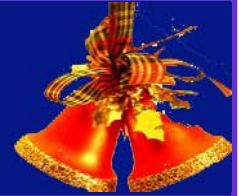


RACVIAC Newsletter



RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

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NEW RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

RACVIAC was established in 2000 as the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre with the aim of providing arms control training, promoting confidence and security building measures and broadening cooperation in South Eastern Europe (SEE). Due to ever changing situation in the region, developments and transformations in the security Environment in SEE, primary goal of RACVIAC's initial concept has become too limited to cover its much wider scope of activities. RACVIAC is facing new challenges today and shifting its focus onto a broader range of politico-military issues including the security sector reform by taking concrete steps in different areas of defence conversion with a view to enhancing regional stability. In that regard, the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre acquired new name **RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION**.

There are currently thirty member countries involved in RACVIAC and divided into:

Core members - all countries of SEECP - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey;

Associate members - all other countries wishing to support and contribute to security dialogue and cooperation in SEE - Austria, Denmark, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom;

Observers - other countries, institutions or organizations, which may participate in RACVIAC activities as Observers after approval by the MAG - Canada, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine and USA. At the last MAG meeting Spain expressed the wish for an associate membership. Besides them, Belgium, Latvia and Switzerland have expressed their interest in RACVIAC's work. Military and civilian members from 14 of the above nations staff this multinational body. In these seven years RACVIAC hosted over 3800 participants from all over Europe.

RACVIAC has recognised the continuing need for greater regional cooperation and stronger involvement of all the SEE countries, thus focusing on the process of "regional ownership" as the main recipe for bringing SEE governments closer to decision-making process. RACVIAC epitomizes the concept of "regional ownership" – it is located in the region, the staff members include personnel from all countries in the region, and it is particularly intended to assist the countries of the region.



RACVIAC's strategic objectives are:

1. To strengthen the SEE region's overall stability and security;
2. To improve the momentum achieved through all arms control mechanisms and confidence and security building measures;
3. To promote Security Sector Reform and encourage regional cooperation in the area of Defence Conversion;
4. To encourage regional cooperation to effectively counter terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, organized crime, and all kinds of illicit trafficking;
5. To support European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes;
6. To be at the ready to assist the Regional Cooperation Council's (RCC) activities;
7. To seek for synergy with organizations and institutions having similar objectives, such as the EU, NATO, OSCE and
8. To communicate and support European Security and Defence Policy

RACVIAC's annual programme of activities includes more than 30 activities: Seminars, Courses

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and Workshops, as well as MAG Meetings and a number of extra-curricula activities.

Starting from 2008 RACVIAC will be focusing its activities on three overarching themes:

- International Relations and Cooperation, with a special focus on Euro-Atlantic integration
- Security Sector Reform
- Cooperative Security Environment, with the focus on Arms Control

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation is a diplomatic, international, independent, non-profit, regionally owned, academic organization, accountable to its political decision making body, the **Multinational Advisory Group (MAG)**. The MAG is the body that supervises RACVIAC and it is composed of the representatives from Core Countries, Associate Countries and Observers. The Multinational Advisory Group provides guidance and outlines tasks to ensure the operation and development of RACVIAC, in accordance with principles and decisions adopted. These Terms of Reference (TOR) specify the composition, tasks, responsibilities and procedures of the MAG and its financing.

RACVIAC co-operates with and supports a number of international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, also working to enhance stability and security in SEE. Strong links have been established with the UN, NATO, EU, OSCE, SEESAC, DCAF and Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), as well as the regional Verification Agencies and other. Close cooperation shall strengthen regional stability and accelerate Euro-Atlantic integration efforts. RACVIAC will not compete with nor duplicate the work of other security organizations but will seek closer cooperation and partnership. If extensive cooperation is required, the signing of additional MoU will be proposed to MAG for approval.

Starting from this year RACVIAC has changed its financial policy to ensure its sustainability. The budget has been divided into a Core budget and the so-called Activity Budget. Its regional Core members in accordance with the specified and agreed parameters for a particular country finance Core budget, thus covering its so-called running costs. Associate member countries should contribute to RACVIAC's programme activities, that is "fill" its Activity budget. International partners, organizations and donor countries are also making a general financial contribution to RACVIAC's budget by supporting certain specific program activities.

