



# RACVIAC Newsletter

REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE CENTRE

Issue 2

September 2003

## 8<sup>th</sup> MAG Meeting

36 representatives from 17 countries met in RACVIAC, in Zagreb, Croatia, from Monday 22 to Wednesday 24 September 2003, for the eighth meeting of the Multinational Advisory Group. Also present at the meeting was Ambassador Janez PREMOZE, the Co-Chairman of Working Table III of the Stability Pact, as well as observers from Spain and Norway. The meeting was chaired by Brigadier General Marjan GRABNAR from Slovenia.

Major topics discussed during the meeting included:

- RACVIAC's Programme for 2004
- Financing of RACVIAC for 2004/2005
- RACVIAC's Personnel Policy
- The Current Agreement and Possible Future Multilateral Agreement

The proposed programme for 2004 was approved and a number of MAG nations officially pledged their financial contributions to RACVIAC's budget for 2004, and beyond in some cases, ensuring the funds for RACVIAC to carry out its proposed activities in 2004. Norway, as a major contributor, is now a full member of the MAG. The USA has withdrawn from the MAG.

Between now and the next MAG Meeting, which will take place in Ankara, Turkey in April 2004, work will begin on finalising the details of the Programme in cooperation with other institutions working in the same field. The auditing process for RACVIAC's Budget will start at the beginning of next year.



A number of meetings will be held to prepare for the next MAG: Manpower Planning Meeting—to define current rotation of posts; Budget Planning Meeting and a meeting devoted specifically to developing basis for a new Multilateral Agreement

The Croatian Deputy Defence Minister, Mr Zlatko GARELJIC, hosted a reception in the MOD on Tuesday 23 September 2003. At the end of the meeting on Wednesday 24 September, the Chairperson, Brigadier General Marjan GRABNAR, handed over the chair to Brigadier General Suleyman CANPOLAT from Turkey. General CANPOLAT is currently serving on the Turkish General Staff in Ankara, in the Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division.

## Meeting on Security Issues in RACVIAC

The Regional Arms Control Verification Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) will hold a Meeting on Security Issues of Common Interest in SEE. This meeting will be a follow-on meeting from the successful meeting held jointly with OSCE (CPC) in December 2002, and will take place in RACVIAC, from Monday 6 to Wednesday 8 October 2003.

The aim of the meeting will be to continue to explore areas of common interest, and to define core issues that require attention in the forthcoming year. It also aims to highlight where the focus of our mutual interest should be and to find out where we can further increase co-operation and support between our organisations in the future, thus avoiding duplication of effort and therefore maximising our resources.

Representatives from the following organisations have been invited to participate: Stability Pact, OSCE, Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), South Eastern Europe Clearing House for SALW (SEESAC), Center for European Security Studies (CESS), Geneva Center for Security Policy, George C. Marshall Center, SECI Centre, South Eastern Defence Ministerial (SEDM), UNDP, BONN International Centre for Conversion (BICC).

## RACVIAC and DCAF Join Forces

On 15 July 2003, RACVIAC (The Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre) and DCAF (The Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces) formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organisations. This event took place during the Director of DCAF, Ambassador WINKLER's, visit to Zagreb and RACVIAC.

RACVIAC has accumulated very considerable experience and expertise in South East Europe in the fields of arms control, modernising and reshaping armed forces, promoting confidence and security building measures (CSBMs), the role of public awareness in security policy, and related areas.

DCAF has gained substantial expertise in the area of democratic control of armed forces and the security sector, defence and security reform, civilian and parliamentary oversight of security affairs, and related areas.



Both organizations are convinced that their activities are complementary and, therefore, have decided to strengthen their co-operation.

This MOU aims to establish effective co-operation between the two organisations, with a view to assisting security and defence reform of South Eastern European countries, in particular in the following areas:

- Support to the reform of the armed forces in SEE
- Assist in developing the capabilities of civilians and the military engaged in security sector reform.
- Underscoring the role of the parliaments in their oversight functions of security and defence and to developing the required ability and skill
- Selected border management issues
- Democratic control of security forces

- Emphasizing the role of civil society and the media on public awareness on political military and arms control issues.

- Confidence and security building measures at the regional level

Brigadier General Johann PUCHER, Director RACVIAC and Ambassador Dr. Theodor WINKLER, Director of DCAF signed the MOU.

