



Centre for Security Cooperation

Anniversary edition - October 2010

Newsletter



*Ten years of fostering dialogue and cooperation
in South East Europe*

RACVIAC Timeline

- 10 June 1999** The Stability Pact for South East Europe convened in Cologne, with the aim of achieving lasting peace, prosperity and stability for South East Europe
- January 2000** First Ideas for RACVIAC
- 16 February 2000** Stability Pact meeting in Sarajevo - Decision to include the RACVIAC Project in the Quickstart List
- 7 July 2000** Coordinating Conference in Berlin - Representatives from 18 interested nations met to discuss the Way Ahead
- 10 July 2000** Start of work of the international project group in Zagreb
- 20 September 2000** 1st Multinational Advisory Group meeting (MAG) in Zagreb
- 2 October 2000** The Permanent Staff join RACVIAC
- 20 October 2000** Opening Ceremony
- 23-27 October 2000** First Seminar
- 7 March 2001** The Bilateral DEU-HRV Governmental Agreement – Principal Regulations
- 12 March 2001** RACVIAC moved to its permanent location (Vitez Damir Martić barracks in Rakitje)
- 24 July 2002** The Technical Agreement between Croatian MoD and RACVIAC
- 20 September 2002** Accession of Italy to “The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the establishment of the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Center (RACVIAC)”
- 23 June 2003** RACVIAC Medium Term Strategy
- October 2003** MAG Decision to expand the role of RACVIAC to Security Sector Reform
- 8 July 2004** Accession of Turkey to “The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the establishment of the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Center (RACVIAC)”
- 15 December 2004** MAG Terms of Reference for RACVIAC
- 31 March 2005** Declaration of the Defense Ministers of SEECP - new role of RACVIAC in the field of Defence Conversion
MAG Decision to establish Defence Conversion Unit in RACVIAC
- 6 July 2005** Establishment of Defence Conversion cell within RACVIAC
- November 2005** Concept Paper on Defence Conversion in SEE
- 3 April 2006** RACVIAC Strategy Paper
- 4 October 2007** New RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation
- 19-20 March 2009** New RACVIAC legal status and new RACVIAC organizational structure are the first visible forms of RACVIAC transformation
- 14 April 2010** New Agreement on RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation

Director's Address



Dear readers,

It is a special privilege to address you on the remarkable occasion of the tenth anniversary of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. The privilege is that much greater for I am addressing you not only on my own behalf, but also on behalf of all those who have contributed in the past ten years to the efforts of the Centre in meeting the expectations of the founding fathers.

Let us remind ourselves that back in 1999 a far reaching decision was made regarding the future of the SEE region. Only one year later, in October 2000, RACVIAC's first moves were made. The newly unified Federal Republic of Germany stepped forward by establishing on a bilateral basis with the Republic of Croatia as a hosting country, the nucleus for what became the Regional Arms Control and Verification Implementation Assistance Centre for the SEE region. This initial and decisive step was subsequently followed by the Republic of Italy and the Republic of Turkey. The star was born.

All this was a part of a far reaching decision of the international community regarding the prevention of the continuation of the terrible conflicts, with a view to ensuring substantial stabilization of the Region. In a comprehensive and coherent approach, a distinctive emphasis was laid on the efforts of systematic and substantial support to the security of South East Europe with the active participation of the mentioned region. It was RACVIAC that provided the venue and the framework for the first trainings organized for those who proved to be instrumental in implementing sensitive international agreements and accords.

Following that successful, and rather quick start, the scope of interest was subsequently expanded to issues of military base conversion, security sector reform, and international cooperation and integration.

After having organised more than 230 seminars, workshops and conferences which met expectations of over 7,000 participants, RACVIAC proudly and righteously declares the readiness to meet new challenges ahead in the process of fostering dialogue and security cooperation in South East Europe. The Multinational Advisory Group will hopefully pronounce on the prepared document on the strategy of RACVIAC at the forthcoming 24th MAG meeting, and you, dear readers, will be the first to be informed on the outcome in the next issue of our Newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski

Address by RACVIAC staff

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we address you on the solemn occasion of RACVIAC's 10th Anniversary.

RACVIAC is a unique international organization – a project owned by the region and working for the region. Making an assessment of its past efforts and results and evaluating its achievements, we can proudly state that RACVIAC, supported by its partner organizations and institutions,



has made an outstanding contribution to enhancing permanent and sincere security cooperation among the SEE countries and reaching long-lasting peace and prosperity, regardless of individual aspirations toward the Euro-Atlantic integration.