MILITARY BASE CONVERSION CONFERENCE IN SARAJEVO

Within the idea of providing assistance to the regional countries in resolving problems regarding military bases conversion (MBC), RACVIAC has undertaken major initiative in organizing and holding conferences in particular countries with an aim of discussing MBC matters throughout participation of the local communities representatives.

RACVIAC's Defence Conversion Cell in cooperation with Associations of Municipalities and Cities of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Srpska as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence organized a conference, which took place in Sarajevo on 20th of September 2007. The aims of this conference were: (a) to give thorough presentation on Base Conversion processes, project development and implementation, institutional involvement and financial support from different financial institutions and RACVIAC's role to representatives of interested Municipalities from B&H Military; (b) to offer deeper insight in the perspectives of Military Base Conversion into business, industrial or tourist zones and parks to participants from different national and international institutions, financial, investor and donor organizations as well as to assist with initial communication between relevant key players in the process; (c) reveal efficient financial instruments for MBC Project implementation; (d) advertise different Municipality MBC Project ideas and develop common understanding on MBC processes and (e) facilitate inter-institutional cooperation. More than 120 representatives from local municipalities (around 25 Mayors of Municipalities and 80 other different Representatives of Municipalities from both sides, Federation of B&H and Republic of Srpska), MoD of B&H, Banks, USAID, NATO, OSCE, Business and Insurance Companies attended the Conference.

Conference was addressed by Defence Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr. Selmo CIKOTIĆ who underlined the complex problem encountered by Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence with high monthly spending of about 430.000 € on guarding non perspective bases. The Minister pointed out the impossibility of proposing some law on the allocation of non-perspective military locations to civilian purposes because of Prohibition of Disposal of State Property in Bosnia and Herzegovina taken by High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina that was still in effect.

RACVIAC's expert Mr. Efrem RADEV gave a presentation on RACVIAC's capabilities in Defence



Conversion Reform Area, offering experience and support. NATO's representative Ms. Lejla MULIĆ discussed issues concerning Military Base Conversion in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She also offered advisor support in Defence Conversion Area on behalf of NATO Staff in Sarajevo.

Ms. Slavica KORICA, the Executive Director from FIPA (Foreign Investment Promotion Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina) stressed the high level of consideration for such matters. FIPA is the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency established with a mission to facilitate and support direct foreign investment. The Agency offers practical assistance in dealing with government institutions by working directly with investors and, more structurally, by assisting the government in improving the legal framework for foreign investments. FIPA will also assist investors in developing interaction between the public and private sector. As a result of the discussion, a Working Group was formed. The group would consist of Representatives of Republic of Srpska and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with task to propose a draft of legal solution for military facilities conversion to Council of Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Conference participants have agreed upon following: (a) the members of the Working Group in charge of making elaborations of conclusions from the conference would be as follows: Mr. Hamdo EJUBOVIĆ, Head of Hadžići Municipality, Mr. Mustafa KURTOVIĆ, Head of Goražde Municipality and Mr. Zdravko KRSMANOVIĆ, Head of Foča Municipality; (b) Government and the responsible institutions should enable that legitimate representatives of municipalities take part in the commissions and bodies in charge of making decisions regarding the military facilities; (c) NATO and OHR, which representatives are to be present at the conference, should be informed on viewpoints and sent the request to support the conclusions from this Conference. Municipality mayors and other municipalities

representatives stressed the importance of this conference expressing their willingness for participation in similar activities in the future.. They also highlighted immediate problems such as undetermined legal rights of property possession and slow pace of resolving these issues, then degradation of certain military facilities while waiting for status resolution and their expensively observance and maintenance. They announced their greater willingness for future cooperation with RACVIAC. Associations required that the property over military facilities should be transferred to the local self-government, and that the property status of the military facilities is legally regulated. Military facilities with or without future should also be defined. Since the countries of the region finance RACVIAC, they should be able to use the existing capacities of RACVIAC, especially those concerning donors and investors. Many Mayors approved organization of such an activity. They have pointed out benefits of this gathering which considerably improved Defence Conversion Process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SEMINAR ON “DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES”

The Seminar on “Democratic Control of Armed Forces” was held in RACVIAC on 29th and 30th October 2007. The seminar was specially designed for parliamentarian staff, civilian officials working in the field of defence and intelligence, military and law enforcement officers and NGO. It was conducted as lectures on the first day and as a role-play organized and conducted by the Centre for Security Studies in the Netherlands on the second day .

