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Centre for Security Cooperation

# Newsletter



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## 34th MAG Meeting and 15th anniversary celebration held in Dubrovnik, Croatia

On Thursday October 22nd, 2015, the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation celebrated its 15th anniversary under the auspices of the president of the Republic of Croatia Mrs Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović.

Over 200 delegates attended the ceremony where the RACVIAC flag was passed on by MAG Chairperson, H.E. Vesna Batistić-Kos, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations Office in Geneva, from RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić to the RACVIAC Director Designate, Ambassador Haydar Berk. Addressing the gathering were RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić, RACVIAC Director Designate Ambassador Haydar Berk, the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council H.E. Mr Goran Svilanović, H.E. Thomas E. Schultze Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Croatia in the name of the German government and Mr Joško Klisović, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the name of the government of the Republic of Croatia. Participants also heard a greeting from Croatian president Mrs Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović via video.

Ministers of Defence and State Secretaries attended from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro, Turkey, Romania, Serbia and Moldova. Representatives of international organizations were also in attendance from RCC, SEDM, SEEBRIG, SEESAC and RAI, as well as members of the diplomatic corps and ministries of foreign affairs and defence from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, France, Greece, Kosovo\*\*, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey and the United States of America. On Friday October the 23rd, 2015, the 34th MAG Meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Vesna Batistić-Kos, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations Office in Geneva. Over the course of the meeting members heard the Director's Interim report, as well as presentations by programme managers, the Counter - Weapons of Mass Destruction team leader, RACVIAC Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop and the head of the Admin and Finance cell.

Members adopted a programme and budget for 2016 and elected a new MAG Chairperson, Brigadier General Nazmi Cahani the Director of the Armed Forces General Staff of the Republic of Albania. ■



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

\*\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence. (In accordance with Arrangements regarding regional representation and cooperation.)

## Inaugural Address by Director

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is a pleasure and privilege for me to assume the position of Director of RACVIAC. I would again like to thank the member countries for the confidence shown in my country and myself.

RACVIAC, since its inception has become an important centre of dialogue and cooperation on security matters. Through its activities in a wide spectrum of topics from CBMs, security sector reforms to counter transnational security threats such as terrorism, proliferation of WMDs, organized crime, all forms of illicit trafficking, cyber security, RACVIAC has gained a well-deserved place and prominence.

During my term as Director, I will do my best to build on the present achievements to make RACVIAC a stronger, more visible organization with a wider range of partnerships and connections.

My first and foremost priority will be naturally to support and contribute to full integration of SEE into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

I will pay special attention to further intensify and strengthen cooperation with the present partner and supporting countries and organizations, and establish new ones with those who share our objectives and vision.

Our activities, seminars and workshops will be closely connected with the top agenda items or concerns of the region and beyond. We should do our best to further elevate the level of participation. We should further our cooperation with transatlantic institutions as well as with like-minded countries, leading think-tanks and academic institutions.

I am confident that I can count on your support in all our endeavours in the coming period.

Thank you.

Ambassador **Haydar Berk**

*RACVIAC, October 2015*





### Slovenian delegation visits the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation

On Friday October 30th, 2015, a delegation from the Republic of Slovenia visited the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation. The delegation consisted of Mr. Primož Šavc, the General Director of the Department for Defence Policy at the Slovenian Ministry of Defence, Col, Aleksander Murko, Military Attaché of the Republic of Slovenia responsible for Croatia and Mr. Ivan Hostnik, M.Sc. the Programme manager designate for the SSR pillar at the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

Following an office call with former Director Branimir Mandić and Deputy Director, Brigadier general Zdravko Jakop the delegation met with the RACVIAC staff. Deputy Director, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop welcomed the Slovenian delegation and underlined the exemplary cooperation the centre as had with the Republic of Slovenia over the years. Following a short introduction by each staff member a briefing was given on the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. During the discussion Programme managers outlined activities underway in each of their respective pillars.

Mr Šavc thanked the RACVIAC staff for their hospitality and information they provided noting that he would put the changing of Slovenia's status to full member on the agenda of the Slovenian Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The visit was also held in conjunction with the replacement of Mr. Branko Kromar M.Sc. who was the acting SSR Programme manager and Slovenian secondee at RACVIAC until the end of October. A small celebration was held in the foyer in front of the management offices where the staff said farewell to Mr Kromar and welcomed the new SSR programme manager Mr Ivan Hostnik M.Sc. ■



### RACVIAC Delegation Presents Centre to students at Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana, Slovenia



On Tuesday November 10th, 2015, a RACVIAC delegation consisting of Deputy Director Zdravko Jakop and Programme Manager for Security Sector Reform, M.Sc. Ivan Hostnik visited the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia.

The delegation was received by the Chair of Defence Studies Professor Iztok Prezelj for an office call that was followed by a presentation of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation to students studying at the university.

Students were interested to hear about the activities of RACVIAC and expressed an interest for the possibility of internship at the Centre. Brigadier General Jakop

informed the students of the possibility for completing internship at the Centre and pointed out that one of the students present, Mr. Tin Kastelic spent a period acting as an intern at RACVIAC. ■

### Joint Cooperation between the Faculty of Security - Skopje and the RACVIAC - Centre For Security Cooperation

On 12 November 2015 the Deputy Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, BG Zdravko Jakop met in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation Prof. Dr. Marjan Gjurovski, PhD from the Faculty of Security - Skopje, University of St Kliment Ohridski. During the meeting cooperation between these two institutions was initiated as a basis to establish more intensified contacts, prepare and realize further projects which can be developed, and are of mutual interest, for the Faculty of Security - Skopje and RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

In addition, the possibility to harmonize and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions emerged. This MoU will stipulate the form of future cooperation through mutual visits, organization of trainings, seminars, scientific and expert conferences, forums as well as publishing of joint publications and regular work compilations (compendiums), realization of mutual scientific and research projects, etc.

Through this meeting high-level contact was established among the two institutions aiming to intensify the regional cooperation in the security area, cooperation and scientific research in SEE. The meeting between Prof. Dr. Gjurovski and BG Jakop was concluded with the aim to further intensify the dialogue which will enable the development of synergy between the Faculty of Security - Skopje and RACVIAC and among other notable international organizations in the field of security. ■





### RACVIAC Hosts Permanent Representative Meeting and 15th Anniversary Celebration for Former Staff

A meeting of permanent representatives was held at the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on Friday November 13th, 2015. The group of representatives met for coordination purposes based on the conclusions of the MAG meeting held in Dubrovnik, Croatia on October 23rd, 2015.

