



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

NEWSLETTER



OPEN SKIES COURSE

Ninth Meeting of the C-WMD Network

Basic and Advanced SAR Course

Dayton Article IV Orientation Course

Border Security and Management Seminar

Contents:

MAG

02 - MAG POC Meeting

NEWS

03 - Azerbaijani Ambassador Visits RACVIAC

04 - International Women's Day

ACTIVITY REPORTS

04 - 9th Meeting of the C-WMD Network

06 - Chemical Weapons Convention Workshop

08 - Basic and Advanced SAR Course

11 - Dayton Article IV Orientation Course

13 - Border Security and Management Seminar

15 - Open Skies Course

NEWCOMERS & FAREWELLS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Newsletter editorial staff:

Maj Marija Čičak, PA Officer
Ms. Sanja Romić, Language Specialist

Rakitje, Stari hrast 53
 10437 Bestovje, Croatia
Tel: +385 (0)1 3330 803
Fax: +385 (0)1 3330 809
info@racviac.org
www.racviac.org

MAG POC Meeting

held in
RACVIAC



A Meeting of Points of Contact of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation Multinational Advisory Group was held on 18 January 2018 with the aim to coordinate and discuss details related to the activities planned in RACVIAC Programme 2018.

At the opening of the Meeting RACVIAC Director Ambassador Haydar Berk welcomed the representatives from Members, Associate Members and participants saying that the Centre had an intensive 2017 having conducted 28 activities and that 2018 will also be a busy period. He pointed out that RACVIAC is determined to increase its efforts to foster security dialogue and cooperation in SEE in 2018 as well by focusing on contemporary security challenges such as weapons of mass destruction, foreign terrorist fighters, cyber security, border security, and different aspects of Arms Control and security sector reform.

Following the introductory address by RACVIAC Director RACVIAC Programme Managers Col Servet Aya (Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control Pillar) and Ms Ana Ezhova Krzhaloska (International and Regional Cooperation with focus on Euroatlantic Integration Pillar), and Activity Manager Maj Božo Dukarić (Security Sector Reform Pillar) presented the Programme for 2018 within their respective Pillars and projection for 2019. Ms Ivana Barbara Blažević presented the activities planned in the RACVIAC C-WMD Network project as well as its roadmap for the future.

Later on Major Jasminka Šoić, Chief of Administration and Finance Cell, provided information regarding the current financial situation while putting emphasis on the Programme part of the Budget 2018.

In continuation the meeting focused on a discussion regarding specific aspects of the Members' and contributing partners' participation related to the academic and financial support to activities. This opportunity was used to share information on possibilities of improving the quality and visibility of RACVIAC activities by upgrading the participants' level and overall engagement. Furthermore, the current stage of ongoing preparations of the jointly organized and hosted activities was discussed.

Closing the event Ambassador Berk thanked the Members', Associate Members' and participants' representatives for the valuable contribution made to RACVIAC so far and added that the Centre counts on their active engagement and support in the future too. ●



NEWS

Azerbaijani Ambassador *visits RACVIAC*

On Thursday, 08 February 2018, H.E. Mr Fakhraddin Gurbanov, the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Croatia, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

He was welcomed by RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Haydar Berk, Deputy Director Brigadier General Gordana Garašić, and RACVIAC staff members.

After a presentation on RACVIAC history, mission and accomplishments Ambassador Berk provided further information related to the RACVIAC Members' role and development of the Programme of activities. Ambassador emphasized that apart from promoting dialogue and cooperation between the SEE countries networking has always been a very important aspect of RACVIAC overall aims in order to harmonize the practices, rules and procedures and build trust and confidence.

Ambassador Berk also provided additional information related to some of the flagship RACVIAC activities such as the „Energy Security Workshop“ that are contributing to dialogue and cooperation in the region.

Ambassador Gurbanov thanked for the information provided and expressed his appreciation for RACVIAC contribution to the security of the SEE region. ●



RACVIAC marks International Women's Day

On the occasion of International Women's Day there was a strong global momentum striving for gender parity. This year the UN's motto was „Time is Now: Rural and Urban Activists Transforming Women's Lives”.



With this topic the UN aims to transform a global movement for women's rights, equality and justice into action, to empower women in all settings, rural and urban, and celebrate the activists who are working relentlessly to claim women's rights and realize their full potential.