## Fire Fighting at Work

Fire is undoubtedly one of the most frightening things that can happen in the work place, and it is important to ensure that your staff know exactly what they should do and also what procedures should be followed in case such a situation arises.

On 2nd July, RACVIAC, in co-operation with IMOC (the Croatian International Military Operations Centre – also located in Rakitje Barracks) and the local area Fire Brigades, decided to run a Joint Fire Protection Exercise. The aim of this exercise was not only to test staff procedures and the equipment within the barracks, but also to test the local Fire Brigades – who signed an agreement with RACVIAC last year to assist in case of fire. This is the first such agreement signed between a civil fire brigade and a military base or organization in Croatia. This exercise also aimed to enhance and further co-operation between the international staff of RACVIAC, IMOC staff and the local community.

In this first joint fire exercise, a number of different scenarios involving fire were carried out. Over 30 firemen and six fire engines were involved from: Rakitje, Strmec, Kerestinec and Sveta Nedelja and in addition, the Chief of Samobor Fire Brigade. Only the leader of the fire station in Rakitje was informed that it was an exercise, not the firemen themselves, which undoubtedly added to the reality of the event.





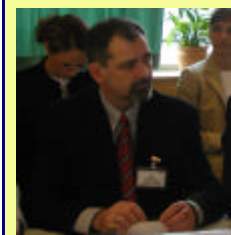
During the exercise the following was checked:

- The fire protection procedures in case of emergency,
- The evacuation procedures,
- The first aid procedures,
- The time of interventions
- The protection equipment inside the buildings and inside the barracks,
- The behavior of staff member in case of fire alert,
- and the Fire Brigade also gave a demonstration of how to use various types of fire extinguisher, and staff members were able to try simple but important procedure out for themselves.



The exercise was a great success, and a number of small problems that arose during the event can now be solved to ensure that everything will work like clockwork in

case of the real thing. The whole event ended fittingly with a BBQ – but thankfully the only thing to go up in flames was the beefsteak!!!!



RACVIAC bids a fond farewell to Stewart Henderson, who leaves his post as Director of Working Table III of the Stability Pact this month, to join the Canadian EU Mission. He will be replaced by Mr Pieter Verbeek from the Netherlands.

We would like to thank Stewart for his outstanding support and guidance to RACVIAC during the past 2 years. Undoubtedly, his active and constructive approach at various Stability Pact events, as well as RACVIAC Seminars and meetings, helped very much in establishing RACVIAC as a well-recognized forum for dialogue and co-operation in the field of arms control and wider security issues in SEE.

### The Heads of Verification Agencies Meet at RACVIAC

17 representatives from 14 countries' Verification Centres/Agencies participated in the "Head of Verification Centres/Agencies Meeting" organised by RACVIAC on 18 June 2003 in its facilities in Rakitje/Zagreb. Amongst the participants were the MAG Representatives from Germany - Brigadier General Jens ZIMMERMAN, Hungary - Col Laszlo VARGA,

### Visits to RACVIAC

11 - 13 Jul — *Seminar of the Konrad ADENAUER Stiftung*

15 Jul — *HE Ambassador Dr. Theodor WINKLER, Director DCAF Geneva*



15 Jul — *HE Ambassador Knut TORAASENN, Norwegian Ambassador to Croatia*

6 Aug — *Lt Col Peter van den ANKER, Defence Attache of the Netherlands*

Romania - Colonel Marin RADU, and the FYR of Macedonia - Lieutenant Colonel Zvonko ATAN - ASOVSKI. The aim of the meeting was to gather representative's proposals/topics for possible inclusion in the content of RACVIAC's Programme for 2004, as well as to resolve some problems faced by both sides in order to continue further successful work in the future. The Agenda included the following topics for discussion:

- Discussion on the planned activities in 2003, approved by MAG (VD99, Dayton Art. IV, Aerial Observation/Open Skies Course & SALW)
- Proposals for RACVIAC's Programme 2004/2005
- AOB (financial aspects, duration of courses-seminars, flow of information, level of representatives



## The “Oslo Guidelines” - Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief

The M-2 Workshop on “The Impact of Disasters on the Security Environment in South Eastern Europe (SEE) – Regional Efforts; Guidelines on the use of military and civil defence assets in disaster relief (Oslo Guidelines)” was conducted from 8th to 9th of July in Rakitje/Croatia (RACVIAC). It was organized as the result of the conclusions of the first Seminar on “The impact of disasters on the security environment in SEE” that took place in RACVIAC in March 2003.

