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Centre for Security Cooperation



Newsletter



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Slovak Atlantic Commission and RACVIAC discussed future cooperation

Mr Ján Cingel, Director for Partnership Development from the Transfer of Know How Department of the Slovak Atlantic Commission, visited the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on Monday, July 1st 2013, to discuss enlargement of cooperation and partnership between the two organizations.

The meeting was attended by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Mandic, RACVIAC Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop and RACVIAC Planning and Liaison Officer for Western Europe and International Organisations Colonel Ferdinand Klinser MSD.

The promising and encouraging meeting was rounded up with the interest of both organizations to cooperate more closely in order to avoid duplication of efforts and resources in their mutual scopes of interest such as improving democratic institutions, EU enlargement in the Balkans, strengthening security of South-East Europe, as well as to better use the synergy of their capacities for the growth of prosperity and improvement of security in the SEE region and a successful EU integration. ■



Background:

The Slovak Atlantic Commission (SAC) is an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental organization that deals with national and international security issues. It aims to support constructive and active involvement of the Slovak Republic in international affairs with the emphasis on cooperation in the Euro-Atlantic community, support of transatlantic cooperation and effective implementation of foreign and security policy of the Slovak Republic through building a network of individuals and institutions (state, non-governmental and private), unified in strong security community. SAC represents a network of leaders who bring ideas to power and give power to ideas.

The Slovak Atlantic Commission is the only and exclusive member of the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) on behalf of the Slovak Republic. ATA unifies Atlantic Councils in more than 40 countries in the Euro Atlantic area and beyond. This membership creates a unique precondition for interconnection of national and international security community, as well as support of international cooperation in the security field. The Atlantic Treaty Association was founded in 1954 with the aim to connect and bind independent non-governmental organizations that support transatlantic cooperation and values it is based on. ATA unifies many distinguished persons from international politics, such as former defence and foreign affairs ministers, diplomats and ambassadors.

Romanian Ambassador visited RACVIAC

On 09 July 2013, the Ambassador of Romania to the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Mr Cosmin George Dinescu, accompanied by Mr Florian Antohi, Minister Counselor and Mr Dorut Nicolae Lucan, First Secretary, visited the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. The occasion for the visit was the desire expressed by H.E. Mr Dinescu to make personal acquaintance with RACVIAC's mission, current status and vision for the future.



The Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Branimir Mandić, together with the Deputy Director, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, and RACVIAC staff members welcomed the distinguished guests.

After the presentation on the history, mission, annual programme of activities and accomplishments of RACVIAC, the Romanian delegation and their hosts engaged in a very interesting discussion on RACVIAC's programme, current issues and future plans.

Expressing the readiness of Romania to remain a reliable partner and supporter to the Centre, Ambassador Dinescu presented RACVIAC Management with the Document on the Romanian Ratification of the Agreement on RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. He showed significant interest in RACVIAC's current activities and plans for the forthcoming period and expressed his willingness to create a more targeted and cooperative relationship between RACVIAC and Romania, as RACVIAC core Member. Since Romania has not been actively involved in RACVIAC in the past few years, H.E. Mr Dinescu expressed his intention to explore the possibilities for Romania to get re-involved in the Centre, especially in terms of the secondment of personnel. ■

Meeting with Croatian Assistant Minister of Defence

On 18 July 2013, RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Branimir Mandić and Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, had a meeting with Mr Zoran Drča, Assistant Minister of Defence of the Republic of Croatia and Mr Petar Mihatov, Head of the International Defence Cooperation and Security Sector, at RACVIAC premises.

The purpose of the meeting was to exchange the most recent information about RACVIAC activities, some ongoing challenges and the way forward.

Ambassador Mandić took this opportunity to express once more his genuine appreciation to the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia for the outstanding and considerable ongoing support to the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. He informed the guests about some changes in the Centre's programme, future projects and intention for a broader and intensified cooperation with international and regional organizations and initiatives.

Taking into account RACVIAC's mission and role in the region, the Assistant Minister of Defence, Mr Drca, availed himself of this opportunity to reassure RACVIAC of the Ministry's intention for further partnership and support.

Since the Host Nation Agreement between RACVIAC and the Republic of Croatia was signed in April this year, the meeting was also an opportunity to discuss in more detailed the draft version of the new Technical Agreement between the Centre and the Croatian Ministry of Defence.

Both delegations agreed on the need for continued efforts to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in the region thus accelerating the Euro-Atlantic integration processes in the countries of Southeast Europe. ■



French Defence Attachés have visited RACVIAC



On 24 July 2013, the incoming French Defence Attaché to Croatia, Lieutenant Colonel Laurent Vondersher, accompanied by Colonel Eric Prigent, the outgoing Defence Attaché, visited the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in order to get better acquainted with the Centre.

The Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Branimir Mandić, together with RACVIAC staff members, welcomed the distinguished guests.

After the presentation on the history, mission, scope of activities and accomplishments of RACVIAC, the French Attachés and their hosts engaged in a discussion on RACVIAC's programme, plans for the future and possibilities for a more targeted cooperation between the Centre and France, as its Associate Member. Some talks in this direction have already been conducted.

Ambassador Mandić used this opportunity to thank Colonel Prigent for all the support he personally provided to RACVIAC being actively involved in its activities in the last three years. ■

Serbian Assistant Defence Minister visited RACVIAC

On 27 August 2013, Mr Miroslav Jovanovic, Assistant Minister for Defence Policy of the Republic of Serbia, accompanied by Ministry officials LtCol Zlatko Zikic and Ms Sloboda Maravic and Ms Bosa Prodanovic, Minister Counsellor at the Serbian Embassy to Croatia, visited the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. This was Mr Jovanovic's first visit to the Centre.

The purpose of the visit of the Serbian delegation was to get acquainted with the current situation in RACVIAC before taking over the chairmanship of MAG in October this year.

The guests were welcomed by RACVIAC Director Branimir Mandic, Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop and RACVIAC senior staff members.

After the presentation on RACVIAC, Ambassador Mandic and other staff members informed the guests about the current situation, ongoing activities as well as on the plans for the future. Ambassador Mandic pointed out that the only challenge RACVIAC was facing at the moment was lack of personnel. In that regard he presented some new ideas and proposals aimed at tackling this issue.