RACVIAC - Centre for Security cooperation remains fully committed to the promotion of gender equality and inclusiveness. In this regard the Centre continues to organize various activities each year addressing the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions on women, peace and security. This year, for the fifth time, we are organizing a “Gender Training of the Trainers Course” scheduled for May.

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation conveyed its greetings to all women on the occasion of International Women's Day. ●

ACTIVITY REPORTS

9th Meeting of the C-WMD Network

22-25 January 2018, RACVIAC, Croatia

RACVIAC organised the ninth meeting of the C-WMD Network national working/drafting groups in January 2018 based on the agreed Roadmap for the development of national strategies to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The C-WMD Network project is about to complete its drafting phase, which will be followed by a validation and testing period. It was therefore suitable to conduct a roundtable to overview the current threat environment before discussing cyber elements of a C-WMD Strategy, which was the central theme of the event.

The ninth meeting of the RACVIAC C-WMD Network national working/drafting groups titled „C-WMD National Strategies - Current Threat Environment & Cyber Elements of a C-WMD Strategy“ was organized on 22-25 January 2018.

RACVIAC has been organizing the meetings since 2015 with the continuous support from U.S European Command (USEUCOM), U.S. Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), the International Counterproliferation Program (ICP), European Union, and the Republic of Croatia.

The meeting was opened by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Haydar Berk who said that based on the agreed Roadmap for the development of national strategies to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction the project is about to complete its drafting phase, which will be followed by a validation and testing period, and that he is pleased to see the progress made so far.



Mr Petar Mihatov, Assistant Minister for Defence Policy, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia, and said that SEE is facing different security threats: interethnic tensions, quasi nationalism, fragile state institutions, underdeveloped civil societies,

corruption and organized crime, as well as contemporary security challenges such as migration. He stressed that the EU and NATO need to realize that a stable SEE is in their interest and that they need to engage more in the region. On the other hand SEE countries need to carry out the reforms and assume political responsibility to cope with the security challenges, concluded Mr Mihatov.

LtC Charity Hartley from DTRA said that SEE is really setting the example for regional partnership in the WMD arena.

Each C-WMD Network meeting covers the different aspects needed for developing national strategies and RACVIAC is trying to gather experts in specific fields and lines of work to



share their knowledge and experience. Besides the experts from DTRA, US EUCOM, and ICP, this event gathered also the experts from INTERPOL, Frontex, and the World Health Organization (WHO). Altogether more than 60 participants, mostly members of the core national working/drafting groups and experts working on cyber issues, legal issues, and intelligence, attended the four-day event.

The event was divided into two parts. The first day was organized as a roundtable aimed to overview the current threat environment and its impact on SEE. The main objectives of the roundtable were to review the past year in terms of developments and trends in WMD proliferation, to provide an overview of the developments in European Security Policy and its implications for SEE, and to consider the implications of some recent cases for counter

proliferation agencies especially with regard to policies, plans, and operations.

At the beginning Mr Andrew Dolan, DTRA's Senior Consultant on European Affairs, gave a "Global WMD Proliferation Overview" introducing the current proliferation landscape developments that are likely to have an impact on national strategies and policy.

The next speaker, Dr Zoltan Gyorgy Bacs from the National University of Public Service in Budapest, Hungary, spoke about the "Regional Security Perspective" and provided a contextual background to important security developments in Europe and their impact on SEE.

In the panel "Developments in European Security Policy: Implications for South East Europe" Dr Mohamed Elmi from WHO's Centre of Environmental Health Action, presented the key security challenges in public health systems and its Cyber vulnerability.

In the afternoon Ms Kinga Wilkus from Frontex gave an overview of Frontex's role in integrated border management and the situation regarding migrants in Europe, with an emphasis on SEE.

At the end the roundtable focused on the topic "Migrant Flows and Terror Networks: Is There a Nexus?" describing the current problems associated with human trafficking networks and terrorism and assessing the conditions underpinning human trafficking and whether these could support the elements of WMD proliferation. The panellists were Dr Bacs, Ms Wilkus, and Mr Alan Grimmer (INTERPOL).

