



RACVIAC Newsletter

REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE CENTRE

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Ambassador Janez Premože takes over Chair of Working Table III

At the 8th Meeting of the Stability Pact's Working Table III, the Slovenian MAG representative and career diplomat Janez Premože was appointed as Chairman in succession to Ambassador Valdimir Drobnyak from Croatia. Working Table III deals with Defence and Security Issues. The Director of RACVIAC, Brigadier General Johann Pucher also took part at this meeting which took place in Tirana on 4 December 2003.

During the Meeting, the Director of RACVIAC gave a report on RACVIAC's activities covering the period since the last Working Table III meeting. He underlined that RACVIAC is a well-established institution in SEE now. This is reflected by numerous contacts and joint activities with other organisations and institutions operating under the Stability Pact umbrella, as well as outside it. He informed the participants that just recently initial contacts have been established with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to explore joint training and information activities for SEE states in RACVIAC. He also talked about the second "Information Meeting on Security Issues of Common Interest", attended by RACVIAC's international partners, which took place in October. He highlighted that the scope of participants attending RACVIAC activities has broadened and now includes personnel from outside the narrow arms control society, from the civil society as well as parliamentarians and their staff.

The Director of RACVIAC underlined the need for continued involvement of states and organizations from outside the region in SSR in SEE, in addition to national endeavours. The coordination among the numerous organizations that are involved in assistance to SEE should be further improved. He stated that progress in Security Sector Reform in the wider sense is still hampered by continuous problems faced in the public administration sector and lack of proper functioning of the institutions involved. He stressed that investment in human resources, training and education should receive more importance. In this context, the Director of RACVIAC proposed the establishment of an SEE Centre for Security and Political Studies for training public administrators in this field.

At the meeting, there was general agreement



that the SEE countries should increasingly assume ownership of the security sector reform process. By the same token, cooperation among the main actors, governments, civil society and the private sector, as well as between relevant regional initiatives needs to be enhanced in order to make efficient use of resources, hereby avoiding duplication of action.

The Working Table III meeting concluded that Stability Pact initiatives related to defence and security issues such as retraining of released personnel and defence conversion had been very successful in some SEE countries. In addition, it highlighted that co-operation on a regional level should be enhanced and lessons learned made available to interested partners. A regional meeting to take stock of such progress and to identify areas for co-operation should be considered.

Croatia Awards former RACVIAC COS and first MAG Chairperson

Colonel Burkhard Thomaschewski, RACVIAC's former Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, was presented with Croatia's "Pleter" Medal, for his outstanding support and promotion of the political, economic and cultural relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Germany.



The medal ceremony took place in the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Berlin on 21 October 2003, and Vesna Cvjetkovic-Kurelec, the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in the Federal Republic of Croatia presented the medal, on behalf of the Croatian President, Stjepan Mesic.

Colonel Thomaschewski served as the Deputy Director and Chief of Staff in RACVIAC from October 2000 until October 2002. He retired from the Army on completion of his tour in RACVIAC, and currently lives and works in Berlin.

Brigadier General Hans Hübner, who was the first MAG Chairperson, and was Commander of the German Verification Centre of the German Federal Armed Forces in Geilenkirchen from 1999 to 2003, was also decorated with the medal of the Croatian Trefoil for his commitment and dedication in the establishing of RACVIAC.

Director visits Moldova

The Director of RACVIAC, Brigadier General Johann Pucher and Colonel Zoran Boskovic, Chief Planning & Liaison Officer (SEE), visited Moldova from 22-26 November 2003.

The visit was organized to establish better contacts with Moldavian authorities from the MFA, MOD, General Staff and the OSCE Mission to Moldova, in order to improve their engagement in RACVIAC's activities and encourage the possibility of Moldova becoming full members of the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) in the future.

Meetings took place with Mr. Andrey Popov, Head of the Department of International Security (MFA), Mr. Victor Gaiciuk, Minister of Defence of Moldova and Mr Ion Coropcean, the Chief of General (Main) Staff and First Deputy Minister of Defence. During the talks they informed RACVIAC's delegation about the current political situation, Security Sector reforms and problems related with their financial needs. All relevant levels expressed interest in the procedure for Moldova to become a full member of MAG and promised to support in sending adequate level of participants to RACVIAC's activities, especially in the education of their military cadre as Arms Control inspectors and team leaders.