The participants and lecturers were representatives from eleven countries and two organizations as follows: Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (4), Croatia (4), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (2), Moldova (3), Montenegro, The Netherlands (1), Norway (1), Serbia (2), Slovenia (1), Turkey (2), CESS (1) and DCAF (1).

The aim of this seminar was to exchange and clarify information and provide regional forum for comprehensive discussion for a common understanding on Democratic Control of Armed Forces in the regional countries. The specified objectives were: to assess conditions and mechanisms for effective parliamentary oversight; to point out the changing nature of civil-military relations in the region; to clarify the pillars of DCAF; to introduce the challenges of reforming

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civil-military relations; to clarify the role of parliamentarians; to promote transparency and accountability in defence policy sector; to evaluate the way in which democratic countries oversee defence spending, and to improve it.

The discussions generated by the distinguished lecturers were most interesting. All participants expressed their deep appreciation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence intervention.



Mr. Selmo CIKOTIĆ, Minister of Defence of B&H gave very interesting presentation on “*The Civil-Military relation in democratic countries*”. Minister particularly focused his speech on “B&H Parliamentary Assembly and the Joint Committee for Defence and Security’s role in democratic control and oversight over the defence and security sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

He explained into details the initial steps and goals in defence and security sector reform and the role of the “B&H Joint Committee for Defence and Security” as well as the democratic oversight and cooperation with B&H Defence and Security Institutions. The Minister concluded his speech by outlining the Work priorities in 2007 in the field of security and defence sector.

Ms. Teodora FUIOR, from DCAF gave a presentation on “*DCAF in principle and practice*”. She gave an introduction on the rise to prominence of the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. Then she mentioned essential elements for DCAF and a key role of the OSCE Code of Conduct. Ms FUIOR pointed out that security has distinctive features that make democratic control more difficult and challenging.

She particularly explored the following aspects: complexity, secrecy, proneness to corruption and limits of control. Mr. Jan Dirk BLAAUW, from Netherlands, gave a speech on “*The role of Parliament in the DCAF*”. In his speech, after making general observations such as: “*Democratic accountability means that those who have the authority to decide and act are accountable to the elected representatives in a representative*

democracy or to the people directly in a direct democracy”, he illustrated different examples: the Dutch case, the German case, the French case and the British case. In his closing observations he mentioned few potential key functions of a parliamentary committee on defence or security issues. In his presentation on “*Transparency and accountability in the security sector*”, Mr. Bauke SNOEP from CESS covered following topics: Security Sector, Democratic Governance, Transparency and Accountability and the reasonable grounds for security sector’s demand for it.

The Centre for European Security Studies organized and led the role-play on the second day of the seminar. This was a training module on Parliament and Defence. They created artificial environment and every participant was given a specific role with detailed instructions. In this exercise, the trainees acquainted themselves with the following: the oversight function of parliament in the field of defence; duties and behaviour of parliamentarians, ministers, civilian and military personnel and journalists in an effort to hold the executive accountable; various considerations arising on political, personal, operational, financial and legal level. Participants had a great opportunity to exchange ideas and share different points of view in an open floor discussions. The role-play met great consensus. It was well organized as well as managed by the CESS representative.

DIRECTOR`S INTRODUCTORY TOUR AROUND SEE CAPITALS

18th – 20th October - meetings with Dr Haris SILAJDŽIĆ - member of Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mg Selmo CIKOTIĆ – Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mr Sven ALKALAJ – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

26th – 27th October – participation in the 39th Meeting of the SRCC/OSCE, Palic, Serbia

6th November - Introduction visit to Mr. Mate RABOTEG, State Secretary of MoD of Croatia (accompanied by Deputy Director and COS - Col Vladimir SUPERINA)

7th – 9th November - several meetings with Ambassador Todor CHUROV and Mr Lyubomir KZUCHUKOV - Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria; Mrs Sonya YANKULOVA, Deputy Minister of Defence of Bulgaria; Mr Petio PETEV, Ph.D., Director NATO and International Security in

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria (accompanied by Mr Jiri KALASNIKOV - Director of Stability Pact WT III)

20th November - meeting with Mr. Pjer ŠIMUNOVIĆ - Assistant Minister in MFAEI of Croatia and Dr. Miro KOVAČ, Assistant Minister for Diplomatic Protocol in MFAEI of Croatia (accompanied by Deputy Director and COS - Col Vladimir SUPERINA)