The Centre succeeds in its efforts to foster security dialogue and cooperation on various levels by bringing together high-ranking officials such as ministers, parliamentarians, journalists, attachés

and ambassadors. From its earliest beginnings in 2000, RACVIAC- Centre for Security Cooperation has been continuously serving to the needs of the countries of the region. This can best be seen in the fact that more than 7,000 students and lecturers have been hosted in over 230 activities organised by RACVIAC, a fact we are especially proud of.

The year 2010 has been of historical importance for RACVIAC. The 23rd MAG Meeting, held on 14 April in Bečići, Montenegro, served as the venue for the signature of the new RACVIAC Agreement. The Agreement was signed by eight SEECPC countries and it demonstrated the maturity of the region to undertake political commitment in increasing regional security and cooperation through the concept of regional ownership.

Following this important step in the history of RACVIAC, it should be stressed that we still have a lot of projects ahead of us, the two primary ones being the preparation of the Financial Regulations and the preparation of a strategy paper titled "Vision 2014", in the light of the new legal status, and for the benefit of the region.

We consider it our obligation to emphasize once again that RACVIAC, as a

successful project of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Croatia, established within the Stability Pact, owes a particular debt of gratitude primarily to the aforementioned countries for their initial efforts and uninterrupted assistance and commitment to fulfilling our mission in the past ten years.

In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to express our genuine appreciation to all MAG Members and all our partner organizations for the outstanding and very considerable ongoing support to RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

Furthermore, we wish to thank all our regional and international partners, who have considerably assisted us in the organization and execution of our programme of activities, and thus added their contribution to the security and stability of SEE region.

Our special gratitude goes to RACVIAC's core and associate member countries, whose contribution in the form of both highly qualified seconded personnel and very generous contributions, has secured the long-lasting future of our joint endeavour.

And last but not least, we would like

to express our sincere acknowledgement to all RACVIAC previous staff members and all the lecturers and participants of our activities for their commitment to the achievements of our mission. Without your expertise and desire for knowledge and cooperation, our everyday work would be futile. Therefore, it is on behalf of the whole RACVIAC staff when we say that we look forward to continuing and further intensifying our joint cooperation.



It is needless to say that the 10th anniversary of RACVIAC and the achievements we have jointly made in our past ten years, culminating with the signature of the new Agreement, are justifiable causes for celebration for all those that have invested themselves and their resources in our mutual mission.

RACVIAC staff

Rakitje, 20 October 2010

RACVIAC history

At the turn of centuries, South East Europe (SEE) was recovering from the aftermaths of wars and turbulent political changes that marked the end of the 20th century. Since the reform processes were very slow, the affected countries expressed their awareness that arms control, defence and security sector reform, together with regional and international integration, represented a crucial aspect of a much wider transformation process.

In order to achieve long-lasting peace, stability and prosperity in South East Europe, the Stability Pact convened in Cologne in June 1999. The first ideas for RACVIAC emerged at the beginning of the following year, while the decision to launch as soon as possible a “quick-start-project” called RACVIAC was taken at the meeting of the Stability Pact in Sarajevo, on 16 February 2000.

2000

The first meeting of the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) was held in Zagreb on 20 September 2000, and during that meeting a decision was made to establish the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre - RACVIAC. The Opening Ceremony was organized the following month, on 20 October 2000, while the first seminar on „The Significance of Special Regional Agreements

in accordance with Chapter X, Vienna Document 1999, for the Establishment of Stability in Southeast Europe” took place only three days later. The signing of the German - Croatian Agreement on the establishment of RACVIAC on 7 March, which was followed by a two-month delay in registration, marked the end of the registration process.



1st MAG meeting, Zagreb, Croatia, 20 September 2000



Opening ceremony, Rakitje, Croatia, 20 October 2000

Firmly established under the auspices of the Stability Pact and its goal to encourage and strengthen security cooperation amongst the countries of South East Europe, RACVIAC was to be confirmed as a very successful project within a relatively short period of its existence.

RACVIAC aimed to support the goals of the Working Table III, mainly in the field of arms control and other closely related security matters by means of providing a platform for regular dialogue and cooperation in South East Europe. In addition, it served as an international forum for personnel training in all aspects of arms control implementation and verification. RACVIAC endeavoured to assist the states of the region to participate more effectively in the implementation of existing arms control agreements and confidence and security-building measures, allowing common standards to be identified and therefore leading to improvements in their implementation.



First RACVIAC briefing, Rakitje, Croatia, 9 March 2001

Rudolf Sharping and the Croatian Minister of Defence, Mr Jozo Radoš. This was also the first time that the two ministers had met since taking up their positions. The two ministers expressed their satisfaction with the development and progress of RACVIAC and stressed their intention to support its work in the future. Mr Stewart Henderson, the Director of the Working Table III of the Stability Pact was yet another highly esteemed guest who visited RACVIAC on the occasion of its First Anniversary celebration.