In continuation the meeting focused on facilitating the development of national C-WMD Strategies and Action Plans as the key purpose of the project. The main objectives of the January 2018 meeting were to examine WMD and the cyber crisis nexus, to identify the cyber elements of a C-WMD strategy, to review how best to profit from information sharing in light of the cyber proliferation pathway, to consider the linkage between cyber and intangible technology transfer, and to exercise concepts through a Table-Top Exercise. ●



Chemical

Weapons C

05-08 February 2018, RACVIAC, Croatia

THE CWC WORKSHOPS ARE AIMED AT PROMOTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CWC IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE, WHICH DIRECTLY ENHANCES REGIONAL STABILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST. OPCW SEEKS TO GAIN A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEASURES THAT ARE CURRENTLY IN PLACE IN THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AND OF THE MECHANISMS DEPLOYED BY THEM.



A Workshop focusing on the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in partnership with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was conducted on 05-08 February 2018 in Rakitje.

The purpose of the 2018 Workshop, fifteenth in a row since 2004, was to discuss relevant issues related to the CWC and provide a broad overview of the CWC implementation procedures with specific focus on the different aspects, and measures in implementing the Convention.

This year the main focus was on the issue of „Understanding Non-Proliferation in the CWC Context.” The Workshop aimed to explore the tools to enforce non-proliferation, the issues of verification and inspection as well as the possible means of assistance and cooperation. Furthermore, the event provided a forum for the countries of the region to present their national CWC-implementation related programmes in and to exchange information, discuss problematic issues and find possible solutions.

The event gathered more than 20 participants, senior/junior military or civilian recommendation-makers dealing with CWC issues and/or those responsible for escorting inspections from the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Republic of Turkey, and Kosovo*.

The Workshop was opened with a Welcome address by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Haydar Berk. Ambassador Berk stated that the main focus of this year's event was on „Understanding Non-Proliferation in the CWC Context” and within that comprehensive topic specifically on how to prevent the intentional misuse of chemicals and what to do in case that happens. Ambassador Berk pointed out that it is essential to have a complex picture about the issues, the ways of prevention and the players as well as the possible solutions in case of a CWC-related emergency situation. Special gratitude was extended to OPCW for its multiannual cooperation and sponsorship.

The Welcome address was followed by a very comprehensive introductory presentation by Mr Guy Valente, Project Officer, Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Directorate, OPCW, who provided an overview of the historical

* 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.)

Convention Workshop



background of CWC and described its comprehensive nature and key features, the Articles VI and IX, related to non-proliferation. In his second presentation Mr Valente elaborated

on how capacity building can become a means of non-proliferation and in what ways it must be supported by the policy development process. He stated that OPCW would probably be interested in the establishment of a regional programme in the region. Later on Mr Valente gave an overview of dual-use chemicals as well as a brief introduction to Article X and its link with the emergency management cycle with a focus on how to reduce the chemical threats.

This was followed by a very detailed presentation on dual-use chemicals and chemicals to be concerned about, with an emphasis on the subject of non-proliferation. In his presentation Mr Valente pointed out the fact that non-proliferation with respect to chemicals is a huge challenge: chemicals surround us in our everyday lives and even the most common ones can be misused. National authorities and experts must be aware of the whole 'cycle' that includes the buyers, sellers, industries, transporters, and volume. This awareness in itself can support non-proliferation to a great extent, he stressed.

The afternoon part was opened by Mr Jan Wuyts, OPCW Chemical Weapon Munition Specialist (Contingency Cell of the Inspectorate), who took part in several OPCW missions and highlighted some of his mission experiences in Syria.

His presentation was followed by that of Ms Raluca Ginghina, the Head of the Chemical Analysis and Special Synthesis Laboratory at the Scientific Research Center for CBRN Defense and Ecology in the Romanian MoD. Having

introduced the work of the Chemical Analysis and Special Synthesis Laboratory, Ms Ginghina provided insights on how it became an OPCW accredited laboratory.

A second case study presented by Mr Jan Wuyts, titled "Old Chemical Weapon (OCW) Problem in Belgium", described the process of destroying OCW in a safe way by respecting the environment and cleaning up environmental pollution at the same time.

The first working day was closed by Mr Guy Valente's presentation, titled "Effective Command and Control System", that gave an overview of the national implementation of the Incident Command System (ICS) in the United States and its worldwide applicability to CBRN incidents.

The first part of the second working day was reserved for national presentations. In their national presentations the participants from the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Republic of Serbia and Republic of Turkey gave very valuable insights into their national systems with a focus on "How to ensure that dangerous chemicals don't wind up in the wrong hands".