Following the meeting the representatives were joined by former members of the RACVIAC staff and given a presentation on the history of RACVIAC. The presentation was followed by a small celebration marking the 15th anniversary of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. ■



### 8th Annual Review Conference on Compliance with the OSCE / UN Security Commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina

On the 17th and 18th of November 2015 the 8th Annual Review Conference on Compliance with the OSCE / UN Security Commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina” was held on Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, which gathered more than 70 participants from the government, civil society and the expert community.

This conference is a major forum for constructive dialogue and exchange of opinions among politicians and experts in discussing the implementation of security commitments and security building measures, as well as developing solutions.

The delegation of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation headed by Deputy Director BG Zdravko Jakop was an active participant during the Review Conference which was organized for the first time in a new, interactive format.

During the course of the event, special consideration was given to current security challenges such as irregular migrations, the refugee crisis affecting the region and international commitments related to countering violent extremism.



In the concluding panel, BG Jakop highlighted that RACVIAC Programme for 2016 offers activities which are topical and relevant for the regional security environment, encouraging the participants to provide their inputs regarding the improvement of the curriculum which will bring about synergy for better results in the future. He presented the topics of the 2016 Programme and stressed that sharing of information and good practices are of mutual interest for common security.

One of the conference conclusion was to organize a Regional conference on SALW for 2016. BG Jakop during his address said that RACVIAC stands ready to support this event which will be a continuation of providing a platform for the countries of the SEE region in reaching their goals in this area. ■

### Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark pays courtesy visit to RACVIAC



On Thursday November 26th, 2015, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Republic of Croatia H.E. Anders Christian Hougård paid a courtesy visit to the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

The visit began with a tête-à-tête meeting with RACVIAC Director H.E. Haydar Berk followed by a meeting with members of the RACVIAC staff where the work of the Centre was presented.

During discussion the great contribution of the Kingdom of Denmark to the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation was emphasized including its support to the Search and Rescue project from 2012 - 2014. H.E. Anders Christian Hougård said that he would be happy to improve contacts between RACVIAC and Denmark during his time as Ambassador. ■

### Deputy Minister of Defence of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* visits RACVIAC

The Deputy Minister of Defence of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* Mr Iljmi Selami visited the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on Monday December 7th, 2015. The visit began with an office call with RACVIAC Deputy Director, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, followed by a meeting with members of the RACVIAC staff.

Mr Selami needed no introduction as his previous post before being appointed the Deputy Minister of Defence was at the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, as a programme manager in the International and Regional Cooperation pillar.

Deputy Director BG Jakop thanked Mr Selami for his time at RACVIAC and the continued support he advocates for the centre, also pointing out the good cooperation RACVIAC has with the Mihailo Apostolski military academy. Programme managers informed Mr Selami about current events taking place at RACVIAC, regarding a movement from quantity to quality in activities and the publishing of a catalogue which will be distributed to members and partners to inform them in more detail about activities.

Mr Selami expressed pleasure in being able to visit RACVIAC and meet with the people he worked with adding that he was glad to see improvements. He underlined the importance the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* places on the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and that they see it as a common platform for mutual problems.

Mr Selami pointed out that the migrant crisis is presenting challenges to the countries along the migrant route and that assistance from other countries in the region and beyond would be appreciated. He also noted that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* is interested to bring the SEEBRIG command to their country as a reflection of their intention to demonstrate leadership in regional cooperation.

In conclusion Mr Selami reiterated that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* will continue to support the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. ■



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



# DEVELOPING A NATIONAL WMD COUNTERPROLIFERATION STRATEGY “THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT”

Organised with the support of the United States  
European Command and the Croatian Ministry of  
European and Foreign Affairs

22 - 25 September 2015

## Abstract

Based on the **C-WMD Network** approved Roadmap, RACVIAC, with the support of the United States European Command, organised a second event related to the process of developing national strategies to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

During the first session, a Senior Leadership Forum held on September 22nd, three key subjects were discussed: current regional CBRN/WMD threats, international obligations related to counter proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the development of a national strategy. This Forum also provided an excellent opportunity for participating countries to voice their support for this multi-year project.

The second session, from 23rd to 25th September, was dedicated to designated national working / drafting groups who actively participated in the open discussions and the breakout groups. They had the opportunity to define the strategic context of the WMD national strategy and discuss the importance of an action plan for the implementation of the strategy. They also discussed some legal challenges in WMD counter proliferation and worked enthusiastically on a strategy template that would support their work at the national level.

## Activity Background

Building upon the Proliferation Security Initiative Table Top Exercise (PSI TTX) held in RACVIAC in April 2015, and based on the multi-year Roadmap approved during the 32nd MAG meeting, the C-WMD Network organised a second event to discuss the strategic context of counter proliferation and the development of national strategies and action plans.

## Activity Facilitators

The C-WMD Network highly appreciates the continuous support from the United States European Command (USEUCOM) and the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) without whose

active involvement the whole process of developing national strategies to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery would not be possible. The C-WMD Network also welcomes the active engagement of the Republic of Croatia in the planning and execution of this event through the participation of representatives from its Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and its Ministry of Defence.



Group Photo - Senior Leadership Forum - September 22nd, 2015

## Activity Venue, Duration and Participation

The whole activity was conducted in RACVIAC premises and it was divided into two sessions: a Senior Leadership Forum held on 22nd September 2015, followed by a working session from 23rd to 25th September 2015.

In all, 71 participants from The Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo\*\*, as well as subject matter experts and consultants from DTRA International Counterproliferation Program (ICP) took part in the event.

## Activity Description and Content

The Senior Leadership Forum was held on September 22nd, attended by ambassadors and senior political representatives from the ministries of foreign affairs and ministries of defence of the participating nations. The event was opened by RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Branimir Mandić.





*Senior Leadership Forum on September 22nd, 2015*

Three presentations were given to facilitate further discussion on strategy development and the way ahead.

Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, RACVIAC Deputy Director, briefly touched upon CBRN threats and challenges at the global level and the specific threats and challenges in South East Europe. Despite the very specific geo-political position of SEE that could be misused for proliferation activities, participating countries find themselves in a very good starting position to enhance cooperation in the field of CWMD since they neither possess nor produce CBRN weapons, are parties to the main international agreements and members of the main organisations whose aim is to combat proliferation of WMDs. Success in the prevention, or otherwise recovering from CBRN incidents, lies in a higher level of mutual understanding, better exchange of relevant information and enhanced coordination of activities in the region.



*National working/drafting teams following discussions at the Senior Leadership Forum through video-link*

Mr Michael Thornton, team leader of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Risk Mitigation Initiative, talked about international obligations related to combatting the proliferation of WMDs. From 1925 (Geneva Protocol) all through 2004 (CTBT, BWC, CWC, NPT) with the adoption of UNSCR 1540, the international community has not spared efforts in establishing non-proliferation regimes. Nevertheless, the challenge remains in the full and effective implementation of all agreed measures for which there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach.

