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Centre for Security Cooperation



Newsletter



Multinational Advisory Group Meeting Held in RACVIAC

**Workshop on The Links between Terrorism and
Organized Crime held in Antalya Turkey**

Arms Control Symposium Held in RACVIAC

CONTENTS

Visits to/outside RACVIAC

RACVIAC Delegation Attends Comprehensive Regional Ministerial	(02)
RACVIAC Delegation meets in Austria with Partners	(03)
RACVIAC Deputy Director Attended the Conference on Conventional Arms Control in Europe Held at Wilton Park, UK	(04)
RACVIAC Delegation Visits CARITAS Shelter for the Homeless in Rakitje	(04)
Danish Ambassador Visits RACVIAC	(04)
Heads of Delegations at Proliferation Security Initiative Exercise Visit RACVIAC	(05)
RACVIAC Delegation Visits Serbian Ministry of Defence	(06)
30th MAG Meeting	(07)
Regional Cooperation Council Secretary General, Mr Goran Svilanovic, Addresses the Multinational Advisory Group	(08)
Regional Seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for Parliamentarians	(09)
Workshop on The Links between Terrorism and Organized Crime	(09)
Arms Control Symposium	(11)
Ottawa Convention Seminar	(12)
Regional Conference on Establishing Measures Necessary to Achieve Effectiveness of Systems for Civil Protection	(13)
Conference Held on the Impact of Cybercrime on the Economic Environment of the South-East European Region	(15)
Hellos & Goodbyes	(18)
RACVIAC Programme 2014	(19)



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RACVIAC Delegation lead by Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic attended the Comprehensive Regional Ministerial held in Brdo near Kranj Slovenia from 1-3 October 2013

A RACVIAC delegation lead by Director Branimir Mandic attended the Comprehensive Regional Ministerial (CRM) held in Brdo near Kranj Slovenia from 1-3 October 2013, focused on Harmonization of Regional Defence and Security Cooperation. The meeting was attended by numerous ministers of defence from the region and beyond, as well as by the highest representatives of key regional and international organizations.

The CRM is an innovative project aimed at rationalizing costs and saving valuable time. In three consecutive days, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia hosted three meetings of three regional initiatives, namely the Western Balkans Defence Policy Directors Meeting (WB DPD), followed by the U.S. - Adriatic Charter (A-5) Defence Ministerial chaired by Montenegro and the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) chaired by Romania.



The purpose of the event was not only to economise resources, but also to provide a unique opportunity for an open discussion on how to reduce unnecessary duplication, ensure coherence, streamline structures, and improve working methods to more efficiently join efforts regarding future regional cooperation. This was underlined in the overarching title of the CRM “Harmonization of Regional Defence and Security Cooperation”.

The meeting was opened by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, Ms Alenka Bratusek, who addressed those gathered and was followed by a keynote speech by the OSCE Secretary General, His Excellency, Lamberto Zannier on Comprehensive Security Agenda.

Following three days of fruitful discussion the Defence Ministers of the South Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial adopted a series of conclusions. They welcomed the presence of representatives from the OSCE, RCC, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency and the UNDP/SEESAC.

The ministers noted that they appreciated the values of the ongoing efforts with regard to the SEDM Strategic Framework (SSR) and recommended that nations continue work within SEDM-CC on creating an actionable roadmap for each of the SEDM reform objectives and timely implement the joint recommendations.

The SEDM ministers declared that they would remain deeply committed to promote all initiatives aimed at improving SEDM efficiency and visibility, reduce unnecessary duplications, ensure maximum coherence, streamline structures and improve

working methods in order to achieve more efficiency in future regional defence cooperation. They also expressed support for a number of projects including the Building Integrity project, the Female Leaders in Security and Defence project and SEEBRIG activities.

The RACVIAC delegation used the opportunity to hold several bilateral meetings on the margins with the Defence Ministers of Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and Georgia, as well as Department Heads from the Bulgarian and Ukrainian Ministries of Defence to discuss the work of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and possible areas of cooperation. ■



RACVIAC Delegation meets in Austria with Partners



A delegation of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, consisting of Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic, Planning and Liaison Officer for Western Europe and International Organizations Colonel Ferdinand Klinser MSD and IRC Pillar Programme Manager Ms Marija Zuzek met with several major partners from October 21st to 22nd 2013 in Vienna, namely representatives of the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE and other International Organizations, as well as Major General Michele Torres - the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords.

Within the working meeting with Ambassador Dr Jandl, the Security Policy Director of the Federal Ministry for European and

International Affairs of Austria, noted that the role of Austria as a Partner country for RACVIAC in EU related issues was streamlined and diversified and a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) related Conference in partnership with the Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sports was discussed and envisaged to be carried out in Vienna, Austria in the spring of 2014.

