

newsletter

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Centre for Security Cooperation

2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON RACVIAC NEW ORGANIZATION

At the 2nd WG meeting in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on 22nd September, 10 participants from 6 MAG countries (Austria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Greece, Moldova and Turkey), as well as one representative from the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and 7 RACVIAC representatives, led by the Director, Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić, shared their observations and actively engaged in discussions on RACVIAC new organization. Following MAG decisions on change of the RACVIAC mission, the Strategy Paper as well as the conclusions and recommendations of the first Working Group (WG) meeting on New RACVIAC Organization, participants discussed issues regarding upgrading of the proposed

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organisational framework, a preliminary organigram, producing detailed and revised job descriptions and laying down the nomination and vetting process.

Mr Ömer Burhan Tüzel, the Chairman of the WG, stressed that the first meeting of the WG on the 16th of June was a very fruitful one since it had produced a common understanding on the draft organigram, which had,

prepared by RACVIAC Staff for this WG meeting, as well as his own "Preliminary Comments" distributed in writing prior to the meeting, which stimulated the later discussion.

It was a sense of the Chairman that the participants had reached a common understanding on the following issues: the revised organigram, the creation of additional posts at RACVIAC and the equitable geographical distribution of posts at RACVIAC, the selection of Subject Matter Experts, however there was no understanding on the position of Program Managers. This issue is to be tackled at the next WG meeting.

The Chairman announced the intention to hold one final meeting of the WG prior to the next MAG Meeting planned for 31st October in Zagreb. He asked representatives of member states to come to the third WG meeting with instructions, and informed them that he intended to either present to the MAG a concrete proposal on the

new structure of RACVIAC for a decision or to present his report on the outcome of the three WG meetings and to refer the issue back to MAG for further consideration.



Group photo of participants 2nd WG on RACVIAC New Organisation

in turn, constituted the basis for the preparation of the second meeting. He drew attention to the excellent "Background Paper", including a set of job descriptions and revised organigram

MEETING OF WORKING GROUP ON RACVIAC LEGAL STATUS

At the 19th MAG Meeting on 10th April 2008 in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, MAG decided to establish a Working Group on RACVIAC Legal Status to be chaired by Croatia, and composed of all countries willing to participate in the group. The Working Group (WG) on RACVIAC Legal Status met on 7th July 2008.



Group photo of participants WG on RACVIAC Legal Status

The meeting gathered 20 participants from 8 MAG countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey, as well as one representative from the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and six RACVIAC representatives.

The purpose of this Meeting was to review and refine the legal status of RACVIAC in accordance with the 19th MAG Meeting Conclusions. After comprehensive discussions and exchange of views the WG concluded to propose to the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) to replace the existing Agreement as signed by Croatia, Germany, Italy and Turkey by concluding a new multilateral one, taking into account MAG deliberation on the future status and new strategy of RACVIAC. Way ahead:

- Developing the first draft agreement (led by Croatia, in close cooperation with Turkey, Germany and Italy);
- Submitting the draft to all

MAG Core and Associate Members, as well as the Observers for comments;

- Next meeting of the WG on RACVIAC Legal Status will be held during October.

VIENNA DOCUMENT 1999 ORIENTATION COURSE

The C-5 "Vienna Document 1999 Orientation Course" was carried out in the period from 30th June - 4th July 2008 in accordance with the RACVIAC Programme for 2008. The Course was conducted in two phases, a theoretical phase comprising lectures and presentations, which took place in RACVIAC - Rakitje, and a practical phase at the 91st Air Base Plešo in Zagreb.

The Course was organised for the fifth time in favour of military and civilian representatives of the countries of South-east European (SEE) region.

The four-day Course provided the participants with the opportunity to meet their colleagues from the SEE region as well as to meet representatives and experts from different countries, organizations and agencies, all dealing with the execution of the VD 99' and/or other arms control regimes for years.

The purpose of this Course was to provide participants with a theoretical overview of the VD 99', giving a comprehensive analysis of both, theoretical and practical level of the implementation of these activities.

It was organized in accordance with the Vienna Document 1999, focusing on the duties and responsibilities of the personnel to be engaged in the implementation of the aforementioned arms control document, demonstrating the real spirit of the confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs).