Mr Andrew Dolan, DTRA ICP Senior Consultant, briefly talked about strategy development, highlighting the main elements to take into consideration when embarking on the process of developing a national strategy to counter proliferation of WMDs. The work is basically a national statement of intent where concepts and operational capacities converge, while the most problematic step is to decide on the approach to the development of a strategy.

The presentations were followed by discussion on strategy development and the way ahead. Stressing their full commitment to peace and security, all national representatives expressed a high degree of interest in the development of national strategies to counter the proliferation of WMD. While each participating nation is working on the implementation of the obligations stemming from UNSCR 1540, and some countries have actively joined the EU CBRN initiative, they all consider cooperation at the regional and international levels to be essential for a harmonized approach to counter proliferation of WMD.

The second session, September 23rd-25th, was dedicated to the national working/drafting teams. Some time was devoted to presentations and case studies, whereas smaller breakout groups worked on identifying strategic responses and drafting a national strategy template.



*National drafting teams at a plenary meeting*

Ms Mihaela Barić, Head of the Division for International Security at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, gave a presentation on CWMD National Strategy. The Croatian CWMD National Strategy defines the general framework of action for the suppression of WMD proliferation, provides guidelines for improving existing measures and developing new ones, strengthens activity coordination of state and public authorities and promotes cooperation with other states and international organisations. It was developed with the aim of enhancing national security; disabling development, procurement, manufacture, transit and use of WMD; strengthening the national prevention system; getting ready for prompt and efficient response, and providing an active contribution to the efforts of the international community related to non-proliferation of WMD.

Mr Andrew Dolan, DTRA ICP Senior Consultant, defined the strategic context in terms of threats, challenges, and responses. The critical elements in WMD proliferation are the material used to construct a weapon, the warhead and the delivery system.

Among potential threats he mentioned the deliberate use of WMD, accidental use, theft, buying/selling weapons or associated elements and blackmail. Proliferation challenges were described as conceptual (e.g. failure to adhere to treaty obligations) and systemic (e.g. dual-use technology complicates transparency and certainty). As responses to proliferation, a sound legal framework, good enforcement and regional and international cooperation were highlighted. As challenges within the RACVIAC area, Mr Dolan mentioned the proximity to conflict zones, the transfer or fabrication of components, the link between mass migration and the movement of possible terrorists, economic dislocation and theft of materials.

The Honourable Judge Richard Stearns talked about the importance of legal considerations in strategy development and presented a case study showing the legal challenges facing WMD counterproliferation. Judge Stearns briefly talked about the essential national laws that address WMD issues and terrorism, and addressed the sources of international law and international regulations. He also talked about the milestones of the European Law Enforcement and the very actual challenge that asylum seekers and refugees pose to Europe, especially the Schengen Agreement and its principle of free movement of people.

Mr Piotr Bartoszek, from the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine, gave a brief presentation on EUBAM. EUBAM was established in 2005 especially for the Transnistrian Region within the context of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, and with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) as implementing partner. EUBAM has no executive power, but only an advisory role to support the enhancement of border-management of Moldova and Ukraine. On the one hand, EUBAM encourages the movement of legitimate trade and travel, while on the other hand, it strives to tackle criminality like trafficking in human beings, which is a very serious issue in the region, by putting the stress on the practical side of border and customs control and border surveillance on the ground.

Finally, Mr Andrew Dolan talked about the importance of developing an action plan that would support the implementation of the CWMD national strategy. He defined the action plan as a statement of what is to be achieved over a certain period of time to meet the goals. The objectives of the action plan normally reflect those objectives set in the national



Plenary meeting

strategy. It is important to include measures and actions that are achievable, as well as identifying what organisation is responsible for the implementation of the measures and actions. It is essential to include clear and attainable deadlines and monitor them regularly as well as to consider the necessary resources (money, manpower, equipment and training, legislation) to meet the objectives.

During each of the three days some time was devoted to work in smaller breakout groups. Short exercises were conceived to allow participants the opportunity to consider strategic directions of national policy based on their appreciation of the threats, risks, and challenges they face.

The breakout groups also participated in a simulation tabletop exercise whose scenario was designed to help raise awareness of a series of key issues like the global nature of proliferation, the importance of export control and maritime interdiction, among others.

Participants also devoted some time to drafting a national CBRN strategy template in the breakout groups. Drafting was introduced during this event as direct support to the work the national working/drafting teams are carrying out in their own countries.



Second Session Group Photo

## Conclusion

The Senior Leadership Forum offered an excellent opportunity for participating nations to express their support to the process of developing a national strategy, fully aware that this is a multi-year project that calls for time, human and financial resources.

During the second session the working/drafting teams showed once again great enthusiasm and dedication to the process of developing a CWMD national strategy. It is important to underscore the uniformity of appreciation of the WMD proliferation issues that was evident during the work in the smaller breakout groups.

During the closing remarks, LTC Joseph Kling, USEUCOM, briefed the audience on the way ahead. He highlighted the most important themes that will be developed during the three formal engagements per year (January, April and September). As from January 2016, at each event participating nations will have an opportunity to give brief presentations on their own process of developing a national strategy to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. ■

**Ivana Barbara Blažević**  
C-WMD Network

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# Vienna Document 2011

## - Efforts to Revitalise Confidence and Security Building - Verification and Compliance Course

*Organised with the financial contribution of the Verification Centre of the Bundeswehr and with the support of the Republic of Slovenia.*

*28 September - 02 October 2015,  
Rakitje, Croatia*

### Introduction

The Vienna Document 2011 - Efforts to Revitalise Confidence and Security Building - Verification and Compliance Course is a part of the traditional project activity carried out by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.



*Col Muharrem Gülcan, Col (ret.) Drago Bitenc,  
Amb Branimir Mandić and Mr Christian Waegli*

The aim of the course, which was organized with the financial contribution of the Bundeswehr Verification Centre of the Federal Republic of Germany and with the support of the Republic of Slovenia, is to introduce participants to the new content of the Vienna Document 2011 in general, with a special focus on Article IX (Compliance and Verification), Inspection and Evaluation, giving a comprehensive, theoretical and practical analysis of the implementation of these activities. It was organized in the spirit of the Vienna Document 2011, focusing on constraints and obligations arising from the aforementioned parts of document.

The workshop participants (21) came from the following countries: Republic of Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Republic of Croatia (2), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* (2), Montenegro (3), Republic of Serbia (3), the

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

Republic of Slovenia (4) and Turkey (1). The participants were both senior and junior military personnel and civilians dealing with arms control or VD2011-related issues.