2001

In the course of 2001, RACVIAC, having being divided into two divisions – the Dialogue and Cooperation Division and the Training and Verification Division - held 5 Seminars, 7 Training Courses and hosted some 350 participants from 21 nations.

During its First Anniversary celebration, RACVIAC received numerous visitors, including the German Minister of Defence, Mr

2002

RACVIAC's Activities Programme for 2002 commenced with a high-level seminar on "The Contribution of CSBM's in Establishing Stability and Reinforcing Security in South East Europe" which took place from 29 January to 1 February 2002. Mr Jozo Radoš, Croatian Minister of Defence, delivered the opening address and it was a special honour to have the Key Note Speech delivered by Ambassador Jacques Klein (the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and Coordinator of the UN Operations in B&H).



After the first training activity held outside Croatia (the Aerial Observation Course, November 2001, where Bulgaria very kindly hosted the practical part of the second week), the practical parts of four other training courses were conducted outside the host country (two in Hungary and one in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ and B&H respectively).



Farewell to Arms,
Rakitje, Croatia, 5 April 2002

In addition, the previously established good links were further developed with the Stability Pact, the OSCE and a number of other Arms Control Associations, with information being



Arms control inspection,
3 December 2002

regularly exchanged between RACVIAC and these important organizations, as well as with the Centre for Democratic Control in Geneva (DCAF) and the Clearing House for SALW.

One of more important dates in 2002 was 24 July, when the Croatian MoD and RACVIAC signed the Technical Agreement, with Italy acceding to the same Agreement on 20 September.

It is worth recalling that a Change of Command Ceremony was held on 26 September of the same year, on which occasion the post of the Director was handed over from Colonel Nikola Nogolica (HR) to Brigadier General Pucher (AT), while the post of the Deputy Director / Chief of Staff was taken over by Colonel Željko Akrap (HR).



Handover & Takeover ceremony,
Rakitje, Croatia, 26 September 2002

In December 2002 RACVIAC, together with the OSCE/CPC, organized a special information meeting on security issues of common interest in SEE. It was co-chaired by Ambassador Zannier, Director of the CPC and BrigGen Pucher. The meeting was convened to examine a number of security issues relevant to SEE: border management, small arms and light weapons (SALW), terrorism and security sector reform, including policing and democratic control of the armed forces. It represented an opportunity to bring together RACVIAC

¹ Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

staff, international organizations dealing with SEE matters, OSCE-Secretariat staff and OSCE-mission members. Ways were discussed to balance OSCE activities and the activities of other organizations by reinforcing the politico-military dimension in the light of common interest. That meeting successfully completed RACVIAC's second year of activity.



English language course on arms control terminology, Rakitje, Croatia, 19 November 2003

2003

During 2003 RACVIAC did not only carry out all seminars and courses in accordance with the approved programme, but also hosted and co-organized activities for the Defence Attaché Community, Croatian MoD (Presentation of the SPECTRA² programme), OSCE Experts Meeting, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's Seminar and the Heads of Verification Agencies Meeting. As a result of the "Information Meeting on Security Issues of Common Interest" held in December 2002 and close contacts, the cooperation between

RACVIAC and international organizations was reinforced, which led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with DCAF and the South East Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC).



Visit of Ambassador Winkler, DCAF, Rakitje, Croatia, 15 July 2003



Open Skies aerial observation course, 5 June 2003

The second "Information Meeting on Security Issues of Common Interest", which took place from 6-7 October, was attended by 10 of RACVIAC's international partners. This kind of meeting made it possible to highlight where the focus of mutual interest should be in the future. It also helped to define where the cooperation and support between various organisations and institutions could be further intensified in 2004.

In 2003 the arms control regimes and confidence and security-building measures in the region were well-implemented; new fields such as Chemical Weapons, certain Conventional

² Spectra is the Croatian Armed Forces reform plan, developed with NATO support

Weapons Conventions, Missile Technology Regimes and the like were recognized and expanded upon by RACVIAC for the benefit of the SEE states.



Visit of Swiss Ambassador Marcus Keiser, Rakitje, Croatia, 8 December 2003

However, stability in the region was still fragile. Pressuring issues such as illicit trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, military downsizing, improving parliamentary oversight over armed forces and control of security forces, enhancing security dialogue, modernising and reshaping of armed forces, effective border management and improving the public



Arms control inspection

awareness of security policy and arms control, still remained. They needed thorough efforts. RACVIAC, together with other international organisations, had a role to play in assisting the countries. RACVIAC noticed that progress in Security Sector Reform was hampered by ongoing problems in the public administration, leading to the delay or non-implementation of political or strategic documents and commi-

ments. Thus, the reform efforts at various levels and in different sectors needed to be consistent with each other.

