



Centre for Security Cooperation

issue 25 • october 2009 - january 2010

Newsletter



CROATIAN PRESIDENT IN RACVIAC

**ESDP:
SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE IN THE EVOLUTION
OF EUROPEAN SECURITY STRUCTURE**

**REGIONAL SECURITY THROUGH REGIONAL OWNERSHIP:
A NEW ERA OF COOPERATION?**

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Slovenian Defence Attaché Visited RACVIAC



On 23 November 2009 Brigadier General Bojan Šuligoj, the Defence Attaché of the Republic of Slovenia to the Republic of Croatia, visited RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation. It was his farewell visit to RACVIAC, as his tour of duty in Croatia has finished and he is returning to the Republic of Slovenia.

He was accompanied by his successor – Brigadier General Alojz Završnik. Director of RACVIAC Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski, and Deputy Director Colonel Željko Cepanec, welcomed Brigadier General Bojan Šuligoj and thanked him for his cooperation, and also expressed hopes of good

relations with the new attaché Brigadier General Alojz Završnik.

After the welcome reception in Director's Office, Slovenian guests had a meeting with other senior staff members at RACVIAC, during which Public Affairs Office held a brief presentation about RACVIAC's mission, programme of activities, as well as ongoing transformation of the Centre's structure and legal status.

Newly appointed Slovenian Defence Attaché Brigadier General Završnik proudly stated that he is very well acquainted with RACVIAC's work, largely thanks to fact that he comes from Slovenian Verification Centre, and that for many years he has attended MAG meetings as Slovenian representative.

At the end of their visit, RACVIAC's guests expressed their believe in the continuation of good relations between Republic of Slovenia and RACVIAC.

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Commander of German Verification Center at RACVIAC

On 30 November Brigadier General Winfried Mertens, Commander of German Verification Center, came to RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation as part of his visit to Croatian Verification Center. Lieutenant Colonel Peter Schlitt, his associate from the German Verification Center, accompanied him during the visit.

The guests from Germany were welcomed by Director Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski, Deputy Director Colonel Željko Cepanec and RACVIAC senior staff.

The reason for this visit was the desire expressed by Brigadier General Mertens to make personal

acquaintance with the new RACVIAC Director and to express strong support to efforts by RACVIAC in the forthcoming period.

Alongside the presentation of current situation at RACVIAC, the guests and their hosts engaged in a thorough discussion on the Programme of Activities for 2010, as well as on the prospects for mutual cooperation.



Deputy Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina visited RACVIAC

On 15 December 2009 Mr Živko Marjanac, Deputy Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina visited RACVIAC. Mr



Marjanac was accompanied by Colonel Dragoš Milanković, B&H Defence Attaché to Croatia, and by Mr Duško Radić, Advisor to Deputy Minister of Defence.

The occasion for the visit to RACVIAC was the desire expressed by deputy minister to make personal acquaintance with RACVIAC and its staff and to express strong support to RACVIAC's activities and plans.

Guests from Bosnia and Herzegovina were provided with a presentation on RACVIAC's past achievements, current situations and future goals. They also discussed RACVIAC's 2010 programme with the Centre's management. In addition to that, representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina had the oppor-

tunity to take part in the opening of one of RACVIAC's flagship events in 2009, the Conference on Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector - "New Security Challenges in SEE".

Visit to RACVIAC was concluded by Mr Marjanac's meeting with the B&H seconded officers, members of RACVIAC staff.



U.S. Air Force Attaché to Croatia Lieutenant Colonel Sean J. Cantrell visited RACVIAC

On 27 January 2010 Lieutenant Colonel Sean J. Cantrell, the Air Force Attaché at the U.S. Embassy to Croatia, visited RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation. It was his first visit to RACVIAC following his recent



start to tour of duty in Croatia.

The guest was welcomed by Director of RACVIAC Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski and his Deputy, Colonel Željko Cepanec.

After the reception in Director's Office, Lieutenant Colonel Sean J. Cantrell had a meeting with other senior staff members at RACVIAC, during which he was given a brief presentation on RACVIAC's mission, annual programme of activities, and the ongoing transformation of the Centre.



American Air Force Attaché showed significant interest in RACVIAC's achievements, current activities and expressed his belief in successful future cooperation between USA and RACVIAC.

SEPCA 2nd Regional Communications Liaison Officers (CLOs) Meeting

SEPCA 2nd Regional Communications Liaison Officers (CLOs) Meeting was held in RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation on 10 and 11 December.

This meeting was a continuation of mutual cooperation that started the year before. The meeting was opened with the welcome address by RACVIAC Programme

Manager Colonel Mihajlo Mladenović, followed by keynote speeches delivered by Mr. Stanislav Bezovsky, Executive Secretary at SEPCA Executive Secretariat, and Mr. Reto Brunhart, Senior Advisor and Projects Co-ordinator at SEPCA Executive Secretariat.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss current efforts towards building public security in South Eastern Europe, through co-operative police services, with assistance of citizens and partner organizations. In that regard, the participants exchanged

information, ideas and experiences.

During the meeting strong emphasis was put on regional cooperation and CLOs Network training and planning.



“Regional stability and cooperation are essential preconditions for the progress of not just the SEE region, but also of the whole of Europe. RACVIAC certainly makes an important contribution in that regard.”



President Mesić delivering a speech on the importance of regional cooperation

CROATIAN PRESIDENT STJEPAN MESIĆ VISITED RACVIAC

■ 1st Lt Igor Skenderović

The President of the Republic of Croatia and the Commander-in-Chief of Croatian Armed Forces Mr Stjepan Mesić visited RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation on Tuesday 12 January 2010. President Mesić’s delegation consisted of Mr Tomislav Jakić, Foreign Policy Advisor to the President, Ms Višnja Tafra, Defence Affairs Advisor to the President, Major General Krešimir Kašpar, Head of Military Office of the President, Lieutenant Colonel Vlado Čulina, Aide-de-Camp to the President, and Brigadier General Zvonko Peternel, Deputy Commander of Croatian Army.

Colonel Tomislav Pavičić, Commander of Military Barracks „Vitez Damir Martić“ and CAPSOC, was the first to welcome the guests, followed by RACVIAC Director Am-

bassador Nikola Todorčevski and Deputy Director Colonel Željko Cepanec.

The occasion for this presidential visit to RACVIAC was the desire of President Mesić to make acquaintance with the new RACVIAC management, who took over their duty during 2009. In addition to that, President Stjepan Mesić wanted to reiterate his support to RACVIAC, the first international organisation of this kind based on Croatian soil.

The relationship between President Mesić and RACVIAC started with the establishment of the Centre at the beginning of his first mandate in October 2000, and during past ten years President Mesić and his staff constantly provided significant support in organisation and execution of RACVIAC’s activities. In the course of the visit, RACVI-

AC management introduced the President with RACVIAC’s international staff consisting of representatives of 12 nations, and provided Mr Mesić with a presentation on the current situation in RACVIAC, its process of transformation, current activities and future plans as well as on the results achieved during past ten years.

In his speech held in front of all RACVIAC staff and the representatives of media, Croatian President stressed that regional stability and cooperation are essential preconditions for the progress of not just the SEE region, but also of the whole of Europe. He emphasized that RACVIAC makes an important contribution in this regard.

At the end of his visit, President Stjepan Mesić congratulated RACVIAC staff on their achievements, and wished them a lot of success in the future. ■



President Mesić makes personal acquaintance with each member of RACVIAC staff



President Mesić praised RACVIAC’s achievements during past ten years



WORKSHOP ON MILITARY BASE CONVERSION

■ Capt Mehmed Halilović

The workshop was conducted at RACVIAC facilities in Rakitje and as a field study trip to Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The purpose of the WG2 workshop was to bring together representatives of different ministries, regional and local authorities, international organizations, NGOs, financial institutions and businesses, with the aim to examine and discuss various aspects of military base conversion (MBC). The participants and lecturers came from permanent Working Group 2 (WG2) countries - Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Romania and Moldova, as well as other countries (Germany) and international organizations (UNDP, OSCE and NATO).