The aim of the workshop was to meet the participant’s requirements/needs as expressed at the first seminar. At that time several suggestions were expressed concerning the broadening of knowledge, skills and training in CM Coord/CIMIC, especially based on the Oslo Guidelines.

Fifteen participants attended the workshop from Albania, Austria, Bosnia/Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Greece, Poland, Serbia/Montenegro and Slovenia.

Lectures were provided by Gen.ret Günther GREINDL (former chairman of the MCDA project), Mrs. Cvetka KRAJIC TOMIN (Executive Secretary DPPI), Mrs. Ingrid NORDSTROM-HO (UN-OCHA-Deputy Chief, Military and Civil Defence Unit), Mr. Sune FOLIN (IFRC - Regional Disaster Preparedness Delegate), Mr. Wolfgang KRAJIC (Expert), Mr. Karl DEURETZBACHER (Austrian MoD/Military Policy Division), Mr. Arno UMFÄHRER (Austrian MoD/NBC Defence School).

The workshop provided the opportunity for national participants to deepen their knowledge about the Oslo Guidelines and it was concluded that the following actions could be deepened, possibly with RACVIAC as mediator:

- better awareness of Oslo Guidelines;
- emphasis on national preparedness and regional co-operation; exercises, workshops;

- smooth border crossing procedures to alleviate difficulties when receiving assistance;
- assist the countries in their national preparedness, especially with reference to the use of Oslo Guidelines in preparing a prompt and efficient reaction to national emergencies;
- support better co-operation between civilian and military organizations, including NGOs;
- assist countries to establish bilateral, multilateral agreements;
- continue fostering regional dialogue on disaster management with RACVIAC as mediator in the process of developing national plans and structures.

## Practice Inspection in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The T5 Training Course was the 2nd joint Course with NATO School (Oberammergau) on the DAYTON Article IV – Arms Control Implementation Inspector/Escort (M63). It was conducted from 2nd to 13th of June 2003 in two phases: Theoretical phase (1st week) in Rakitje/Croatia (RACVIAC) and the Practical phase (2nd week) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Locations: Bileca and Mostar).

The aim of the course was to prepare designated individuals to perform duties as inspectors and/or escorts in accordance with the Dayton Agreement, Article IV and to establish a common approach to the Agreement in order to ensure mutual confidence and transparency during the performance of their tasks.

Fifteen participants attended the course (BA, HR, S&M), and another four participants in the role of assistants from OSCE member-nations (CZ, ES, FR and PL).



RACVIAC hosted eight lecturers from the following Nations/Organizations: HR, FBiH, FR, DE, RS, S&M and the OSCE.

The Course was conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation into the Croatian language. The 1st phase (02 – 06 June) was a combination of lectures and syndicate work on the content of the DAYTON Art.IV, and on the accomplishment of the mission planning.

The 2nd phase (09 - 13 June) was a training inspection on a declared site, in accordance with Dayton Article IV. During the 2nd week of the Training





Course, the class was divided into two teams, which acted both as Inspection and Escort Teams, into two completely different locations (declared sites: Bileca and Mostar, BiH).



They planned and organized the whole mission's plan according to their duties (Inspectors/Escorts). Finally they accomplished the debriefing

and the conclusion of the Training inspection.

The amended T5 course program proved to be successful. The good cooperation between the two major institutes dealing with DPA art IV training (RACVIAC-NATO SCHOOL) was underlined. Although further improvement is possible, it is obvious that this course was more than a mere step forward in the professional co-operation between the 2 institutions involved.



The next course will take place from 15 – 26 Sept 2003 in Croatia and Serbia & Montenegro.

### First Joint RACVIAC/SEESAC Seminar

From 27-30 July 2003, RACVIAC held a Seminar, in co-operation with SEESAC, on "Best Practice in Communication and Awareness Raising of Arms Control Issues Using SALW as a Model". The aim of this seminar was :

- To underline the role of media in spreading knowledge and awareness regarding security issues for the regional peace and security.
- To determine the possible contribution and requirements of media on public awareness regarding Small Arms Light Weapons and other specific Arms Control issues in South East Europe (communication strategies and media operations).