Following the inaugural visit of February 2013 to representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between RACVIAC and UNODC on October 21st in Vienna, officially confirming possibilities for deepening and widening cooperation between the two organizations with a specific focus on the UNODC's Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe 2012-2015, which is aimed at working in strong partnership with regional organizations and officials. The RACVIAC management's intention is to utilize the MoU in order to aid in developing and further stabilizing RACVIAC following its Strategy 2012-2015. The essential goals and tangible cooperation activities based on the new MoU and RACVIAC's 2014 Programme were explored through a highly productive, efficient and promising meeting with the representatives of UNODC holding key positions for future cooperation with RACVIAC: Mr Aldo Lale-Demoz, Director for Operations, Ms Ekaterina Kolykhalova, Programme Officer - Regional Section for Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean and numerous experts in other fields of interest. ■



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

RACVIAC Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop Attended the Conference on Conventional Arms Control in Europe Held at Wilton Park, UK

RACVIAC Deputy Director, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, attended the Conference on Conventional Arms Control in Europe held at Wilton Park, UK from 28 - 29 October 2013. The event was organized in association with the UK Ministry of Defence and the US Department of State. Participants at the conference discussed: Military capabilities and the potential for conflict in the Euro-Atlantic region; How can we measure and/or quantify today's European conventional military capabilities; The Nordic-Baltic regional security environment and experiences and lessons learned from other conventional arms control and transparency agreements.

Brigadier General Jakop addressed those gathered on the topic of the Dayton Article IV Agreement from an implementer's perspective. He underlined the role of the Agreement in building confidence and security, which is evident in the more intensive cooperation in the process of implementing all aspects of the Agreement (conduct of inspections and the reductions process). General Jakop noted that the purpose of the Agreement, when forced upon the signatory nations, had been to halt the regional arms control race and achieve balance, which was successful. He also noted that a significant amount of surplus armaments that fall under the Agreement had been destroyed (9787 pieces of heavy armaments had been reduced since the implementation of the Agreement began in 1996). He also pointed out that all countries parties to the Agreement had decreased their amounts of armaments significantly below ceilings.

General Jakop noted that the Dayton Article IV Agreement was the only arms control treaty that had been forced upon the signatory states and would be later transferred to their ownership, where the countries would assume responsibility for its further development in cooperation with international partners. ■

RACVIAC Delegation Visits CARITAS Shelter for the Homeless in Rakitje



On November 12th, a RACVIAC delegation led by Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, and consisting of Public Affairs Officer Captain Branko Lozancic, and IT Administrator Mr Ivan Ivnik, visited the CARITAS Shelter for the Homeless in Rakitje. The purpose of the visit was to donate a computer to be used in the Shelter's reading room.

Deputy Director Jakop met with the head of the Shelter, Mr Ivan Mavrek, and discussed the work that they do in helping the homeless stand on their feet. Mr Mavrek informed the delegation about the history of the Shelter noting that in 1993 it had been a home for refugees, and later it had become a shelter for the homeless. He told of the hardships people who spend time at the shelter face and of the successes the shelter has had in helping people find their way in life. Mr Mavrek added that since 2003 over 500 people have lived at the shelter.

Deputy Director, Brigadier General Jakop, said that the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation was glad to be able to contribute to aiding those in need in some small way. ■

Danish Ambassador Visits the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation

Danish Ambassador to Croatia, H.E. Poul Erik Dam Kristensen visited the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on Tuesday November 19th, 2013 in the company of Commander Felix Ebbestad, head of the Cooperation and Programmes Branch of Danish Defence Command and Major Niels Randloev, desk officer for Europe and China.

The Danish delegation was welcomed by RACVIAC director Ambassador Branimir Mandic who provided them with information regarding current activities being conducted by RACVIAC. Director Mandic mentioned that RACVIAC had improved cooperation with members and partners pointing out that members were participating more actively through finances and personnel. He said that RACVIAC had signed 9 MOUs with other organizations with an aim to avoid duplication and achieve synergy of efforts. Director Mandic also noted that although RACVIAC had always cooperated with NATO and the EU, this cooperation had been improved with Croatia assuming the role of point of contact with NATO and Austria with the EU.

Director Mandic also pointed out that RACVIAC was improving cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and that the RCC Secretary General, Mr Goran Svilanovic, had addressed the MAG in October suggesting that his organization would be shifting its focus to economic issues and channelling the security field to RACVIAC among others. Director Mandic further noted that RACVIAC was adopting a project approach to its activities in order to improve quality and match the needs of its members.

Ambassador Kristensen thanked the RACVIAC staff for the information they had provided noting that stability was of a special nature and importance to the region. Commander Ebbestad pointed out the Danish contribution to the project regarding search and rescue noting that it was a good platform to engage across

borders as it was a topic of mutual interest by all countries. He noted that perhaps this experience could be broadened to include other issues such as civil preparedness and disaster management.

In conclusion director Mandic thanked the Danish delegation for visiting and presented Ambassador Kristensen with a RACVIAC medallion. Signing the RACVIAC guestbook, Ambassador Kristensen wrote "It was a pleasure, and very useful, to be briefed about RACVIAC and its useful work towards regional stability. All the best for the future". ■



Heads of Delegations at Proliferation Security Initiative Exercise Visit RACVIAC



A delegation of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, headed by Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic and consisting of Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop and Public Affairs Officer Captain Branko Lozancic attended the Southeast European Regional Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) Executive Table Top Exercise held in Zagreb on Thursday November 21st, 2013.

The PSI is a response to the growing challenge posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their delivery systems, and related materials worldwide. The PSI builds on efforts by the international community to prevent proliferation of such items, including existing treaties and regimes. It is consistent with and a step in the implementation of the UN Security Council Presidential Statement of January 1992, which states that the proliferation of all WMD constitutes a threat to international peace and security, and underlines the need for member states of the UN to prevent proliferation.