The welcome reception was held at RACVIAC facilities in Rakitje on 14 October and was hosted by RACVIAC Deputy Director Colonel Željko Cepanec. Early next morning the participants were transported to Banja Luka, where the workshop continued in the conference room of Republic of Srpska Parliament. Mr Dragoljub Davidović, Mayor of Banja Luka, welcomed the guests and expressed his appreciation by the fact that military facilities are being converted to civilian purposes, to be used by local community (municipalities) for education, health care, sport etc. He added his personal view that this process should be faster. The workshop officially opened with the short introductory speeches by Mr Slobodan Marković, WG2 Chairman and Director of the Republic Agency for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (RARS), and Col Mihajlo Mladenović, Programme Manager of Security Sector Reform Pillar at RACVIAC. In his speech, Mr Marković emphasized that non-perspective military facilities can be used for encouraging employment, local initiative and training for self-employment in cooperation with government institutions.

Mr Roland Vogt, Senior Expert for Conversion and the former member of the Federal Parliament of Germany, gave the keynote speech. In his speech, Mr. Vogt provided a comprehensive and interesting presentation on the experiences with military base conversion in the Federal State of Brandenburg (vast area surround-

ing Berlin) and the Conversion Network (CONVERNET) developed for the Baltic States. He proposed the establishment of a similar network in the SEE region and emphasized that the decisions on military base conversion should be taken at the highest possible level.

Two representatives of UNDP in Croatia – Mr Hans Risser, Senior Advisor and Programme Manager, and Mr Nenad Kocmur, Programme Officer, provided the next presentation, in which they described UNDP's experiences in supporting military base conversion by local governments in Benkovac and Varaždin, Croatia. They also highlighted the ways in which UNDP can financially and logistically support various conversion initiatives.

After these initial presentations, Mr Miladin Gaćanović, from the Republic Directorate for Reconstruction and Construction, introduced the auditorium with the current situation on the local level and presented both the problems the Directorate faces and the efforts it puts in solving legal issues concerning the ownership and use of former military facilities. Problems in conversion of non-perspective military assets in Bosnia and Herzegovina was the topic of the next presentation, given by Ms Sanela Jakubović, Head of Department of Common Affairs Service of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ms Jakubović also focused on the legal aspects of the issue, presenting the problems and possible solutions.

After these presentations it was time for the participants to get introduced with the current state of affairs in one practical example of military base conversion. The converted site described was the former barracks Trapisti, and the Workshop participants were given a short presentation by entrepreneur Drago Gverić, followed by a visit to the site in question.

The second day started with more presentations on the successful examples of Military Base Conversion in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr Mico Stanojević, representative of RARS, gave the first presentation, talking about the conversion of military Brownfield sites into areas envisaged for local economic development. After that Mr Branislav Vujanin, Director of PREDA, briefly presented the successful business incubator located in the former barracks Palančište in Prijedor. Mr Nenad Račić, PhD, the Director of the

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation organized the 11th Workshop on Military Base Conversion in cooperation with the Republic Agency for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 14 – 16 October 2009.

Centre for Improvement of Villages, gave the final presentation, portraying the Centre located in the former military training area Manjača. It was followed by a trip to the above-mentioned Centre, where the participants had an opportunity to see the exact results of the conversion from a training area to a centre for agriculture, with both production and educational purposes.

Conclusion and proposals for the next Workshop

The workshop proved very useful and successful in promoting an even closer cooperation on MBC issues among the SEE countries. The WG2 Workshop ended with the conclusion that Mr Marković will send a written initiative to all MBC actors in the region in which he will encourage them to ask UNDP for assistance in the creation of MBC program. He would tackle this issue in cooperation with SERDA Director.

Finally, the relevant actors will jointly press decision-makers with the developed concept.

Lobbying for MBC is also important and Mr Vogt offered his help in the development of an informal network on MBC, similar to CONVERNET in the Baltic Region. The financing for such a Project on MBC in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be sought from IPA Project of EU Pre-Accession.

The next WG2 Workshop will be hosted in Old Municipality Sarajevo, by Munir Zahiragić, Member of Municipality Council, and President of the Commission for Allocation of Business Premises.

Decisions that were also confirmed during the Workshop in Banja Luka were that from the year 2010 WG2 will have a new Chairman coming from Croatia, and that there will be only an annual workshop conducted.

Summary

All participants agreed that the conversion of military structures is still a very complex process. Involvement of all the aspects of society in conversion would contribute to better results and reduce the costs of the process, and in long term strengthen the military-civilian relations.

The most important ventures for the successful future are the formation of a database of non-perspective properties, and the establishment of an efficient network both at national and regional level. ■

¹ Turkey recognizes Republic of Macedonia with its Constitutional name



During seminar opening session

ESDP

SOUTHEAST EUROPE IN THE EVOLUTION OF EUROPEAN SECURITY STRUCTURE



The Seminar on “ESDP - Southeast Europe in the Evolution of European Security Structure” was held at RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation from 12 – 13 October 2009.

■ LtCol Ioanis Papavasileiou

The purpose of the seminar was to enhance the understanding of ESDP (European Security and Defence Policy) within the SEE community. It gathered participants who have knowledge and experience in the field of ESDP and are actively involved in ESDP issues on their respective positions in relevant ministries. The seminar was conducted in the course of one day and included two sessions, which were followed by questions and answers, encouraging the participants to exchange views and experience, and openly discuss future perspectives of ESDP in SEE. The participants and lecturers were representatives of nine countries and six organizations, namely: Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (5), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ (3), Moldova (2), Serbia (2), Hungary (1), Romania (1), France (3), NATO HQ in Sarajevo (1), University of Zagreb (5), European Council (1), European Union (2), Geneva Centre for Security Policy (1), Institute for European Studies (1).

Plenary Session

The lecturers focused on the following issues: Current EU Defence Policy and SEE, the role of ESDP, and current achievements

and future perspective of ESDP in SEE.

Mr Hans-Bernhard Weisserth, Head of ESDP Task Force at Policy Unit of Council of the European Union, and Acting Head of



During plenary session

¹ Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) Secretariat, delivered the keynote speech titled “Current EU Defence Policy and the SEE”. Mr Weisserth began his speech by providing an overview of the historical development of the European Security and Defence Policy from its origins in 1948, with the adoption of the Brussels Treaty and the creation of the Western European Union. He then summarised the areas in which there has been significant progress since ESDP fell under the umbrella of the European Union in 1999. At the end of his speech, Mr Weisserth provided his personal view on two specific aspects of ESDP development - the transatlantic relationship and the development of military capabilities, in which he presented the achievements in the past years, the guidelines given in the European Security Strategy, and the plans on how EU and its 27 Member States can further develop ESDP, with a particular view to the SEE countries.

The first session, moderated by Mr Hans-Bernhard Weisserth, started with a presentation by Mr Alessandro Prunas, ESDP Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU. Mr Prunas introduced the audience with EU’s institutional framework and setting, explaining the respective roles of the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament in the field of CFSP (Common Foreign and Security Policy) and ESDP. He put special focus on the structures established within the Council with the aim to facilitate discussions and debates on sensitive issues related to European security and defence, in line with the intergovernmental method.

Mr Gustav Lindstrom, Course Director of European Training Course in Security Policy at GCSP (Geneva Centre for Security Policy), thoroughly elaborated ESDP as a crisis management and conflict prevention instrument. He also provided his personal reflections on the outstanding challenges placed before ESDP, which include the financing of its missions and operations, and the issue of capability development, both in military and civilian structures. In the end, he gave a short outlook of the Lisbon Treaty, which he expects to give positive input to these processes.

The first session ended with a speech by Mr Johannes Viereck, Head of Politico-Military Affairs of the EUSR (European Union Spe-



Seminar was attended by participants and lecturers from nine countries and six organisations and institutions

cial Representative) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr Viereck provided the participants with an insight into the achievements of EU missions in the Western Balkans and the still existing challenges with regard to SEE.