Course Objectives were:

- To overview the specified elements of the VD 99', highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules and procedures of their execution;
- To provide the participants with the information about the current situation in the implementation of VD 99';
- To train the participants in the subjects related to the planning and conducting of such activities either for the role of visitor/evaluator or escort pursuant to the best practices;
- To deepen contacts between representatives of national organisations and agencies engaged in the arms control and/or security- and confidence-building measures accomplishments;
- To provide participants with the opportunity to exercise or "observe" the real events, particularly during the prac-



Group photo of participants Vienna Document 1999 Orientation Course

tical part of the Course, thus adding a real value to the efforts of the SEE region in building security culture and environment.

Twenty participants from eight MAG countries participated in the



One of lecturers during Vienna Document 1999 Orientation Course

Course (from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Moldavia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia). Five lecturers (from Austria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary and Turkey) altogether assisted the activity by delivering presentations on the topics regarding VD' 99.

The invited lecturers covered the relevant theoretical part of the VD' 99. According to the participants' remarks the lectures fulfilled the requirements. Most of the presentations were met with high interest.

During the practical phase the participants were divided into two teams and conducted an evaluation visit. They practiced performing their duties both, as members of the evaluation team and escort team during their evaluation visit to 91st Air Base, and pursuant to the following procedures:

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

The invited lecturers presented a comprehensive and detailed overview of the relevant parts of the Document taken for investigation.

This practical part provided participants with the opportunity to exercise the real events and real life situations as members of the evaluation teams. It must be emphasized that all the participants were highly motivated during the Course.

They were satisfied with the topics chosen and with the Course itself. They suggested organizing similar, even more detailed courses with some syndicate work and even more detailed and longer theoretical part in the future.

The practical phase of the Course

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was well-organized thanks to the professionalism and preparedness of the 91st Air Base staff (local escort), as well as the good and close cooperation between RACVIAC and the

Croatian Ministry of Defence and Verification Centre.

"Vienna Document 1999 Orientation Course" proved to be successful by the participants' assessments given at the end of the event. They all agreed on the necessity of conducting these kinds of courses in the future.

SEMINAR ON ARMS CONTROL IN CRISIS SITUATIONS

Pursuant to RACVIAC annual programme for 2008 the Training & Verification Division organized and executed the "Seminar on Arms control in Crisis Situations" from 10th to 11th July 2008. The Seminar was organized in cooperation with the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany (FFO).

The purpose of the seminar was to provide a forum to allow for an in depth discussion of the ways as how conventional arms control can contribute to crisis management within the given limits. Fifty-eight participants from thirty different countries and organizations attended the seminar.

The participants were senior officials, decision makers, experts and managers in their national organizations with a large-scale of theoretical knowledge and practical experience.

Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić, the Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Mr. Bernd Heinze, chargé d' affaires, German Embassy, Zagreb and Mr. Michael Biontino, Head of Division of the Conventional Disarmament and Arms Control Division, Federal Foreign Office, opened the seminar.

The seminar was conducted as a combination of lectures/presentations followed by open discussions in two working groups, aimed at sharing expertise, opinions and lessons learned, identifying problems and finding possible solutions, as well as exploring the way ahead.

During these discussions the working groups provided recommendations and suggestions as how to proceed with the development of possible project on Arms Control in Crisis Situations.

The presentations were held by: Ambassador Herbert Salber, Director of the OSCE-CPC, on the topic: "Arms Control in Crisis Situations: Lessons Learnt and Perspectives for the Future – A Perception from the OSCE-Conflict Prevention Centre; dr. Wolfgang Zellner, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg, on the topic: "Chances and Limits of Arms Control in Regional Conflict Situations: Success or Failure?"; dr. Pál Dunay, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), on the topic: "How to Make Arms Control an Effective Crisis Management Instrument: The Design of Arms Control Measures to Deal Effectively



Group photo of participants Seminar on arms control in crisis situation

with Crisis Situations?"; dr. Zdzislaw Lachowski, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), on the topic: "The Dayton Peace Accord – An Example for Arms Control as a Successful Crisis Management Instrument?"; dr. Jeffrey McCausland, Dick-

inson University, Pennsylvania, USA, on the topic: "The Role of Arms Control and Crisis Management in General: A View on the Experiences made in Kosovo - Lessons Learnt about the Future Role of Arms Control in Crisis Situations" and dr. Hans-Joachim Schmidt, Frankfurt Peace Research Institute, on the topic: "Arms Control beyond the European Context – A Realistic Perspective?".