During the visit to OSCE Mission in Moldova, Mr William Hill, Head of the Mission, gave his assessment of the current political situation in Moldova and neighbouring countries and also stressed that big problems still exist regarding reform of the Security Sector. He promised that the OSCE Mission would provide full assistance in the proposed goal and in particular to find the right personnel as participants or as lecturers for RACVIAC's activities.

Throughout the visit, Brigadier General Pucher stressed the possibilities RACVIAC offers for supported countries and explained the broad spectrum of RACVIAC activities in the military-political field. He encouraged Moldova to send Moldavian representatives to RACVIAC activities even before their final decision to become full MAG members.

English Conversation Course

The English Conversation Course was organized from 17 - 28 November 2003 with the aim to increase the English conversational capability of officers/civilians dealing with arms control in the region of SEE.

A total of 24 participants from Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (7), Croatia (3), FYR of Macedonia (2), Serbia and Montenegro (3) and Slovenia (3) attended the course. Also present were two RACVIAC staff members. All the participants had a good basic knowledge of English, and included amongst the participants were 4 interpreters from the Verification Centres of the region.



The Course was conducted with the assistance of two Croatian University professors and two English language teachers from Slovenia – from the Military School for Foreign Languages.

Participants were given a Grammar Test on joining the Course, and were divided into two separate groups in accordance with their respective results. Each day these two groups had two classes of grammar exercises. After grammar exercises each group was again divided into two smaller groups and four teachers led an intensive conversation on general topics and on Arms Control Agreements Terminology.

Once again, the English Conversation Course proved to be a success. An important feature of the Language Training Course is the opportunity to host participants from all interested countries and to observe a unique co-operative and friendly spirit among them.

“The Impact of Disasters on the Security Environment in South Eastern Europe (SEE) – Regional Efforts”

The M-3 Workshop on “The Impact of Disasters on the Security Environment in South Eastern Europe (SEE) – Regional Efforts” was organized as a third part of the activities performed before in this field. It was conducted from 4th to 5th of November in Rakitje, Croatia.

The aim of this Workshop was to provide a forum for discussions regarding disaster management and fulfil the participants’ requirements/needs expressed at the previous meetings hold in RACVIAC in March and July of this year.



The event was organised in the spirit of the “Concluding Document of the Negotiations under Article V of the Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, the “Vienna Document 1999 Article IV Military Co-operation”, and the “Declaration on Co-operation in Disaster Preparedness and Prevention in SEE”.

Thirteen participants attended the Workshop from Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Croatia (2), Romania (2), Serbia and Montenegro (2) and Slovenia (1). Altogether six lectures were provided from four countries (Austria, Croatia, Slovenia, Turkey) and from one international organisation (SP DPPI).

Having different presentations related to the topic chosen, the Workshop provided the possibility for participants to deepen and to extend their knowledge about the ongoing regional and international activities and initiatives, the tasks and structures of organisations dealing with the questions of disaster management and the lessons learned from real disas-

ters. Aimed to assist the SEE countries in their national preparedness, especially with reference to the use of the existing disaster management guidelines in preparing a prompt and efficient reaction to emergency situations, the following actions are recommended to be included in the future activities of RACVIAC:

- Providing focused and detailed, but at the same time, more comprehensive information on the relevant guidelines and international initiatives:
 - achieve a better awareness of these documents;
 - give a widened overview about the existing NGO dealing with the questions of disaster relief.
- On the basis of lessons learned from real disasters draw attention to:
 - the necessity of the well-established co-operation between civilian and military organisations, and how to reach that;
 - questions and ways of the effective involvement of NGOs;
 - the importance of the establishment of bi- and multilateral agreements in this regard.

Seminar on “Modernizing and Reshaping Armed Forces in SEE Countries”

The RACVIAC Seminar 05/2003 on “Modernizing and Reshaping Armed Forces in SEE Countries” was held from 12 to 16 October 2003 in RACVIAC/Zagreb. The aim of the seminar was to share experiences and to evaluate the process of armed forces reform amongst the SEE countries.