In the second session, moderated by Mr Johannes Viereck, Mr Srđan Gligorijević, an independent security policy analyst, presented the relevant CFSP and ESDP issues which will come about when the Lisbon Treaty is ratified by all EU members. The speaker mentioned two measures that the Treaty introduces - the establishment of an External Action Service, envisaged to cooperate with the diplomatic services of the EU member states, and the appointment of a new High Representative for EU Foreign Policy, who will also act as a vice-president of the Commission. The latter measure was aimed at achieving synergy between the Council and the Commission. Mr Gligorijević also expressed hopes that the final ratification of Lisbon Treaty would kick-start EU enlargement process.

Colonel Frederic PESME, from the Directorate for Strategic Affairs of the French MoD, informed the participants on the ongoing cooperation efforts between EU and NATO in crisis management. He underlined that the two organisations had to

view themselves as complementary to each other, or otherwise risk being looked upon as irrelevant, in particular by the US. The speaker gave a number of examples of mission competitions in the past, but also some examples of missions where both organisations assisted each other. Col Pesme ended the presentation by describing the popular opinion in the US on the use of “smart power” (combining hard and soft power) and hopes that EU could play a larger role in it.

In the final presentation of the Seminar, Dr Eva Gross, Senior Research Fellow at The Institute for European Studies, gave an overview of the present and future ESDP/CFSP opportunities and benefits for SEE. She reminded the audience that the Western Balkans continue to play an important part in European security. Dr Gross underlined that the European Security Strategy talks about peace in the neighbourhood and in that light it specifically mentions the Balkans. She explained that the term of “exit strategies” for ESDP missions in SEE was perhaps a misnomer, since it remains clear that EU’s engagement had much wider and longer-term political implications (i.e. the goal is to include the Balkans into EU). Dr Gross finished by expressing her hopes that the Lisbon Treaty would enhance ESDP coherence in the implementation of missions as well as in reactivating the enlargement process.

Summary / Conclusions

The seminar provided a successful platform for the participants coming from SEE Region in developing a common understanding on the implementation of European Security Strategy and its evolving shape under ESDP. The contribution of experts from EU and different international organizations proved outstanding in creating a healthy discussion climate.

The speakers and audience expressed the opinion that the intensification and enhancement of existing regional cooperation should remain among most important goals of foreign policy for all SEE countries. All panellists assessed the two sessions as very successful and useful and recommended co-organizers to continue with similar activities in the future. ■



ESDP seminar participants



Visit to GEOFOTO company

Pursuant to RACVIAC 2009 Programme, the Cooperative Security Environment Pillar (CSE) organized the Seminar from 19-22 October 2009.

The purpose of this seminar was to present some of the Information Technology (IT) solutions in mine action community and initiate discussion on how to further develop IT in mine action with regard to the implementation of the Ottawa Convention (Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, and their Destruction), both on the regional level and equally important international level.

The Recent **Demining Processes** – National and Regional Approach, **New Challenges**

■ LtCol Konstantinos Alexopoulos

The Seminar was organized together with Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) for the 3rd time, and it involved civilian and military personnel dealing with the Ottawa Convention. It consisted of lectures/presentations and a visit to GEOFOTO (specialized company in the domain of geodesy and geoinformation) in Zagreb.

The objectives of the seminar were the following: to provide the participants with information on IT solutions in mine action, to improve contacts between representatives of national and international organizations as well as countries dealing with mine action, to provide opportunity for talks on the challenges they face and the way ahead, to give a full picture of the latest geographic information systems by presenting some of the latest modern technological achievements in this field.

Twenty-two participants attended the Course, namely from HR (4), MK (1), ME, RS (2), International Trust Fund-Slovenia (1), BH Mine Action Centre (1), CROMAC (5), Montenegro RCUD (3), Croatian Red Cross (1) and CICHUD (1). The lecturers were Mr Damir JELENIĆ, Head of CROMAC IT Department, Mr Josef ČERINA, Head of CROMAC Regional Office in Zadar, Mr. Zoran GRUJIĆ, Head of BHMALC IT Department, Mr. Juan Carlos RUAN, from GICHD, Mrs Natasa URSIĆ, from ITF, Mrs Vijorka ROSEG, from Croatian Red Cross, as well as experts from GEOFOTO Zagreb.

The three-day Orientation Course was a good opportunity for participants to meet their colleagues from SEE region and repre-

sentatives/experts coming from organizations and agencies dealing with the Information Technology activities regarding the Ottawa Convention.

During the first day of the seminar, the following lecturers delivered presentations on the information systems and management of mine action activities: Mr Damir Jelenić, Head of CROMAC IT Department, Mr. Zoran Grujić, Head of BHMALC IT Department, and Mr. Juan Carlos Ruan, expert from GICHD. At the end of day one, the Director of RCUD in Montenegro delivered a presentation about the activities of his organization.

During the second day the participants visited Geofoto Group Company in Zagreb (airport). The visit included the following activities: visit to the company installations, presentation of the photogrammetric, geoinformation, cartographic and cadastral services of the company, and the presentation of the progress in mine action activities as a product of close cooperation-coordination between Geofoto and CROMAC. The day ended with a presentation on the regional cooperation and assistance to other countries with mine problem, by the expert from ITF Ms Nataša Uršič.

The third was filled with the following presentations: Mine Reaction Education and Information Technology, by Ms. Vijorka Roseg, MD, Croatian Red Cross; The Use of Media and World Wide Web for Cooperation and Promotion of Ottawa Convention, by Mr. Josip Čerina, PhD, Head of CROMAC Regional Office in Zadar, and Mr. Mladen Crnković, Head of CROMAC Director Office. The cooperation between RACVIAC and CROMAC ensured the presence of high-level lecturers and experts.

Summary / Conclusions

According to participants' assessments given at the end of the event, the Course proved to be successful. The invited lecturers covered all the topics efficiently and gave a concrete perspective on the IT achievements in mine action that have been developed in SEE by various organizations in the frame of the Ottawa Convention. ■



Seminar participants

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation conducted a Disaster Management seminar on “Pandemic of Influenza Affecting Global Security” in cooperation with DPPI – Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative. The seminar was held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 09 to 11 November 2009.



Pandemic of Influenza Affecting Global Security

■ Capt Jože Čebular, M.Sc.

The purpose of the seminar was to increase understanding of the danger posed by the pandemic of influenza and the actions that need to be taken. It also aimed to encourage South East European (SEE) countries to present their national influenza pandemic action plans and enhance the international cooperation.

During the seminar the participants had an opportunity to present and share their experiences, expertise, opinions, lessons learned, as well as to identify gaps, possible solutions, and to explore the future steps among regional countries.

A view on the influenza

It was opened by the Deputy Director of RACVIAC, Col Željko Cepanec, who stressed out a serious aspect in the spread of pandemic influenza, linked to the people traveling from one place to another. In these cases the disease starts even before the people can understand they are the carriers of H1N1 virus, and they continue with their daily routine not knowing that influenza is threatening them and people around them. In his speech he also encouraged health institutions to promote policies and provide all necessary measures in advance in order to prevent the spread of the epidemic. Col Cepanec finished by stressing the importance of close cooperation in trying to reduce the number of people affected.

In his keynote speech, Prof Dr Levent Akin, from the Ministry of Health of Turkey, gave the general overview of the influenza. At the beginning he presented the current situation in the world and the probabilities for the future, using the official figures of WHO. He said that the pressure has been put on the public services, where a huge damage could be done if the countries do not have a vaccine strategy. Here he stressed out the importance of a national strategy, and recommended its division into three following groups: a) preparedness and communication, b) surveillance and detection c) response and containment. At the end of his speech, Dr Akin presented possible ways of reducing the impact, such as surveillance, diagnosis, antiviral drugs, public health interventions and vaccines.