In their presentations, lectures outlined different ways as how arms control could make an important contribution to crisis management and have a significant stabilizing effect in crisis as well as post-conflict situations particularly at the regional level. They reiterated there was still not enough attention given to this aspect of arms control.

This seminar tried to help to rectify this situation and to provide participants with the opportunity to gain deeper understanding of the subject matter, which certainly deserves greater attention. The chosen topic of the seminar proved to be a great asset in the light of the possible multinational cooperation. The participants were very pleased both, with the seminar and the topics chosen and they proposed this seminar to become a tradition. All the participants recognized a need for better international corporation and coordination between the countries, when a crisis/conflict accrues.

The cooperation between RACVIAC and FFO ensured the presence of high-level participants, who gave particular relevant information for further consideration and discussions, as well as proposals for future projects.

Everyone agreed that the seminar brought an added value and showed fields and ways as how to work in the future as a platform for co-operation at both, national and international level, as well as to foster co-operation between the civilian and military sphere in Southeast European region.

OPEN SKIES TREATY ORIENTATION COURSE

RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, in cooperation with Federal Republic of Germany and Republic of Hungary, started a new Open Skies Treaty Orientation Course at 29th September.



Group photo of participants Open Skies Treaty Orientation course

The Course will be held in two phases; the first phase, from 29th September to 3rd October, will be a theoretical phase at RACVIAC in Rakitje, where participants will be introduced with Open Skies Treaty by presentations and will have discussions on topic. The second phase of the Course will be held in Republic of Hungary, at Kecskemét military air base, and at Cartography Institute at Budapest, where the practical part of Course will be occurring.

The first day of the Course, Colonel Kálmán Németh, Chief of Training and Verification Division, and Colonel Mihajlo Mladenović, Chief of Defence Conversion Cell, welcomed the participants, and after the short presentation of RACVIAC structure and activities, the first presenta-

tion was held by Mr Robert Barić from the Office of President of Republic of Croatia, who spoke about historical background of arms control treaties and their purpose.

The participants of the Course are 16 military personnel, some experienced members of Verification Agencies, and some newcomers, from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Republic of Serbia, Moldova, Slovenia and Montenegro. Five lecturers (from Germany, Hungary and Latvia) will present national arms control agencies and verifications centres.

The aim of the Course is to train personnel from SEE countries and to provide them with education and practical experience for planning, organizing and executing an Aerial Observation Mission based on the provisions of Treaty of Open Skies.

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DIRECTOR'S VISIT TO REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO

Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić, Director of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation paid an official visit to the Republic of Montenegro in the period of 17th -18th July 2008.

The official meetings were held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Montenegro. During the first day's visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director was welcomed and hosted by the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Milorad Šćepanović.

At this meeting the two high representatives discussed possible ways



Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić visited Minister of Defence of Republic of Montenegro Mr Boro Vučinić

and modalities of closer future cooperation between RACVIAC and Republic of Montenegro.

The next day, 18th July, Director visited the Ministry of Defence, where he met with the Minister of Defence of Republic of Montenegro, Mr Boro Vučinić, who was accompanied by the Assistant Minister Mr Draško Jovanović and Head of Department for International Military Cooperation, Col Zoran Bošković.

Ambassador Hadžimusić and Minister Vučinić spoke about future participation of Republic of Montenegro in RACVIAC activities. Montenegrin officials confirmed that Republic of Montenegro should continue to foster fruitful cooperation with RACVIAC and provide support to the Centre's activities as well as to other regional initiatives.

CHINESE DEFENCE ATTACHÉ VISITS RACVIAC

Senior Colonel Hu Ping, the Defence Attaché of the People's Republic of China visited RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation on 27th August 2008.

Senior Colonel Hu Ping was welcomed on behalf of all RACVIAC Staff by Deputy Director and Chief of Staff Colonel Tomislav Vibovec. Following this welcome note PR Officer Capt Ružica Spajić held a brief presentation on RACVIAC mission, activities and structure.

Col Hu Ping concluded that organizations such as RACVIAC are crucial for regional stability and security and could serve as an example of good practice for similar regions around the world, especially for his home region of South-East Asia.



Senior Colonel Hu Ping, the Defence Attaché of the People's Republic of China, visited RACVIAC

RACVIAC AT THE REGIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CONFERENCE IN SLOVENIA

Colonel Ömer Faruk Bastürk and Captain Dobrislav Biloš from RACVIAC Dialogue & Cooperation Division participated in International Regional Conference "The Counterterrorism Challenges in Region of South-Eastern



Group photo of participants Regional Counterterrorism Conference

Europe" from 8th-12th September 2008. The event took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The purpose of the Conference was to highlight the possible risks of Diaspora communities in supporting radicalism within the South-Eastern Europe, as well as the importance of cooperation between security,

intelligence and police agencies of SEE countries.