In the light of the aforementioned situation, at the MAG meeting in October 2003, the role of RACVIAC was expanded to Security Sector Reform (SSR).

2004

The year 2004 saw a continuation of the assistance of a number of international, governmental and non-governmental organisations and institutions engaged in the enhancement of stability and security in SEE.



9th MAG meeting, 19 April, Ankara, Turkey

The same year, RACVIAC was invited by the Stability Pact to contribute to the development of a comprehensive overview regarding defence conversion and related issues in SEE with the aim to provide a basis for a sequence of regional meetings concerning those issues. Besides, more in-depth secretarial work had to be done to ensure greater transparency and to define the areas of possible co-operation and synergy among different players.

At the end of January, a meeting was held with the Director of the Stability Pact, WT III,



Nikola Radovanović and Mr Prvoslav Davinić, at RACVIAC's Seminar on Military-Political Security Issues and Possibilities for Regional Co-operation, held on 25 May 2004. It was the first time that RACVIAC hosted the two Defence Ministers, an event which generated greater visibility for RACVIAC and some concrete follow-up activities.

Further progress was ensured by the MAG Terms of Reference, adopted through silence procedure, on 15 December 2004.

and a representative of NATO International Staff/Defense Economic Directorate, in order to develop a comprehensive survey regarding ongoing and planned activities in the field of Defense Conversion, as a part of the wider SSR in SEE.

In terms of the financial and budgetary system, significant was the transfer from Germany's single to multinational sponsorship, in January 2004.



2005

It is noteworthy that in 2004 the SEE countries signalled greater willingness to participate more intensely in the sense of "Regional Ownership". In that regard, in July 2004 Turkey acceded to the "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Germany on the establishment of RACVIAC".

RACVIAC started the year 2005 by organizing a meeting of the Defence Attachés of MAG and interested countries accredited to Croatia, on 19 January. The aim of the Meeting was to discuss the future role of RACVIAC and it was followed by the Ambassadorial Meeting in March.

Another remarkable success was the presence of the Ministers of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro, Mr



In addition to that, the Director of RACVIAC took part in the Meeting of the Defence Ministers of South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) in Bucharest, on 31 March 2005. During this meeting, a Declaration re-



OSCE workshop,
Rakitje, Croatia, 9 November 2005

garding Defence Conversion was adopted. At the SEECP in Bucharest, RACVIAC was included in the Declaration in which countries agreed “to build on and use the existing capacities of the Zagreb-based RACVIAC to develop regional support networks, concentrate know-how on defence conversion and promote an integrated donors approach.” According to this declaration, the role of RACVIAC was to



RACVIAC team, Rakitje, Croatia, 2 June 2005

serve as a regional Defence Conversion centre. In order to fulfil the new task, in August 2005 RACVIAC established a new Defence Conversion Cell in its structure and successfully refocused its scope of activities from mainly Arms Control issues to broader politico-military is-

ssues of Security Sector Reform in accordance with the Medium Term Strategy.

RACVIAC succeeded in establishing and maintaining good contacts with officials in SEE countries in order to meet their real needs and demands. Moreover, RACVIAC deepened its co-operation with NATO, OSCE and the Stability Pact on Defence Conversion issues. Besides, a new Concept Paper on Defence Conversion in SEE was adopted in November 2005.

Once again, RACVIAC, whose Defence Conversion activities opened a new field for the regional cooperation, proved itself as the most successful project under the Stability Pact for SEE.

2006

In 2006 RACVIAC remained one of the key instruments developed in the area of Security Sector Reform. Its main functions were to offer a regional platform for politico-military seminars, to provide trainings for arms control verification inspectors and to facilitate regional cooperation in addressing the social and economic consequences of Security Sector Reform.



WS2 meeting
Rakitje, Croatia, 28 February 2006

The clearly defined interest by all SEE Countries in the Defence Conversion capacity



building and regional cooperation proved that RACVIAC was on the right track, and thus had the real opportunity to prove its role of the Regional Centre for Defence Conversion for the benefit of all SEE countries and international institutions engaged in this process.

The EU and NATO recognized RACVIAC as a platform for the stabilization of the SEE region through CSBM (Confidence and Security-Building Measures), as well as through RACVIAC's work in support of arms control measures and agreements. As regards the ar-



eas of SSR and CSBM, the cooperation was broadened through joint activities with political studies faculties in the region doing work on regional security and stability. Cooperation

was also established with the Centre for Security Studies (CESS) in the field of democratic control of armed forces.