The exercise held in Zagreb was intended to fulfil several objectives:

- increase regional understanding of, and commitment to, upholding the PSI State of Interdiction Principles;
- Introduce and expand on the Critical Capabilities and Practices (CCP) effort, to include sharing information on available CCP tools;
- Increase participating States' understanding of regional proliferation trends;
- Understand the role of sanctions and specific courses of action for inspecting and identifying shipments of proliferation concern;
- Establish future regionally focused Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) activities designed to increase coordination on activities to prevent WMD proliferation;
- Increase understanding of the role of international CWMD control regimes.

RACVIAC was invited, among other international organizations, to present itself and the activities it conducts in the field of security. During his address Director Mandic underlined the activities RACVIAC has conducted in several related fields including border management, regional commodity identification training - for dual - use and military goods as well as effective practices in the implementation of UNSCR 1540.

During the afternoon the heads of delegations taking part at the PSI Exercise took the opportunity to visit the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and see the facilities the Centre possess and meet the people working there. Programme managers outlined the fields being dealt with by their respective pillars and provided the visiting delegation with details regarding individual activities. It was noted that RACVIAC could act as a facilitator in the region for further activities under the Proliferation Security Initiative. ■

RACVIAC Delegation Visits Serbian Ministry of Defence

On November 26th a delegation from the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation consisting of Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic and Programme Manager for International and Regional Cooperation Marija Zuzek visited the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia and met with Serbian Minister of Defence Nebojsa Rodic.

In his introduction Director Mandic noted the importance of the period in which the Republic of Serbia holds the position of MAG Chair as a chance to promote and advance existing regional capacities of the Republic of Serbia. He went on to thank the Serbian Ministry of Defence for their support to RACVIAC at this time and during the previous period when Croatia held the position of MAG Chair.



Director Mandic especially emphasized the contribution the Republic of Serbia has made to achieving professional and open relations from the moment he assumed the position of RACVIAC Director, as well as the participation of the Republic of Serbia in the realization of regional cooperation by seconding a representative, contributing financially and participation of representatives in the Centre's activities.

Director Mandic informed the Serbian representatives of the visible progress RACVIAC had made and its role as the only international organization in the field of security in South East Europe. He also noted that the RACVIAC budget was stable thanks to the active contribution of all countries. Furthermore, he pointed out the good cooperation with other regional and sub-regional initiatives reflected in nine memorandums of understanding that have been signed. With this, he emphasized that a new quality of cooperation had been achieved with significant efforts made to achieve synergy and save financial means, while overlapping of activities had been avoided.

Priorities for activities during the Republic of Serbia's chairmanship of the MAG were defined, while the need was stressed to continue good communications with the MAG Chairperson, Major General Milan Mojsilovic.

Director Mandic was invited by the Serbian Minister of Defence, Mr Nebojsa Rodic, to visit Belgrade again in March of 2014. ■

9-10 October, Rakitje Croatia

The 30th MAG and Budgetary Meeting, the semi-annual summit of RACVIAC's steering body - the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG), was held in Rakitje from 9-10 October. The meeting gathering the majority of member countries of the MAG, as well as a representative of the Regional Cooperation Council, was organized by the MAG Chairmanship of the Republic of Croatia. The meeting began on Wednesday 9 October with the Budgetary Meeting at which MAG representatives had an opportunity to discuss in detail relevant issues regarding the RACVIAC budget implementation for 2013 and projections for the future. Following the meeting, Mr Goran Svilanovic, the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council, had an opportunity to address the representatives as a special guest.



On Thursday 10 October, the MAG Meeting took place, opened by Chairperson Ms Vesna Batistic Kos. In her opening address Ms Batistic Kos welcomed the MAG representatives and took the opportunity to reflect upon developments that took place during her chairmanship. She noted that the RACVIAC programme was well developed while relations with NATO and the EU were becoming stronger as well as relations with other relevant initiatives such as UNODA. It was further noted that Dayton Article IV state parties saw RACVIAC as a possible forum for assisting other regions in post-conflict arms control. Ms Batistic Kos also took the opportunity to congratulate Romania and Turkey for ratifying the RACVIAC Agreement.

The meeting Agenda consisted of a presentation of the Director's Interim Report, provided by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic, who highlighted achievements since the last MAG Meeting. Director Mandic thanked Romania and Turkey for ratification of the RACVIAC agreement and underlined that bilateral relations with member countries and others were encouraging, noting that a common understanding and approach had been achieved that he hoped would continue in the future. Furthermore he emphasized that memorandums of understanding had been signed with almost all regional and sub-regional organizations stressing that they were living agreements that would result in concrete activities being organized.

Director Mandic particularly noted that cooperation with the RCC was going well and that the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation would be the main implementer of security initiatives in the region. He also pointed out that cooperation with NATO and the EU had been strengthened. The Republic of Austria will provide a channel of cooperation with the EU and the Republic of Croatia with NATO. He also took the opportunity to present ongoing challenges facing RACVIAC, particularly regarding the issues of secondment of personnel.

RACVIAC Deputy Director, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, informed the MAG representatives about the current personnel situation in the Centre, which is the biggest challenge the Centre is currently facing, as a significant number of seconded personnel completed their mandates at the Centre during the summer.

The Deputy Director's presentation was followed by the presentations given by RACVIAC Programme Managers, Colonel Zafer Kilic, Mr Branko Kromar, M.Sc. and Ms Marija Zuzek, M.Sc. with regard to the programme implementation in 2013 and projections for 2014 and 2015.

In addition, Colonel Ferdinand Klinser, RACVIAC Planning and Liaison Officer for Western European Countries and International Organizations informed the MAG about the work of the RACVIAC Programme Development Group, introducing a project-oriented approach.