*Course participants*

The workshop was conducted with the assistance of six (6) lecturers: Mr Christian Wägli (OSCE CPC), LtC Dragan Stojanović (MoD, RS), LtCol Dietmar Köppen (BWVC, DE), Maj László Borgula (HDF, Training and Doctrine Centre, HU), Maj Ersin Aktürk (Verification Centre, TR) and Col (ret.) Drago Bitenc, MSc (former head of Verification Centre, SI), with the actively working role of the latter as moderator of the course.



*POE procedure in Rakitje*

It was carried out as a combination of lectures and presentations followed by questions and answers, completed by syndicate work combined with a preliminary practical part in Rakitje and a practical work day in Maribor for evaluation. This course was designed with the aim of sharing expertise, opinions and lessons learned, identifying problems and teaching methods, as well



correcting the possible mistakes. The course also provided a favourable environment and atmosphere for valuable and focused discussions.



Lecturers: LtCol Dragan Stojanovic, Maj László Borgula and Maj Ersin Aktürk

## Execution

The course began on 29 September 2014 with the opening address of RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić, who noted that RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation has been organizing Vienna Document courses for the countries of the South East European region since 2001. This year RACVIAC is able to respond again to the challenges of being the first in the region to plan and carry out the Vienna Document 2011 (VD'11) Compliance and Verification Course, reflecting the changes of the New Vienna Document 2011 adopted in December 2011.



Briefing in Maribor, HQ of 72nd Brigade

He added that the respected lecturers invited from the national arms control agencies, international organizations or verification centers, as well as the members of the academia of the federal republic of Germany, Hungary, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Slovenia, Republic of Turkey and the United States, who have a wide range of experiences in this field. Furthermore, he expressed special thanks to the Republic of Slovenia for being the host of the practical part of the course.

The course began with an introductory presentation by Mr Christian Wägli (OSCE CPC), with the title: "The OSCE politico-military dimension." During the day the audience could listen to



another lecture delivered by Maj László Borgula "Vienna document information - Obligations/notifications."

According to the traditions, the second and third working days were consecrated to the preparation, and in this spirit was delivered the presentations from the presenters: LtCol Dietmar Köppen, Maj László Borgula, LtCol Dragan Stojanović, Col (ret.) Drago Bitenc and Maj Ersin Aktürk ("VD2011 a general overview; VD2011 - Chapter IX; Planning and preparing an escort mission; Project planning guidelines; Chapter X (Regional Measures) and



BrigGen Zdravko Jakop and the commander of the 72nd Brigade in Maribor

national experience in the implementation of the Chapter X; Roles of members of Inspection/Evaluation team; Chapter III Risk Reduction - Ukraine; National Experience in the implementation of the VD2011: Inspection and evaluation visit"). The presentations were followed by syndicate work combined with a preliminary practical part in Rakitje, separating the participants into four subgroups.



Briefing at the 72nd Brigade. In the foreground BrigGen Zdravko Jakop, Amb Branimir Mandic, Mr Ivan Hostnik and Col (ret.) Drago Bitenc

On the last working day the participants have visited Maribor and conducted a practical exercise at the 72nd Brigade in Slovenia. The chief of staff of the brigade and his colleagues has shared comprehensive information with the participants according to the instructions and in the spirit of the Treaty. The whole visit's

atmosphere was an extremely friendly one, together with the closing ceremony, with lunch, exchanging of gifts and certificates.

### Conclusion

The lecturers professionalism and experience, as well as their presentations, were highly appreciated by the participants.

According to the participants' evaluation, the course was successful, very interesting and well organized. Most of the participants were members of national authorities

The participants were highly motivated during the course and they showed deep interest in the subject matter.

This event proved to be a good example of a strong cooperation between RACVIAC and the Verification Centre of the Bundeswehr respectively, and last - but not least here we have to underline -, the very well working cooperation between RACVIAC staff and the colleagues at the Slovenian Armed Forces. RACVIAC, in cooperation with its partner of this successful event, will continue to promote the issue of the Vienna Document in particular, and arms control in general. ■

Compiled by: **Mr Pál Bódogh-Szabó**  
Activity Coordinator  
RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation

## “FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS - CHALLENGES FOR SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE” (IRC-05-CF-15)

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

7 - 8 October 2016

The threat to universal peace and security from terrorist organizations is increasing as more citizens from around the globe join those organizations. Acknowledging the serious threat posed by Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted on 24 September 2014, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, its landmark Resolution 2178. The document is the most significant document related to terrorism since 2001.

Taking into consideration that RACVIAC - Center for Security Cooperation is organizing events that are of greatest interest to the SEE region, elaborating the most topical and relevant issues to our security environment, RACVIAC, together with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized a regional conference under the title “Foreign Terrorist Fighters - Challenges for South East Europe“, which was held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on

7- 8 October 2015.

The conference gathered participants from all RACVIAC member countries, Associate Members and other RACVIAC participants, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and participants from other ministries, institutions and organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as from other international institutions and organizations.

The event aimed to provide a platform for a first regional exchange of views and experiences with regard to the threat of FTF in South-Eastern Europe and implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), in compliance with all obligations under international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. It was designed as an expert forum and was conducted in the form of conference panels-plenary sessions.

The main objectives of the conference were to obtain a general view of the international framework and initiatives and measures taken on both the international and domestic level, to exchange the best practices, lessons learned and to discuss effective cooperation in:





- Preventing the radicalization to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters
- Preventing foreign terrorist fighters from crossing the State borders
- Disrupting and preventing financial support to foreign terrorist fighters
- Developing and implementing prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returning foreign terrorist fighters

During the opening session the **Deputy Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Mijo Krešić**, underlined that “Bosnia and Herzegovina is well aware of all risks related to violent extremism and radicalization”, stating that it is “active at both the national and the international levels in contributing to global counter-terrorist measures aimed at preventing, combating and protecting against all forms of terrorism and terrorism related activities”. He went on to say that “We do not accept nor can there be any justification for any form of terrorism”.



The head of the OSCE mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Mr Jonathan Moore**, also welcomed the conference participants and said that “the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to ensuring that local communities are involved in prevention of violent extremism and are empowered to promote positive narratives to counter those espoused by violent extremist groups. It is exactly at this local level that counter-radicalization measures prove the most effective.”

In his address the **RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Branimir Mandić**, pointed out key areas that should be addressed in preventing nationals from travelling abroad for the purpose of terrorism: stronger

border controls, inter-agency cooperation and information exchange, prevention of financing for terrorist purposes, prevention of recruitment by countering the use of the internet and social media and preventing the spread of radicalism.

During the course of the event participants heard the panellists elaborate on initiatives for the criminalization of new criminal acts of terrorism in accordance with UNCHR 2178 and the Additional Protocol of the Council of Europe to the Convention of Prevention of Terrorism.