22nd – 23rd November – several meetings with Ambassador Radojko BOGOJEVIĆ - State Secretary and Deputy Minister in MFA of Serbia; Dr. Zoran JEFTIĆ - State Secretary and Deputy Minister in MOD of Serbia; Mr. Dušan SPASOJEVIĆ – Assistant Minister for Defence Policy in MoD of Serbia; Ambassador Alessandro MEROLA – Embassy of Italia in Belgrade, Serbia (accompanied by Chief of DC Cell - Col Dragan GOSTOVIĆ)

28th November- 2nd December – several meetings with Mg Selmo CIKOTIĆ – Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Deputy Ministers of Defence of B&H MFA; visit to Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC) in Sarajevo, B&H; upon the invitation of Mr Željko KOMŠIĆ, the Chair of Presidency of B&H and MoD of B&H participation in the ceremony of Armed Forces Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina (accompanied by WG3 Officer in DC Cell - 1st Lt Mehmed HALILOVIĆ)

3rd – 5th December - participation in the Working Table III Meeting of SP in Tirana, Albania (accompanied by P&L Officer for SEE - LTC Wolfgang WECHSELBERGER); meeting with Ms Hedvig MORAI-HORVATH – Director of EU Fund for Western Balkan



12th – 14th December - visit to SEEBRIG Centre in Istanbul, Turkey (accompanied by Mr Jiri KALASNIKOV - Director of Stability Pact WT III)

RACVIAC AT THE 5TH SEEDIRET REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Between 21st and 23rd November 2007 RACVIAC's Planning and Liaison Officer for SEE, LTC Wolfgang WECHSELBERGER, took part in the 5th SEDM Regional Conference within the framework of South-eastern Europe Defence Industries, Research and Technology (SEEDIRET) in Tirana.

The Southeast Europe Defence Ministerial Coordination Committee (SEDM-CC) has carried out a number of projects including SEEDIRET - the Co-operation on Defence Industries, Research and Technology .

The mission of SEEDIRET is to focus on fields of cooperation, in the frame of the Initiative on a multilateral basis, then on matters of Defence Industries Research and Technology aiming at development of the existing industrial infrastructure, forwarding at the same time research and technology, to the interest of the people in the area. Delegations from ten different countries as well as several international organizations, such as NAMSA, UNDP AMAE and RACVIAC took part in this meeting. During this meeting the representatives of SEDM Nations discussed the issue related to "Regional Demilitarisation – Building Trust, Confidence and Friendship" and "Military Information Sharing among SEDM Countries".

LTC WECHSELBERGER gave a presentation and stressed the distinct role of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation in promoting Security Co-operation providing a premier platform for Dialogue in South Eastern Europe.

BUILDING UP THE REGIONAL OWNERSHIP - WG1 WORKSHOP IN BELGRADE

One of the specific principles introduced to existing modalities for RACVIAC defence conversion activities in the field of military personnel transition was the in-country approach. Its ultimate agenda is to support the regional ownership build up. WG1 has already contributed to this important decision by organizing two of its events outside of its HQ in Croatia. First of them was held in Dures, Albania in June 2007, and the second one occurred just last month in Belgrade, Serbia, where RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and Ministry of Defence of Republic of Serbia organized a three-day Workshop on Transition of Military Personnel. The event was held from 12th to 14th November 2007 at the "Hotel M - Best Western" and excellently hosted by the Serbian MoD.

The Assistant Minister for Human Resources Mr. Bojan DIMITRIJEVIĆ, Phd, personally addressed the participants during the first day's welcome reception, acknowledging the importance of the military personnel transition issue for the ongoing defence reform efforts. Following two days introduced intensive schedule, which included updated national programs' information, latest developments and experiences from Bulgaria and Moldova that have achieved exemplar bilateral cooperation. Participants particularly appreciated both this and actual Serbian experiences with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as well as the following day's event provided by the Serbian MoD. This carefully designed program included experts' review of the Serbian experience in areas of business incubator development, public relations and the lobbying process. The crown of the day was the study trip to PRISMA Program Regional Retraining and Resettlement Centre in Belgrade.



This real life example approach was introduced for the first time by the WG1 and it was highly successful. The final day conclusions confirmed the WG1 intention to continue with this approach.