In the afternoon LtC Valentina Ključarić, PhD, Head of CBRN Laboratory at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies "Janko Bobetko", shared the Croatian experiences on how to establish a state of the art CBRN laboratory. The presentation part of the working day was finalized by an expert lecture on the new techniques for sampling and analysis delivered by LtC Dragutin Tušek, PhD, NBC officer for nuclear protection at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies "Janko Bobetko". The event was closed by an evaluation and a brief closing ceremony. ●



The Courses were a continuation of a set of activities jointly organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the National Protection and Rescue Directorate (NPRD) of the Republic of Croatia, aimed at capacity building and improvements in the fields of search, rescue and protection as part of wider cooperation in the SEE region in monitoring and implementing civil emergency measures.



26 February - 02 March 2018, RACVIAC, Croatia

Basic & Advanced SAR Courses

From 26 February to 02 March 2018 RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, in partnership with the National Protection and Rescue Directorate (NPRD), organised two consecutive Search and Rescue Courses, the “Basic Aeronautical Search and Rescue (SAR) Course” and the “On Scene Coordinator (OSC) Advanced Course”.

Both activities are examples of tailor-made training specifically designed for specialists involved in Search and Rescue Aeronautical emergencies.

The Courses were a continuation of earlier efforts in this direction conducted over the course of the preceding years by RACVIAC, and were intended as a capacity building endeavour for a new generation of experts involved in the subject of search and rescue.

The main purpose of the Courses was to bring together SAR professionals from the SEE region and encourage the further development of regional cooperation on various Search and Rescue topics. Furthermore, both Courses

served as an opportunity to promote the enhancement of the existing national SAR structures through the exchange of information and sharing of available training opportunities and relevant exercises related to SAR.

Opening the Courses Ambassador Haydar Berk, RACVIAC Director, said: “these activities will be utilized to explore potential future steps in the field of Search and Rescue in SEE and initiate the establishment of a regional Search and Rescue Functional Network with the aim to enhance mutual assistance among Search and Rescue services and optimize the use of Search and Rescue resources in case of disasters. The close regional and wider cooperation among the SEE countries through dialogue and various forms of coordination is a strong response to today's challenges to international security and defence policy, leading to building of confidence and security among the countries”, emphasized Ambassador Berk.

Speaking on behalf of the co-organizer Mr Dragan Lozančić, NPRD Director General, said that cooperation and coordination is a key word in this area. Besides that education, training and exercises aimed at capacity building and skills development, both on the national and regional or international level, are crucial because there are always some aspects of the search and rescue area that should be improved, he added. The Courses also provide a very good opportunity for the participants to gain knowledge and make contacts in Croatia and across the border, concluded Mr Lozančić.

Both Courses were designed by the Joint Aviation Authorities Training Organization (JAATO). The lectures and necessary expertise were delivered by the JATTO representative Mr Brian Brophy, an internationally acknowledged SAR expert pilot with over 20 years of professional experience.

More than 40 participants, civilian and military personnel of the relevant institutions from the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Republic of Serbia, Hellenic Republic, Romania, and Kosovo** attended the Courses.

Basic Aeronautical SAR Course

The activity focused on the ways how to explore the concrete needs of each participating SAR institution related to aeronautical search and rescue situations, in order to launch comprehensive regional SAR development actions.

The Course was comprised of lectures, presentations and discussions.

Mr Brophy presented the best international practices and gave a short briefing on “The Origins of Search and Rescue” following the philosophy of Search and Rescue and main international SAR conventions and laws. In addition, participants had a chance to learn more about international SAR boundaries



and areas of responsibility as well as to elaborate on SAR manuals.

Later on he elaborated on the notion of Search and Rescue, referring to the search for and provision of aid to the citizens who are in an emergency situation and imminent danger. In order to ensure successful Search and Rescue (SAR) operations close cooperation among different institutions is crucial. Institutions that are dealing with SAR activities need to focus their efforts on identifying and listing the potential needs of their respective countries (e.g., education, exercise, coordination), and encourage and develop possible regional and cross-border cooperation through SAR operations, Mr Brophy said.

During the Course participants also discussed national SAR plans, systems and procedures while sharing their expertise concerning the responsibilities and duties of a senior SAR manager.

Mr Brophy also raised a question on the importance of Operational Control of SAR and Rescue Coordination Centres that play a crucial role in any emergency situation from initial search procedures to rescue planning for the future (followed by concrete, real examples from the field). The participants had an opportunity to find out more about the latest versions of SAR satellites and radio distress

* 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.

beacons and see a short documentary on SAR agencies, facilities and assets and aircraft ditching and ditching assistance.