On the first day **Mr Rajko Kozmejl, the Chair of the EU Western Balkans Counter- Terrorism Initiative**, gave a keynote speech that was followed by a series of lectures delivered by **Ms Dolgor Solongo from the UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, who addressed the UN requirements related to FTF, challenges identified and responses supported by the UNODC, **Mr Kristian Bartholin of CODEXTER**, who spoke about the Additional Protocol of the Council of Europe to the Convention on Prevention of Terrorism, **Mr Guenter Sablatting, Advisor to UN Counter - Terrorism Coordinator**, who addressed the current EU challenges in combating terrorism and radicalization, and **Mr Enrico Boninsegna from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights**, who spoke about Human Rights considerations in the Implementation of UNSCR 2178 (2014) and the CoE Additional Protocol.

During the afternoon of the first day and on the second day of the conference the **national delegations of RACVIAC member countries** presented their respective country perspectives on best practices and current challenges in national FTF strategies and policies, as well as successful preventive actions. Some presentations included information on FTF cases tried before the court of law.

Unprecedented numbers of citizens and residents of the countries around the world, including South East Europeans, have been recruited to fight on the battlefields in Syria and Iraq. Moreover, it is believed that many individuals, especially young





people, are vulnerable to violent radicalization and recruitment as FTF. According to the United Nations Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team some 15000 FTF from 80 countries went to fight with various groups in Syria and Iraq, including ISIL, while the London-based think tank International Centre for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence (ISRC) says that the number of FTF in Syria and Iraq exceeds 20000.

The Internet and social media networks are the principle tools for recruitment as it is difficult to regulate them and the process of prevention by authorities. There are several preparatory phases that should be passed in order to get to the battlefield. The threat posed by FTF comprises three phases: radicalization and recruitment, the departure to the battlefield and possible return to their countries of origin. The returnees pose a risk of future spread of extremism, involvement in attacks and other terrorism related crimes in their home countries as well.

There are no official consolidated statistics on the number of FTF from South-Eastern Europe, however, the ICSR estimates that about 600 South-Eastern nationals left to join the conflicts in Iraq and Syria. It seems urgent then that countries should undertake counter-terrorism measures which comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

Many countries do not as yet possess appropriate legislation in line with the international standards to implement UNSCR 2178, to criminalize and prosecute the travel or intention to depart to other countries to receive or provide terrorist training, preparation or planning of terrorist acts and also the financing of FTF travel and other types of assistance for operation of FTF, especially recruitment.

The threat posed by FTF is impossible to handle individually and requires closer cooperation on the domestic, regional and international levels, as emphasized by the UNSCR 2178. Broader cooperation between states, the civil society, international and regional organizations should be strengthened and well-coordinated in order to respond adequately to possible challenges and risks.

In conclusion, **BG Zdravko Jakop, Deputy Director of RACVIAC**, elaborated on the future steps for Regional

Cooperation in addressing the Foreign Terrorist Fighters phenomenon during the closing session. The conclusions of the conference were as follows:

1. The provisions of UNSCR 2178 must be fully implemented.
2. There has been a clear increase in the focus on preventing rather than just prosecuting violent radicalization in the approaches of SEE states - this should continue.
3. A comprehensive approach, with the involvement of the civil society and all major religious communities, is required when designing responses to FTF. This should include community-based awareness raising.
4. Online content and social media resources that incite violent extremism must be appropriately addressed - international cooperation and assistance in this would be appreciated by SEE states.
5. States, donor governments, international organizations and other agents supporting CT and CVE efforts should seek to improve coordination to avoid overlapping and increase activity efficiency.
6. Timely and actionable information sharing is crucial. States should make better use of existing mechanisms and examine the possibilities for establishing new modalities to improve information sharing.
7. Human rights considerations must be at the forefront of all CVE and CT efforts.
8. Education and training of members of the judiciary in international CT legal instruments and precedents should be facilitated.
9. Effective strategies for the rehabilitation and reintegration of those who engage in violent extremism and / or return from foreign battlefields must be a part of the states' responses.
10. The impact of the FTF phenomenon on women, boys, girls and the relatives of those who engage in FTF activity or violent extremism must also be taken into account. ■

Compiled by RACVIAC IRC Pillar

# Regional Search and Rescue Seminar (IRC-06-P) „SAR MISSION - CHALLENGES IMPOSED BY THE FEATURES OF SEE REGION“

Tirana, Republic of Albania  
27-28 October, 2015

The main objectives of the seminar were to outline the role and responsibilities of the Search and Rescue mission staff in order to show and enable them to deal with different situations and



The seminar „SAR Mission - Challenges Imposed by the Features of the SEE region“ was held on 27th - 28th October 2015 in Tirana, the Republic of Albania. The event was jointly organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Ministry of Defence of Albania.

This activity was a part of the RACVIAC Regional Search and Rescue project, while this Seminar is a continuation of a series of activities organized on this topic. The initial event was held in May 2011 in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, followed by a Fact-finding Conference held in RACVIAC in November 2012, a Basic SAR Course in April 2013 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, a SAR mission Coordinator Course on Tara Mountain in the Republic of Serbia and the Regional Search and Rescue Seminar “Coastal Search and Rescue and Mass Casualty Situations“ in September 2014 in Split, Republic of Croatia.

In the course of these events it was concluded that there is a need for close cooperation and due communication among different level actors in charge of SAR missions. RACVIAC stands ready to support these efforts by continuing to provide a platform for the South East European region in reaching the common goals in the field of search and rescue.

The aim of the Regional Search and Rescue activity specifically is to continue with the 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.

also to obtain knowledge and best practices needed in order to manage challenging situations.

The seminar was divided into the two parts: a theoretical part, which comprised lecturers, presentations and discussions in the facilities of the Albanian Ministry of Defence, and a practical part a SAR exercise on the sea conducted in the Albanian Naval Command in Durres.

The Regional Search and Rescue Seminar was officially opened by the RACVIAC Deputy Director, BG Zdravko Jakop and the Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Albania, Mr Petro Koçi.



In his address, BG Zdravko Jakop highlighted that we all witnessed how severe floods affected many parts of the SEE



region in 2014, causing loss of human lives and massive destruction of property, farmlands and infrastructure, as well as cross-border concrete cooperation in order to provide an efficient response to this type of disasters. He also emphasized that in November 2014 RACVIAC, in cooperation with the OSCE mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNDP organized a Regional Conference in order to discuss the Lessons Learned and specific areas of regional cooperation where the conference participants agreed that it is necessary to revise bilateral agreements on cooperation in rescue and protection in order to reduce bureaucracy, especially border crossings for SAR teams which are going to neighboring countries to help the people. International, regional, sub-regional and transboundary cooperation remains pivotal in supporting the efforts of the States, their national and local authorities, as well as communities and businesses, to reduce disaster risk. To complement national action and capacities there is a need to enhance international cooperation between developed and developing countries and between States and international organizations. It is important to strengthen the utilization of media, including social media, traditional media, big data and mobile phone networks, support national measures for successful disaster risk communication, as appropriate and in accordance with national laws. In that sense, BG Jakop stressed that RACVIAC stands ready to support these efforts by continuing to provide a platform for the countries of the South East European region in reaching their common goals in the field of disaster reduction.