In conclusion, the MAG accepted the recommendations from the Budgetary Meeting held the day before as well as draft MAG conclusions.

The event was completed with a dinner hosted by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic, where participants had a chance to engage in fruitful discussion in a more relaxed atmosphere. ■

Regional Cooperation Council Secretary General Mr Goran Svilanovic Addresses the Multinational Advisory Group

On 9 October, 2013, Mr Goran Svilanovic, the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) visited the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation as a special guest at the fall MAG Budgetary meeting. Following the meeting Mr Svilanovic was given the opportunity to address the representatives attending.

In his address Mr Svilanovic gave the representatives a clear picture of the RCC's future activities. He noted that by refocusing, prioritizing and streamlining the RCC would reform its work to address the real needs of the region. Mr Svilanovic said that in a time of gloomy outlook for Western Balkan countries, RCC's new SEE 2020 Strategy presented a beacon of hope in times of financial crisis.

The Secretary General elaborated further on the SEE 2020 Strategy noting that it provided a clear vision for common growth. He pointed out some of the goals that the strategy hoped to fulfil, including an increase in inter-regional trade by 24% and an increase of employment by 45%. Furthermore, he noted that reforms should be coupled to reach an equal footing with the rest of Europe.

Mr Svilanovic said that in the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy, as of January 1st 2014

the RCC will be refocusing its activities to be mainly concerned with economic and social development, energy and education, while 20% of its work will be related to security cooperation. In security cooperation the focus will be on supporting and enhancing existing cooperation as well as the development of new mechanisms in close cooperation with NATO and the European Union and regional organizations such as SELEC, RACVIAC and the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial.

The Secretary General pointed out that in security cooperation RACVIAC should play an important role as the only centre of its kind in the region. He noted that the RCC would politically support efforts by RACVIAC to fund activities and synchronize regional cooperation processes. He pointed out that while the RCC was the only regional initiative based on consensus all other initiatives should also strive to be all-inclusive through diplomacy.



Regional Seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for Parliamentarians

*Held in Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina
23 - 25 October 2013.*

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, in co-operation with the BiH Parliamentary Assembly Joint Committee on Defence and Security with the support of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, NATO, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation held a two-day regional seminar for parliamentarians on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security in Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Speaking to those gathered RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Branimir Mandic, said that the idea for organizing the Seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and for emphasizing the importance of the Code of Conduct for successful security sector reforms in South Eastern Europe (SEE) originates from the RACVIAC Strategy 2012-2015 which highlights enhancement of security cooperation in the SEE region as one of the most important objectives. Hence, each consecutive seminar should be designed to meet the most challenging Security Sector Reform related issues relevant to the region and possibly beyond. He added that regional seminars and workshops of



such are regarded as a very appropriate and useful tool for promoting the objectives of the Code of Conduct. Ambassador Mandic also took an active role in moderating the panel on “Defence and Security Sector Oversight: The role of parliament in overseeing the defence and security sector, including the military, border and intelligence services as well as other security sectors.”

The seminar was attended by 45 members of parliaments, experts and policy makers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Serbia, Slovenia and the Swiss Confederation. ■

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Workshop on The Links between Terrorism and Organized Crime

*Held in Antalya Turkey
04 - 05 November 2013.*

A workshop titled “The Links between Terrorism and Organized Crime” was held in Antalya, Turkey on 04-05 November 2013. The event was jointly organized by the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Executive Directorate UN (CTED), the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC), the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation, with the generous support of the Republic of Turkey and the United States of America.

The workshop brought together over 50 participants,

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

government officials and academics from Europe, Eurasia, and the USA. Participants demonstrated a great interest in the topic throughout very lively debates after each presentation.

Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) notes with concern the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money-laundering, illegal arms-trafficking and illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials, and in this regard emphasizes the need to enhance coordination of efforts on national, sub-regional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security.

Terrorism and organized crime are linked in numerous ways.

Terrorists frequently use ordinary crime in order to finance their activities and, in some cases, the lure of profit from ordinary crime may even take priority over the “terrorist agenda.” Ordinary criminal organizations have also been known to adopt terrorist means. Terrorists and criminal groups may purposefully link up in order to multiply their forces and many modern organizations represent “hybrids” between terrorist and ordinary criminal groups.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide a forum in which representatives of South-East European countries, international, regional and sub-regional organizations and mechanisms discussed regional trends in addressing the links between terrorism and organized crime and share their respective good practices and challenges in that regard, with the overall aim of enhancing regional cooperation in this area.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Improve possibilities of detecting and investigating suspected terrorists;
- Compare the advantages and disadvantages of investigating and prosecuting terrorist groups for ordinary crimes and potential impacts that doing so may have on victims of terrorism;
- Explore to which extent the measures effective in preventing or detecting ordinary crime are also effective in addressing terrorism and how “terrorism” should be defined in domestic legislation in order to distinguish it from ordinary crime;
- Discuss practical steps and views on the topic with the aim of building antiterrorism capacities of a country;
- Promote measures of preventing organized crime and combating terrorism;
- Share information, views and experiences on the achievements and future challenges. ■



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORKSHOP

1. In the 21st century, organized crime and terrorism have so much in common when it comes to damaging international peace, safety and security of societies. A concrete solidarity and cooperation must be established among states to better fight against organized crimes and terrorism.