At this conference, RACVIAC was introduced to participants by presentation held by Colonel Ömer Faruk Bastürk, who made them familiar with RACVIAC purpose and activities.

The Conference

provided a great opportunity for presenting RACVIAC in the international area and for enhancing the cooperation and the exchange of lessons learned in the field of countering terrorism.

BELGRADE'S CENTRE FOR CIVIL MILITARY RELATIONS VISITS RACVIAC

On 15th September a team of research fellows of the Centre for Civil-Military Relations from Belgrade, lead by Ms Sonja Stojanović as well as the Main Editor from Western Balkans Security Observer visited RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation.

This visit was organized as a part of their Regional Study



Centre for Civil-Military Relations from Belgrade visited RACVIAC

Tour around Croatia.

After an introduction of RACVIAC Centre the participants engaged themselves in a debate during which the guests from Belgrade expressed their interest in RACVIAC as the premier platform for dialogue on security cooperation in SEE region. They were also interested in RACVIAC new structure, future plans and mission, shared by many other regional initiatives founded by the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

The representatives expressed their willingness to consider the signing of the MoU between CCMR and RACVIAC.

RACVIAC AT COAST GUARD SEMINAR IN SPLIT

Deputy Director and Chief of Staff of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, Colonel Tomislav Vibovec, provided moderation of the Coast Guard seminar in Split, held from 22nd to 24th September. The seminar was organized by the Coast Guard of Republic of Croatia in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Norway.

Participants were representatives



Participants of Coast Guard seminar in Split

from Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and Norway. Vice admiral Zdravko Kardum, Commander of the Coast Guard of the Republic of Croatia, and Colonel Thor Arne Lysenstoen, the Defence Attaché of Norwegian Armed Forces, welcomed all participants and opened the seminar.

The main purpose/goal of the seminar was to share experience in Coast Guard operations and possibilities for Adriatic Sea regional cooperation. Delivered presentations provided participants with the opportunity to exchange thoughts and information on current issues concerning Coast Guard development, and to emphasize the importance of sharing experience in the framework of regional cooperation.

Based on the information presented at this Seminar, all the participants stressed that it was only through proper regional cooperation of the

countries in Adriatic Sea region that a common environment protection and safe navigation on the Adriatic Sea could be ensured.

The seminar also highlighted the need for an established Coast Guard Forum for the use of further discussions of all issues regarding Adriatic Sea regional cooperation.

RACVIAC'S VISIT TO SLOVENIJA

On the occasion of "10th Anniversary of the Verification Centre of the Slovenian Armed Forces" which took place in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia in the period of 23rd – 24th September 2008 Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić delivered a keynote speech providing a brief overview of the Sub-Regional Agreement implementation process and emphasising the successful results.

He also reiterated that it was only through regional co-operation among all its members and international partners, that the SEE region could pursue its march towards lasting sta-



Mr Bogdan Benko and Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić

bility and prosperity.

Ambassador also actively participated in the experts talk on "Review of International Arms Control Treaties".

On the second day the Director meet Mr Bogdan Benko, Director General, Directorate for European Affairs and Bilateral Political Relations in Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The purpose of the meeting was to express RACVIAC appreciation to the Republic of Slovenia for their ongoing support to RACVIAC and to further promote our mutual cooperation and partnership.

Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić took the opportunity to remind all of the major role of RACVIAC as the aircraft carrier in the region, ready for anyone with similar objectives to land and take off, reaching out towards all destinations in the SEE region and seeking for synergy with all organizations and institutions having similar strategic objectives in the region, and beyond, such as Slovenian Armed Forces Verification Centre.

HELLOS

Colonel Tomislav Vibovec from Croatian Army was appointed as RACVIAC new Chief of Staff and Deputy Director.

He was born on 1st February 1969 in Vukovar, Croatia. Col Vibovec obtained BA in Economics from the Faculty of Economics, University of Osijek.



He continued his education and professional training at different international schools and institutions among which were: Command Staff School, Austrian Defence Academy, Vienna, Austria; Defence Management in Democracy Course, Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, UK and French Joint Defence College, Paris, France.