During the opening session the Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Albania, Mr Petro Koçi, thanked both RACVIAC



and the Albanian Ministry of Defence staff for organizing this very important seminar. He underlined that the cooperation in this area among the SEE countries is more than necessary since we are all facing the same challenges. SAR operations are complex and they require the synergy, engagement and deployment of the capabilities of many institutions in order to intervene in due time, to find, rescue and evacuate people whose life is endangered. We have strong responsibility to develop the Search and Rescue capabilities and to work even closer on some concrete topics on SAR. He stated that the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Albania, as the responsible institution for SAR operations and policy implementation, is working to develop the SAR capabilities, updating the SAR

policies, plans and procedures. Together with other governmental agencies, the Albanian Armed Forces have conducted a range of SAR operations, which have highlighted the capabilities of the Albanian military capacities, the shortages and areas for improvements.

During the course of the event participants heard presentations by speakers and lecturers on the related topic. Col Ardian Bali,



SAR expert from the Albanian General Staff, gave a presentation about the Regional Support Battalion, its mission, tasks, structure, location, equipment, operational capabilities, SAR operations and the way ahead.

The next lecturer was Mr Drago Radić from the Directorate of Civil Aviation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. His presentation, entitled “The Aviation Accidents and Mountain Search and Rescue Case Study”, focused on SAR services and the SAR system and its improvement, highlighting Mountain Search and Rescue. The important elements of MSAR are nature, physical elements, mental elements, emotional elements and external influence the media and mine situation. Mr Radić presented a Case study on the tragic accident that happened in February 2004 in Rotimlje near Mostar, BA, where the Macedonian President Mr Boris Trajkovski and his delegation tragically lost their lives in an aircraft crash.

The following lecturer was LTC Kosta Jano, Chief of operational section - TRADOC, Albanian General Staff. He gave a presentation on Mass Casualty Incidents Platform for Comprehensive Preparedness Planning. He focused on a wide range of SAR operations Maritime SAR, Aeronautical and Land SAR, SAR operations in natural disasters and SAR operations in acts of terror. He underlined that there is a need for national and regional comprehensive approach in order to intervene in due time to find, rescue and evacuate people whose life is endangered.



Mr. Tin Kastelić, BA in Defence studies at the Faculty of Social sciences, University of Ljubljana, presented an interesting approach in a SAR mission in his presentation „The use of volunteered geographic information in natural and manmade



disasters crisis management“. He stressed that the human being can act as a mobile sensor-an important source of information. The new technologies, enabling spatial data collection and spatial data and maps as such are of high importance during natural and manmade disasters crisis management. Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI) is user generated geographic information, contributed by volunteers with little or no formal qualifications.

The seminar continued with the presentations of the national delegations of RACVIAC member countries (AL, BA, HR, ME, MK and RS) of their respective countries' SAR systems and current challenges in order to reduce disaster risk, their actual constraints and examples of SAR operations.

The last presentation of the first day was on „International Law and Regional cooperation in SAR at sea“, delivered by Captain (Navy) Artur Macollari from the Albanian Training and Doctrine Command. He underlined the risks of saving life at sea with a focus on Maritime SAR cooperation, supported by the International legal basis for cooperation and regional SAR cooperation.



The second day of the activity started with the presentation on „The Internet and social media in SAR operations (positive and negative Impact)“ delivered by Mr Bernd Noggler from Leitstelle Tyrol, AT. The presentation focused on civil protection and „New“ technology in Tyrol as well as the new services supported by the Leitstelle Tyrol and others/private partners.

After Mr Noggler's presentation all participants went to Durres, where the Exercise „Search and Rescue-Durres SAREX 2015“ was conducted in the region of Kepi i Palit, which involved personnel and equipment from the Navy, Air Force, Maritime counter smuggling, Border Police and Migration from Durres, Marine Interagency Operational Center and the Fisheries Inspectorate.

The exercise „Durres SAREX 2015“ was followed closely by the Chief of General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces Major General Jeronim Bazo, Naval Force Commander Brigadier General Ylber Dogjani, Air Force commander Brigadier General Vladimir Avdiaj, senior officers from the Ministry of Defence, representatives of institutions that had participated in the exercise as well as participants of the seminar on search and rescue conducted in Tirana by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

Exercise scenarios were constructed in a way to test the level of cooperation, interaction and interoperability of actors who have interests in the sea. Vessels from the Navy, Border Police and Counter smuggling enforcement as well as helicopters of the Air Force, coordinated by the Marine Interagency Operational Center demonstrated professional skills in scenarios of blocking the smuggling vessel, providing assistance to the ship in an emergency situation and in a search and rescue operation.

Addressing the participants of the exercise, General Bazo commended them for their professionalism and cooperation demonstrated in the exercise „Durres SAREX 2015“, while Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, deputy Director of RACVIAC, acknowledged the Chief of General Staff and Commander of the

Navy for the opportunity to follow this naval exercise, which corresponds with the objectives of the seminar.

In the course of the event it was concluded that there is a need for close cooperation and due communication among different level actors in charge of SAR missions on the national and regional level. The participants emphasized the following points that need to be considered for the future planning of events and concrete cooperation steps:

1. Negotiation of bilateral and trilateral agreements to determine areas of responsibility for search and rescue with blue border neighboring countries.
2. Establishing direct communication between neighboring RCC and between RCC and their respective ATC Centres.
3. Intensify the use of modern technologies including social media, traditional media, data and mobile phone networks to support national measures for successful disaster risk communication in data collection and data sharing.
4. Capacity building to increase the capability of organizations and individuals to use GeoTechnology for disaster management (organize workshops).
5. Regional efforts should be made to accelerate the acceptance of a regional non-binding arrangement to promote cooperation in the area of search and rescue among SEE countries.
6. Enhancing and strengthening of cooperation to improve search and rescue combined capacities in the SEE region.
7. Renegotiation for drafting and signing of bilateral and trilateral agreements in determining SAR areas of responsibility on the land and sea between neighboring countries.
8. SAR cooperation including possible division of SAR zones.
9. Finalizing Maritime SAR Agreements in the region (despite maritime boundaries delimitation disputes).
10. Facilitation of SAR cooperation through compatible systems and liberal legislation.
11. Open diplomatic clearance for a declared SAR aircraft (border crossing).
12. Modernization of equipment and systems should be considered in line with interoperability and compatibility of equipment across the region.
13. Joint training of personnel dealing with planning, conducting and coordination of SAR operations SAR School/Courses a unified approach to training and exercises and certification.
14. Raising awareness of the population to be pro-active in disaster risk reduction and SAR operations (organize visits to schools, use local media - TV, radio, internet).
15. Intensification of the further participation in the Euro Atlantic and regional initiatives, interoperability on the national and international level.
16. It is necessary to work on a unified terminology acceptable to all organizations/institutions dealing with SAR.
17. Work on unified or compatible organized scheme.
18. Work on a unified operational procedure acceptable to all organizations/institutions dealing with SAR in the region.
19. Work on unified (recognizable) insignia for SAR team members travelling abroad.
20. Plan and organize joint regional SAR exercises (annually). ■