Understanding the influenza

Prof Dr Serhat Ūnal, Dean of the Medicine

Faculty, Hacettepe University, gave a highly professional and very interesting lecture. He focused on the understanding of the virus and how it infects the human body. In his presentation Prof Dr Ūnal comprehensively explained the behavior of the virus and its effect to the body, by comparing the diagnoses of clinical influenza vs. common cold. He said that the main effect of the virus is on the lungs, in the form of pneumonia, so he presented the differences between clinical features of viral vs. bacterial pneumonia as well as the possible influenza-related complications. One of the most interesting topics that Prof Dr Ūnal presented were the vaccination strategies, since they are still

from 6 months to 24 years of age and people aged 25 to 64 who have medical conditions associated with a higher risk of influenza complications. Prof Dr Ūnal motivated the participants to be active in the round table discussion on the vaccination strategies that followed his presentation.

RACVIAC was also honoured to have among the speakers Dr. Raed Arafat, the Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Health of Romania, who comprehensive presented the Romanian point of view on the issue and how they proceeded with the vaccination strategy, especially having in mind that Romania is producing its own vaccine.



Prof Dr Serhat Ūnal held an impressive lecture

untrusted in many states worldwide, because of the adjuvants and thiomerosal, which the vaccines contain.

Nevertheless, all of the epidemiologists at the seminar are convinced that the vaccines are safe and do not threaten our lives. What is more, they have also been vaccinated themselves and recommend everyone to do so, especially to threat groups. These are: children, pregnant women, household and caregiver contacts of children younger than 6 months (e.g. parents, siblings, and daycare providers), health care and emergency medical services personnel, people

National action plans

In the last session of the seminar, national representatives briefed about the development of influenza in their country, what they have learned in this short period of the threat of disease, what actions were taken and what are the ways ahead.

Special thanks go to Prof Dr Levent Akin from Turkey, Dr Beatrix Oroszi from Hungary, Dr Vladimir Draženović from Croatia and Dr Dragan Laušević from Montenegro for their expertise and active role in the round table discussion which concluded the seminar. ■

Working Group 1's general purpose is to enable faster, more transparent and efficient reform of the regional defence systems in the context of their modernization.



Mr Sead Muratović, Assistant to Defence Minister of B&H, and Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski, Director of RACVIAC

WORKSHOP ON TRANSITION

■ LtCol Davor Kiralj

WG1 continued its support to the regional ownership build-up efforts, introduced and persistently promoted by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, thanks to the acceptance of Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina (MDBH) to host its 12th Workshop in Sarajevo.

This Workshop was planned, organized and executed as a joint event by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and MDBH, who respectfully shared corresponding organizational and financial responsibilities, while MDBH, as the host organization, provided the logistical support. In accordance with the WG1's in-country approach, the host country's requirements were the priority for RACVIAC in developing the Workshop programme, which contained the objectives jointly defined in advance. The Workshop was held from 11 to 13 November 2009 at the Army Club in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was organized

as a three-day event, two of which were working days.

As already mentioned, the initial objective of this Workshop was the application of the WG1's in-country approach, which implies the display of the most advanced elements of the host country's career transition system of separated military personnel. At the same time, it was also in direct support of the conclusions defined during the previous WG1 Workshop held in Ohrid, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*.

One of the major requests made there was the review of activities that were provided by IOM as an external and non-institutional solution, together with the comparative analysis of Western career transition support systems.

Besides these specific subject matter topics, the Workshop was primarily designed to support the establishment of the corresponding institutional structure in Bosnia and Herzegovina by providing a platform

for its promotion through direct support by RACVIAC and WG1 partner countries. With regard to this, one of the most important organizational principles when it comes to the development of efficient career transition support network is the regional approach principle. It has proved itself as the ultimate modern solution for the countries with transitional economies. This principle also implies the utilization of already existing resources, i. e. the certified and specialized support services such as vocational training and retraining, self-employment education, job search, employment mediation etc. All of the abovementioned served as the actual starting point for the development of Workshop's Agenda.

The Workshop gathered a total of 35 participants coming from the host country, Albania, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Moldova, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Kingdom of Norway, the United States of America, and Serbia,

together with representatives from NATO, IOM and regional OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It was conducted as a combination of individual presentations, and subject matter deliveries. First Workshop day included individual arrivals, administrative processing, final coordination of activities and initial welcome gathering hosted by Mr. Sead Muratović, Assistant Minister of Defence for Military Personnel Management, who welcomed all participants in the Army Club Restaurant.

The event started with the opening session chaired by WG1 Director LtCol Davor Kiralj, who had to assume this role due to absence of Ms Afrdita Volina, WG1 Chairperson in year 2009.

Mr. Sead Muratović was the first to address the Workshop participants. He was followed by Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. In his welcome address, Ambassador Todorčevski emphasized the significance of WG1's joint work, which intensively continues for the 4th year running. The main message his speech delivered was the idea that the institutional approach is of crucial importance for the sustainability and integration of the career transition support system being built in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Opening Session was concluded with the keynote presentation delivered by Colonel Mirsad Ahmić, Head of Personnel Management Division in J1, Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The first working day of the Workshop continued with the Individual National Programme Updates by WG1 country members'

fence of the Republic of Croatia. LtC Knüppel spoke about the Croatian example when it comes to integration element of career transition support within the existing personnel management system. He was followed by Ms. Lejla Mulić, who provided the participants with an insight into solutions being applied in other regions of the World and specifically in South America. Next to deliver his address was Mr. Emilio Gasparini who elaborated on NATO's programmes in Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Due to fact that 12th WG1 Workshop was held in Sarajevo, a unique place of history in the heart of the region, Workshop Agenda was intentionally designed to provide enough free time for the participants to enjoy cultural and social dimensions of their joint work. Before the continuation of conference part of the Workshop, the hosts organized a visit to one of the regional transition centres, located in Rajlovac near Sarajevo. During the visit, WG1 members were in position to examine the existing infrastructure on-site and exchange first-hand experience with the staff members responsible for the execution of support programmes in the Centre.

The rest of the Workshop agenda was delivered back in the Army Club Conference Hall. It included a presentation on non-institutional experiences in Bosnia and Herzegovina, by Ms. Regina Bocault, Head of IOM Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. After that, Mr. Sead Muratović introduced the participants with the future plans in this regard and provided information on newly developed programme "PERSPEKTIVA".

They were followed by representatives of three regional agencies that could have a

development of Small and Medium Enterprises in Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, provided an insight into significant experience in the field of self-employment support programmes. The same issue was discussed by Ms. Emina Pašić from EU TAC, who elaborated on the experience in entrepreneurial education and development of job skills.

The academic part of the Workshop ended with a presentation made by Mr. Milan Mićanović, who gave an example of how organizations such as IOM can second the Institutional System of Career Transition Support. His presentation was actually the intentional illustration of a model that could possibly be applied in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Conclusions and Recommendations

12th Workshop successfully brought to a completion a highly significant cycle of very dynamic and important exchange of national experiences, which have been delivered on-site and by unique individual WG1 member countries' case studies. These experiences should serve as a good start for the future round of activities that are going to be executed through a slightly different modality of operations. As it has been announced in Ohrid and repeated now in Sarajevo, the new era for WG1 will be tagged with a transfer to a higher level of cooperation, which will primarily concern the development of regionally-owned knowledge base. In this context, the new RACVIAC's Programme of Activities for 2010 was presented.

The event was evaluated as highly successful by the hosts and the participants. It was emphasised that Programme PERSPEKTIVA was actually the product of the

OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

representatives, a standard element of WG1 Workshop which includes expert exchange of information on the subject matter field of interest.

The initial presentation was given by Lieutenant Colonel Ulrich Knüppel, member of the German Army and Human Resources Management Advisor to the Ministry of De-

velopment of the programme PERSPEKTIVA. Mr. Slaviša Čeranić, representative of Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency, shared his organization's experience on labour market development through retraining activities and employment centres. Mr. Slobodan Marković, Director of Republic Agency for the Deve-

lopment of Small and Medium Enterprises in Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, provided an insight into significant experience in the field of self-employment support programmes. The same issue was discussed by Ms. Emina Pašić from EU TAC, who elaborated on the experience in entrepreneurial education and development of job skills.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name



Army Club Sarajevo - Welcome reception



Workshop participants



Mr. Bauke Snoep held a lecture on fundamental freedoms

Introductory Training Course on Security System Reform

In line with its primary mission of fostering dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South Eastern Europe, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation organized the “STARLINK” Introductory Training Course on Security System Reform, in cooperation with the Centre for European Security Studies (CESS). The course took place at RACVIAC facilities from 16 – 20 November 2009.