At this moment we can talk about the certain tradition being established among our WG's members. Next year, Mr. Peter PASHOV, PhD (Bulgaria) will chair WG1 meeting, thus we hope that one of our workshops will be organized in Sofia. In this way, WG1 efforts for the next year will benefit even more from the real life example, and this time from Bulgaria, which has been known as the country with the longest experience in the field of military personnel transition.



DISASTER MANAGEMENT SEMINAR IN RACVIAC

Disaster Management Seminar was held in the period of 12th – 14th November 2007 in RACVIAC, Rakitje, Croatia as a part of RACVIAC's Annual Programme. This seminar was organized in cooperation with the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI). In 2002 RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation already initiated the chain of activities in relation to "The Impact of Disasters on the Security Environment in South Eastern Europe (SEE)". Our aim was to provide an open forum for discussions regarding Disaster Management.

Activities were organized 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" and other relevant international documents. Following the recommendations of the Stability Pact (SP) / Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) and the countries of the region, we focused our activities on the following issues: exchange of information about the ongoing Disaster Management activities in the region; supporting the development and introduction of international standards, such as Oslo Guidelines (Guidelines on the Use of Military

and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief); the introduction of 112 – the single European emergency call number. We also seek to provide specialized training as to increase even greater co-operation among relevant agencies, institutions and organizations between the countries of the region and others, as well as encourage closer co-operation between civilian sphere and armed forces.

All these factors are of up most importance since many disasters transcend national borders or overwhelm the capacity of a single country to cope. In that regard, regional cooperation is essential not only to cope with the impacts of disasters, but also to help ensure that the region sustains economic growth. The seminar provided an open forum for discussions regarding accidents, natural disasters, prevention, response planning and security measures in the field of Disaster Preparedness and Prevention and focused on the lacks and needs of the countries from the regions. It also offered deeper insight into: recent developments of disaster management in international environment; national organization structure - their coordination and cooperation with other respective national and international organizations from different points and processes of education and training in the field of Disaster Management.

Participants established good relations, shared lessons learned, exchanged national experiences and acknowledged possible needs in the field of Disaster Management. They cited problems ranging from knowledge sharing mechanisms to fundraising from coordination and partnering to ethics. All agreed on major problems and gaps facing organizations involved in disaster management, thus setting possible topics and open questions which should be addressed and discussed in the next meeting. These can be summed up as follows:

- (a) The countries expressed their needs for this kind of activities, therefore they strongly support the continuation of it;
- (b) There was a proposal to organize a practical workshop on how to proceed and request an assistance in the international community;
- (c) The participants proposed to organise a course on how to acquire funds for a specific national project from the international society;
- (d) They also suggested to organize a seminar which would enable the participants to focus on a topic related to a practical operation and provide exchange of knowledge and national experiences in an alike disaster. All recognised

a need for better international corporation and coordination between the countries.

Participants from twenty different countries attended this seminar: Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Croatia (8), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (2), Moldova (2), Romania (1), Slovenia (2), RACVIAC (2), SP/DPPI (1) and Red Cross Croatia (1).



Special guests were Mrs. Cvetka KRAJIC TOMIN, Independent Consultant, Slovenia; Mr. Michael ELMQUIST, Danish Emergency Management Agency, Denmark; Maj. Viktor CSABIANSZKI, Disaster Relief and Crisis Management Department / HDF Operations centre, Hungary; Mr. Toms MATUSEK, NATO HQ / EADRCC; Mr. Dušan ZUPKA, UN / OCHA; Mr. Bo ANDERSSON, SRSA / Support of Rescue Operations Department; Mr. Patrick NAIRZ, Government of Tyrol-Austria / Department of Civil Protection, Austria; Mr. Ignas JONYNAS, European Commission and Governor Scott MCCALLUM, chairman of Aidmatrix, USA.

Everyone agreed that the seminar brought an added value and showed fields and ways as how to work in the future as an effective coordination mechanism in fostering regional disaster prevention as a framework for regional co-operation on the national and international level as well as to foster co-operation between the civilian and military sphere in SEE.



* Turkey recognizes Republic of Macedonia by its constitutional name

PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING AND EXECUTION CONFERENCE IN SERBIA

Between 6th and 9th of November 2007 RACVIAC's Defence Conversion Cell, Working Group III, Officer LTC Grigore CHIRICA, participated in the Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution (DPPBE) Conference that was held in Belgrade (Serbia). The Conference was organized by the Serbian Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the European Centre for Security Studies, George C. Marshall Representatives and the Defence Recourse Management Institute Naval Post-Graduate School, Monterey (California). The target audience was the MOD and relevant Serbian institutions related to the planning, programming, budgeting and execution process. The purpose of the conference was to provide detailed information on the creation and implementation of systematic, planned and strategic approach to defence planning, programming and budgeting.