On-Scene Coordinator Course

The “On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Course” was planned as a consecutive activity to the “Basic SAR Course” and had the same participants on board.

The purpose of this advanced Course that supports the further development of regional cooperation and builds capabilities in the search and rescue area was to provide knowledge and additional skills for trainees to administer, supervise and monitor SAR on scene coordination, in

accordance with their professional competence. More specifically, the activity focused on the ways how to explore the concrete needs of each participating SAR institution related to the general role of the On Scene Coordinator (OSC), the OSC's role in a mass rescue operation (including communications with the casualty), the Search Mission Coordination and SAR facilities on the scene.

The OSC Course primarily focused on the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual for SAR Coordinators.

Since the IAMSAR Manual defines the OSC as “a person designated to coordinate search and rescue operations within a specified area”, especially under circumstances when two or more SAR units are working together on the same mission, the participants were in a position to learn more about how OSC may have to assume all the duties and actually plan the search and/or rescue in an actual situation of distress and communicate with all the parties involved. During the presentation many related issues were tackled in this regard. The wide scope of responsibilities includes the provision of operational coordination of all SAR facilities on the scene, the development of an SAR action plan, modification of the action plan based on the prevailing environmental conditions and keeping the mission coordination centre advised, providing relevant information to other SAR facilities, etc. ●



In its initial phase the Course was co-organized by RACVIAC and the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords but in 2014 Signatory Parties took ownership of the Regional Arms Control, Dayton Article IV Agreement thus assuming responsibility for its further development in cooperation with the international partners.



04-09 March 2018
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

DAYTON ARTICLE IV COURSE



The “Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) - Orientation Course”, hosted by the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 04-09 March 2018.

This Course, based on the provisions of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control pursuant to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BA, Annex I-B, Article IV, has been organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation since 2001 with the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The purpose of the Course was to instruct the designated individuals on how to successfully perform their duties as inspectors and/or escorts pursuant to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control and to establish a common understanding of the Agreement in order to foster mutual trust and confidence as well as transparency during the performance of inspections.

The Course was attended by participants, lecturers and speakers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Hellenic Republic, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Slovenia, South Korea, Kingdom of Spain, Republic of Turkey, and OSCE. It consisted of a theoretical and a practical part.



The Course started with the Opening remarks by LtCol Servet Aya on behalf of RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Haydar Berk. LtCol Servet Aya stressed that this Course represents one of the most important annual activities of RACVIAC since it evidently makes a significant contribution to regional stability, transparency and trust.

The Opening remarks were followed by a Welcome address by Mr Zoran Šajinović, Assistant Minister for International Cooperation (BA). In his address Mr Zoran Šajinović stressed the importance of the Agreement for peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the significant role of the international community in the process of verification and ratification of the Agreement.

This was followed by speeches given by the representatives of the signatory countries and OSCE. The representatives of the signatory countries provided explanations on the political background concerning the

history and development of the Agreement and the phases of its implementation. Although some challenges were faced in the process of its implementation, the Agreement is still in use thanks to the clear political commitment of all signatory countries.

Mr Robin Mossinkoff, Head of the FSC Support Section in the Conflict Prevention Centre of the Secretariat of the OSCE, addressed the participants in regard to the role of the OSCE within the Agreement. He presented the work of the OSCE, both in general in ensuring stability and confidence building, and in regards to its role in the Article IV implementation process.

The rest of the theoretical part was devoted to the presentations regarding the Annual Exchange of Information and Protocols on Reduction and on Existing Types, Instructions about Protocols on Inspections and the integration of OSCE Guest Observers. The theoretical part was finalized with the preparation for the training inspection and division of participants into two groups, consisting of the inspection and the escort team.

The practical part was conducted in two parts. In the first part, performed in the military unit of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Visoko, all lecturers assumed the roles of escorts/inspectors and demonstrated how an inspection looks like while the participants remained in the roles of observers contributing with questions and remarks. In the second part that took place in a military unit in Kiseljak, the participants were divided into two teams and the roles were reversed to prompt participants to demonstrate what they had learned. The participants assumed the roles of inspectors, escorts, and OSCE guest observers, with instructors acting as observers.