Compiled by RACVIAC IRC Pillar

# “Building a Cyber Resilient Society in SEE”

RACVIAC, Croatia  
24-25 November, 2015

The conference “**Building a Cyber Resilient Society in SEE**” was held in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The event was held in cooperation with the Military Academy “General Mihailo Apostolski” - Skopje, with the support of the Federal Republic of Germany. It represents a continuation of events in the field of Cyber Security in RACVIAC.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and the use of cyberspace, just as in the rest of the world, play a crucial role in the South East European (SEE) region as well. The pursuit of modernization, Euro-Atlantic integrations and the need for foreign investments have, among other things, urged the SEE countries to invest in the development of ICT. In this context all governments from the SEE region have pledged that they will



invest efforts in developing appropriate e-governance. Therefore, cyberspace has become the dominant place for social, economic and political activities in the SEE region. However, the growing dependence on cyberspace in SEE has not been matched by a parallel focus on cyber security.

Having in mind that cyber security is a very topical issue nowadays, the IRC pillar decided to execute a project on this topic. The project consists of several different types of activities - conferences, seminars, workshops and courses - and it will be conducted between 2015 and 2017. In 2015 two activities were held, namely a workshop and a conference, which form the basis of the methodology for further enhancement of this project.

The main goal of this project is to create a regional platform to initiate the process of building self-sustainable, cyber resilient societies in SEE that will be ready to foster, participate in and contribute to regional and Euro - Atlantic cooperation in securing cyberspace.

The first in line was a workshop entitled „Building a Cyber Resilient Society in SEE”, that was held on 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in Ohrid, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*. This event was jointly organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Military Academy “General Mihailo Apostolski” - Skopje, with the support of the Federal Republic of Germany.

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

The aim of the workshop on “Building a Cyber Resilient Society in South-Eastern Europe” was to represent a platform for sharing of experiences at the regional level and to clarify the perception of and facilitate a common understanding of the concept of a “Cyber Resilient Society” in the region, starting from the areas that are really vulnerable and have real potential for possible venues of action.

Taking into consideration that each country faces its own specific challenges and that they are more oriented towards *national approaches* and not the regional dimension, the spirit of working together, supporting and complementing each other should be more pronounced. In this vein, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Military Academy „General Mihailo-Apostolski” - Skopje as partners have presented to the national representatives project research methodology and invited experts to participate in it. The overall idea of this research project is to enable critical thinking and an analytical

approach while addressing specific topics indicated in the document which was presented and delivered to all participants. Therefore, the organizers of the upcoming event on “Building a Cyber Resilient Society in SEE” deem that it will provide an excellent opportunity to analyze the findings of the research part of the project.

The purpose of this event was to bring together participants who will

be ready to present the outcomes of the research project and to debate the individual countries' challenges and needs for effective cyber security. The presented results will be used as a reference for further activities. The objectives of the conference were to identify clear cyber security priorities and responsibilities for implementing effective cyber security activities in SEE countries and to compare and analyse how respective SEE countries' social, organizational (structural) and cultural perspectives and dynamics influence social cyber resilience.

In his opening address RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Haydar Berk, gave a brief overview of cyber security related activities previously organized by RACVIAC and underlined that the joint conclusion at these events was that cooperation is of vital importance for the development of protective mechanisms as well as the creation of a stable regulatory framework, in order to establish a cyber resilient society. This includes closer co-operation among the key players in cyber security, involving experts and policy makers, including the private sector, as crucial elements for establishing a Cyber Resilient Society.

Ambassador Berk added: "These days we can witness an intensive use of the Internet (cyberspace) by different terrorist organizations for the purpose of recruitment of young people for terrorist activities, planning of terrorist actions and spreading

messages which glorify terror against innocent people and our democratic values. We are aware that many steps are being undertaken on a national, regional and global level to prevent cybercrime, but when it comes to this kind of threat, it is impossible for one nation to protect itself without close cooperation with its neighbors and cooperation on a global scale. RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation will be ready to support your ideas, efforts and demands in order to make this link as strong as possible".

After the Ambassador's opening remarks, the national presentations regarding the findings of the research part of the project were held. The presenters emphasized some key challenges that should be taken into consideration in the future. They particularly pointed out the following:

- It was recognized that training of trainers is important to ensure that knowledge may be passed on to participants in basic and specialized subjects covering cyber security issues. It is also considered to be beneficial to identify at the national level a critical infrastructure that needs protection (in terms of cyber security), establishing of contacts and defined rules for information exchange with administrators of such infrastructure.
- The goal is, together with the partners (through cooperation on a national, regional and global level), to defend and protect cyberspace. In order to achieve that, we need constant training of CIS personnel (at the managerial and technical level) and training of end users, raising of public awareness about the threats and to identify the available capacities and resources. This includes the promotion and support of the process of certification of cyber security experts.
- Cyber security is a part of national security and the responsibility to secure cyberspace should be in the hands of the state institutions but in close cooperation and partnership with the private sector and civil society in order to maintain a free, secure and non-discriminatory access to the Internet.
- There is a clear need to follow the latest achievements in the area of information safety internationally, through international cooperation and in order to meet the requirements according to an adequate international standard.
- Awareness raising activities (discussions, workshops, training for educators, quizzes and educational games, etc.) for primary and secondary school children, their parents, teachers and providing relevant information about safer Internet and ICT use for the general public.

During the conference the participants also heard speakers from the Republic of Austria, such as Mr Wolfgang Czerni of the Infraprotect Company, AT\*, who discussed the topic of the "Implementation of the Austrian cyber security strategy in relation to the Energy sector". Mr Czerni talked about coordination processes to secure electricity operation by E-Control, creation of structures and procedures for information exchange between operators of critical infrastructure,

government and society, emphasizing international cooperation and cross-industry knowledge exchange.