Mr Jovanovic highlighted Serbia's readiness to continue supporting the Centre. He said that in the forthcoming Serbian chairmanship of MAG their main goal was to define the framework of future RACVIAC activities, analyze the needs of the region and development towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration in order to enhance relationship and cooperation between the regional countries.

Although Serbia has proved to be a reliable partner to the Centre over the years, both sides expressed their hope that the cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and RACVIAC would be even more active in the time to come. ■



Inaugural visit of Australian Ambassador to RACVIAC



On 03 September 2013, Australian Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Ms Susan Cox, was in her inaugural visit to the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. The occasion for the visit was the desire expressed by H.E. Ms Cox to make personal acquaintance with RACVIAC's mission, aims and structure. Her Excellency was welcomed by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic, Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop and RACVIAC senior staff. After the presentation on the history, mission, annual programme of activities and accomplishments of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Ambassador Cox and the hosts engaged in a very interesting discussion on RACVIAC's programme, plans for the future and possibilities for further cooperation.

Ambassador Cox showed significant interest in RACVIAC's achievements, current activities and plans for the forthcoming period, in particular in the area of arms control. Thus, she expressed her willingness to provide support to the activities on arms control in terms of presenting a view on this issue outside the region. In this regard it is worth mentioning that while this was her inaugural visit to the Centre in her capacity as Australian ambassador to Croatia, Ambassador Cox has already participated in the RACVIAC activity on Chemical Weapons Conventions. She highlighted that while Australia was a long way from South East Europe, it nevertheless has an enduring interest in regional security and the challenges posed to the world. ■

MoU with American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina signed

On 10 September 2013, a Memorandum of Understanding with the American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina (AUBiH) was signed by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic and the President of the AUBiH Mr Esmir Ganic. The AUBiH is a university with classes based on the American liberal education with undergraduate, graduate and doctoral studies, which are in line with the Bologna principles. It is a highly respected educational institution and its importance is underlined by frequent visits and lectures given by prominent political, science and business leaders from the USA, EU and other countries.

Thus, the purpose of the MoU is to establish effective cooperation between RACVIAC and AUBiH in the areas of fostering international understanding, academic cooperation, faculty and expert exchanges, and publication collaboration. The AUBiH sees RACVIAC as a worthy regional partner with whom it wishes to establish working relations aimed at exchange of experts, speakers, lecturers, collaboration on joint research projects, exchange of publications and execution of joint seminars, conferences and similar events. The areas of mutual interest include international security, contemporary security threats and challenges, regional security, cyber security and Euro-Atlantic integration.

The cooperation with the AUBiH is particularly beneficial for RACVIAC in terms of confirming its status as an academic organization, as specified in the Agreement on RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. ■

RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic visited the Regional Cooperation Council in Sarajevo

RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic visited the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) on September 11, 2013, where he met with RCC Secretary General Goran Svilanovic.

During their discussion Secretary General Svilanovic presented recent developments within the South East Europe 2020 Strategy which will be the priority of RCC activities in the coming period. The main focus of the Strategy is economic development of the countries in the region, while, to a lesser extent it will also address issues regarding justice and home affairs and education.

Director Mandic noted that RACVIAC could provide a forum for closer cooperation in the field of security within South East European region focused on European integrations. The two spoke of strengthening cooperation between regional organizations and initiatives dealing with security issues. Furthermore, Director Mandic invited Secretary General Svilanovic to attend a conference of directors from all regional security initiatives to be held at RACVIAC during the forthcoming semi-annual Multi-national Advisory Group (MAG) meeting. Secretary General Svilanovic accepted the invitation. ■

RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic met with Ambassador at large Mihnea Constantinescu at the Prime Minister's Chancellery in Bucharest, Romania

RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic attended the meeting of the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial - Coordination Committee (SEDM-CC) in Bucharest, Romania, September 17-18, 2013.

On the margins of the meeting Director Mandic took the opportunity to visit the Prime Minister's Chancellery where he met with Ambassador at large Mihnea Constantinescu, Special Representative for Energy Security. Director Mandic used the opportunity to exchange views with Mr Constantinescu as an expert in the field of energy security.

Ambassador Constantinescu underlined the good cooperation and strong support Romania provides to the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. Accordingly, the Romanian side agreed to host, support and cooperate in the long term the Project on Energy Security issues being proposed by RACVIAC. Ambassador Constantinescu proposed that Romania acts as a host for the opening conference on Energy Security during 2014 and suggested a number of proposals for further coordination.

Director Mandic underlined the importance of Romanian membership in the European Union and NATO as an opportunity to exchange experiences and lessons learned with other countries in South East Europe. During further discussion a high level of

agreement was achieved in regard to energy security as an essential part of South East European security and further development. It was also agreed that in the spirit of understanding and good cooperation further development of cooperation regarding the Energy Security Project would continue.

Director Mandic thanked Mr Constantinescu for the readiness to cooperate and provided him with RACVIAC's annual programme for future activities. ■

RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic met with Mr Fota Iulian, Romanian Presidential Advisor for National Security in Bucharest, Romania

During the second day of the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial - Coordination Committee (SEDM-CC) in Bucharest, Romania, September 17-18, 2013, the RACVIAC delegation had an official meeting with Mr Fota Iulian, Romanian Presidential Advisor for National Security.

During the meeting Director Mandic presented the transformation of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and its adjustment to new security circumstances in the region. In this regard, he expressed his personal belief that the active role of Romania is of high importance to RACVIAC and the region, which is reflected through regional ownership of the organization. He also highlighted the importance of Romanian membership in the European Union and NATO as an opportunity to exchange experiences and lessons learned with other countries in South East Europe.

Mr Iulian enhanced the dedication of Romania in providing strong support for the future development of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in the light of strengthened cooperation in the region.

Mr Iulian expressed strong support for Romania to be the initiator of the Project on Energy Security, with RACVIAC as a platform. In contribution to this strong support by Romania, he announced that his country would delegate national representatives to the Centre.

