**). The Course working language was English.



Course Participants

The Course was organised for the fifth time in favour of military and civilian representatives of the countries of Southeast European region. The four-day Course provided the participants with the opportunity to meet their colleagues from the SEE region as well as to meet representatives/experts from different countries, organizations and agencies, all dealing with the execution of the VD 99’ and/or other arms control regimes for years.

II. PROGRAM/METHODOLOGY

The Course was conducted as a combination of lectures (presentations) and practical activities. The practical phase included an evaluation visit.

The theoretical phase took place in RACVIAC/Rakitje and the practical phase at the 91st Air Base Pleso in Zagreb.

The purpose of this Course was to provide participants with a theoretical overview of the VD 99’, giving a comprehensive analysis of both, theoretical and practical level of the implementation of these activities. It was organized in accordance with the Vienna Document 1999, focusing on the duties and responsibilities of the personnel to be engaged in the implementation of the aforementioned arms control document, demonstrating the real spirit of the confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs).

a) **Course Objectives were:**

- To overview the specified elements of the VD 99', highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules and procedures of their execution;
- To provide the participants with the information about the current situation in the implementation of VD 99';
- To train the participants in the subjects related to the planning and conducting of such activities either for the role of visitor/evaluator or escort pursuant to the best practices;
- To deepen contacts between representatives of national organisations and agencies engaged in the arms control and/or security- and confidence-building measures accomplishments;
- To provide participants with the opportunity to exercise or "observe" the real events, particularly during the practical part of the Course, thus adding a real value to the efforts of the SEE region in building security culture and environment, as well as showing fields and ways as how to work in the future as a platform for co-operation on national, regional and international level.

b) **Participation**

Twenty participants from eight MAG countries participated in the Course, namely from Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Croatia (one participant attended the Course, due to engagement in other VD 99 activity), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (3), Moldavia (3), Montenegro (3), Republic of Serbia (2) and Slovenia (2).

Lecturers were invited from Austria (1) Croatia (1), Germany (1), Hungary (1), Turkey (1), and one lecturer from the NATO Arms Control and Coordination Section (ACCS).

However, the NATO ACCS representative was not able to participate in the Course. Five lecturers altogether assisted the activity by delivering presentations on the topics regarding VD' 99.

In total, there were 25 participants, representing 12 countries, present at this Course.



Course Participants

c) **Overview of the Course**

RACVIAC conducted Training Course (C-05) in cooperation with the Croatian authorities. During the four-day Course the participants examined and discussed the relevant paragraphs of the Vienna Document 1999. They were given the opportunity to meet their colleagues and representatives/experts from organisations and agencies from the SEE region, all dealing with the execution of the VD 99' and/or other arms control regimes for years and ready to share lessons learned and discuss the challenges and problems encountered.

Five lecturers altogether assisted the activity by delivering presentations on the following topics:



Commander Hans-H Schneider from Germany

1. «*History – Background of CSBMs in Europe and their Contribution to the International Stability and Peace*»
2. «*VD'99: Contents, Main Components and Basic Definitions*»
3. «*“VD-99: Annual Calendars, Constraining Provisions Regional Measures”*»
4. «*“VD-99: Prior Notification & Observation of Certain Military Activities*»



Maj Peter Benei from Hungary

1. «*“VD 99: Information Exchange Provisions and Notification Formats”*»
2. «*“VD-99: Risk Reduction”*»



LtCol Heinz Trenk from Austria

«*“VD-99: Contacts”* »



LtCol Yusuf Erdogan from Turkey

«*“VD-99: Inspection and Evaluation Visit”* »



Sgt Ed Batlak from Croatia

«*“Safety Measures and Regulations to be Followed During Inspections and Evaluation Visits”*»



LtCol Kalman Nemeth from RACVIAC

«“VD-99: Practical part of the Course at the 91st Air Base Pleso in Zagreb”»

During the practical phase the participants were divided into two teams and conducted an evaluation visit.



Clarifying the situation

They practiced performing their duties both, as members of the evaluation team and escort team during their evaluation visit to 91st Air Base, and pursuant to the following procedures:

- Preparation of the Evaluation Visit,
- Execution of the Evaluation Visit,
- Debriefing

The invited lecturers covered all the topics efficiently and presented a comprehensive and detailed enough overview of the relevant parts of the Document taken for investigation. After presentations there was

only a very a short discussion (“questions and answers”) period proposed and aimed at clarifying the questions occurred.



“Playing the Game”

This Course provided participants with the opportunity to exercise the real events and real life situations as members of the evaluation team during the practical part of the Course, thus adding a real value to the efforts of the SEE region in building security culture and environment as well as showing fields and ways as how to work in the future as a platform for co-operation on national, regional and international level.

III. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

“Vienna Document 1999 Orientation Course” proved to be successful by the participants` assessments given at the end of the event. They all agreed on the necessity of conducting these kinds of courses in the future. Although a majority of the participants, arriving from national arms control agencies or verification centres, have already had the basic knowledge about the VD 99` and/or other arms control regimes and CSBMs, there were few part-time inspectors and “new arrivals” amongst them. It must be emphasized that all the participants were attracted by the topics and highly motivated during the Course.

Issues to be highlighted:

- The invited lecturers covered the relevant theoretical part of the VD' 99. According to the participants' remarks the lectures/experts met the requirements. Most of the presentations were met with high interest.
- Participants were most interested and highly motivated during the Course. Although they only had a *very short* period of time for questions after the presentations, there were not any open question left by the end of the presentation and participants were satisfied with the answers.
- Generally, the participants were satisfied with the topics chosen and with the Course itself. They suggested organizing similar, even more detailed courses with some syndicate work and even more detailed and longer theoretical part in the future.
- The practical phase of the Course was well-organized thanks to the professionalism and preparedness of the 91st Air Base staff (local escort), as well as the good and close cooperation between RACVIAC and the Croatian Ministry of Defence and Verification Centre. For the future possible courses it is recommended to follow these procedures for arranging a practical phase

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