■ LtCol Sergiu Railean

The main purpose of the course was to bring together respective representatives from relevant ministries, regional and local authorities, international organizations and NGOs, with a view to providing training and promoting a better understanding of democratic governance in the Security System Reform (SSR), as advocated by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD DAC).

The course comprised interactive training sessions, a full-day simulation exercise and open discussions. The participants, representing various governmental institutions from SEE countries as well as different organizations, took active part in all course activities.

The course was opened on 16 November 2009 with the speeches by Colonel Željko

Cepanec, Deputy Director of RACVIAC, Ms Willemijn Van Haften, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of Croatia, and Dr. Sami Faltas, Executive Director of Centre for European Security Studies.

The first day of the course started with the presentation on “Democratic Governance in the Security Sector” by Mr Merijn Hartog, CESS Programme Manager, who introduced the participants with the following basic aspects of democratic governance in the security sector: security sector actors, the necessity of democratic governance in the security sector and the Security Sector Reform (SSR) golden rules.

Ms Inge Remmert-Fontes, an Independent Consultant and Trainer from Germany, gave the next presentation on existing inter-connections between security, peace and development as well as civil society and SSR.

During her presentation the audience was divided into groups with a task to identify and justify the linkage between security, peace and development. Assisted with comprehensive information provided by Ms Remmert-Fontes, this exercise significantly contributed to participants’ understanding that all three elements are closely related and of equal importance. It was also stressed that SSR is a powerful tool called to help all society actors to execute their responsibilities, necessary for economic and social development and vital to the protection of human rights.

After that Dr. Sami Faltas, CESS Executive Director, made a presentation titled “The Whole-of-Government Approach to Security System Reform”, during which the participants learned and discussed the definition of SSR, its composition, coordination challenges and requirements.



Training course participants

“A soldier is a citizen in uniform who should basically have the same rights as his civilian neighbour” was an introductory quote of the presentation on fundamental rights for military personnel, given by Mr Bauke Snoep, Independent SSR & Human Rights Expert and CESS Associate. Mr Snoep made an overview of fundamental freedoms outlined in the main documents of UN, EU, OSCE and CoE, and also provided a detailed analysis of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Court of Human Rights, 1950).

On 17 November the course recommenced with the presentations by Professor Per BERGLING, from the Department of Law at the University of Umeå, Sweden (on SSR in the Justice Sector), Ms Inge Remmert-Fontes (on Civil Society and SSR), Mr Bauke SNOEP (on Building Integrity) and Dr. Sami FALTAS (on Building Political Support). The conclusions of all these presentations can be summarized into the following points:

- SSR is highly political, since it changes relations of power in the security sector, government and society;
- SSR needs to be driven and led by the national government and other stakeholders (people and organizations with a strong interest in SSR) in a country concerned;
- Since local ownership is often weak, stakeholders need to work together in order to build local political support and leadership to SSR;
- The international community can help by encouraging and supporting local ownership, which needs to be the goal of SSR support programmes;
- A lack of political support and leadership for SSR is more fundamental than a lack of money or expertise. Thus, if SSR is considered necessary, but political will is lacking, stakeholders have to push, encourage, monitor, criticise and support the politicians in charge;
- Building political support means forming a coalition of forces inside and outside government. They need to agree on the main

goals and strategy for SSR. However, they can not agree on everything. Therefore, the strategy for SSR must include ways to deal with stakeholders who oppose the reforms.

During the whole working day of 18 November, the participants were given an opportunity to put into practice the theoretical knowledge on SSR which they had received earlier in the course. Each participant was

in “Karina” included a large spectrum of measures and highlighted the significance of conducting SSR as part of the long-term sustainable peace process.

On 19 November the participants practiced and discussed SSR Assessment and Design. The sessions, led by Dr. Sami Faltas outlined the core issues that all SSR actors should address when conducting an SSR assessment. In particular, it was stressed that the success of SSR primarily depends on the comprehensive understanding of the existing problems as well as on the realization of opportunities for change.

On 20 November the course was concluded with the “Case Study: Aftermath of the War in Georgia”, conducted by Mr Cornelis Ros, Security and Defence Consultant from the Netherlands.

The purpose of the case study was to analyse the provided material (media releases, statements of government officials etc.) and judge the reliability of sources and information in relation to SSR golden rules (people have the right to know & the government has to reveal, explain and justify). As part of the case study, the audience was split into three groups and received specific tasks within the case study content. The findings of each group were presented by a spokesperson at the end of the case study.



Ms Willemijn Van Haften and Dr. Sami Faltas delivered their welcome addresses

assigned with a role in the simulation exercise designed by CESS instructors. The exercise scenario focused on international efforts to support peace building and security sector reform in a country called “Karina” that had experienced a violent inter-ethnic conflict in the past. The programme of the exercise included several rounds of consultations during which the participants played the roles of fictitious characters that represented the international community (UN, Council of the EU, UNDP, World Bank) as well as the government of “Karina”, community leaders, civil society and media.

According to the participants’ feedbacks, the exercise was very instructive. The elaborated roadmap for sustainable peace

Conclusions & proposals for the next SSR activities

The Course was conducted in a cooperative and productive manner, thus providing the participants with plenty of opportunities for discussions and exchanges of experience. The cooperation on the part of CESS was excellent and it immensely contributed to the positive outcome of the activity.

All course learning objectives were fully achieved. The participants acknowledged that the information provided and issues discussed were of great importance to their countries and also expressed their interest to participate in the consequent SSR activities planned to be conducted by RACVIAC in cooperation with CESS in 2010. ■



Two years ago RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Netherlands Defence College (NDC) introduced the Human Resources Management Studies as a new field of activities for RACVIAC and its members.



Mrs Monika de Waal was one of the lecturers on HRM Workshop

Human Resources Management Workshop

■ LtCol Davor Kiralj

Both parties recognized that the adaptation of the Human Resources Management System is the crucial element and ultimate prerequisite for successful and overall completion of any armed forces reform process.

At the moment, the highest level of the ongoing change is the process of globalization, which is characterized by the integration of all aspects, including security systems.

Countries belonging to the existing “globalization core” must adapt their armed forces to new security challenges, including new types of missions in which they are mostly deployed out of their own national boundaries on tasks that include Small Intensity Conflict Operations and Security Coalitions. Regional countries without exception decided to join this “core”, which means they have chosen the all-volunteer forces as the

ideal type of military organization for the global era.

In the case of the creation of all-volunteer forces, before any major change occurs, there must be a reorganization of the Human Resources Management System conducted, or otherwise the stability of the national security system can be seriously disturbed. The majority of regional countries used to have or still have predominately compulsory service force. Building a modern expeditionary all-volunteer armed force requires significant changes in the Human Resources Management systems, not only because of drastic shift in the primary source of personnel. Additionally, there are some new issues generated by new sociological and economical aspects of these changes. Unfortunately, the so-called process of “professionalization” is often simplified and equalled with the process of termination of the compulsory service.

The entire process is in reality far more complex and the main goal for this Workshop was to provide corresponding insight picture, i.e. to offer the representatives of the invited countries an insight into the personnel and organizational aspects of the transition from the conscript-oriented Armed Forces to expeditionary, professional Armed Forces. These were the starting points for the creation of the corresponding workshop programme.



Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski, Director of RACVIAC, and Colonel Frederik Besselink, Dutch Military Attaché to the Republic of Croatia jointly opened the Workshop



Resident Workshop Session - Lecture

The Workshop was held from the 23 - 27 November 2009 in the military barracks “Vitez Damir Martić”, Rakitje, Croatia. The event was planned, organized and executed as the joint event between RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Division for Special and International Courses of the Netherlands Defence College. It was attended and successfully completed by 17 representatives from various organizations within the defence system of the countries of Southeast Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, and Moldova. The 3 lecturers that managed the seminar were experts from the Netherlands Defence College (NDC).