During further discussion, Mr Iulian said that he would like to visit RACVIAC premises in Rakitje.

Director Mandic thanked Romania for understanding the significance that RACVIAC has in the region and highlighted the role Romania has as a Member. Furthermore, he expressed optimism regarding future cooperation with Romania and countries in the region.

In the light of the constructive conversation, Director Mandic welcomed the readiness of Mr Iulianu to visit the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and gave him a formal invitation. ■

RACVIAC Signs Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Cooperation on Training and Education with NATO School Oberammergau

A delegation of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, consisting of RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic and Planning and Liaison Officer Colonel Ferdinand Klinser, visited the NATO School in Oberammergau Germany on September 25, 2013. The NATO School Oberammergau (hereinafter NSO) is NATO's key training facility at the operational level. It is a global leader in multinational military education and individual training.

RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic and Planning and Liaison Officer Colonel Ferdinand Klinser met with the NATO School Commandant, Captain W. Scott Butler. Director Mandic explained the basic framework of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, its visions, ideas and programme development. Areas of possible cooperation were pointed out to be in the fields of energy security, gender issues and cyber security as well as Common Security and Defence Policy.

Captain Butler praised the current achievements and developments of RACVIAC and expressed a firm commitment to an open door policy regarding cooperation. In particular Captain Butler emphasized the possibility of cooperation through an NSO Mobile Training Team.



Afterwards a round table discussion was held with relevant representatives of the NSO who noted their appreciation for RACVIAC's willingness to meet at a table of experts to discuss concrete and tangible steps to strengthen cooperation and bring the Memorandum of Understanding to fruition, thus extending partner activities.

During the meeting Col Klinser gave a presentation on the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, its main strategic objectives, directions of development, areas of interest and programme for 2013 and 2014.

Director Mandic noted that one or two activities in partnership with the NSO would be his goal, whereby the IRC Pillar would be a relevant partner, however concrete topics and details for implementation need to be further explored.

In conclusion a ceremony was held at which RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic and the NATO School Commandant, Captain W. Scott Butler, signed a Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Cooperation on Training and Education.

The RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation eagerly looks forward to the future cooperation it will have with the NATO School Oberammergau. ■

The Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Zekerijah Osmic visits RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation

On Thursday September 26, 2013, a delegation of the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, lead by Defence Minister Mr Zekerijah Osmic, visited the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. The delegation consisted of Mr Mriko Okolic, Deputy Minister for resources, Mr Zoran Sajinovic, Assistant Minister, Mr Mustafa Sinanovic, Chief of the Minister's Cabinet, Ms Uma Sinanovic, the Head of the PR Department and Mr Irfan Dzelilovic, escort to the minister. The ambassador of Bosnia Herzegovina to the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Ms Azra Kalajdzisalihovic accompanied the delegation.

The guests were welcomed by RACVIAC Director Branimir Mandic, Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop and RACVIAC senior staff members.

Welcoming the delegation Director Mandic briefly informed them of the events currently taking place at RACVIAC and recent developments. Director Mandic pointed out that RACVIAC had signed seven Memorandums of Understanding with other relevant organizations this year and opened dialogue with numerous others. Regarding relations with NATO and the European Union, he noted that MAG had made the Republic of Croatia the contact country for NATO and Austria the contact country for the EU. Furthermore, he emphasized RACVIAC's future project orientation that would enable a long-term approach to activities and a stable budget.



Minister Osmic underlined the long-term dedication of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, pledging that this strong support would continue in the future.

Mr Zoran Sajinovic, Assistant Minister and former MAG Chairperson, noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina remained fully committed to RACVIAC as it had been in the past. He pointed out that they were currently providing a second RACVIAC Director and until recently had provided three subject matter experts to the centre. He also underlined the commitment by Bosnia and Herzegovina to send participants to RACVIAC activities and pointed out that at home this proved to be an excellent example of inter-agency cooperation. Furthermore, Mr Sajinovic added that Bosnia and Herzegovina would provide instructors and lecturers for RACVIAC, in particular for those activities involving parliamentary oversight and search and rescue, but not limited to them. In conclusion Mr Sajinovic noted that the delegation came to RACVIAC to demonstrate their commitment to regional cooperation.

The Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Republic of Croatia H.E. Ms Azra Kalajdzisalihovic promised to visit RACVIAC in the near future and discuss the programme.

Director Mandic thanked the delegation for visiting and noted that the invitation to H.E. Ms Azra Kalajdzisalihovic to visit the Centre remained on the table. ■

Workshop on Regional Commodity Identification Training for Military and Dual-Use Goods

In cooperation with the Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the EU Outreach Export Controls for Dual Use Goods and the U.S. Department of Energy.



The Workshop on Regional Commodity Identification Training for Military and Dual-Use Goods is a follow up event of the Regional Workshop on Customs Procedures and Licensing Issuance: Integrating the National Processing of Dual Use Goods and Conventional Weapons through Information Sharing, held from 25 to 27 October 2011 in Rakitje, Croatia.

The workshop was opened on 16 July 2013 with a welcome address by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic, followed by opening remarks of Mr Mathew Geersten, Head of the FSC Support Section, Conflict Prevention Centre, OSCE. Opening remarks were also given by Ms Andrea Pokerznic,

Project Analyst, EU Outreach Export Control of Dual-Use Goods, and Ms Debika Pal, Regional Project Manager, Europe International Non-proliferation and Export Control Program, U.S. Department of Energy. They all stated the importance of this workshop for promoting the implementation of the UNSCR 1540 Resolution and the OSCE Document on SALW as well as inter-agency and regional cooperation.

The workshop focused on commodity identification and promotion of inter-agency and regional co-operation among licensing offices and customs services with a view to fighting the proliferation of illicit weapons and dual-use goods. The training contributed to the promotion of the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and the OSCE Document on SALW as well as reinforcing the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept that promotes threat mitigation with the least possible restriction posed on trade and transport.

Export licensing offices and customs agencies play key roles in controlling strategic trade and preventing the proliferation of dual-use goods as well as illicit weapons. Their mutual cooperation, as well as cooperation among countries, is what can prevent the proliferation of illegal and dangerous items. Thus, the workshop was significant for the cooperation and security issues in the SEE region.