As usual, RACVIAC participated in the biannual Stability Pact WT III Meeting. The meeting took place in Belgrade, in May 2006. SEE countries agreed to take ownership of a new, more regionally owned cooperation framework that was to assume the responsibilities of the Stability Pact. The new framework for regional cooperation was called the Regional Cooperation Council.



With a view to enhancing cooperation with NATO, general Stergios Papotis, Director of RACVIAC, visited NATO headquarters on 13 September. Over the course of the visit, meetings took place with Dr. Reiner Weichhardt, Deputy Director of DSED PASP Division, Mr Frank Boland, Director of Force Planning DPP and Ms Susan Pond from PFP&CP PASP Division. NATO officials clearly stated that RACVIAC's capabilities to assist countries in the region in DC capacity building, program and project development and day-to-day implementation were of great and direct assistance to NATO efforts and programs. In this respect, NATO gave RACVIAC its full support. Equally acknowledged were RACVIAC's efforts to promote regional cooperation and regional ownership building.

The last biannual Stability Pact WT III Meeting took place in Bucharest, in November 2006, where RACVIAC had a chance to highlight its efforts in bringing the SEE countries into Euro-Atlantic integration. The Working Table III (Security Issues) focused on the transition strategies for the initiatives dealing with Defence and Security cooperation, as well as with Justice and Home Affairs cooperation in SEE. During the discussion, RACVIAC centred on the remaining impediments to the transfer to regional ownership, namely funding, staffing and political support. The participants agreed that, in order to make the transition a real success, the experts involved in each of the regional cooperative frameworks should be supported more strongly by political and higher executive levels of their governments, and be backed by the international community.

At the 17th Extraordinary MAG Meeting, which took place in RACVIAC on 27 June 2007, MAG reached consensus on the Future Status of RACVIAC. MAG also approved the nomination of Ambassador Hadžimusić from



Preparation for arms control inspection, 6 December 2007

B&H for the position of the next Director of RACVIAC. For the first time in its history, RACVIAC was going to be directed by a civilian rather than the military. The hand-over ceremony took place in RACVIAC, on 11 October 2007.

As decided by MAG, on 3 October 2007, RACVIAC changed not only the name but its mission as well. Together with arms control is-

2007

Political situation, developments and changes in the security environment in SEE, as well as the needs of SEE countries urged RACVIAC in 2007 to take a decision on its future status.



1st meeting on new RACVIAC status, Rakitje, Croatia, 2 February 2007



Seminar on Security Sector Reform, Rakitje, Croatia, 24 January 2007

sues as its primary mission, RACVIAC moved into two new areas of interest: Security Sector Reform and International and Regional Cooperation. The adjusted mission of RACVIAC –

Centre for Security Cooperation was to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in Southeast Europe through a partnership between the countries of the region and their international partners.

Owing to these activities, RACVIAC gained wider recognition and importance in the SEE region, which resulted in the stability of the region and Europe as well.

2008

In the year 2008 RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation reached the peak of its transformation process. The two working groups established by a decision of the 19th MAG Meeting on 10 April 2008, dealt in a highly productive manner with the two most important strategic issues for the future of the Centre – adaptation of its organization and legal status to the shifting regional and international order.



Following the October 2007 Strategy Paper, RACVIAC continued its transformation into the “Centre for Security Cooperation” and was on the best way to become the premier plat-



form for dialogue on security cooperation in Southeast Europe.

At a meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 11 March 2008, the eleven Defense Ministers and Assistant Ministers present almost unanimously stressed in their individual statements the im-



portant role of RACVIAC. In “Joint Statement”, the final document of this event, paragraph 12 was completely dedicated to RACVIAC. As concluded at the meeting, the Ministers expected “the Center’s leadership to actively work for the timely formulation of a new, adequate structure and optimized activities and expenditures plan”.

Amongst other speakers at that meeting, Dr. Erhard Busek, Special Coordinator for the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe, Mr Jan Trzuszczynski, Deputy Director-General from DG Enlargement as well as Mr George Katsirdakis, Head of Defense Cooperation, Defense Policy

and Planning Division, NATO International Staff, emphasized RACVIAC's crucial future



20th MAG meeting, Rakitje, Croatia, 231 October 2008

role in promoting security cooperation in the region. Dr. Busek especially stressed that RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation „is the key Stability Pact mechanism in the area of Defense and Security in the region. It should play a key role in defining how the RCC and other international actors, especially NATO, can best assist each other in dealing with their common and respective/individual priorities.”