The main objectives were: to give working knowledge on the basic principles of planning, programming, budgeting and execution within the concept of NATO Defence Reform; to examine planning and programme development process and the translation programmes into the budget criteria; to discuss embedding planning, programming, budgeting and execution capability into existing organizational structures and to show the place of the Democratic Control and Transparency in the National Defence Planning, Programming, Budgeting Process.

The participation of the RACVIAC staff member in the abovementioned conference was of a high importance and of a future benefit for the oncoming RACVIAC DPPB seminar (14-17 JAN 2008), as it increased the level of knowledge of the topic concerned and gained additional expertise, different approaches, as well as organizational,

structural and practical view while conducting the activity. The most important goal achieved was to see the regional approach and the necessity of changes to better, more transparent and up-to-date defence planning.

RACVIAC ACTIVITIES ON MBC IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Developing RACVIAC Defence Conversion Cell (DCC) engagement in Military Base Conversion (MBC) in SEE and as a practical result of the Working Group 2 (WG2) discussions, in close cooperation with MoD Bosnia and Herzegovina, DCC experts made a specially tailored presentation triggering discussions at the **FIPA International Investment Forum in Sarajevo**, March 2007. The event was attended by senior officials of the Federation of B&H and Republic of Srpska (RS), representatives from European and supranational organizations, as well as decision-makers and experts from large industrial and commercial companies with an interest of investment in different sectors.

RACVIAC's participation in this International Investment Forum provoked great interest, which then led to a **National Conference of the municipalities in B&H** in September 2007, co-organized by the B&H MoD and the two Associations of Municipalities and Cities in the Federation of B&H and RS. The Conference facilitated inter-institutional cooperation in B&H, promoted municipality plans and projects for MBC into industrial and business zones and attracted attention of international investors and financial institutions to the perspective opportunities offered by this conversion. Following this Conference, the municipalities of Mostar and Novo Gorazde filed specific project developments request to RACVIAC.

At the end of October RACVIAC experts organized an **initial informative visit** to the two municipalities and held meetings with potentially interested international institutions and donors based in B&H. Discussions waged with the Mayors and municipality experts on the MBC project development possibilities and the detailed needs for assistance of the municipalities. RACVIAC received the letters of confirmation of the needs of the two municipalities .

The future involvement of RACVIAC was outlined as follows:

- Expert assistance in project drafting, implementation and fundraising,

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- RACVIAC will establish close cooperation with the relevant institutions in B&H and the EU and other economic development programmes available in B&H,
- In view of the necessity of streamlining international community efforts in assisting B&H in solving the defence conversion issues, RACVIAC will synchronize its activities with appropriate structures in NATO, EU and RCC.

All institutions expressed full support for RACVIAC initiative. Further to that TAC – EU Support for regional economic development in B&H Fund – IV offered to:

- assist RACVIAC and the municipalities in project development,
- undertake the projects presentation in front of EU member states and international investment institutions,
- assist municipalities in fundraising for project development,
- integrate the MBC projects in other bigger TAC projects where appropriate,
- organize an investment forum in Novo Gorazde,
- offer free business development courses for the municipality experts as appropriate.

RACVIAC's involvement in assisting the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and municipalities administrations in drafting projects for military base conversion into business and industrial zones, as well as attracting external financial institutions and donors is a practical and most positive contribution to national and regional efforts and assistance in defence conversion project implementation.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Netherlands Defense College (NDC) in cooperation with RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, organized Human Resources Management Workshop at "Vitez Damir Martić" Barracks in Rakitje, Zagreb in the period of 25 November – 2 December 2007 on abolishing compulsory military service as primary mechanism of recruiting new military personnel.

This workshop was a direct answer to the requirements of the current process of the armed forces transformation in the countries of the region from the system in which military service is a dominantly legal obligation into the system that is based on all-volunteer military service. NDC and

RACVIAC have recognized the importance of the current reform of human resources management system as a key factor and prerequisite for the success of the aforementioned reform of the armed forces in the context of the so-called "professionalisation".