Participants who attended the workshop came from the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro and Serbia. They were both licensing officials and front-line customs officers.

The workshop was carried out as a combination of lectures and presentations, followed by hands-on group exercises and a facilitated discussion.



* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Topics presented over the three days included:

- Proliferation Procurement Tactics and a Case Study, an Overview of WMD Programmes and Dual-Use Materials and Equipment Needed for their Development - Commodity Set 1: Chemicals and Chem/Bio Processing Equipment presented by experts from the U.S. Department of Energy.
- International Non-proliferation Regime Mandates, Guidelines, Control Lists and Catch-All, National Implementation of Export Control Norms Elements of Effective Export Control presented by lecturers of the EU Outreach Export Controls for Dual Use Goods.
- Commodity Set 2: Industrial Equipment Related to Nuclear and Missile Programme Development, by experts from the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Commodity Set 3: Materials, Overview of Risk Indicators by experts from the U.S. Department of Energy.
- A Case Study (interagency cooperation and risk assessment from the customs perspective) by Mr Matjaz Murovec, Deputy Head of Investigation Section, General Customs

Directorate, Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia.

- Commodity Set 4: Electronics, eCIT and other tools and resources presented by experts from the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Concealment Techniques used for Trafficking of SALW by Mr James Bevan, Director, Conflict Armament Research.

Participants expressed an interest to engage in the future in more practical exercises and presentations on real cases of interagency cooperation and risk assessment, to hear more about commodity identification, risk assessment and concealment techniques, and see more examples of methods used to detect misuse of dual-use goods.

RACVIAC, in cooperation with the OSCE and other partners, hopes that in the future this type of event would become a permanent platform which would provide a knowledge base on the best practices in use within the region, and raise awareness of the types of movements that can be expected in transit to and from neighbouring countries. ■

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Conference on Regional Peacekeeping Experiences held in RACVIAC



Photo courtesy of Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia

Opening speeches were given by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic and President of the Atlantic Council of Croatia Mr Radovan Vukadinovic.

Retired US four-star General John Allen, former ISAF Commander and Special Advisor for the Secretary of Defence for Middle East, said in his opening speech that the event was a first forum ever dedicated to the lessons learned in Afghanistan. He also pointed out that the international community needed to be strongly engaged in Afghanistan also after 2014 in order to support Afghan National Government on fighting corruption as one of the biggest threats to the security and prosperity of the country.

On this occasion Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy at NATO Ms Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic delivered a speech entitled "Have we achieved success? Human Angle Stories from Afghanistan". Ms Grabar Kitarovic pointed out that the International Forces in Afghanistan had done a great job in Afghanistan, especially in terms of integrating and strengthening the human rights of women.

The conference also served as a forum for discussing regional cooperation and different national experiences from ISAF missions. ■

A one-day Conference on "Regional Peacekeeping Experiences from ISAF to the Middle East and the Way Forward for 'Smart' Peacekeeping", co-organized by the Atlantic Council of Croatia and NATO Public Diplomacy Division was hosted by the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation on 13 August 2013.

Regional Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator Course

Hosted by Ministry of Defence of the Republic



Pursuant to the RACVIAC 2013 Programme, the International and Regional Cooperation with focus on Euro-Atlantic Integration Pillar organized and conducted a Regional Search and Rescue Coordinator Course at the Tara Mountain resort, Republic of Serbia, on 8-12 September 2013 with the support of the Tactical Air Command Denmark.

The subject activity was part of the RACVIAC Regional Search and Rescue project, while this Course was a continuation of a series of activities organized on this topic. The initial event was held in May 2011 in Belgrade, Serbia, followed by a fact-finding conference held in RACVIAC in November 2012 and Basic SAR Course in April 2013, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the last regional SAR event the countries of South-Eastern European region signed an important SAR Letter of Intent aimed at promoting and strengthening further regional cooperation on search and rescue. The signing of the SAR Letter of Intent will support upgrading and development of national and regional search and rescue systems and promote their importance.

The aim of the SAR Mission Coordinator Course was to continue with positive practices and provide a successful platform for security cooperation in the region, designed to support the countries in reaching their common goals in the field of search and rescue.

The purpose of the SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC) Course was to inform and educate the designated persons from national institutions selected to direct and coordinate operations of a specific search and rescue mission.

The Course took place at the Tara Mountain resort, Serbia, on 08 - 12 September 2013. It gathered 56 participants, including representatives of each of the RACVIAC Agreement signatory countries, RACVIAC MAG countries, civilian and military officials at decision-making levels and experts representing relevant national institutions dealing with SAR issues, such as

Defence/Armed Forces, national RCC authorities, national Directorates for Search and Protection, Civil Aviation Authorities, Ministries of the Interior, Civil Emergency Management Authorities, Medical Trauma Centres and NGOs.

The Course was opened on Monday, 9th September by welcome speeches given by Ambassador Branimir Mandić, RACVIAC Director, Mr Miroslav Jovanović, Assistant Minister for Defence Policy, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia and LtCol Ove Urup-Madsen, Head of International Cooperation, Ministry of Defence of Denmark.

In his welcome speech Ambassador Branimir Mandić highlighted that SAR refers to search for and aid to the citizens who are in distress or imminent danger. He pointed out that search and rescue services, especially aeronautical ones, were organized in respect of persons who seem to be in distress and in need of help. He further stressed that close cooperation and coordination among the countries had become mandatory in order to ensure successful search and rescue operations. He also underlined that the issue of search and rescue had grown in importance in light of recent major natural disasters and accidents and the number of human losses resulting therefrom.

Mr Jovanović noted the importance of these activities for the region, pointing out that security doesn't stop at the borders of one country and that mutual cooperation is need to foster dialog and promote security issues in the SEE region. He also highlighted excellent cooperation between RACVIAC and MoD and endorsed continuation of the courses on SAR.



After opening remarks the course curriculum and objectives were introduced by LtCol Ove Urup-Madsen, Course Coordinator.