The Course was closed by an evaluation and a brief closing ceremony. As has been announced, henceforward, each year, the practical part of the Course will be conducted in another signatory state. Republic of Serbia expressed willingness to host it in 2019. ●



Border Security and Management Seminar

12-14 March 2018, RACVIAC, Croatia

Although the intensity of migrant flows that have significantly affected Europe during the past several years has diminished, irregular migrations have changed the European demographic map and still pose societal and security challenges to the European countries. The challenges to the law enforcement and migration authorities caused by the developing dynamics of migration are becoming increasingly diversified, thus coming under increased pressure while controlling and balancing the migration streams through the affected countries.



As a form of continuation of the border security and management event series the “Border Security and Management Seminar”, organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, in partnership with DCAF Ljubljana, was held in Rakitje on 13 March 2018.

The purpose of the Seminar was to continue addressing the challenges in border security and management, to identify current and future challenges and to support the implementation of the Border Security and Management Concept of the OSCE Participating States in South East

Europe as well as the DCAF Integrative Internal Security Governance Concept and its Western Balkan Border Security Initiative. This Seminar successfully addressed the most important border security issues such as risk assessment, return and readmission, the role of the military in border management, and interviews with migrants.

The participants were police officers and civil servants responsible for border security and management from the ministries of interior, ministries of foreign affairs, ministries of defence, ministries of security and the customs administrations. In addition, there were speakers and lecturers from the Austrian Ministry of Interior, the German Federal Police, the OSCE Border Security and Management Unit, DCAF Ljubljana, Slovenian Police and the Croatian Ministry of Defence.

The Seminar was opened by H.E. Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC, who emphasized in his Opening speech that cross-border security challenges nowadays can be effectively prevented and tackled through interagency and international collaboration only. In that sense sharing of good practices, cross-border cooperation, transparency and confidence-building constitute the first logical steps towards generating solutions for the benefit of all.

In his introductory speech the Austrian Ministry of Interior Attaché to Croatia and Slovenia Mr Andreas Pichler stressed the importance of border security and



management as a key factor for European security today. After that the Liaison Officer of the German Federal Police to Croatia and Slovenia Mr Marco Weiser informed the audience about German experiences related to irregular migrations from the legal and practical point of view. Speaking on behalf of the co-organizer DCAF Ljubljana Director Mr Anton Travner presented the concept of the Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG) in the Western Balkans. He stressed that IISG is an approach initiated by the EU and owned by WB beneficiaries, EU actors, and regional and international donors, aimed at facilitation of internal security policy reforms. The development of this joint process was a response to the lack of sustainability and long-term planning, lack of efficiency, challenge of terrorism and related phenomena in Europe and the need to ensure an efficient EU approach towards Western Balkans as a region of strategic importance.

On behalf of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department Mr Simon Deignan expounded on the importance of passenger data exchange in border management and irregular migration, and on guidelines on how to establish a Passenger Data System. He stressed that the API (Advance Passenger Information) and PNR (Passenger Name Record) systems are crucial in preventing irregular migrations. Mr Deignan also noted that implementing an effective API/PNR system requires close inter-agency co-operation.

Mr Rok Derenčin, Project Manager in DCAF Ljubljana, presented the Risk Analysis in mitigating irregular migration. He stressed that the lack of capacities for data gathering, inadequate personnel, poor resources planning and late identification of threats such as changes in migration routes, are all a part of everyday reality. However, he pointed out that the way forward is the long-term development planning of a



national police interoperable information system that will require decades to create but is a priority.

Mr Peter Skerbiš, Head of Border Management Section at the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, presented readmission agreements, unsuccessful and successful returns, and significance of good cooperation with neighbouring authorities.

As a legal adviser in the Croatian Ministry of Defence Mr Josip Mandić explained the role of the Croatian Armed Forces (CAF) in border security and management from the legal point of view. He highlighted Croatian Navy's participation in the EU operation Triton that resulted in a rescue of 2500 migrants arriving from Libya and the Middle East.

Col Suntešić, Deputy Commander of the Croatian Armed Forces Command Operations Centre, presented some examples of CAF's role in the migrant crisis such as establishing the temporary migrant camps. The Winter Camp "Bijeliš" in Slavonski Brod was taken as a valuable example of successful mission in which CAF provided accommodation, food, transport and medical support to migrants. The camp was built from scratch and it consisted of a check point, hospital, restaurants, toilets and all necessary objects fit to host migrants.