This adjustment is particularly important for the countries in the region trying to finalize modernization of their military organizations and to finish the process of their own European security integration. The Kingdom of the Netherlands, as a country that underwent similar process in mid 90's, has attained significant experience in this field.

The workshop was planned as a series of lectures, inter-active workshops as well as guided discussions that enabled the participating countries to set forth their own difficulties and exchange their experiences. Since transformation is a complex and gradual process, the implementation concept of the workshop also followed the principle of gradation – from initial process of downsizing military personnel in different services and branches through the management of changes during the entire process - to the new modalities of attracting, recruiting and adjustment of training of the professional military. One of the topics that could not be avoided was the deployment of the professional military in UN and NATO led missions which effectiveness and efficiency include new requirements that should all be met by the Ministry of Defence.

The workshop was attended and successfully finished by twenty representatives of various organizations within the defence system of the countries of Southeast Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Moldavia, Montenegro and Serbia.

* Turkey recognizes Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

VISIT OF RACVIAC'S DELEGATION TO BELGRADE, SERBIA

Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ took over the Directorship of RACVIAC in early October 2007. The intention is to visit capitals of the South East Europe region and international partners as soon as possible in order to introduce himself as well as the concept of RACVIAC transformation.

The visit to Belgrade, Serbia was one of the first steps in that direction. Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ was accompanied by Colonel Dragan GOSTOVIĆ, Chief of the Defence Conversion Cell.



AMB HADŽIMUSIĆ and Col GOSTOVIĆ visited **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence of Serbia** as well as SEESAC and Italian Embassy in Belgrade.

The Director of RACVIAC informed his interlocutors about the new role, mission and goal of RACVIAC as the "Centre for Security Cooperation". He presented the new image of RACVIAC as the premier platform for dialogue on security issues. AMB HADŽIMUSIĆ emphasized the strong commitment of RACVIAC to meet real needs of SEE countries and not to duplicate the work of other security organizations. The restructuring process that RACVIAC is undergoing while expanding its focus, has been approved anonymously by MAG member states.

Deputy Minister Mr. Rajko BOGOJEVIĆ, together with Amb Branka LATINOVIĆ, Head of the Directorate for Arms Control received the Delegation of RACVIAC in Serbian MFA. Mr. BOGOJEVIĆ confirmed that Serbia fully supported regional initiatives, including RACVIAC.

Serbian openness and readiness for security cooperation was stressed in particular. Amb LATINOVIĆ pointed out the importance of cooperation in areas of disaster management and non-proliferation of SALW and weapons of mass destruction.

RACVIAC delegation also met senior officials in Serbian MoD, Mr. Zoran JEFTIĆ, State Secretary and Mr. Dusan SPASOJEVIĆ, Assistant Minister for Defence Policy. Interlocutors expressed the strong support for RACVIAC on behalf of Ministry of Defence. They emphasized the necessity for RACVIAC to deal with specific issues that are not yet dealt within the framework of other international organizations and stressed the regional cooperation as the crucial element for stability and security of SEE. In that respect, the following topics were recommended: ESDP, transition of military personnel, civil-military cooperation and disaster management.

The Delegation of RACVIAC visited **SEESAC** and spoke with its acting head Mr. Diman DIMOV. The South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) has a mandate to further support all international and national stakeholders by strengthening national and regional capacity to control and reduce the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. It is an important partner of RACVIAC in the region. Mr DIMOV elaborated on SEESAC activities and open issues in their work. Future cooperation between RACVIAC and SEESAC is logical and welcome without duplication and overlapping. Mr. DIMOV accepted the invitation to visit RACVIAC in near future.

The Delegation of RACVIAC visited also **the Embassy of Italy** in Belgrade, which is the point of contact of Serbia for NATO. The Italian Ambassador, H.E. Alessandro MEROLA received AMB HADŽIMUSIĆ and Col GOSTOVIĆ. He elaborated on the specific activities in facilitating Serbian integration into Euro-Atlantic structures, pointing out the importance and sensitivity of Kosovo status issue. Italian Ambassador showed interest in RACVIAC role and offered support in promoting regional security cooperation in this context.

**CHANGE OF PERSONNEL
IN RACVIAC**

After almost four years in service for RACVIAC as the Chief of Training and Verification Division, the tour of duty for **COL Emilio LIVERANI** is to end by the end of this year. During his tour of duty in RACVIAC Col LIVERANI fulfilled his mission with a professional approach. It was a great privilege and honor to serve with him. He was not only the chief of Training and Verification, but an excellent colleague, a compatible, helpful and courteous friend to all of us as well. We would like to thank COL LIVERANI for his professional approach and skills to support RACVIAC and wish him and his family all the best.