Presentations held before each discussion session during the

course covered a wide range of topics related to search and rescue including: SAR regulating principals, the COSPAS SARSAT system and its operation, procedures for recruiting and education of a fully qualified Danish SAR Mission Coordinator, medical considerations and civil risk assessment and preparedness planning at the institutional level. Country presentations were given by representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro and Republic of Serbia.

The third day was rounded up with a closing ceremony. Ms Marija Žužek, MSc, the RACVIAC IRC Pillar Programme Manager, gave closing remarks recapping key points and highlighting the importance of further development of the

platform for security cooperation in the region with the aim to support the countries in reaching their common goals in the field of search and rescue.

During closing remarks several key points were highlighted: special emphasis was put on cooperation and due communication among different levels of actors in charge of SAR missions; responsibilities and jurisdiction over each component of SAR should be clear, while responses should be faster, cooperation between civil and military institutions and agencies should also be intensified; contacts in the region are also key to successful SAR missions, especially in the places near borders. ■

SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

Meeting of the Schengen Integration Task Force “Preparing Beneficiary States for Schengen Integration”

Executed in cooperation between DCAF Ljubljana and RACVIAC.

RACVIAC, Rakitje, Croatia, 9 - 11 September 2013



The DCAF Border Security Programme, implemented at DCAF Ljubljana, offers assistance to the border police and services of the ministries of the interior/security of the Western Balkan beneficiary countries with the aim to implement the Integrated Border Management concept in the region and contribute to an efficient tackling of modern threats to the regional and wider European border integrity. The Programme focuses on three main components - (1) EU/Schengen Integration, (2) Education and Training, and (3) Common and Coordinated Measures in Crime Prevention, Fight against Organised Crime.

Participants focused primarily on the ongoing process of self-evaluation in the area of Schengen integration. This is

conducted under the auspices of the Border Security Programme with the participation of beneficiary countries, aided by the Schengen Self Evaluation (SSE) software tool, a web application with secure on-line access for data collection and analysis developed by DCAF. The self-evaluation process based on the EU-level Scheval model has been appreciated by beneficiary countries as a solid form of preparing for Schengen integration. The nationally appointed experts have been contributing regular input with great dedication.

On the first day, presentations on the results of the 1st phase of the Schengen Self-Evaluation e-application were given by Mr Marko Gašperlin and representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro and Serbia. The second day continued with discussions and conclusions on the 1st phase of the Schengen Self-Evaluation. Presentations were also given about Croatian and Slovenian experiences with using relevant information systems for border police work (SIS, VIS, EURODAC).

Mr Robert More, MoI Slovenia, gave a presentation on the European border surveillance system (EUROSUR), while later on the carriers' obligations and national legislation concerning family members were discussed.

The third day was dedicated to further instructions and agreement regarding the Schengen Self-Evaluation e-application and ideas and plans for 2014.

Participants highlighted the need for a further, intensified mutual communication and exchange of information regarding progress in this area. They supported DCAF's proposal to

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.



share insight into evaluation reports with beneficiary countries to provide an overview of the regional state-of-play.

The received feedback regarding technical aspects will be considered by DCAF to improve the application. Participants exchanged good practices and experiences based on case studies from Slovenia, Slovakia and Croatia, while novelties in the information systems relevant for border police work, such as SIS, VIS, EURODAC, EUROSUR, as well as novelties in the EU legislation were also outlined.

This is particularly significant since Montenegro has been deeply involved and has been making continuous advances in the EU negotiation process. First-hand experience, especially regarding Chapter 24 and the role of border police, will be beneficial for the overall process. Participants proposed the topics for the next meeting of the Task Force in March 2014. The meeting will focus on some of the most current issues in the area of border management and the process of fulfilling Schengen conditions, which play the most significant role in the EU Accession Chapter 24. ■

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Workshop on Intellectual Emigration - Effects and Implications on Socioeconomic and Demographic Development

Hosted by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Co-organized with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) and the European Commission Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) instrument, the Multi-Beneficiary Workshop on Intellectual Emigration - Effects and Implications on Socioeconomic and Demographic Development took place in Sarajevo, BA, on 10-11 September 2013.

The workshop was a follow-up to the roundtable on Demographic Trends and Social and Economic Challenges in SEE, held at RACVIAC in October 2012.

There are many complex consequences and implications of emigration that are manifested in a number of domains, including the security area. In terms of socioeconomic development, particularly important is their impact on demography and economy. Over time, emigration abroad has become an integral part of population development in the SEE

region. It has become evident that there is a need for conceptualizing a complex policy in relation to the Diaspora, reduction of intellectual emigration (brain drain), return of highly educated persons from abroad ("brain gain") and mitigating unfavourable implications of intellectual emigration. The growing emigration tendency among highly educated individuals, as well as among junior scientific staff caused by long-term unemployment has led to devaluing labour, underestimating expertise, brain waste, limited opportunities for career promotion, all of which resulted in changes in the workforce quality and reduced human resources levels. Given the enormous repercussions of intellectual emigration, the issue of "brain drain" should indeed be considered alarming.

The workshop aimed to discuss factors, scope and dynamics of permanent intellectual emigration of highly educated young people (brain drain) from the countries of the region and its implications for socioeconomic and demographic development of the countries.

The objectives were to get an insight into how this phenomenon is identified and treated in national policies (strategies, resolutions, action plans, etc.); to explore alignment of national migration policies with other national security, economic, social, demographic policies; to get an insight into the situation, measures and activities undertaken in the region; and to exchange experiences with experts from the EU and international organizations.



The workshop comprised five panels outlining EU migration legislation and the experience of SEE countries. Panel presentations were followed by Q&A sessions and discussions.

In addition to Ambassador Branimir Mandic, RACVIAC Director, opening remarks were given by Ms Ruzmira Tihic-Kadric, Assistant Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms Natalia Dianiskova, Head of Operation, Section for Social Development, Civil Society and Cross Border Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, and Mr Toni Jakimovski from the MARRI Regional Centre.