The content of the workshop was solely brought by NDC, and consisted of the following issues: HRM within the Netherlands Armed Forces; current HRM situation in the participating countries; problems and solutions during the transition from a conscript to a professional Armed Forces, with the Netherlands as an example; recruitment and selection of new, professional personnel; HRM during reconstruction / downsizing; and management of change.

Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski, Director of RACVIAC, and Colonel Frederik Besse-link, Dutch Military Attaché to the Republic of Croatia jointly opened the Workshop. The welcome addresses by two highest representatives of the Workshop co-organizers were followed by individual introduction of all participants.

The Workshop was generally planned as a series of lectures, inter-active workshops and guided discussions that would enable the participating countries to set forth their own difficulties and exchange experiences. The concept of the workshop actually followed the gradation principle of HRM process – from initial downsizing of military personnel in different services and branches, through management of changes during the entire process, to new modalities of attracting, recruiting and adjustments in training of the professional military. Five working days brought intensive schedule,

which predominately included lectures on the main topics followed by syndicate work and presentations of group findings on specific subject matter.

Working day one brought HRM Briefing by Mrs Monika de Vaal, MBA, followed by presentations by participating countries’ representatives on “Current Problems and Challenges in HRM” of their national Armed Forces.

The main topic of working day two were the Challenges of HRM in Recruitment, Selection and Training for Professional Armed Forces, presented by Major Leo van Berkel, Mr Maurice Snackers, and Mrs Monika de Waal.



Resident Workshop Session - Syndicate Work

On working day three the participants were introduced with the topic of Challenges of HRM in Downsizing to the Necessary Quantity and Upgrading to the Necessary Quality of the Military Workforce Needed in Professional Armed Forces and How to Maintain These Levels. The presentations were provided by LtC Han Sum, Mr Maurice Snackers, and Mrs Monika de Waal.

On the next day the same speakers gave lectures on the Challenges of HRM in Outflow of Military Personnel in Professional Armed Forces. The final day of the Workshop included the presentations on Change Management and the Professionalizing of the HRM Personnel, brought again by the same speakers as the previous two days. This was followed by a session on Personal Action Plan, Lessons Learned and Questions by Mrs Monika de Waal. The Workshop ended with Group Evaluation and Handout of Certificates.

Conclusions and Recommendations

All participants agreed that the Workshop successfully served its purpose of a direct answer to the requirements of regional countries in their process of armed forces transformation, from the system in which military service is a dominantly a legal obligation into the system that is based on all-volunteer military service. They praised NDC and RACVIAC for recognizing the importance of the current reform of human resources management system as a key factor and prerequisite for the success of the aforementioned process, also known as “professionalization”. They added that 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 90s and attained significant experience in this field, displayed notable willingness to share it with the countries of the region. Thus, Netherlands Defence College was the

natural choice for RACVIAC to become its strategic partner in the field of Human Resources Management studies. This unique and successful cooperation should continue in the future, providing our region with even more opportunities to share mutual experiences and develop existing knowledge. ■

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During seminar opening session

NATO Integration: Next Enlargement and Its Implications in SEE



■ LtCol Ioanis Papavasileiou

The Seminar on “NATO Integration: Next Enlargement and Its Implications in SEE” was held at RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation from 1 - 2 December 2009. The purpose of the conference was to support the integration process

of aspiring SEE countries to NATO. It gathered both civilian and military officials at decision-making level, representing relevant ministries dealing with NATO integration. The seminar was conducted in one day and it included two sessions, followed by

questions and answers, which encouraged the participants, coming from both NATO member and candidate countries in the region, to exchange views, experiences and lessons learned related to NATO Integration process.

The participants and lecturers were representatives of nine countries and five organizations, namely: Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Croatia (2), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (3), Montenegro (1), Moldova (3), Russia (1), Serbia (1), Turkey (3), NATO HQ in Brussels (1), NATO - Joint Force Command in Naples (1), NATO HQ in Sarajevo (2), George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies in Germany (1), and the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Zagreb (10).

Plenary Session

The seminar lecturers focused on three issues: the enlargement policy of NATO towards SEE, the role of NATO and its priorities for SEE, and SEE on the path towards Euro-Atlantic Integration.

Colonel Nicolas Kotchine, from the Military Cooperation Division at NATO - Joint Force Command in Naples, delivered the



During plenary session

keynote speech titled “The Enlargement Policy of NATO towards SEE”. In his speech, Colonel Kotchine provided a general overview of the situation in the region, the challenges it faces and its prospects for the future. He pointed out NATO’s “open door policy” based on Article 10 of its founding treaty, which says that any decision to invite a country to join the Alliance is taken by the North Atlantic Council, NATO’s principal decision-making body, on the basis of consensus among all Allies. He added that NATO’s ongoing enlargement process is aimed at promoting stability and cooperation, as well as building a Europe whole and free, united in peace, democracy and common values. Col Kotchine ended his speech with a statement that NATO will stay engaged in this region, but the trend is to reduce NATO’s footprint on the ground. The first session, moderated by the keynote speaker Colonel Kotchine, started with a presentation by Mr Rohan Maxwell, Head of the Politico-Military Advisory Section of the NATO HQ Sarajevo. Mr Maxwell provided the audience with a clear picture on NATO’s engagement with partners through a full spectrum of its tasks, ranging from crisis response operations to overall defence reform. His presentation highlighted the necessity to cooperate with various organizations and also praised the progress made by Bosnia and Herzegovina in the defence sector.

Mr Sabri Ergen, from Defence Policy and Planning Division of NATO HQ in Brussels, talked about the importance of NATO’s “open door policy” in the wake of NATO’s meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. He described the security-related political developments in the region and enumerated the progress in defence reforms in the regional countries. He concluded by emphasizing the added value of regional cooperation both within and beyond Euro-Atlantic integrations.

In the last lecture of the first session, Ms Esra Doğan Grajower, Head of Section for NATO and Euro-Atlantic Security and Defence Affairs at the MFA of Turkey, depicted the principles of cooperation in the triangle UN – EU – NATO. Among other events in the history of NATO – EU relationship, she mentioned the creation of Western European Union in 1948, an organization which was a key actor in the region prior to the involvement of NATO and EU in the 1990s. In her description of the current security environment, Ms Doğan Grajower highlighted the importance of a Comprehensive (Integrated) Approach and said that the Western engagement in the Balkans is part of this approach, consisting of assistance to the region in its re-integration it into the Euro-Atlantic area.

In the second session, moderated by Mr Sabri Ergen, Colonel Kenan Dautović, Advisor to the Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, described his country’s relationship with NATO and their well-appreciated reform efforts. He talked about Bosnia and Herzegovina’s positive experience with



Dr. Dragan Lozančić spoke about prospects of future enlargements

the IPAP and their efforts to contribute to regional and global security. Col Dautović also emphasized that no conditions should be attached to his country’s accession to MAP, the granting of which would be an enormous boost to their efforts. Colonel Slobodan Todorovski, Head of Department for Policy and Planning in the MoD of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, presented his country’s experience in the MAP process and its results – consolidated reforms, inter-ministerial coordination and transparency. He proudly added that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been able to substantially contribute to international peacekeeping missions and operations.

Summary / Conclusions

Overall, the seminar provided a successful platform to exchange views and lessons learned related to NATO Integration process among the NATO member and candidate countries from the SEE region. The experts from NATO HQ in Brussels, Sarajevo, and Naples, along with their colleagues from various countries and organizations, immensely contributed to provoking interesting and fruitful discussions.

The general opinion expressed by speakers and audience during the seminar was that the intensification and enhancement of existing regional cooperation should remain among most important foreign policy goals



Seminar participants

Dr. Dragan Lozančić, Professor at the College of International and Security Studies at George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, gave the last presentation, in which he described the prospects of future enlargements, mentioning both the opportunities and the challenges of that process. Dr Lozančić also presented an interesting subject of NATO-Russia relationship.

for all SEE countries. All panellists assessed the two sessions as very useful and recommended organizers to continue with similar activities in the future. ■

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Thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation was provided with a unique opportunity to contribute to the South East European Cooperation Process initiative by assuming a role of a co-organizer of an event that promoted the concept of regional ownership.