2. In a globalized world, open borders, open markets and advanced transportation and communication facilities have provided so many opportunities for both terrorist organizations and organized crime groups that these illegal entities began to work together easily.

3. Due to their geographic locations, Southeast Europe and Central Asia are both very attractive locations for organized criminal groups to operate. Strengthening the cooperation between Southeast Europe and Central Asia, as well as within these regions, is crucial in the overall global fight against terrorism and organized crime.

4. In the Southeast European region, terrorist groups appear to be connected to different extents with organized crime groups involved in heroin and cannabis trafficking, smuggling of arms, migrants or cigarettes. SELEC countries shall assist each other to identify and investigate the connections among individuals/companies providing financial support to organized crime and terrorist groups. Joint investigations shall be conducted to undermine the connections between groups regarding the flow of finances which is the main indicator of this connection.

5. Weak states can create safe havens for terrorists and criminals, so the weakest link can break the entire chain. Regional and international mechanisms play an essential role in order to strengthen the structure of weak states in the fight against transnational terrorist and criminal groups.

6. Terrorism and organized crime are interconnected to varying degrees in terms of financing terrorist activities and recruitment of

new members. These links can create a money trail that can be followed. Increased financial flows lie at the heart of the nexus between terrorism and organized crime. Therefore, joint operations to be carried out against criminal groups at issue will pave the way to eliminate financial sources of transnational terrorist activities.

7. High level corruption can provide terrorist and criminal organizations with enormous power and weakens the entire State structure. Thus, at the national level, effective investigation and prosecution of cases of terrorism and organized crime requires an independent judiciary, close cooperation between multiple agencies and prosecutors, a reliable witness protection program and a single prosecutor handling a case throughout.

8. The blurred lines between terrorism and organized crime lead to legal, operational and political challenges including cooperation with Mutual Legal Assistance and extradition requests. Regional mechanisms also enable effective investigative and prosecutorial cooperation of terrorism and organized crime cases and enable effective and expeditious handling of Mutual Legal Assistance and extradition requests.

9. In most cases, terrorist organizations and their members get directly involved in organized criminal activities, such as drug trafficking, human smuggling, document fraud and extortion. The PKK/KCK Terrorist Organization is a good example of a terrorism-organized crime nexus. PKK/KCK still poses a threat not only for Turkey but also for Europe and abuses loopholes in those countries. Legal and illegal activities of PKK related associations in the region should be controlled and prosecuted.

10. It was noted that more information collection, classification and analysis of such information are needed to conduct more effective and extensive investigations. Moreover, countries shall give their highest concern to criminal records and modus operandi in order to strengthen their tactical level analysis capacities.

Arms Control Symposium

Held in RACVIAC
12-13 November 2013



The Arms Control Symposium is an activity with a long tradition in the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. This year it was organised as a one-day event.

This year's event built on the experience of the last year's symposium and its purpose was to present the latest developments in arms control, with the aim of opening new perspectives on confidence-building measures for peace and stability in Europe. The event served as a platform for discussions on the fundamental role of arms control treaties as a cornerstone of European and the SEE security.

The symposium aims were to examine:

- The objectives and means of a modern, stability oriented pan-European arms control regime;
- The situation regarding military capabilities in future conventional arms control;
- The role of cooperative security and NATO;
- The role of arms control in resolving remaining security issues in Europe;
- New arms control requirements from a military perspective;
- Future arms control and modern force capabilities.

The Symposium was carried out as a combination of lectures and presentations followed by questions and answers and discussions. It was designed with the aim of sharing expertise, opinions and lessons learned, identifying problems and finding possible solutions, as well as exploring historical background of arms control. The Symposium also provided a favourable environment and atmosphere for really valuable and focused discussions.

RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic opened the event welcoming all participants and wishing them fruitful discussion, followed by introductory remarks given by MajGen Michele Torres and by Col (ret.) Wolfgang Richter, who was an excellent moderator of the one-day event and who emphasized the role of the Pan-European nature of arms control in Europe.

The Symposium was conducted with a series of lectures given by numerous experts in the field:

From Arms Control to Force Control - Cooperative Military Security in the New Environment - by Brig Gen (ret.) Heinz Vetschera from the Institute for Political Science, Vienna.

Possibilities for advancing arms control in Europe - by Col (ret.) Wolfgang Richter, German Institute for International and Security Affairs.

Possibilities for advancing arms control in Europe - by Ambassador Branka Latinovic, Head of Department of Arms control, MFA of Serbia.

Art. IV, Annex 1/B, Dayton Peace Accords: Situation and Future - by Maj Gen Michele Torres, Personal representative of the OSCE Chairperson in Office for Article IV, Annex B-1 of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Arms Control - What It Can and Cannot Do - by Mr James Cox, former senior US conventional arms control representative in Europe.

Arms Control and Its Impact on Stability and Security in SEE - by Ms Sanja Bujas-Juraga, Head of International Security Division, MFEA of Croatia.

Verified Transparency of Military Capabilities: Their Chances and Possible Problems - by Dr Hans-Joachim Schmidt, Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt am Main.

Most of the participants were members of national authorities dealing with arms control issues in their countries and they considered the event to be valuable for their future work. They were highly motivated during the Symposium and showed a deep interest in the subject matter, expressing various ideas regarding topics for possible future activities. ■



Ottawa Convention Seminar: Human Security and Cooperation

Organised in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office, the Croatian Office for Mine Action and the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC).