The five panels discussed topics including: EU Migration Policy, development of national strategies and policies, capacity building for human resources management in institutions, the influence of intellectual emigration on the development of the country of origin and national migration management strategies and policies from the standpoint of EU candidate and potential candidate countries.

Fruitful discussions over the course of the workshop resulted in a series of closing remarks:

- Specific focus should be put on gathering more than basic demographic data, including the data on the educational levels, expertise and type of employment of emigrants. This cannot be done, as for the resident population, by a more or less automatic data collection by public services, but has to be done pro-actively by setting up registers for emigrants and approaching them directly.
- It is important to focus both on return and on involvement of expatriates in projects at home.
- Capacity building as well as a regional agreement on the types of data and methods of collection should be considered of utmost importance. A mapping of existing data - definitions and collection methods could be a starting point.

- It is necessary to assess needs and gaps regarding brain drain in the region with the aim to get an overall picture of the phenomenon with the estimation of flows and their structure.
- Methodology for reliable statistics as a tool for policy development (possibly within a regional IPA project) has to be established.
- It is necessary to develop a self-sustainable training system covering analytical capacities and general topics related to migration, -e/i-mmigration and consider possibilities under IPA regional projects.



- Models of existing good practice in the region need to be mapped out (perhaps in the form of questionnaires). ■

Conference on European Union External Border Regime

Initiated by the Alumni Association of the George C. Marshall Centre Republic of Croatia, with kind support from the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Zagreb Office.

RACVIAC, Rakitje, Croatia, 11 - 13 September 2013



Border security is one of the key points of interest for Security Sector Reform. Therefore, in light of recent events connected with border security, great necessity for a conference on this topic was recognized. Thus, RACVIAC is proud that the conference on “European Union External Border Regime” provided the first opportunity for the relevant countries to talk about the new border security situation after Croatia's accession to the European Union.

The purpose of this joint conference project lies in the original idea that Croatia's accession to the EU border security system ought not to be perceived as closure of individual transformation processes, but rather as opening of the consequent full-member EU transformation phase in the area of border security systems. The process of Croatia's EU accession is therefore to be continued and complemented by all steps of national adaptation, particularly in view of the EU border security system development towards emerging, as well as less apparent, challenges to come. A complementary intention behind the conference concept was to draw general attention to the case of the Republic of Croatia as the most recent example of the EU internal border security system development. The conference was aimed at bringing together representatives of the countries of South Eastern Europe (SEE) whose international position would change after Croatia's accession to the EU, as they would become front-line countries bordering the new EU area.

The conference was opened by Brigadier

General Zdravko Jakop, Deputy Director of RACVIAC; Mr Branko Kromar, M.Sc., Programme Manager, SSR Pillar - RACVIAC; Dr. Gerhard Wahlers, Deputy Secretary General, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung; and Mr Smiljan Cubelic, President, Alumni George C. Marshall Centre.

H.E. Ambassador of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* Daniela Karagozowska emphasized the importance of the conference agenda, while Mr Nebojsa Kirigin, Assistant Minister of the Interior, Republic of Croatia, welcomed participants on behalf of the Ministry.

The first working day consisted of two panels. The first one covered border security, with a special focus on security issues as connected with the implementation of the EU external border legislation in the Republic of Croatia. The second one dealt with customs procedures, issues related to the implementation of the EU external border legislation in the Republic of Croatia: standards, cross-border transportation of animals, fruits and vegetables, Border Inspection Posts, etc.

The second day was dedicated to the regional trade/economy issues related to the EU external border regime: trends, problems and recommendations, CEFTA and EU, etc. The final panel dealt with perspectives and commitments of the Republic of Croatia concerning the Schengen area and border security lessons learned through the implementation of the Schengen Information System and Visa Information System.

The conference proved that there were many new aspects considering border security, customs and economy. It provided an opportunity for the representatives of the regional countries to discuss changes and problems concerning the newly established Croatian border regime system with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as with the EU member countries. Events such as this one are intended to help the countries overcome some of the issues raised during the conference. Representatives of various ministries had a chance to outline some outstanding questions and discuss them with participants, as well as with their superiors later on and provide possible solutions. ■



* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

CSBMs: Oversight and Building Integrity

Hosted by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Montenegro.

Co-organized by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Montenegro, the Seminar on “Confidence (and Security) Building Measures (C(S)BM): Oversight and Building Integrity, expanded” was held in Budva from 17 to 19 September, 2013.



The seminar focused on the concept of Confidence Building Measures (CBM) and the later concept of Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBM). The recent past of South East Europe (SEE), particularly that of the former Yugoslavia, even though the rest of the territory is not tension-free either, has proved that the region is not fully stable. Therefore, various types of C(S)BMs are applied.

The SEE territory, both in its wider and narrower borders, definitely does not look as one with conflict potentials. While there are some risk areas in this regard, they are not likely to escalate into conflict in the foreseeable future. However, the OSCE Code of Conduct (CoC), Vienna documents and related security mechanisms should remain firmly planted in the political tissue of the SEE.

On the other hand, there is a five-year period of different levels of economic and financial hardship shared with the rest of Europe, albeit with a stronger impact on the transition and post-conflict countries. The purpose of this event was to discuss whether CSBMs in the SEE should remain almost strictly defence oriented or they could expand to include broader aspects. In particular, it was to discuss whether it was valid to start shifting the focus from general arms control and notification measures to a more substantial and cost-beneficial level of defence co-operation and if that could be considered a C(S)BM.

The working part of the Seminar started with opening remarks given by Mr Savo Milasinovic, Finance Department, MoD, Montenegro, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, Deputy Director of RACVIAC, and Mr Branko Kromar, M.Sc., Programme Manager, SSR Pillar, RACVIAC. In his keynote speech Dr. Davor Bozinovic, Member of the Defence Committee, Croatian Parliament, expressed his views regarding the future of the European Defence and building integrity.