At the end Mr Peter Skerbiš also explained the method, purpose and role of migrant interviews.

The presented national and international policies and mechanisms in mitigating irregular migration proved to be an excellent framework for sharing of experiences. According to the feedback received the participants proposed that the topics such as the role of customs in irregular migrations and the role of military in border management be widened in the future editions of this activity. ●



Open Skies Aerial Observation Course

20-29 March 2018, Jakabszállás,
Kecskemét and Budapest, Hungary



The Open Skies courses have been organized in RACVIAC since 2002 and represent some of its most distinctive training events. The 2018 Course was co-organized, sponsored and hosted by Hungary, that provided the Open Skies aircraft, the AN-26, to carry out an Aerial Observation Mission.

The “Open Skies Treaty Aerial Observation Course”, co-organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Hungarian Ministry of Defence, was conducted in Hungary from 20-29 March 2018.

The Federal Republic of Germany and the Italian Republic also supported the event with the provision of lecturers.

The purpose of the Course was to train personnel from SEE countries to plan, organize and execute an Aerial Observation Mission based on the provisions of the Treaty on Open Skies (OST), thus increasing the administrative

capacity in the field of security cooperation. The objectives of the Course were to recall the historical background and the development of the OST, to overview the specified elements of the OST, highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules and procedures of its execution, to provide information about the current situation in the development and implementation of the OST, to enable participants to prepare and conduct mission planning, to carry out a training Aerial Observation Mission thus providing practical experience, to deepen contacts and build trust and confidence between representatives of national organizations and agencies engaged in the accomplishment of Arms control and/or security-and



confidence-building measures, and to set an example of security cooperation on a regional and international level.

Opening the Course on behalf of RACVIAC Director Ambassador Haydar Berk, LtC Servet Aya, Programme Manager in RACVIAC CSE Pillar, said that “the Open Skies Treaty, developed during the last years of the Cold War as a mechanism to increase transparency between NATO and



the Warsaw Pact, together with the Vienna Document, has gained a newfound relevance in the recent years”. He continued by saying that this Treaty “is one of the most important and effective military-political instruments aimed at building trust and increasing transparency. The South East European region is also a part of it and most of the countries are members of the Open Skies Treaty and benefit from it. It provides important means to gain a greater understanding about military activities and could contribute to a de-escalation of a crisis”, pointed out LtC Aya. At the end he extended his deepest gratitude to Hungary for hosting and co-organising the Course as well as for providing the observation aircraft.

Speaking on behalf of the co-organizer Major General László Domján, Head of Hungarian MoD Defence Policy Department, recalled for the participants the history of the Open Skies Treaty and reflected on its importance. Referring to the changed security environment and increasing security challenges not only in Europe but all over the world as well Major General said that this Treaty is an important instrument that is able to provide greater openness and transparency and to enhance confidence- and security-building measures. He also underlined the significance of belonging to a family of experts on the Open Skies regime and sharing of experiences, which is essential to develop and strengthen capabilities and cooperation.

The Course participants were junior and senior officers involved in the planning or the execution of OST Missions and national institutions planning staff with OST responsibilities, and came from: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Hellenic Republic, Hungary, Italian Republic, Republic of Slovenia, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Turkey, and Kosovo*. There were 17 participants altogether.

The Course was conducted with the assistance of nine OST specialists and experts from the Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary and Italian Republic.

The Course was designed as a combination of a theoretical and a practical part.

The theoretical part was conducted in Jakabszállás as a combination of presentations and a classroom exercise on a mission plan as a preparation for the accomplishment of the training observation flight. The presentations covered the provisions of the Treaty on Open Skies, the OSCE Decisions and Chairman's Statements augmenting the original text of the Treaty, notifications and the used formats, OS platforms and sensor suits used by the Member States, certification procedures, pre-flight inspection, film processing, duplication and procedures of access to information, mission planning, mission rundown and tasks related to receiving an OS mission, mission plan negotiation and preparation of the mission report.

During the classroom exercise, participants were divided into teams and practiced preparation and review of a mission plan by conventional methods, under the supervision of lecturers.

During the second week, in the Airbase in Kecskemét, the activities were carried out in compliance with the OST, closely similar to the time schedule of a real OS mission. This phase included the training in point of entry (POE) procedure, real life meteorological and ATC briefings, pre-flight inspection, mission plan negotiation and mission plan review, preparation for the observation flight, and the observation flight over the territory of Hungary with the Open Skies aircraft AN-26. During the training flight participants practiced performing their duties, both as members of the observation and escort teams.