The objectives of this seminar were to:

- Inform participants on:
  - Arms Control and SALW issues in SEE
  - The SEESAC SALW Awareness Support Pack (SASP)
- Review, outreach and develop the SEESAC SALW Awareness Support Pack
- Strengthen the links between media, civil society, international institutions and governments regarding AC and SALW

- Determine the role, possible contribution and requirements of media on public awareness regarding Arms Control issues in SEE, in particular SALW
- Identify possible future activities regarding AC and SALW public awareness

The seminar was designed for personnel working to raise awareness on AC/SALW issues. 26 participants, from a variety of NGO's, public relations cells, relevant institutions and academic experts working in the field of SALW region took part. The keynote speech was given by Ambassador Tihomir ILIEVSKI, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



### PEOPLE IN RACVIAC

#### Goodbyes:

##### Master Sergeant Uwe SCHULZ

RACVIAC said very sad farewell to Master Sergeant (GE ARMY) Uwe SCHULZ who joined RACVIAC just after its opening on 5 January 2001 as the Accountant Disbursing Officer, in Admin and Finance Cell.

On 13 September 2003, after his 998 days of duty in RACVIAC, Uwe will move back to Germany, where he will take over his new job as Senior Clerk in the German Defense Liaison Office in Bonn. He will live with his family in Troisdorf a small town near Bonn.

##### Lt Col Manfred BLUEMME

At the end of August, RACVIAC said farewell to Lt Col Manfred Bluemmel. Manfred joined the staff in March 2002 and was the S3 Officer, in the Director and COS's Office. He returns to his home town of Graz in Austria, where he will take up his new post in the Austrian Verification Unit.

##### Lt Col Johannes Hellenschmidt

Lt Col Johannes Hellenschmidt joined RACVIAC in September 2003, having spent 3 years in Croatia already as the German Defence Attache. He worked as the Chief Planning and Liaison Officer responsible for International Organisations/W Europe. Johannes left RACVIAC in September and will take up his new post as G-2 in the 14<sup>th</sup> Armoured Infantry Division in Neubrandenburg.

**PEOPLE IN RACVIAC**

**Hellos:**

**Mst Sgt Sascha HAMPEL**

MSgt Sascha Hampel joined RACVIAC at the beginning of September as the new accountant-disbursing officer.

Before he came to RACVIAC he was also an accountant-disbursing officer in Germany, in a logistic company in Diez near Koblenz, but his major specialization is as a wireless operator.

**Lt Col Dieter ROTHBACHER**

RACVIAC welcomes Lt Col Dieter Rothbacher from Austria, who joined the staff as the new S3 officer in August. Dieter is an NBC Defence Officer who joins RACVIAC from the Austrian Verification Unit, with a wealth of experience of working in International Organisations and different Arms Control regimes.

**Lt Col Frank ODENDAHL**

Lt Col Frank Odendahl took over the post of Chief Planning and Liaison Officer - International Orgs/W Europe in early September. Frank joined RACVIAC from the Centre for analysis and studies of the German Federal Armed Forces, located in Waldbroehl. His specialisation is Airborne Infantry.

the ages of 2 and 6 years. This donation will help in establishing computer workshops for kids, where they will be able to play and learn about basic computer skills.

This small donation continues to assist RACVIAC to develop closer cooperation and liaison with the local community and to support different charity activities.

**Training Course in Serbia & Montenegro**

The RACVIAC Training Course T-6 on “Inspection/Escort Article IV” was held from 15 to 26 September 2003. The first part of the Course took place in RACVIAC, Rakitje (theoretical phase), from 15 to 19 September, and the second part took place in Serbia and Montenegro (practical phase), from 21 - 26 September.

The aim of the course was to prepare designated individuals to perform duties as inspectors and/or escorts regarding Dayton Agreement, Article IV (Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control), and establish a common approach to the Agreement in order to ensure a mutual behavior of confidence and transparency during the performance of their tasks.

There were 18 participants, 10 from Dayton signatories (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federation of BA, Republika Srpska, Croatia, and Serbia and Montenegro), and 8 from Belgium, France, Spain, the USA and OSCE. There were 11 lecturers involved coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Serbia and Montenegro(1), Croatia (1), US (1), Spain (1), UK (1), Czech Republic (1), and OSCE (3).