19-20 November 2013, Rakitje, Croatia



The Ottawa Convention Seminar is a traditional project activity carried out by the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office, the Croatian Office for Mine Action and the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC).

The seminar focused on strengthening the dialogue on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention and its obligations on the regional level and beyond. The seminar objectives were:

- To inform participants about the dual nature of the Ottawa Convention (security vs. humanitarian issues);
- To examine the state-of-affairs regarding international cooperation and assistance in SEE by setting an example of security cooperation on national, regional and international levels;
- To provide a forum for discussion on the above in a broader context of disarmament;
- To explore future prospects in mine action technology development;
- To deepen contacts between representatives of various national and international organizations and institutions dealing with the implementation of the Ottawa Convention.

The seminar was opened on 19 November 2013 with a welcome address by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić, followed by opening remarks given by the Ambassador of Canada to Croatia, H.E. Louise LaRocque. Introductory remarks were also given by Ms Dijana Pleština (Director, Office for Mine Action, Croatia), Mr Dražen Jakopec (Director, Croatian Mine Action Centre - CROMAC) and LtCol Jörg Rauber Military Attaché of Germany to Croatia.

The event was carried out as a combination of lectures and presentations followed by questions and answers on the following topics:

Disarmament and Security: Understanding the Importance and the Utility of the Convention - by Ms Dijana Pleština, Director of the Office for Mine Action, Croatia.

Lessons Learned: From Ottawa Convention to a Wider Multilateral Disarmament Context - by Ms Danijela Žunec Brandt, First Secretary, International Security Division, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia.

Facing Wider Human Security Challenges - by Mr Andrej Golob, Head of the ITF Implementation Office in Croatia, ITF Enhancing Human Security, Slovenia.

Experience from Serbia - by Ms Slađana Košutić, Planning and International Cooperation Advisor, Serbian Mine Action Centre.

Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects - by Mr Mitsuhiro Shinomiya, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of Japan in Zagreb, Croatia.

Airborne Survey Project AIDSS (Advanced Intelligence Decision Support System) - by Mr Milan Bajić, PhD., Member, Science Council of Center for Testing, Development and Training Ltd., Croatia.



The Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in the Marking of Mine Suspected Areas - by Mr Goran Skelac, archaeologist, Multirotor Ltd., Croatia.

Introduction to TIRAMISU: Humanitarian Demining Toolbox - by Ms Vinciane Lacroix, TIRAMISU Technical Coordinator, Royal Military Academy in Brussels, Belgium.

Use of Bees in Humanitarian Demining - by Mr Nikola Kezić, PhD., Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, Croatia.

Effectiveness of Mine Detection Dogs in the Demining Process in the World - by Ms Marija Trlin, Planning and International Cooperation Advisor, Mine Detection Dog Centre, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Dogs in Humanitarian Demining: The Croatia Experience - by Mr Željko Romić, Director/Owner, Piper Demining Company, Croatia.

The second day of the Seminar was devoted to a field trip to Kotar forest in Sisak-Moslavina County, where the participants

were welcomed by Mr Miljenko Vahtarić, representative of CROMAC, and his colleagues. The participants were introduced to the mine problem in what is the most mine-affected area in the country, which was additionally illustrated with maps. Later in the day, at the CROMAC HQ, Sisak, the participants could listen to Mr Vahtarić's and LtCol Kalmár's presentation and evaluation of a joint HU-HR demining project on the border of the Drava-Danube area. Both of them praised the high-level cooperation of the two countries.

The seminar provided a favourable environment and atmosphere for valuable and focused discussions. The event also proved to be a good example of a strong cooperation among RACVIAC, the Office for Mine Action and CROMAC. Within ten years after ratifying the treaty, the country was obliged to clear all of its mined areas, which was indeed a difficult task. Because of the unique position of Croatia in the EU in terms of mines, RACVIAC, in cooperation with the partners of this successful event, will continue to promote the Mine Ban Treaty with all of the means at its disposal. ■



INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Regional Conference on Establishing Measures Necessary to Achieve Effectiveness of Systems for Civil Protection

A regional conference on Establishing Measures Necessary to Achieve Effectiveness of Systems for Civil Protection was held in RACVIAC from December 5th to 6th 2013.

The purpose of the event was to foster joint coordination and cooperation among the SEE countries' civil protection and crisis management authorities and to promote increased

awareness of the importance of disaster risk reduction with the goal of reducing losses caused by natural, technological and environmental disasters.

The main objectives were: to support the development and introduction of international standards in modern civil protection systems; share information, views and experience on disaster risk reduction systems set in place in the region, share knowledge, experiences and best practices on disaster risk reduction strategies through interagency, regional and international cooperation with regard to new global



challenges; and to propose a way forward for cooperation in the field of civil protection and crisis management.

In his opening address RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić extended a warm welcome to all those taking part in the conference, noting that it was a motivating and challenging subject matter. He noted that the conference was a follow-up to the event on “Civil Protection in the European Union and in South-Eastern Europe” held in RACVIAC in May 2011 and co-organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations of the Republic of Croatia and the TAIEX Instrument of the European Commission. He added that as we all know, natural and man-made disasters know no borders. On the other hand, closer cooperation in civil protection is on the rise as various countries and organisations rush to each other’s aid during an emergency. Hence, RACVIAC has recognized the importance of effectiveness of Systems for Civil Protection as one of the security issues that should be further promoted and explored.