The development of the aerial photographs was completed in a photolab in Budapest. The participants had a chance to familiarize themselves with the film processing equipment, analysis and duplication, as well as to take part in the development of the aerial photographs taken during the observation flight and examine the results.

The Course was completed with the preparation and signature of the mission report. ●

* 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.



SGM Krešimir Galić was posted to RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on 15 February 2018 as a Driver/Administrator (Service Branch). Prior to this he was the NCO for KI security at the G-6 Department in the Army Headquarters. He began his military career in 1991 and was posted to different NCO and command duties as well as those at the company, battalion and brigade level as staff NCO. He served twice in a foreign NATO-led mission in Afganistan (ISAF and RS). He obtained a degree from a technical high school, direction electrician, and he is an advanced university student at the Faculty of Kinesiology (University of Zagreb).

In his free time he is a beekeeper and grows fruits and his great passion is sea fishing.

SGT Ivan Mršić joined RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on 15 February 2018 as a Driver/Administrator (Service Branch). Prior to this he served as a logistics NCO in the Support Command. He began his military carrier in 2009 and was posted to different NCO duties at company and battalion level in the Military Police Regiment. He served twice in foreign NATO-led missions in Afganistan (ISAF and RS). He has a degree from catering college, direction caterer- waiter. In his free time he enjoys sports and his hobbies are martial arts and cycling.



Mr Sergej Dedić joined the RACVIAC team as an intern in International and Regional Cooperation Pillar in March 2018. Currently he is a third year student at the University College of International Relations and Diplomacy Dag Hammarskjöld in Zagreb. His future educational and professional goals will be focused on international relations and international security. He applied for a Master's degree programme related to international security and risk managment in Denmark.

Ms Martina Špoljarić joined the RACVIAC team as an intern in Security Sector Reform Pillar in February 2018. Ms Špoljarić is currently in her second year of Bachelor's studies in political science at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, Croatia. Before RACVIAC she was very active at Model European Union and Model United Nations conferences and volunteered and participated in many national and international youth projects such as Global-In Fellowship, World Youth Academy and Croatian Youth Movement. After her internship in RACVIAC ends she will start preparing for a bilateral exchange programme at the University of Cincinnati, USA where she will be studying political science with focus on international relations and international security.





After three years of service in RACVIAC as admins/drivers we bade farewell to our colleagues **SFC Boris Vacka** and **Cpl Damir Miholic** at the end of January 2018. They will be remembered for their selfless dedication and willingness to assist all members of staff whenever necessary. We are thankful to them for their reliability, punctuality and devotion. Boris and Damir will continue their military careers in the International Military Operations Centre of the Croatian Armed Forces. We wish them all the best for the future!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

C-WMD Network

No.	Topic / Title	Host / Venue	Date
1.	Proliferation Security Initiative Workshop, Split 2018	Split, HR	10 - 13 April

International and Regional Cooperation

(with focus on Euro Atlantic Integration and contemporary challenges)

No.	Topic / Title	Host / Venue	Date
1.	Cyber Security: WMD Cyber Crimes Investigations Course	RACVIAC	23 - 27 April
2.	Building Integrity and Preventing Corruption Workshop: "Integrity and Control Measures in Defence and Law Enforcement Institutions"	Podgorica, ME	07 - 10 May
3.	Energy Security Seminar "Strengthening the Energy Security in the EU's Neighbouring South-Eastern Countries"	Mediaş, RO	12 - 15 June

Security Sector Reform / Transformation

No.	Topic / Title	Host / Venue	Date
1.	Gender Training of the Trainers Course (GTOT)	RACVIAC	13 - 26 May
2.	Annual Meeting of the Representatives from Defense and Security Committees from SEE Parliaments	Skopje, MK	24-27 June

UNODC's Inter-regional event

No.	Topic / Title	Host / Venue	Date
1.	Inter-regional Workshop on Illicit Financial Flows	RACVIAC	28-29 June



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

**„...fostering dialogue and cooperation on
security matters in South East Europe...”**

Follow us at:

**www.racviac.org
[twitter: @RACVIAC](https://twitter.com/RACVIAC)
facebook.com/RACVIAC**