**Computers for Kindergarten**

On 27 August Lt Col Hellenschmidt, Captain Gottmer, 1st Lt Bodrozcic and Mrs Ivkovic from RACVIAC Staff visited the local kindergarten in Sveta Nedelja to make a donation of 4 computers. This activity was initiated by Mrs Ivkovic, one of the civilian employees in RACVIAC and Captain Gottmer Chief Service Branch RACVIAC. The donation was supported by the German Embassy in Zagreb. The Principal of the kindergarten, Mrs Katarina Mlinar-Gjopar, received the computers.

The Kindergarten in Sveta Nedelja is organised in three units: Kerestinec, Rakitje and Strmec where 22 employees take care of 280 children between



## Forthcoming Events

### **"Modernising and Reshaping Armed Forces in SEE Countries**

*13—17 October, Croatia*

- Main Goals:
- to highlight the contribution made by CSBM's in SEE region towards downsizing, re-shaping and modernizing of Armed Forces
  - Impact made by CSBM's to reshape personnel strength, structures and equipment of Armed Forces
  - The relationship between defence spending and security
  - Experience gained from the restructuring, modernization and/or re-shaping of Armed Forces in other countries

Target Audience : - High ranking civilian and military decision makers (branch chief level or higher) from MoD and MFA

### **Aerial Observation Course**

*20—30 October, Croatia*

- Main Goals: - to prepare personnel, from the various Verification Agencies in the region, who may be responsible in the future for carrying out activities under the Open Skies Treaty

Target Audience: - Verification Agencies personnel

### **"Third Working Group Session to study joint operational procedures to intervene in emergency relief"**

*4 – 5 November, Croatia*

- Main Goals:
- to provide a forum for discussion to a certain number of representatives of the SEE countries MOD and/or MFA and/or MOI, giving them the task to solve/indicate operational procedures for joint operations in "neutral" fields like emergency relief;
  - to carry out an activity in accordance with the provisions of Art. V of Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BiH and VD 99

Target Audience: - Representatives of MoD and/or MFA and/or MoI of the SEE Countries

### **English Conversation Course**

*17—28 November, Croatia*

- Main Goals:
- to increase the English language skills, especially in conversation about arms control issues.
  - arms control terminology

Target Audience: - Participants of future RACVIAC training courses or seminars

### **Joint OSCE Missions/ RACVIAC Seminar "The Democratic Control of Armed Forces; criteria for success and failure"**

*1—December, Croatia*

- Main Goals:
- to analyse the necessity for DCAF, targeting parliamentary staff and the essentials of legislative control and the setting up of mechanisms for such control
  - to present the key challenge for countries in transition towards democracy
  - to inform parliamentary staff about military training programmes and academic issues for legislative control

Target Audience: - Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff

- High ranking officers
- High ranking civilians working in MoD and/or MoI



## REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE CENTRE

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 sixteen of the above nations staff this multinational body. RACVIAC epitomises 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, Spain, Norway and Moldova have received observer status in the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG).

At the 7th MAG meeting in Ljubljana in April, representatives from the 20 countries discussed refocusing RACVIAC's activities. RACVIAC will redirect and steadily concentrate its activities towards providing a regional forum for even more comprehensive discussions on politico-military issues. Future tasks will include contributing to transparency and cooperation 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

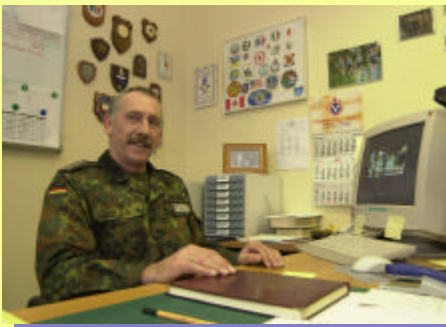
Regarding Arms Control training, RACVIAC will continue to facilitate and assist the implementation requirements for the countries in the region and will extend training to arms control experts in the wider sense.

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 Martic Barracks, 10 km west of Zagreb, and has completely modern, fully equipped offices. Its facilities include a Seminar room capable of holding up to 40 participants, including simultaneous translation capabilities, as well as two large working group rooms and high standard accommodation for 45 personnel.

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



**Adress: Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10 437 Bestovje, Croatia**  
**Phone:+385 (01) 333 08 03 ; Fax:+385 (01) 333 08 09 E-mail:abuchanan@racviac.org**  
**www.racviac.org**