Col Josef Schroeﬂ of the Military Strategy Division, MoD AT, informed the participants about the development of the Austrian Cyber Security Strategy\*\* and Implementation Plan. Col Schroeﬂ emphasized the importance of interoperability when talking about national and international cooperation in the field of cyber security. A very interesting part of his presentation was related to the use of the conscript system to raise awareness about the selection of cyber experts.

Mr Andreas Tomek, Director of Business Development & Professional Services at the Research Centre for Information Security, AT, gave an overview of the Secure Business Austria (SBA) Research\*\*\*. SBA Research collaborates with renowned national and international partners on multiple projects enhancing cyber security. Mr Tomek explained that SBA Research employs approximately 100 people and has, so far, been the largest research centre in the Republic of Austria addressing exclusively the field of information security. He went on to add that education is an activity of SBA Research that complements and supports their core, research-intensive activities, including professional training. The educational program, he said, draws from the vast experience, knowledge, and expertise of the SBA Research staff, the latest research developments in the broader field of cybersecurity and highly-specialized research infrastructures.

During the closing session Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Hayder Berk, emphasized, as a form of conclusion, the importance of the following for effective cyber security in the fight against cyber crimes:

1. Establishment of Regulatory agencies
2. Training of personnel (at the managerial and technical level)
3. Cooperation among national authorities and the public sector
4. Creation of the necessary legal framework
5. Effective law enforcement
6. Developing national capabilities and national strategies
7. Stronger international cooperation.

As a continuation of the cyber project for 2016, RACVIAC plans to organize two activities. The first one will be organized during the month of April, and provide an opportunity to cyber security experts from RACVIAC member countries to work on the development of the Advanced Training Programme that will be based on "train the trainers" concept and cyber security in practice. The designated topics for the training will be in line with the individual countries' needs and best practices and in line with the findings and conclusions of the research methodology and data collected during the research part of the project in 2015. The second activity will be the training course based on the "train the trainers" concept and in accordance with the agenda which will serve the needs of the SEE countries. The course will be held in RACVIAC during October 2016. ■

Compiled by the IRC Pillar

\* <http://www.infraprotect.com/en/>

\*\* *Austrian Cyber Security Strategy* (.pdf); <https://www.digitales.oesterreich.gv.at/DocView.axd?CobId=51002>

\*\*\* <https://www.sba-research.org/>





#### **Mr Ivan Hostnik, M.Sc.**

Mr Ivan Hostnik, MSc, arrived in RACVIAC in November of 2015 from the Republic of Slovenia as the new programme manager in the Security Sector Reform pillar. He has previously served on different positions within the Slovenian Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Among others he was the politico-military representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the Slovenian Permanent Representation to the EU. Before being seconded to the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation he worked in the Ministry of Defence, Defence Policy Directorate as Counselor for European Security and Defence Policy. Mr Ivan Hostnik is married and has two children.

## GOODBYES



#### **H.E. Branimir Mandić**

H.E. Ambassador Branimir Mandić completed his mandate as the director of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation at the end of September 2015. Ambassador Mandić will be remembered for his leadership in introducing a project oriented approach to RACVIAC activities and his cheerful nature with all members of the RACVIAC staff. We wish him all the best in his new duties in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as in his personal life.

#### **Mr Branko Kromar, M.Sc.**

At the end of the of September, 2015 the mandate of Mr Branko Kromar, M.Sc. came to an end as the Programme Manager for the Security Sector Reform pillar at the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. Mr Kromar will be remembered for the high level of expertise he brought to the Centre and his tireless work ethic. We wish him all the best in his future career and look forward to seeing him at our future activities where he will undoubtedly provide an incomparable level of contribution.



#### **Mr Arlind Puka**

Mr Puka arrived at the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation from Albania in September 2015, where he volunteered in the Security Sector Reform pillar. Mr Puka contributed to the implementation of the RACVIAC programme by assisting in the conduct of activities. He will be remembered for his dedication to his work and his friendly spirit. We are confident that his stay at RACVIAC was as beneficial to him as it was to the organization.

No.	Topic / Title	Duration / Dates
1	<b>C-WMD January Workshop “The National Strategy Template”</b>	25-29 January
2	<b>Peer Review Conference on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security</b>	1-3 February
3	<b>Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar</b>	15-18 February
4	<b>Defence Resources Management: “Transition of the Military Educational Systems in SEE III”</b>	March
5	<b>Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) - Orientation Course</b>	14-18 March
6	<b>Workshop on Gender Equality</b>	21 – 24 March
7	<b>Defence Resources Management: “Transition of the Military Educational Systems in SEE III”</b>	March
8	<b>C-WMD April Workshop “Proliferation Security Initiative Table-Top Exercise”</b>	18-22 April
9	<b>Cyber Security /Continuation of the Cyber Security project/</b>	26-28 April
10	<b>Border Security and Management</b>	2-5 May
11	<b>Building Integrity and Fighting Corruption: Increasing the capacity of relevant public institutions on protection on whistleblowers</b>	10-12 May
12	<b>Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) Seminar</b>	16-19 May
13	<b>Gender Training of the Trainers Course (GTot)</b>	18 – 27 May
14	<b>Nuclear Security Detection Architecture Awareness</b>	30 May – 3 June
15	<b>International Approach to Energy Security</b>	07-09 June
16	<b>Seminar on P(M)SC IV: Regulating the Private Security Industry for the Public Good</b>	13-15 June (TBD)
17	<b>Vienna Document 2011 – “Efforts to Revitalize Confidence and Security Building” Compliance and Verification Course</b>	27 June – 1 July
18	<b>Annual Meeting of the Representatives of Defence and Security Committees from SEE Parliaments: Migrations</b>	September (First week)
19	<b>Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) – Challenges for SEE (Integrative and Complementary Approach to Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism)</b>	06-08 September
20	<b>C-WMD September Workshop: Interagency Cooperation</b>	19-23 September
21	<b>Field Study Trip: Floods Prevention and Protection System in Lower Austria</b>	26-30 September
22	<b>Cyber Security - Continuation of the Cyber Security project Train the Trainers Course</b>	17-21 October
23	<b>Search And Rescue (SAR): Cooperation in South Eastern Europe and Black Sea Region</b>	October
24	<b>Basics of SSR series: UN, OECD, EU and NATO SSR Aspects</b>	2-4 November
25	<b>Arms Control Symposium</b>	7-9 November
26	<b>Workshop on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions</b>	14-17 November
27	<b>Effective practices of the implementation of UNSCR 1540</b>	28 November- 01 December
28	<b>New Security Challenges for Europe</b>	5-7 December





*RACVIAC STAFF - November, 2015.*



**Centre for Security Cooperation**

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

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