Before joining RACVIAC team Col Vibovec worked in the Department for Defence Policy and Planning, Defence Policy Directorate at the Croatian Ministry of Defence as a Department Director. He is married and a father of 3 sons.

Captain **Branko Lozančić** from the Croatian Army has been appointed our new Chief of Services Branch.



He was born on October 10th, 1969 in Toronto, Canada. Prior to joining the RACVIAC team Captain Lozančić held a position at the Croatian Ministry of Defence in the Defence Policy and Planning Department.

He lives in Zagreb with his wife and two children. His interests include: music, chess and reading.



1st LT **Igor Skenderović** from Croatia joined RACVIAC Staff in September 2008, as a new PRESS & PR Officer.

Igor came to RACVIAC from Croatian Air Force, where he had served as a PR and Multimedia Officer for the past several years.

Before service in Croatian Air Force he spent several years in Croatian Ministry of Defence as a member of the editorial staff of Croatian military magazine "Hrvatski vojnik". He graduated from the University of Osijek Faculty of Law.



RACVIAC welcomes Mr **Nikola Hrastić** as the new Press & PR Assistant. He is grad student of political science from Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb.



He was born in Zagreb on 20th July 1985. Mr Hrastić is a member of Forum for Security Studies of Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb and has already attended some RACVIAC seminars, as well as several other seminars on regional and international security. He also participated in workshops about energy infrastructure security and crisis management.

His main fields of interests include national and European security, geopolitics and international politics.



Mr. **Patrick Gaelweiler** temporary joined RACVIAC's Defense Conversion Cell as an intern in September 2008.



He was born in 1984 in Germany and is a student of History, Politics and English Language at the RWTH-University in Aachen. During these studies he developed his interest for international politics and cooperation.

In a 2-months internship at the *German Delegation to the OSCE* in Vienna he made first experiences in this

field. He will stay at RACVIAC until mid October.

GOODBYES

RACVIAC says a farewell to its former Deputy Director and Chief of Staff Colonel **Vladimir Superina** who joined us in July 2007.



It has been a pleasure working with him for the past year as he provided assistance to the staff members as well as to the Director, and carried out his duties professionally. His tour of duty in RACVIAC ended in June 2008.

We would like to thank him for all his hard work and wish him all the best in his future career in Croatian Military Academy in Zagreb.



It has been a great pleasure working with Captain **Ružica Spajić**. She has served in RACVIAC for 4 years.

We would like to thank her for her dedication to work and her professionalism in promoting RACVIAC image and mission as Press and Public Relations Officer, as well as for providing her colleagues with support, guidance, and encouragement.

Her enthusiasm and ability to motivate others were a valuable asset to RACVIAC.

We do wish her every success in all her future endeavours on her new post with the Croatian Ministry of Defence, International Defence Cooperation Department.



RACVIAC would like to thank Ms **Blanka Dedi** for her dedicated work and friendship during her internship at the Centre. Ms DEDI proved to be a diligent and assertive employee providing support not only to Press and PR Cell, but to all her colleagues in RACVIAC.



Her presence, both as a person and as an exemplary employee was an asset for RACVIAC. It was a real pleasure to witness her Ms Dedi's development here at the Centre. We do wish her every success in all her future career.

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FORTCOMING EVENTS

12 – 14 OCT
 Conflict Prevention Seminar

15 – 17 OCT
 Seminar on Marking and Tracing as Control Measures to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons

21 – 24 OCT
 Towards OSLO 2008: Workshop on Cluster Munitions

28 OCT
 2nd WG Meeting on Legal Status

29/30 OCT
 3rd WG Meeting on New RACVIAC Organization

30 – 31 OCT
 20th MAG Meeting and Budgetary Meeting

04 – 06 NOV
 Promoting Southeast Europe - NATO Integration

12 – 14 NOV
 Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector

17 – 21 NOV
 A-CFE (CFE) Orientation Course

23 – 30 NOV
 Human Resources Management in Armed Forces in Transition

26 – 28 NOV
 9th Workshop on Military Base Conversion

30 NOV – 02 DEC
 Integrated Border Management Seminar

03 – 05 DEC
 Regional Cooperation Council's Impact on Regional Security Cooperation in Southeast Europe

15 – 17 DEC
 NATO – RACVIAC Conference on Transition of Military Personnel

17 – 18 DEC
 9th Workshop on Transition of Military Personnel



Group photo of RACVIAC staff