RACVIAC continued promoting its new image in a more robust manner. The new orientation of RACVIAC was not only characterized by the “civilianization” of its leadership but also by more academic orientation of the Centre and clear differentiation between the staff and faculty.

2009

In 2009, RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation started implementing the new organizational structure, divided into three pillars covering the three main areas of RACVIAC's work – Cooperative Security

Environment with focus on Arms Control (CSE Pillar), Security Sector Reform (SSR Pillar), and International and Regional Cooperation with focus on Euro-Atlantic Integration (IRC Pillar). The new structure also incorporated a modified style of organizing and executing activities, as well as reporting on them.



Human Resources Management Workshop (HRM) New Aspects in the Transition of Professional Armed Forces

In this period, the Cooperative Security Environment (CSE) Pillar continued contributing to the administrative capacity building in the region by providing highly valued courses on a wide variety of Arms Control treaties, such as Vienna Document '99, Dayton Agreement, Open Skies, Chemical Weapons Convention and others. This pillar persisted in promoting dialogue and cooperation with the aim to improve the standards of implementation of



Visit by Ms Marina Pendeš, Deputy Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rakitje, Croatia, 25 September 2009

arms control agreements and confidence and security-building measures. The activities undertaken within this Pillar proved to be efficient support to the governments in fulfilling

their obligations under different international conventions and agreements.



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

The most important achievement of the International and Regional Cooperation (IRC) Pillar in 2009 was the Conference titled “Regional Security through Regional Ownership: a New Era of Cooperation”, which was organized under the Turkish South East European Cooperation Process Chairmanship, in cooperation with RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. The Meeting showed once again that RACVIAC was a relevant institution, complementary to the already existing security/defence related initiatives in South East Europe.



Visit to George C. Marshall Centre,
Germany, 11 February 2009

In the conclusion of this event, the Turkish SEECF Chairmanship emphasized the need to develop a regional approach to security challenges in Southeast Europe and announced SEECF's intention to organize an evaluation meeting in May 2010 in order to establish

a modality for better synchronization and streamlining of priorities and work of major initiatives in the region, which would be done in collaboration with the EU, NATO and RCC. At this Conference, the IRC Pillar succeeded to attract to its activities high-ranking officials such as former presidents, ministers, deputy ministers, state secretaries, ambassadors, generals, parliamentarians, senior military staff, as well as representatives of the media. The highlight of their achievement was the presence of the former President of Turkey, H. E. Süleyman Demirel, at the Conference in Turkey.



Open Skies aerial observation course,
Surčin, Serbia, 7 July 2009

Regarding the Security Sector Reform (SSR) Pillar, it continued to make the most visible efforts in the programme adjustment when it comes to RACVIAC's programme evolution. Beside enhancing the regional and inter-institutional cooperation in the field of defence conversion, in 2009 the SSR enlarged the scope and variety of its activities to new security sector reform training courses. The SSR Pillar also continued with its activities in the fields of defence resources management and democratic control of armed forces. Therefore, we may say that RACVIAC's SSR Pillar continued to play an active role in establishing a very successful exchange of views and best practices in this domain.

2010

At the beginning of 2010 RACVIAC received a very significant recognition of its achievements. On 12 January 2010, our Centre was honoured by the visit of the President of the Republic of Cro-



Visit by Mr Stjepan Mesić,
President of Republic of Croatia

tia and the Commander-in-Chief of Croatian Armed Forces, Mr Stjepan Mesić. The relationship between President Mesić and RACVIAC started with the establishment of the Centre at the beginning of his first mandate in October 2000, and during past ten years President



Visit by Mr Stjepan Mesić,
President of Republic of Croatia

Mesić and his staff constantly provided significant support in the organisation and execution of RACVIAC's activities, a fact that RACVIAC is particularly proud of.

One of the most important steps towards the full transformation of RACVIAC in accordance with the MAG directives was the process of



Signing of new Agreement on RACVIAC status

adjustment of its legal framework. RACVIAC's transformation into a more academic and flexible organization being capable to satisfy real-time requirements of its members, and the corresponding programme evolution, demanded, among other things, the reinforcement of RACVIAC's core capacities, primarily in terms of the development of its human resources, based on the high-quality personnel with the right mixture of subject matter qualifications, experience and skills.



Regional Conference on NATO Integration in SEE:
Developing a Common Transatlantic Vision and Future Perspectives

As the finalization of RACVIAC's transformation process, on 14 April in Bečići, Montenegro, eight SEEC countries signed a new Agreement on RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, thus showing their appreciation for what this organization had hitherto achieved, and at the same time expressing their commitment to the continued support.