Over the course of the conference it was noted that Civil Protection Systems in SEE countries were similar in their establishment, approach, achievements and in the problems they faced. The conference opened several dilemmas which require greater commitment by all SEE countries in order to

overcome them in the future. Such dilemmas include: finding a better definition of HNSS, implementation and practical application of HNSS in all countries, in all regions and in all cases.

It was concluded that there was a need for closer cooperation between countries on concrete topics of Civil Protection Systems in the future. Meaning that the responsible institutions in the field of Civil Protection System have marked a noticeable development in facing disasters and risks, but there is still work to be done. Furthermore, the legislative and institutional frameworks of Civil Protection should be corrected and improved in terms of facilitating and increasing efficiency of all competent entities in the system.

There is a need on the national and international level to create a broad database concerning Civil Protection Systems. Justification for this can be found in the fact that a concrete resource where all documents pertaining to this issue can be found does not exist. There is also a need for broader participation of all subjects which comprise a Civil Protection



System, especially the participation of the civil sector which is not included enough in this field. Political will and commitment is crucial in supporting measures and activities in terms of creating better legal and institutional conditions for actors involved in Civil Protection Systems. ■



Conference on The Impact of Cybercrime on the Economic Environment of the South-East European Region

11-12 December 2013, Rakitje, Croatia



With the aim to promote and increase cooperation by using dialogue and exchange of information, transfer of knowledge, views and ideas, as well as to disseminate international standards, the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation conducted a Conference entitled “Impact of Cybercrime on the Economic Environment of the South East European Region” in Rakitje-Zagreb (Croatia) from 11-12 December 2013 on the RACVIAC premises.

This was a continuation of a series of events dedicated to the topic of cyber threat and protection of sensitive information. Even though many steps are undertaken on the national, regional and global level to fight this phenomenon, we are

witnessing that the rate of cybercrimes and the cost of prevention are on the rise. For this reason, it is necessary to continue to look for security solutions in order to protect business sensitive information and to reduce the cost of protection and damages. This event will also pave the way for a future cyber project that will be implemented within the RACVIAC Programme 2014.

The purpose of this event was to bring together representatives from the SEE region in order to discuss the current trends regarding the safety of business sensitive information and the impact of cybercrime in the economic environment. Another aim was to continue with close cooperation among the SEE countries in order to strengthen the institutional capabilities for the prevention of cybercrime.

In that respect, RACVIAC is trying to serve as a forum for raising the awareness of and the protection from cyber security threats in the SEE region.

The Conference objectives were:

- to enable participants to exchange experience and knowledge in dealing with cybercrime as a contemporary global phenomenon;
- to discuss specificity of the economy in the SEE region as space of growing cybercrime activity;
- to raise awareness of safety of business sensitive information and consequences of corporate espionage as well as the cost of cybercrime in the contemporary area of internet banking;





- to promote the importance of cooperation in response to cyber threats on the national and regional level with the aim of strengthening institutional capacities.

At the outset of the Conference RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic reminded the participants about previous events organized by the RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation noting that this event was a continuation of a series of events dedicated to the topic of cyber threat and protection of sensitive information.

Thanking the speakers and delegates for their attendance, Director Mandic emphasized how important it is to continue with close cooperation among the SEE countries by using dialogue and exchange of information, views and ideas as well as by disseminating international standards in order to fight this phenomenon.

The conference was organized in a series of six sessions:

Session I: Rise in Cybercrime as a contemporary global phenomenon - Ms. Olivera Injac from the Montenegrin Faculty for Humanistic Studies. Ms. Injac gave an outline of the

advantages of globalization in terms of development of new information technologies (IT) but also of the risks that new technologies carry for individuals, states and international communities.

Session II: Specificity of economies in the countries of SEE as a space of growing cybercrime - Chief Inspector Ivan Mijatovic of the High-tech Crime Department Ministry of Interior (Croatia). Mr Mijatovic presented the status of cybercrime in the SEE region and the Project on Regional Cooperation against Cybercrime in SEE, founded by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Session III: Critical information infrastructure protection - Lieutenant Colonel Metodi Hadji-Janev of the Military Academy "General Mihailo Apostolski" in Skopje, MK. Lieutenant Colonel Hadji-Janev noted that critical information infrastructure is considered to be "key systems, services and functions whose disruption or destruction would have a debilitating impact on public health and safety, commerce and national security or any combination of those matters." Furthermore he explained from whom and why we need to protect critical information infrastructure.

Session IV: Cost of cybercrime in the modern area of internet banking cybercrime and money laundering - Lieutenant Colonel Metodi Hadji-Janev as a continuation of the previous session with the main emphasis on cybercrime challenges to the economy.

Session V: Influence of insufficient knowledge about information security on risk exposure and final economic repercussions, what could be and should be done - Mr. Predrag Pale from the Department for Electronic Systems and Information Processing at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing at the University of Zagreb. Mr Pale gave an elaboration of the cyber security problem and recommendations on how to solve it. As an expert who has worked in the information security field for 19 years, Mr. Pale pointed out that relying on technology coming into our homes and our places of work and believing that information technicians are those responsible for coping with information security issues was a wrong approach.

Session VI: National presentations on the impact of cybercrime on national economy systems - This session, dedicated to regional presentations, gave the countries' representatives a possibility to present their own experiences regarding cybercrime and its impact on national economies. It was also an opportunity to present the institutions/agencies/ministries they were representing and to provide information on their activities related to the development of cyber defence.