The objectives of the Seminar were as follows:

- To discuss and share experiences regarding restructuring, modernizing and/or reshaping of armed forces.
- To analyse the impact of such process on the interaction amongst the defence planning, defence spending, economic capacity and democracy.
- To discuss effects of multinational formations or units in SEE regarding restructuring, modernizing and/or reshaping of armed forces.



-To assess the complementary contribution of Arms Control Agreements Disarmaments and Confidence and Security Building Measures for the reform of Armed Forces in SEE.

The seminar was designed for staff officers (or civilian equivalent) working on armed forces reform issues at the higher level, as well as a personnel from research centres, universities and relevant NGO. 23 participants came from 11 countries (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Serbia & Montenegro, Slovenia and United Kingdom. In addition, 3 participants from OSCE BiH and DCAF attended the seminar.

The following lectures were given:

- "The SEE Countries and their prospective integration into the Euro-Atlantic Security Structures" by **Maj. Gen. Vasile Paul** from the Romanian General Staff.
- " Arms Control and its Impact on the Reform of Armed Forces in SEE" given by **Dr. Heinz Vetschera** from OSCE BiH.
- " Appropriateness of New Structures of Armed Forces in SEE Countries" given by **ret. Brig. Gen. Alain Lamballe**
- " Affordability –economical limits for new structures of Armed Forces in SEE " given by **Dr. Tibor Voros**, Senior Researcher of Budapest University
- " Acceptability – the impact of democratic society on the reform of armed forces in SEE " given by **Dr. Blagovest Tashev** from the George Marshall Association - Bulgaria

Aerial Observation Course

The T-7 Aerial Observation Course was the 2nd Course on the Treaty on Open Skies, carried out in accordance with RACVIAC Programme for 2003.

It was conducted from 21st to 31st of October 2003 in two phases: Theoretical phase (1st week) in RACVIAC (Rakitje) and practical phase (2nd week) in the 91st Airbase Pleso (Croatia). During the practical phase two separate flights were performed over the territories of Croatia and Slovenia.

The aim of this course was to train personnel from SEE countries providing proper information and practical experience in planning, organizing and executing an Aerial Observation Mission based on the provisions of the Treaty on Open Skies.



Ten participants from Albania, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro and Slovenia attended the Course. The participants, representing MOD/ Verification centres, were mostly with no knowledge or limited knowledge concerning the provisions of the Treaty on Open Skies. Experienced participants and new comers were in a percentage of 20% and 80% accordingly. RACVIAC hosted five lecturers from the Verification Centres of Germany, Romania and Serbia and Montenegro. A Ukrainian team of twelve members (Flight crew and Treaty experts) also took part in the Course and their Team leader was the Chief of the Ukrainian Verification Centre, Lt Gen Nikolay Goncharenko.

The 1st phase (21 – 24 October) was a combination of presentations, lectures and practical work on preparation of mission plans for the accomplishment of the flights. The participants were divided into two groups with representatives of Croatia and Slovenia acting as mission team leaders.

The 2nd phase (27 - 31 October) was performed as a real Open Skies Mission with all elements pertaining to the treaty. The final result of the practical phase was the signature of the mission reports and the delivery of the flight films to the representatives of Croatia and Slovenia.

The countries in the South Eastern European region are interested in taking part in Aerial Observation Courses. They considered this training a good preparation for their membership of the Treaty on Open Skies in the near future.

PEOPLE IN RACVIAC

Hellos:

1st Lt Jurgen KLEIN

RACVIAC welcomes 1st Lt Jurgen KLEIN from the German Air Force, who joined RACVIAC on 15 November as the new Chief of Service Branch. Jurgen joins RACVIAC from the German Air Forces's High Command in Cologne, where he worked as a Logistic Officer and Inspector of Logistics responsible for the Inspection of all German Air Force units within Germany and abroad. Jurgen has been appointed to RACVIAC for 3 years, and speaks German, English, French and Spanish. He plans to spend his free time exploring the region and learning Croatian.