Following this important step in the history of RACVIAC, a Working Group on Financial Regulations was established, with the aim of finding new regulations for the financial running of the Centre in light of the new legal status.



With the adoption of the new Agreement on RACVIAC, it became necessary to develop a new Strategy that would provide the vision and guidance for the coming four-year period up to and including 2014. The aim of this document will be to provide a basic framework for RACVIAC's activities during this period while at the same time steering the organization toward the future.



We may conclude that RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation has a bright perspective as the premier platform for dialogue on security cooperation in SEE, having been tailored for the needs of a region which was, and still is, undergoing dynamic security

changes. RACVIAC, as have most organizations throughout the SEE region, has been working within a constantly changing context,



which has consequently required different approaches and solutions. From the original mission of stabilizing the SEE region, RACVIAC has subsequently had to expand its efforts and cooperation processes on a broad spectrum of security issues, while currently the Euro-Atlantic integration poses the most important challenge ahead of us. Our proactive approach has always enabled us to adequately respond to the needs of beneficiaries and transformed political and security situation, a fact which gives us the right to assure you that RACVIAC will continue to sustain its excellent organizational capabilities developed over the years and serve the best interests of SEE countries also in the future. ■



RACVIAC Partners

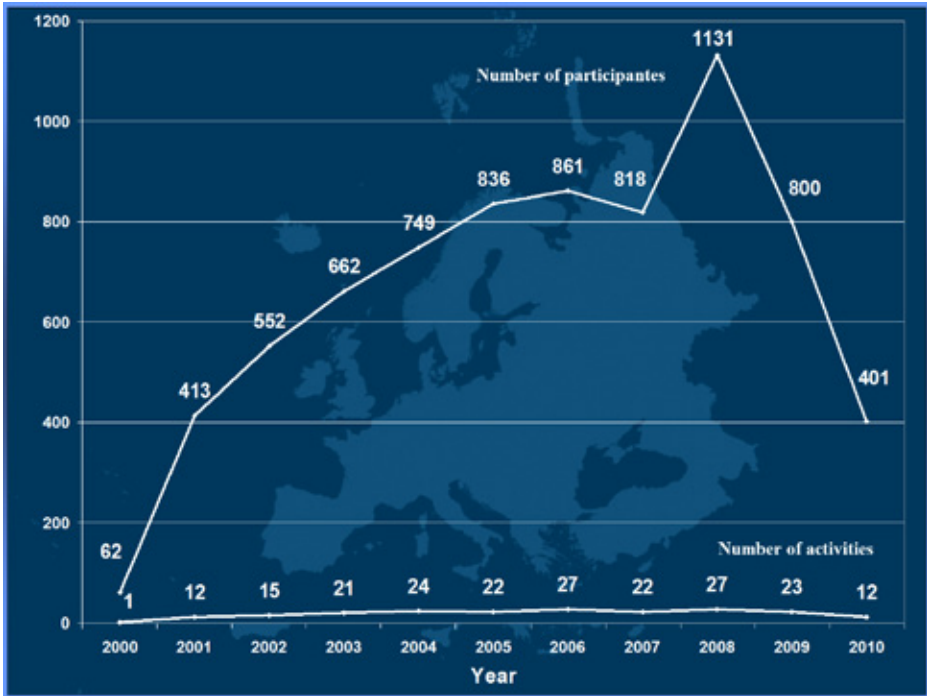


RACVIAC takes this opportunity to express gratitude and most sincere appreciation to all our partners: regional and international governmental and non-governmental organisations and institutions, verification centres, national ministries (MoD, MFA, MoI etc.) and academic organizations, for the outstanding and very considerable ongoing support, generous contributions and willingness to cooperate.



Signing MoU between NATO School Oberammergau, Rakitje, Croatia, 19 May 2009

Activity Statistics



The fact that RACVIAC hosted 7,285 participants and lecturers in over 230 activities by October 2010, gives us the right to proudly declare our readiness to meet new challenges in contributing to the security cooperation of Southeastern Europe.

10 more activities will be conducted by the end of year 2010.

Berlin conference on the Destruction of Cluster Munitions, Rakitje, Croatia, 24 - 26 March 2009



The steering mechanism responsible for RACVIAC is the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG). MAG is composed of representatives from core countries, associate countries and observers.

RACVIAC - Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre

RACVIAC is Composed Of Representatives From Core Countries, Associate Countries (25 all together at the moment) And 5 Observers.

Core Members are all countries of South Eastern Europe Cooperative Process (SEEC members) – 11 countries.

Associate Members are all other countries wishing to support and contribute to security dialogue and cooperation in South East Europe – 14 countries.