The first panel dealt with the concept and history of C(S)BM. A presentations on the history of C(S)BMs and results of their implementation was given by Mr Istvan Gyarmati, Director of International Centre for Democratic Transition (DEMKK), Hungary. The second panel covered C(S)BMs in a broader context. Mr Slavisa Scekcic, Expert Adviser of the Assembly of Montenegro, gave a presentation on the role of the OSCE Code of Conduct in the context of C(S)BMs - regional experience. Mr Kristijan Podbevsek from the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre spoke about the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the 2013 Annual Information Exchange. This panel was closed with a presentation by Lt Col Marijan Jozic, Defence Policy Directorate, MoD, HR, who talked about the implementation of C(S)BMs and NATO perspective.

The second working day opened with the third panel on the current developments regarding C(S)BMs. Lt Col Robert Goli, Verification Centre, ME, outlined the concept of regional C(S)BMs (ref. Vienna Documents 1999/2011). Lt Col Dragan Stojanovic, Senior Arms Control Inspector, International Military Co-operation Department, MoD, RS, addressed the role and impact of Vienna Documents on C(S)BMs in the post-conflict environment and how they work today. Mr Savo Milasinovic, Finance Department, MoD, ME, gave an insight into the contemporary approach to C(S)BMs at the time of the financial crisis and outlined regional experience. The closing panel of the seminar addressed the future of the C(S)BM concept. The lecturer was Mr Marko Milosevic, BCSP, who elaborated on the compliance with the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico Military Aspects of Security, as backed by bilateral agreements, questioning whether it was a sufficient C(S)BM framework and whether C(S)BMs should be regionally-based or a more general approach should be adopted.

The seminar demonstrated the importance of C(S)BMs for the region. The emphasis was on the results achieved thanks to C(S)BMs. In the course of achieving these results, countries were provided with crucial assistance from the OSCE and relied on the instruments at their disposal, primarily the CoC. The seminar also reflected on the future direction of C(S)BMs. Countries are facing new challenges, the economic crisis being one of the most important. In this regard, it was noted that the concept of C(S)BMs also needs adjustment. ■

Effective Practices of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540

In cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia.

RACVIAC, Rakitje, Croatia, 11 - 13 September 2013

The Seminar on Effective Practices of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 was an unprecedented pilot project activity co-organized by the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA).

The seminar focused on the identification and distribution of effective practices in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and exploring the situation regarding National Implementation Action Plans (NIAPs) in respective member countries, from the point of view of ministries, international organizations and customs services with a view to fighting the proliferation of illicit weapons and dual-use goods. The seminar emphasized that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, including to non-State actors, remains a threat to international peace and security.

The seminar objectives were:

- To provide information about the identification and distribution of effective practices in the implementation of UNSCR 1540;
- To give an insight into the current situation regarding National Implementation Action Plans (NIAPs);
- To outline the information and lessons learned related to UNSCR 1540;
- To provide an update on the activities related to UNSCR 1540, educational activities, customs procedures and perspectives for the future.

The seminar was opened on 19 September 2013 with a welcome address by RACVIAC Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop. This was followed by opening remarks given by Vesna Batistic-Kos, PhD, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Global Issues (MFEA HR) and MAG Chairperson, and Mr Nikita Smidovich, Political Advisor of the UNODA, who emphasized the role of the 1540 Committee, recent extension of its mandate till April 2021 and the "country-specific dialogue" developed by the UNODA. Finally, the floor was given to Mr Nicolas Kasprzyk, the 1540 expert of the UN 1540 Committee, who was an excellent moderator of the two-day event during the majority of sessions.

Topics discussed included:

- An update on the Status of the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) by Mr Nicolas Kasprzyk. He gave a brief overview of the work of the UN

1540 Committee, whose mandate ends only in 2021 it was prolonged for ten years, which was an unprecedented step. Special emphasis was put on the Committee's cooperation with other international organisations.

- The Croatian National Strategy for Non-proliferation of WMD by Ms Sanja Bujas-Juraga. She gave an overview of the national implementation of UNSCR 1540, with an emphasis on Croatia's strong commitment to its implementation. She also highlighted two joint events with Poland on this topic. The delicacy of Croatia's geopolitical situation was also highlighted.
- Challenges and Effectiveness concerning Adoption of the National Action Plan 1540 were outlined by Ambassador Branka Latinovic, Head of Arms Control Department, MFA Serbia.
- A Comprehensive Approach to Prevention of Proliferation of WMD: The Belarus National Framework Document on Additional Measures to Implement UNSCR 1540 was presented by Mr Vasily Pavlov, Senior Counsellor, Department of International Security and Arms Control, MFA of Belarus.
- OSCE Activities to Support the NIAP Process of Its Member States by Ms Adriana Volenikova, OSCE Secretariat Conflict Prevention Centre, Vienna, who outlined the OSCE activities aimed at fostering NIAPs and the implementation of UNSCR 1540.
- National Practices in Implementing Resolution 1540 were elaborated by Mr Timur Cherikov, Deputy Director, Centre for Non-proliferation and Export Control, Kyrgyzstan and by Mr Richard Cupitt, 1540 Coordinator, US Department of State.

This event proved to be a good example of strong cooperation among RACVIAC, the UNODA and Croatian MFA. As UNSCR 1540 requires every state to criminalize the involvement of various forms of non-state actors in weapons of mass destruction and related activities in their national legislation and, once in place, to enforce such legislation, RACVIAC stands ready to support this global, universal obligation and, in cooperation with the partners in this successful event, to continue promoting UNSCR 1540 and the NIAPs. ■



NATO Quiz Final Held



On Friday September 27, 2013, the final competition of the quiz on knowledge of NATO Alliance was held at the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation premises in Rakitje. The competition entitled "From Dubrovnik, through Zagreb to NATO in Bruxelles by a Quiz of Knowledge" was organized by the North Atlantic Integrations Promotion Organization (NAPO), the Croatian Parliament's Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO and the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

The quiz was envisaged as a promotional activity ahead of the forthcoming 59th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to be held in Dubrovnik from October 11 to 14, 2013. Ten secondary school and university students from four Dalmatian counties that achieved the best results in an online elimination test were chosen as finalists.

RACVIAC Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop opened the event by welcoming the contestants and

dignitaries, underlining that RACVIAC readily accepted the invitation to host such an activity. He then followed with a brief presentation on RACVIAC and its activities.