Captain Vinko BAGARIC

Captain Bagaric from Bosnia and Herzegovina took over the post of Seminar Officer in Dialogue and Cooperation Division. His previous post was a logistic officer in "Kralj Tomislav" brigade.

Captain Nevenko VRANJEŠ

Captain Vranješ joined RACVIAC as Course Officer in Training and Verification Division. He is a combat Engineer officer, coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Nevenko is a student of post graduate studies at University in Belgrade.

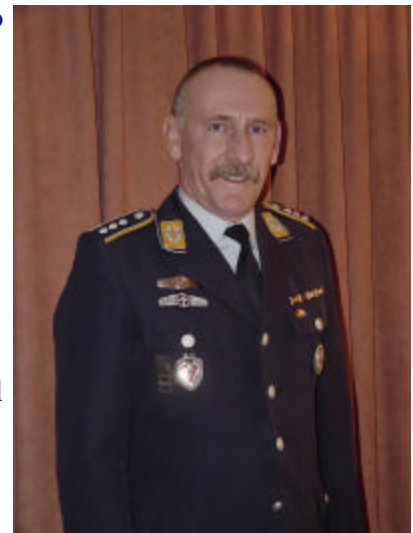
Farewell for a founding member of RACVIAC

RACVIAC says an extremely sad farewell to Captain Willi Georg Gottmer, who has been a part of RACVIAC since the very very beginning. Willi arrived in Zagreb on 3 June 2000, to start work in the Project Group, responsible for setting up RACVIAC from scratch for its official opening in October 2000. Willi is an Engineer Officer by trade in the German

Air Force, who joined RACVIAC from the German Verification Centre in Geilenkirchen, where he had worked for the previous 7 years. Although an Arms Control expert, with much experience of the region, Willi was appointed Chief of Service Branch and his first task was to oversee the complete renovation of the 2 buildings given to RACVIAC by the Croatian MOD, in the Vitez Damir Martić Barracks. This was a "Labour of Love" and Willi's organisational ability, tact and diplomacy were tested to the full; however, just 8 months later, the permanent staff moved into RACVIAC's newly renovated and fully equipped location in Rakitje.

As well as ensuring that Service Branch provided RACVIAC with all the necessary logistic, IT and administrative support it required to carry out its daily work and activities, Willi's next major task was to oversee the complete renovation of the Hotel building within the barracks. Once again, his hard work and dedication to the job in hand ensured a most successful outcome, and the Hotel Rakitje opened in September 2002. In 2003, Willi had the idea and vision to establish an Officer's and NCO's Club in the barracks and managed to obtain the complete furnishings, for free, from a barracks in Germany. He transported the equipment to Rakitje, and "Barbera Club" was opened in October of this year, where we celebrated 3 years of RACVIAC in true German "Oktoberfest" style.

Willi has also built up strong relationships with numerous businesses - both small and large - within Zagreb, Croatia and beyond, and has been extremely active in building up co-operation and support for the local fire brigade, local community, local schools and charity organisations in the neighbourhood.



Captain Willi Gottmer left RACVIAC on 13 December, to return to Ostfriesland, Germany where he will live with his wife Alexa and 2 sons. He will retire from the Air Force on 31 December 2003, and the whole of RACVIAC wishes him and his family the very best wishes for a happy, long and fruitful retirement.

The Democratic Control Of Armed Forces, criteria for success and failure

RACVIAC's Seminar on "*The Democratic Control Of Armed Forces: criteria for success and failure*" took place from 1 to 3 December 2003 in RACVIAC, Zagreb. The aim of this high level seminar was to look into the essential mechanisms required for democratic oversight and control of Armed Forces.

The Objectives of the Seminar were as follows:

- a. To discuss the key challenges for countries during the transition towards Democratic Control of Armed Forces.
- b. To discuss the experiences gained from countries that successfully managed the transition to democratic structures and legislative oversight over their armed forces.
- c. To assess agreed consolidated and generally applicable principles, criteria and decisive functional fac-



tors for the establishment of a stable and reliable system of democratic oversight of the security sector.