Closing the conference RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic addressed the participants, pointing out that

the conference may be assessed as successful because the event objectives were achieved. He added that besides close cooperation between countries, the key questions raised during the conference, related to common understanding, awareness, responsibility, legislation and education in terms of cyber threats and cyber protection, should be the main subjects of discussion in the future. He added that the RACVIAC - Center for Security cooperation will continue to

serve as a regional platform for cyber security related activities.

RACVIAC also welcomed suggestions from representatives of the Military Academy “General Mihailo Apostolski”, MK, for development of a common project on cyber security issues which will be presented to NATO as part of the Science for Peace and Security Programme for 2015 and will be beneficial for all countries of SEE. ■



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Lt Col Josip Mlakić joined RACVIAC on October 1st, 2013 as a Subject Matter Expert in the International and Regional Cooperation Pillar. He was born in Travnik Bosnia and Hercegovina in 1970 and has a degree in political sciences from the University of Sarajevo. In his previous position Lt Col Mlagic was a planning officer in the J5 department of the Joint Staff AF BiH. He is married with three children.



Mr Iljmi Selami joined the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation as a Subject Matter Expert in the International Regional Cooperation Pillar, on October 15th, 2013. He was born in 1972 in Skopje, in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*. Mr Selami has a degree in law related to political sciences and has worked in many areas and projects in several institutions. He arrives from the Ministry of Defence of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia where he worked as a State Advisor for Human Resources.

GOODBYES



Mr Vasilieos Kotsis from Greece joined RACVIAC as an intern on 22nd May 2013. He was assigned to RACVIAC's International and Regional Cooperation Pillar. Mr Kotsis was born in Athens in 1977 and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and a Minor in biology from The American College of Greece - DERE, Athens. During his time at RACVIAC Mr Kotsis proved to be

a true team player that is easy to work with and provided a constructive contribution to RACVIAC activities. We wish him all the best in the future in his professional and personal life.



Ms Tanja Kozic began volunteering at RACVIAC in September 2013 in the International and Regional Cooperation 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. During her time at RACVIAC Ms Kozic proved to be a professional

individual that is easy to work with and pays meticulous attention to detail. We wish her all the best in her future career and believe that she will prove to be a valuable asset to any organization.



Ms Katarina Vukic joined the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in September 2013, working in the International and Regional Cooperation Pillar. She was born on July 12th 1988 in Dubrovnik and is currently studying at the University Of Zagreb, Faculty of Political Science. In her work Ms Vukic proved to be a highly motivated individual with an outstanding ability to work independently, efficiently and effectively. We

wish Ms Vukic all the best in her studies and have every confidence in her future success.



Mr Milos Milosevic joined the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in September 2013 as a volunteer 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. During his time at RACVIAC Mr Milosevic proved to be a valuable contribution to the work of the Security Sector Reform pillar contributing to numerous activities and

demonstrating an invaluable work ethic with careful attention to detail while following tasks through to completion. We wish Mr Milosevic all the best in his future career and look forward to possibly seeing him at future RACVIAC events.

RACVIAC Programme 2014

	Title	Dates
1	Defence Resources Management: “Transition of the Military Educational Systems in SEE”	4-6 Feb
2	Border Security Programme: Capacity Building	10-14 Feb
3	Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) Workshop	18-20 Feb
4	Open Skies Treaty (OST) Aerial Observation Course	24 Feb – 06 Mar
5	Border Security Programme: Capacity Building	10-13 Mar
6	Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar	17-20 Mar
7	Search and Rescue (Joint regional SAR development) On Scene Coordinator (OSC) Course	24-29 Mar
8	Promoting OSCE CoC - Best Practices	26-29 Mar
9	Civil-Military Relations - Seminar on P(M)SC II	22-25 Apr
10	Workshop on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions	27-29 Apr
11	Border Security Programme: Capacity Building	11-13 May
12	Building Integrity and fighting corruption	12-15 May
13	Human Rights Protection: Gender Training for Trainers Course	19-30 May
14	Cyber Security	20-23 May
15	Promoting Sustainable Development and Reduction of Illegal Migration and Human trafficking	27-30 May
16	Parliamentary Oversight: Annual Meeting of Regional Parliamentary Defence and Security Committees	2-5 Jun
17	International Approach to the Energy Security Concept	9-11 Jun
18	Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) - Orientation Course	16-19 June
19	Border Security Programme: Capacity Building	30 Jun – 04 Jul
20	European Security and Further Evolution in Southeast Europe	TBD
21	Search and Rescue (Joint regional SAR development) - SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC) Course	08-17 Sept
22	Event on Military and/or Dual-Use Goods	17-19 Sep
23	Consensual Approach to National Security in the Framework of Euro-Atlantic Integration Process (Basics of SSR Series)	22-25 Sep
24	Cyber Security /Continuation of Cyber Security project with NATO SfPSP	23-26 Sep
25	OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: 20 Year Anniversary/Peer to Peer Conference	30 Sept-03 Oct
26	Vienna Document – Verification and Compliance Course	13-17 Oct
27	Equal Opportunities: Implementation of the UN SCR 1325 and related UN SCRs - Differences between the Proclamation and Reality	21-24 Oct
28	Arms Control Symposium	04-06 Nov
29	Floods	11-14 Nov
30	Ottawa Convention Seminar	18-21 Nov
31	New Security Challenges after the Accession of Croatia to the EU	24-27 Nov
32	Effective practices of the implementation of UNSCR 1540	09-11 Dec



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