Observers are other countries, institutions or organizations, which may participate in RACVIAC activities as Observers after approval by the MAG - 5 countries.

Besides them, Belgium, Ireland, Latvia and Switzerland have also expressed their interest in RACVIAC's work.

RACVIAC Directors

Colonel Nikola Nogolica 02 October 2000 – 30 September 2002

Brigadier General Johann Pucher 30 September 2002 – 30 September 2004

Major General Stergios Papotis 02 October 2004 – 11 October 2007

Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić 11 October 2007 – 15 October 2009

Ambassador Nikola Todorčevski, 15 October 2009 -

RACVIAC Chies of Staff / Deputy Director

Colonel Burkhard Thomaschewski 10 October 2000 – 27 September 2002

Colonel Željko Akrap, 27 September 2002 – 30 April 2005

Colonel Rajko Dumančić, 01 May 2005 – 15 July 2007

Colonel Vladimir Superina, 15 July 2007 – 02 July 2008

Colonel Tomislav Vibovec, 31 July 2009 – 31 July 2009

Colonel Željko Capanec, 01 August 2009 -

MAG meetings

1 st MAG Meeting	20 September 2000, Zagreb, Croatia
2 nd MAG Meeting	22-23 February 2001, Zagreb, Croatia
3 rd MAG Meeting	10 May 2001, Budapest, Hungary
4 th MAG Meeting	03 September 2001, RACVIAC, Croatia
5 th MAG Meeting	06-08 May 2002, Veszprém, Hungary
6 th MAG Meeting	17 September 2002, Bežanec, Croatia
7 th MAG Meeting	08 April 2002, Ljubljana, Slovenia
8 th MAG Meeting	22 September 2003, RACVIAC, Croatia
9 th MAG Meeting	19 April 2004, Ankara, Turkey
10 th MAG Meeting	13-15 September 2004, RACVIAC, Croatia
11 th MAG Meeting	17 April 2005, Bucharest, Romania
12 th MAG Meeting	05 July 2005, RACVIAC, Croatia
13 th MAG Meeting	18 October 2005, RACVIAC, Croatia
14 th MAG Meeting	02 April 2006, Belgrade, Serbia
15 th MAG Meeting	04 October 2006, RACVIAC, Croatia
16 th MAG Meeting	19 April 2007, Sofia, Bulgaria
17 th MAG Meeting	26 June 2007, RACVIAC, Croatia
18 th MAG Meeting	04-05 October 2007, RACVIAC, Croatia
19 th MAG Meeting	09-11 April 2008, Chisinau, Moldova
20 th MAG Meeting	30-31 October 2008, RACVIAC, Croatia
21 st MAG Meeting	19-20 March 2009, RACVIAC, Croatia
22 nd MAG Meeting	05-06 October 2009, RACVIAC, Croatia
23 rd MAG Meeting	3-15 April 2010, Bečići, Budva, Montenegro

Photo Gallery



Opening ceremony, RACVIAC,
20 October 2000

Participants on first seminar,
Zagreb, Croatia, 25 October 2000



First Open Skies activity, Rakitje, Croatia,
12. November 2001

Visit of German and Croatian defence
ministers, Rakitje, Croatia, 24 October 2001



Photo Gallery

Visit of Dr Erhard Busek,
Rakitje, Croatia, 25 February 2004



First meeting of defence ministers of Bosnia
and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro,
Mr Prvoslav Davinić and
Mr Nikola Radovanović
Rakitje, Croatia, 25 May 2004,



RACVIAC 5th Anniversary Press Conference,
Rakitje, Croatia, 20 October 2005



Visit of General Winfried Mertens,
Rakitje, Croatia, 20 June 2007

Photo Gallery



Adapted CFE Treaty Orientation course,
Airbase Zagreb - Pleso,
Croatia, 20 November 2008

Ambassador Willem F. van Eekelen,
lecturer on Parliamentary Oversight over
Security Sector,
Rakitje, Croatia, 13 November 2008



Security System Reform and Euro - Atlantic
Integration: "STARLINK" Advanced course for
South East Europe,
Rakitje, Croatia, 22 March 2010

Dayton Article IV course,
Petrinja, Croatia, 6 May 2010



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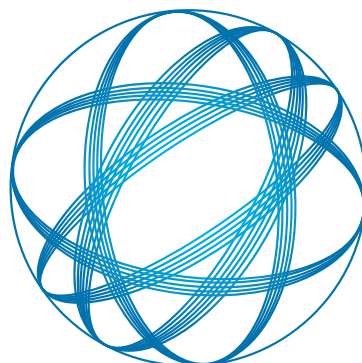
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10th Anniversary



Centre for Security Cooperation