Lieutenant Robert Karaman from the Croatian International Military Operations Training Centre gave a presentation on the Croatian Armed Forces in NATO lead operations. NAPO Director, Mr Denis Avdagic gave a short briefing on the activities and history of the NATO Alliance, while Mr Maroje Katalinic, the Secretary of the Croatian Parliament's Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO spoke about the NATO Parliamentary Assembly itself.

Following the opening statements the competition was held with three rounds of questions. The contestants' answers provided an interesting insight into the knowledge of the youth regarding the NATO Alliance as well as their view of world security issues. The panel of judges chose Andro Radovic, Tereza Buconic and Lovro Ogresta from Dubrovnik as well as Paula Karadza from Zagreb who is studying in Dubrovnik as winners. The winners will be awarded a trip to Bruxelles where they will visit the NATO headquarters.

Upon completion of the competition, contestants were treated to a lunch at the PLETER restaurant and then toured the Damir Vitez Martic barracks, where they could see first hand how RACVIAC conducts its activities and how the Croatian Armed Forces prepare members for participation in international operations.

The competition winners will be officially presented with their prizes on the first day of the Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly on October 11, 2013, at the Stradun walkway in the Dubrovnik city centre, where a public concert will also be held. ■

HELLOS



Mr Pál BÓDOGH-SZABÓ was born in Budapest in 1969. After his military service and university years he graduated in 1997 as a historian and museologist from the University of Miskolc. He worked as a secretary in the

National Assembly and later as a freelance translator of books on history. He has intermediate knowledge of French. After years spent in the MoD of Hungary, Defence Policy Department, Mr Bódogh-Szabó was assigned to RACVIAC's Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control Pillar in July 2013. He is married and has four sons.



Ms Tanja Kozic began volunteering at RACVIAC in September 2013 at the International and Regional Cooperation with focus on Euro-Atlantic Integration Pillar. She was born on March 3rd, 1990 in Slavonski Brod, Croatia.

She completed her secondary education at the Fra Marijan Lanosovic Secondary School and then obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations from the University of Political Science in Zagreb. She is currently completing her graduate studies. Through her studies she has developed an interest in international relations, national security and political communication. She is fluent in English and has basic knowledge of German and Spanish. In her free time she enjoys dancing and working with children.



Ms Katarina Vukic joined the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in September 2013, working in the International and Regional Cooperation with a Focus on Arms Control Pillar. She was born on July 12th 1988

in Dubrovnik. She is currently studying at the University Of Zagreb, Faculty of Political Science where she is preparing her graduate thesis on the Transformation of Political Systems in Asia: A Comparative Analysis of Taiwan, Thailand and South Korea. Through her studies she has developed an interest in international relations and has participated in producing a television programme for the Student TV. In her free time she enjoys reading, photography, running and travelling.



Mr Milos Milosevic joined the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in September 2013 as a volunteer and is working in the Security Sector Reform Pillar. He was born in Belgrade, Serbia in 1987 and has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade University. He is currently working on his Master's Degree at the Belgrade University on Terrorism, Organized Crime and Safety with the thesis "Violence as a Determination Factor in the Forming and Growth of the Collective Guilt Concept". Before joining RACVIAC he was involved in drafting official statements and other public relations issues for leading

political parties. He also cooperates with a group of colleges holding lectures about decentralization. His other interests include science-fiction, Formula 1 and camping. He is fluent in English and has basic knowledge of Russian.



Capt Branko Lozancic joined the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation as the Public Affairs Officer on September 10th, 2013. He arrived from the Croatian Ministry of Defence where he worked in the Defence Policy and Planning Department. This is Capt Lozancic's second tour of duty in RACVIAC, from

October 2008 to 2011 he served as the Chief of the Service Branch. He is married with two children and enjoys music, reading and fishing.

GOODBYES



On July 15th, 2013 **Lt Col Zoltan Volgyi** completed his tour of duty as a Subject Matter Expert in RACVIAC's Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arm Control Pillar. His intellectual capacities allowed him to comprehend the military/political interrelatedness and to submit valuable proposals to RACVIAC's community, while his expertise in arms control, along with his professional

knowledge, proved to be invaluable to our success. Thanks to his extensive professional and international experience, his contribution during the preparation and execution of RACVIAC's activities was always considerable. We wish him all the best in his private life and in his new duties in Hungary.



Ms Mihaela Krsinic served as an intern - Public Relations Assistant in the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on a voluntary basis from 01 February to 31 July 2013, with a view to gaining relevant experience in an international organization dealing with security and defence issues in South-Eastern Europe. In the course of her internship, Ms Krsinic proved to be an able and dedicated worker and was helpful not only to the PR cell, but also to other departments within the Centre. She demonstrated a high level of eagerness in all her tasks and was

always ready to assist other colleagues. We thank her and wish her all the best in her future career.



Mr Milan Janicijevic, seconded from the Ministry of Defence in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, served in the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation as acting Programme Manager/Subject Matter Expert in the International and Regional Cooperation with Focus on Euro-Atlantic Integration Pillar for almost four years. During this time, he displayed extraordinary abilities and initiative, always going above and beyond to complete his tasks. His outstanding performance, organizational skills and

communication abilities, along with his in-depth knowledge of international and regional security cooperation issues, professionalism and courtesy of the highest standards made him an indispensable asset to the Centre. Mr Janicijevic completed his tour of duty on August 31st, 2013. We wish him all the best in his private and professional life.



Following four years of service as the Public Affairs Officer, **Capt Marija Cicak** finished her tour of duty at RACVIAC on August 31st, 2013. Capt Cicak displayed exceptional professionalism and devotion in her duties as the Public Affairs Officer demonstrating extraordinary innovation and creativity. She will be remembered for her interesting interviews published in the RACVIAC Newsletter and for initiating

the RACVIAC Facebook page. Her communication skills had a major impact on increasing the visibility of the Centre, while her proactive and supportive style greatly contributed to overall efficiency and effectiveness. We wish Capt Cicak all the best in her private life and in her duties at the Croatian International Military Operations Training Centre.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.



Centre for Security Cooperation



**„fostering dialogue and cooperation
in South East Europe“**

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