It has been a great pleasure to work with **COL Spiros PAPAGLIMIS** during his two-year tour of duty in RACVIAC which ended in November 2007. We would like to thank COL PAPAGLIMIS for his professionalism and for his substantial contribution to promote RACVIAC during his time in RAKITJE. His enthusiasm and devotion to his duty in RACVIAC and his discipline, which were a sign of his professionalism, have been above all kinds of appreciation. He was not only a colleague in Dialogue and Cooperation Division, but also a compatible, helpful and courteous friend as well. It remains to thank him again for everything he did in RACVIAC. RACVIAC wishes him and his family successful, bright and healthy future.



RACVIAC welcomes **LtC Ioannis PAPAVASILEIOU**, the new Seminar Director in the Dialogue and Cooperation Division, who joined us in November 2007. He was born on 18th September 1962 in Komotini, Greece, and started his military career in 1982. He served as a pilot in Fighting Aircraft and was a Commander in Combat Squadron from 1986 till 2004. His previous duties were as Staff Officer in Head Quarter Tactical Air Force in Greece. He is married to Rita Bourogianni and has two sons, Georgios and Panagiotis.



For the fourth time RACVIAC welcomes **Ms Blanka DEDI**, a student on the Faculty of Political Science in the University of Zagreb who is doing her internship as



We are happy to welcome **Cpt Natalija BOČKAJ** who joined us in November 2007 on the position of WG1 officer in DC Cell. She was born in 1967 and graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb in the Department of Psychology in 1992. In 2001 she finished her education for psychotherapist and she is finishing her Master Degree on Medical School-Social Psychiatry at the moment. In the period of 2005/2006 she spent six months in UN mission MINUSTAH-Haiti-HQ Officer, as a Stress Manager. Natalija has 14,5 years of active service in Croatian Armed Forces.



To increase the level of professionalism of RACVIAC documents, the Croatian MoD offered the expertise of their interpreter, **Ms Eleonora MARTINIĆ** who joined the RACVIAC staff at the end of August 2007. She has BA Degree in English and Italian Language and Literature from the Faculty of Philosophy, Zagreb University. Her first job was Eurovision Coordinator for Zagreb TV News Bulletin for 5 years, then she married and went to work in Royal Thai Embassy in Belgrade as a secretary and interpreter. After her son was born she returned to Zagreb and worked for UNPROFOR, VTI Movie Distribution, and ACNIELSEN Market Agency. She was also a Grammar School teacher and Language Editor for the Croatian Medical Journal becoming a member of EASE. She has been working as Interpreter in the Croatian MOD since 2002.



RACVIAC would also like to welcome **Ms Marijana ALORVOR**. She finished Social Welfare Studies Department, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, Croatia in 1986, which is equivalent of Bachelor of Arts-Social Science. She worked in various administrative positions (purchase/stores, invoicing, etc.) in international companies with teams of expatriate experts in Accra Ghana. The companies rendered services to embassies (British High Commission, Royal Danish Embassy, German Embassy, etc.) and multinational companies (KLM, SHELL, etc.). The last two companies that she worked for were B&D Consultancy, which deals with electrical/generator/air conditioning/civil/works installation and maintenance, and WCAS security firm.



Programme 2008 - forthcoming events (January - March)

Defence Planning, Programming and Budgeting Seminar (S-01)

Coorganized with NATO JFC HQ Naples

14 - 17 January

Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar (C - 01)

In cooperation with OPCW

04 - 08 February

Regional Security & Regional Ownership (S-04)

In cooperation with Regional Co-operation Council (RCC)

12 - 14 February

Disaster Management Seminar (C-02)

Coorganized with DPPI

18 - 22 February

7th Workshop on Transition of Military Personnel (WS-1)

In cooperation with MoD Croatia (tbc)

24 - 26 February

Promote SEE EU Integration (S-03)

Coorganized with European Commission and Slovenia

postponed

English Arms Control Terminology Course (C-03)

10 - 21 March

7th Workshop on Transition on Military Base Conversion (WS-2)

In cooperation with MoD Slovenia (tbc)

26 - 28 March



RACVIAC STAFF MEMBERS— November 2007

RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

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