- d. To evaluate the monitoring processes.
- e. To inform about parliamentary staff training programmers and academic issues.

The seminar was designed especially for parliamentarians or parliamentary staff, and RACVIAC was honoured to host parliamentarians from AL, BA, MK, and RO. Other participants were high level staff officers (or civilian equivalents) working on these issues, as well as a personnel from defence committees, different ministries, intelligence services, research centres, universities, academic institutions, the media and relevant NGO's. In addition to those mentioned above, the following countries and organizations were represented: BU, GR, HR, NL, RU, S&M, TR, and DCAF, OSCE BA and OSCE S&M.

Visits to RACVIAC

21 Oct—**Colonel William C. VOGT**, DTRA - Chief European Operations Division

21 Oct—**Mrs Shelly O'NEILL STONEMAN**, International Security and Arms Control Researcher, Small Arms Survey Geneva

18 Nov—**Ambassador Ugur ERGUN**, SEDM Chairman

19 Nov—**Lt Col Robert GOBIN**, Defence Attache, Belgium Embassy Zagreb

20 Nov—**Maj David JOHANNSEN**, Swedish Verification Centre

8 Dec—**HE Dr. Marcus KAISER**, Swiss Ambassador to Croatia

10 Dec—**HE Marie-Jehanne ROCCAS**, Belgian Ambassador to Croatia

16 Dec—**Captain (Navy) Giorgio GUIDUZZI**, Defence Attache, Italian Embassy Zagreb

The Keynote Speech was given by **Dr Willem van EEKELEN**, Chairman of the European Movement, on: "*The role, place and responsibility of security forces regarding national security in a modern democracy*".

Presentation 1: "*Challenges of control and oversight of security forces in a transitional countries*" by **Dr Vladimir BILANDZIC (OSCE S&M)**.

Presentation 2: "*Principles, conditions and mechanisms for effective parliamentary oversight on security forces - Legislative frame, including norms and criteria of the DCAF*" by **Dr Wilhem N. GERMANN (DCAF)**.

Presentation 3: "*The Role of media and civil society regarding oversight of security forces*" by **Mr Antonio PRLENDA (Journalist - Oslobodjenje Daily, Sarajevo)**.

Presentation 4: "*Introduction the DCAF Handbook—Parliamentarian Control on Security Sector*" by **Maj Gen (Retd) Alain FAUPIN (DCAF)**.

Presentation 5: "*Explanations of on going defense reform in BIH and S&M for WG Subject One by and Mr Christian HAUPT (OSCE BA)*

Presentation 6: "*Involvement of the Parliament/Parliamentarians on Peace keeping operations*" by **Lt Col Damien DUFRENOT (RACVIAC)**.

Forthcoming Events

Manpower Planning Meeting

26-28 January

Main Goals: - RACVIAC's personnel policy SOP, and rotation of personnel
 - receive input from nations and organizations/institutions

Target Audience: - Staff from relevant ministries, Personnel Departments

English Course / Arms Control Terminology

2-13 February

Main Goals: - To increase English language skills, especially in conversation about arms control issues; Arms control terminology

Target Audience: - MOD, MFA, MOI, GS -Personnel with a basic knowledge of English

Arms Control in SEE - an instrument to foster security

23-27 February

Main Goals: - To emphasize the role of AC agreements in the regional security area

Target Audience: - Staff from MODs, MFAs, MOIs, Media

Disaster Management

2-4 March

Main Goals: - Discuss national and regional issues on disaster preparedness and prevention in SEE

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

SALW Projects in SEE

8-12 March

Main Goals: - Monitoring and verification

Target Audience: - Staff from governmental institutions MODs, MFAs, MOIs, NGOs, Media, Universities

DAYTON Art. IV Course

15-26 March

Main Goals: - Training of Inspectors, Escorts and Assistants

Target Audience: - Military personnel dealing with Dayton Art. IV

Border Security Issues

29-31 March

Main Goals: - Review Conference – in co-op with DCAF – review of progress made to date

Target Audience: - Staff from MODs, MFAs, MOIs, NGOs

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 Border Management Issues.

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 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 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)



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