From right to left:
Amb Nikola Todorčevski, H.E. Suleyman Demirel,
Amb Selim Yenel, Mr Pjer Šimunović

Regional Security through Regional Ownership: A New Era of Cooperation?

■ LtCol Davor Kiralj

The Conference titled “Regional Security through Regional Ownership: A New Era of Cooperation?” was held from 8 to 10 December 2009 in the Swissôtel in Ankara, the Republic of Turkey.

The Conference was primarily designed for establishing a common platform for the efficient exchange of individual views and best practices on this issue, including an evaluation of the applied regional security co-operation frameworks, with the aim to outline the most feasible, sustainable and concerted approach on security and stability in SEE.

The Conference was planned, organized and executed as a joint event between Turkish SEECP Chairmanship (i. e. the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey) and RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, who respectfully shared corresponding organizational and financial responsibilities, while Turkish SEECP Chairmanship provided full operational support as the host of the event. Common

vision of the co-organizers of the activity led to the development of a corresponding Conference Agenda that included all jointly defined objectives.

The Conference gathered a total of 40 participants nominated by the contributing SEECP countries and included representatives of regional security cooperation organizations such as Regional Cooperation Council (RCC); the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI); RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation; South-Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG); Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE); and other eminent speakers invited by Turkish SEECP Chairmanship. In addition to that, representatives of several embassies accredited in the Republic of Turkey were also present.

The Conference was organized as a three-day event, two of which were working days. It was conducted as a combination of individual presentations, subject matter deli-

veries, and open discussions, which were executed through four distinctive sessions. Each of these sessions had designated time for questions and answers, which allowed participants to engage in open and fruitful discussions. The first conference day included the opening welcome gathering organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and hosted by H.E. Ambassador Selim Yenel.

The event, held at the Istanbul Conference Hall, started on the next day with an introductory session announced by Ms Gül Büyükerşen Oral, Head of Balkans Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. The first to welcome the audience were high representatives of two co-organizers: H.E. Ambassador Selim Yenel, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, and H.E. Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

After welcome addresses, the Conference

participants had the honour to hear the keynote speech by the most eminent speaker at the Conference, H.E. Suleyman Demirel, the 9th President of the Republic of Turkey. The main message delivered in his speech was that the solutions based on mutual cooperation and trust are fundamental to achieving lasting peace, stability and prosperity, and that for this reason regional dialogue and cooperation mechanisms should be enhanced. He emphasized that Turkey strongly supports all regional initiatives, since they are important more than ever due to fact that there are still some issues to be resolved in the Balkan area. The Conference participants warmly applauded H.E. Suleyman Demirel's speech.

The continuation of the Conference brought the core of the Agenda in the form of four sessions. The first one, chaired by Prof. Dr. Hasan Ünal from Turkey, considered the interrelation between regional and EU security. The initial speeches were provided by three eminent speakers, all of them State Secretaries in the respective Ministries of Defence from three regional countries: Mr Pjer Šimunović (from the Republic of Croatia), Mr Dušan Spasojević (from the Republic of Serbia), and Mr Petar Esmirov (from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*). The distinguished speakers delivered their countries' views on new incentives towards assuming regional responsibility. The same topic was discussed in the subsequent presentations by three expert speakers: Mr. Diego Mellado, Counsellor in EU Delegation in Ankara; Mr. Arben Gazioni, Chairman of NATO SEEGROUP, and Prof. Krunoslav Pisk, Director General of the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik.

The following session was dedicated to practical issues, primarily concerning the existing regional initiatives. This core subject panel was chaired by Mr Efrem Radev, representative of Regional Cooperation Council, who delivered the initial speech. He was followed by speeches from representatives of other regional organizations and initiatives: H.E. Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation; Brigadier General Zyber Dushku, Commander of SEEBRIG; Mr. Trpe Stojanovski, Director of MARRI Regional Centre; and Mr. Orhan Topcu, Head of DPPI SEE Secretariat. The end of the session brought very intensive discussions on the subject of great interest – the necessity of coordination and synergy of efforts in the field of regional security cooperation among regional organizations.

The third Conference session, under the chairmanship of Dr. İbrahim Kaya, an expert in International Law from Turkey, discussed the challenges, responsibilities and priorities in the process of security cooperation when applying the regional ownership principle. This panel included presentations by respected regional subject matter experts: Mr. Valeriu Ostalep, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova; H.E. Ambassador Prof. Dr. Lisen Bashkurti, President of the Albanian Diplomatic Academy; Lieutenant General (retired) Stegios Papatīs, former Director of RACVIAC; Brigadier General Reinhard Trischak, Director of Military Policy Division in Federal Ministry of Defence

and Sports of the Republic of Austria; and Colonel Hamza Višća, Head of International Cooperation Branch (J5) in the Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The end of the panel part of the Conference was designed to provide a brief preview of the possible proposals for achievement of concerted approach on security cooperation, based on the best practices and challenges experienced by regional countries. Representative of each SEECF country delivered a brief statement on the current achievements and opportunities from their national point of view.

Conference conclusions

The engaging discussions resulted in the following relevant conclusions. The first one was that the regional dialogue and cooperation mechanisms should undoubtedly be enhanced. In that respect, SEECF Chairmanship was identified as the regional political authority that should assume more political power and a decision-making role, in that way directly supporting bilateral and multilateral cooperation initiatives by ensuring a much needed common regional political will. It was also emphasized that countries of the region by almost unanimous majority share common goals within the EU and NATO integration frameworks. Thus, SEECF should also be a driving force on the strategic level for all required reforms and ultimate democratic development of the region, which is even more important if we recognize the fact that the region still

mechanisms that should provide a desired synergy of efforts must include the development of common strategies, and planning and coordination processes. The general opinion expressed during the session was that there is no real duplication of efforts present in the work of regional organizations, but there is the issue of weak coordination among regional initiatives that requires efficient complementary tools.

The last session of the Conference consisted of individual reviews by two partner conference proponents. H.E. Ambassador Şanıvar Olgun, Director General for the Balkans and Central Europe of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spoke on behalf of Turkish SEECF Chairmanship and expressed her satisfaction with the event, emphasizing that the required momentum has been achieved and should be maintained. In this respect, Turkish SEECF will propose organization of similar meetings in the following years by the incoming Chairmanships. Ambassador Olgun emphasized the need to develop a regional approach to security challenges in Southeast Europe and announced Turkish CIO of SEECF's intention to organize an evaluation meeting in May 2010 with the aim to establish a modality in order to better coordinate, synchronize and streamline the priorities and work of major initiatives in the region. It will be established in collaboration with EU and RCC and its results will be submitted to the SEECF Summit on 23 June 2010.



Conference participants

faces some bilateral security challenges. These challenges should be discussed openly and there is no better place to start than at the SEECF initiative. On the other hand, regional security cooperation organizations can provide policy execution support. In this regard, the role of Regional Cooperation Council should be considered important in the coordination of existing cooperation networks among mentioned regional organizations dealing with security cooperation. In order to be successful in this mission, RCC should be provided with more political support and guidance at the regional level, and SEECF is a perfect tool for providing that. It was also concluded that the mecha-

Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski, Director of RACVIAC expressed his gratitude for the opportunity given to RACVIAC to be part of such an important initiative and contribute to joint vision of enhancing the regional ownership principle. He said the Conference was necessary and its success was the result of the fact that Turkey, which always had a proactive policy towards the region, took the initiative and accepted to host an event of great importance for the future efforts within the scope of regional cooperation. ■

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Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector - New Security Challenges in SEE



During conference opening session

The Conference on Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector “New Security Challenges in SEE” was held at RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation during the period of 14 - 16 December 2009.

■ LtCol Konstantinos Alexopoulos

The purpose of the Conference was to bring together representatives of Parliamentary Security Committees with the aim to produce a regional forum designed to encourage comprehensive discussions on “New Security Challenges in SEE”, which are common in the work of Parliamentary Security Committees in Southeast European countries and can provide basis for standardization in this field.

The conference gathered participants with knowledge and experience in the field of security in SEE region, representing relevant ministries, institutions, as well as parliamentary committees directly involved

in this subject. It was conducted as a combination of lectures and a panel discussion. The participants and lecturers came from the following countries and organizations: Albania (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (6), Croatia (4), Moldova (3), Serbia (2), Montenegro (3), Slovenia (1), NATO HQ in Sarajevo (1), OSCE mission in BiH (2), DCAF (1), SEESAC (1), Albanian Diplomatic Academy (1), French Embassy to the Republic of Croatia (1), and the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Zagreb (2).

During a two-day conference, members of parliamentary committees of the security sector from different countries, together

with a multinational team of experts, provided an insight into the parliamentary oversight of the security sector and discussed the status of its implementation in each country.

The experts underlined the significance of promoting an even greater parliamentary role in drawing up national security strategies and exercising civil control over the national security structures, as one of the most important elements in the development of a democratic community.

The conference covered a wide range of topics such as: principles, mechanisms and practices in the parliamentary oversight of the security sector; the role of parliament

in national security policy; and a changing nature of civil-military relations in the region. It also initiated lively discussions on the achievements, mechanisms, challenges, problems, lessons learned and experiences in SEE region aimed at seeking the possible ways of further improvement with regard to parliamentary oversight of the security sector.

The keynote speaker of the conference was Brig Zimir Sinanović, PhD, from B&H Armed Forces Joint Staff. He stressed that the countries in the SEE region should be included in all regional and international security forums and organizations, and that they need to accept, adopt and execute international obligations as well as improve constant interaction between parliament and all other factors of security sector, especially in addressing challenges and threats.

Mrs Suzana Anghel, Project Officer in DCAF, analyzed the main principles of parliamentary oversight such as control, consultation, scrutiny, transparency and accountability. She emphasized that the parliamentary committees of the security sector should have both proactive and reactive role, and that they need authority, ability and attitude (political will) in order to be effective. She added that it would also be useful for them to make use of lessons learned and recommendations as a key in offering solutions to security issues and avoiding problems reappear.

Prof Vlatko Cvrtila, Dean of the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb; delivered a presentation titled “Evaluation of the Situation in SEE Region in Terms of Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector”. He said that the security sector covers the element of the public sector that has the right to apply force in matters of security and has traditionally been the central



During plenary session

effectiveness, in order to adapt to the local environment and processes of democratic consolidation and it must also build new capacities in the security system. Since the ideal type of SSR exists only in theory, the process is a never ended story.

Ambassador Lisen Bashkurti, President of the Albanian Diplomatic Academy, in his presentation titled “Civil-Military Relations in Democratic Countries”, pointed out the need of preserving national democratic and cultural tradition, at the same time accepting international values, goals and global democratic principles. In Ambassador’s opinion, the parliamentarians should be fully informed on key security issues and related information. He ended his speech by emphasizing the necessity of building proper constitutional and legislative structures with clearly defined responsibility/sovereignty in state security issues.

the Example of France by Lieutenant Colonel Olivier Rouanet, Defence Attaché, Embassy of France to Croatia; Parliamentary Control and Civil Oversight as Instruments of Regional Ownership by Colonel Hamza Višća, B&H; Parliamentary Committees on Defence and Security – Principles, Mechanisms and Practices by Mr Gaqo Tanku, Albanian MOD.

During the conference the participants discussed a wide range of issues and problems concerning the parliamentary control over the security sector. The contribution of specialized lecturers proved to be stimulating, especially in prompting healthy discussion climate. At the end of a two-day conference, all the participants agreed that the working environment of the parliamentary committees on defence and security is characterized by lack of transparency, inadequate communication, complexity, lack of expertise, strong involvement of the executive and weak involvement of civil society.

The participants came up with some solutions for the aforementioned problems, such as involving parliamentary committees on security sector in the following processes: developing legislation for defence and security sector, advising on defence budgets and monitoring expenditures, reviewing government defence policy and security strategy, consulting on international commitments and treaties to be ratified by parliament, advising on the use of force and the participation in peacekeeping operations with deployment of national troops abroad, monitoring defence expenditures and increasing civil-military cooperation.

The lecturers and participants expressed their satisfaction with the significant progress countries had already achieved. These efforts were praised, but they agreed there was still a strong need for better coordination and cooperation on the regional level. At the end of the conference, the participants stressed the need to continue holding such conferences in the future. ■



Pof Vlatko Cvrtila during his lecture

sector of the national state. A security sector reform is an important precondition for the development of the state. It must focus on

The following presentations were also given during this conference: The Civil-Military Relations in Democratic Countries and

Goodbyes & Hellos

Lieutenant Colonel Zoltán Völgyi, officer of the Hungarian Armed Forces, joined RACVIAC in December 2009 as a Subject Matter Expert on Arms Control Treaties.

LtCol Zoltán Völgyi graduated from the Caspian Higher Naval College in 1991 as an engineer navigator and subsequently served in the Danube River Flotilla. In 1999 he received a Masters Degree in International Relations from the Budapest Institute for Graduate International and Diplomatic Studies (BIGIS).



In the meantime he started working for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and gained valuable experience in arms control issues and the management of cooperation between NATO and Hungary.

This experience allowed him to participate in the opening of the NATO Military Liaison Mission in Moscow in May 2002, where he subsequently served for three years. When he returned to Hungary, he was again responsible for NATO relations at the MoD. All of this professional experience ensures us that LtCol Völgyi can substantially contribute to the success of RACVIAC.

LtCol Zoltan Völgyi is married to Julia and has two children, Nikolett (19) and Daniel (15). In his free time he likes playing sports.

Achievements in 2009

During 2009 RACVIAC executed 23 activities, attended by 675 participants

After four years of dedicated service, RACVIAC bids farewell to Lieutenant Colonel Kálmán Németh. LtCol Nemeth joined RACVIAC in December 2005 from Hungarian Armed Forces.

In RACVIAC he worked as a Course Director in Training & Verification Division, which in 2009 became Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control Pillar. During his tour of duty, LtCol Kálmán Németh supported numerous RACVIAC's activities as an experienced and capable expert and organizer, never hesitating to use all his knowledge and effort to do his job at the highest level.



It was indeed a great privilege and honor to serve with him. We would like to thank LtCol Kálmán Németh for his friendly attitude during his tour of duty at RACVIAC, and at the same time wish him all the best in the future in his professional career with the HQ of Hungarian Armed Forces.

Mr Friedrich-Wilhelm Löffler came to RACVIAC in spring 2006 from German Ministry of Defence, with the experience

Löffler filled the demanding post of Chief of Administration and Finance Cell.

He carried the burden of preparation, financing and execution of RACVIAC's organization and activities in a highly professional manner. Friedrich-Wilhelm Löffler was highly skilled, competent and at the same time very popular member of RACVIAC staff, always working in the company of his lovely dog Lexa.

We would like to thank Mr Löffler for his patience and efforts during his stay at RACVIAC, and wish him all the best in the future.



of serving in SFOR and EUFOR missions. During his tour of duty at RACVIAC, Mr

Sgt1stC Ivonne Cichy joined RACVIAC at the same time as Mr Friedrich-Wilhelm Löffler and also came from the German Ministry of Defence. Sgt1stC Cichy worked in RACVIAC as the financial officer/paymaster.

She successfully cooperated with all RACVIAC staff, and was always professional and reliable. It is impossible to forget her kindness, modesty and friendship which made it a sincere pleasure to serve with her.

We would like to thank Sgt-

1stC Ivonne Cichy for her contribution during her secondment at RACVIAC, and at the same time wish her all the best in her future career.



Forthcoming articles

OSLO Convention Seminar

Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar

“STARLINK” Advanced course for South East Europe

English Language Course on Arms Control Terminology

23rd MAG Meeting



RACVIAC staff
December 2009

10th Anniversary



Centre for Security Cooperation



*“to foster dialogue and cooperation
on security matters in South East Europe”*