



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

# NEWSLETTER

## LIVE ACTIVITIES KICK OFF AFRESH IN RACVIAC



**GENDER TRAINING OF THE TRAINERS COURSE**

**C-WMD PHASE 2-PROJECT — MULTINATIONAL TABLE TOP EXERCISE**

**STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE AND CAPACITIES OF  
FLOODS PROTECTION AND RESPONSE STAKEHOLDERS -  
GOOD PRACTICES AND DEVELOPMENT**



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**CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION**

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## Family day in RACVIAC



A Family day was held on our premises in Rakitje on July 9, 2021. The children of RACVIAC staff were introduced to the work of RACVIAC, got acquainted with the environment in which their parents work and enjoyed an organized "Treasure Hunt" game. The event ended with a joint lunch at "Pleter" restaurant. We are thankful to our friends from "Josip Briški" International Military Operations Centre for a short but very professional military demonstration exercise! ●

## Mr Ruadhiri Dowling, Ambassador of Ireland, visits RACVIAC



*From left to right: MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director and H.E. Mr Ruadhiri Dowling, Ambassador of Ireland*

On 27th July 2021 H.E. Mr Ruadhiri Dowling, Ambassador of Ireland, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

H.E. Mr Ruadhiri Dowling presented his credentials in September 2020, becoming the third resident Irish Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia. Ambassador Dowling joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1998 and has served in Australia, Greece, and Ireland's Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels.

RACVIAC Director MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo welcomed the distinguished guest. In a very open and friendly atmosphere several questions related to RACVIAC Programme of Activities and some ongoing and future projects were discussed. The work, history, overview, structure, mission and tasks of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation were presented to H.E. Mr Ruadhiri Dowling and the two parties exchanged ideas for possible future cooperation.

In particular, Mr Dowling was interested in the activities, planning processes, challenges, level of content and offer of Courses, Conferences, Symposiums, Meetings, Workshops and TTEX in RACVIAC.

MG (ret.) Bazo also took the opportunity to explain all questions in detail, and he emphasized that RACVIAC serves as a leading platform for regional cooperation and networking. As it is a unique international organization – owned by the region and working for region – MG (ret.) Bazo introduced H.E. Mr Ruadhiri Dowling to the role of MAG, RACVIAC flagship activities and ended by expressing expectations for possible future joint cooperation.

H.E. Dowling thanked for the hospitality and expressed his willingness to collaborate on future projects. ●



## RACVIAC delegation visits HQ SEEBRIG

On 26th and 27th August 2021 Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, paid a two-day visit to HQ SEEBRIG (the South-Eastern Europe Brigade) in Kumanovo, North Macedonia. He was accompanied by Colonel Gerhard Schweiger, Planning & Liaison Officer for Western Europe & International Organisations.

The purpose of this visit was to represent RACVIAC at the official Handover-Takeover (HO-TO) ceremony of the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM)/Political Military Steering Committee (PMSC) Chairmanship from Albania to Bulgaria and to hold bilateral talks with HQ SEEBRIG to boost the already existing mutual relationship.

The official HO – TO ceremony and the 22nd Anniversary Ceremony of HQ SEEBRIG were held according to the planned programme. Representatives from all SEEBRIG Member Nations, dignitaries from Albania and Bulgaria as well as the accredited Defence Attachés to North Macedonia took part in the ceremony which was held at the “Boro Menkov Barracks”.

The bilateral meeting was held in an open-minded and frank atmosphere. The discussions during the meeting concerned the programmes of the last trimester 2021 and all activities planned for 2022. For further, more effective cooperation, permanent direct contact via the Planning and Liaison Officer for SEE, should be fostered. ●



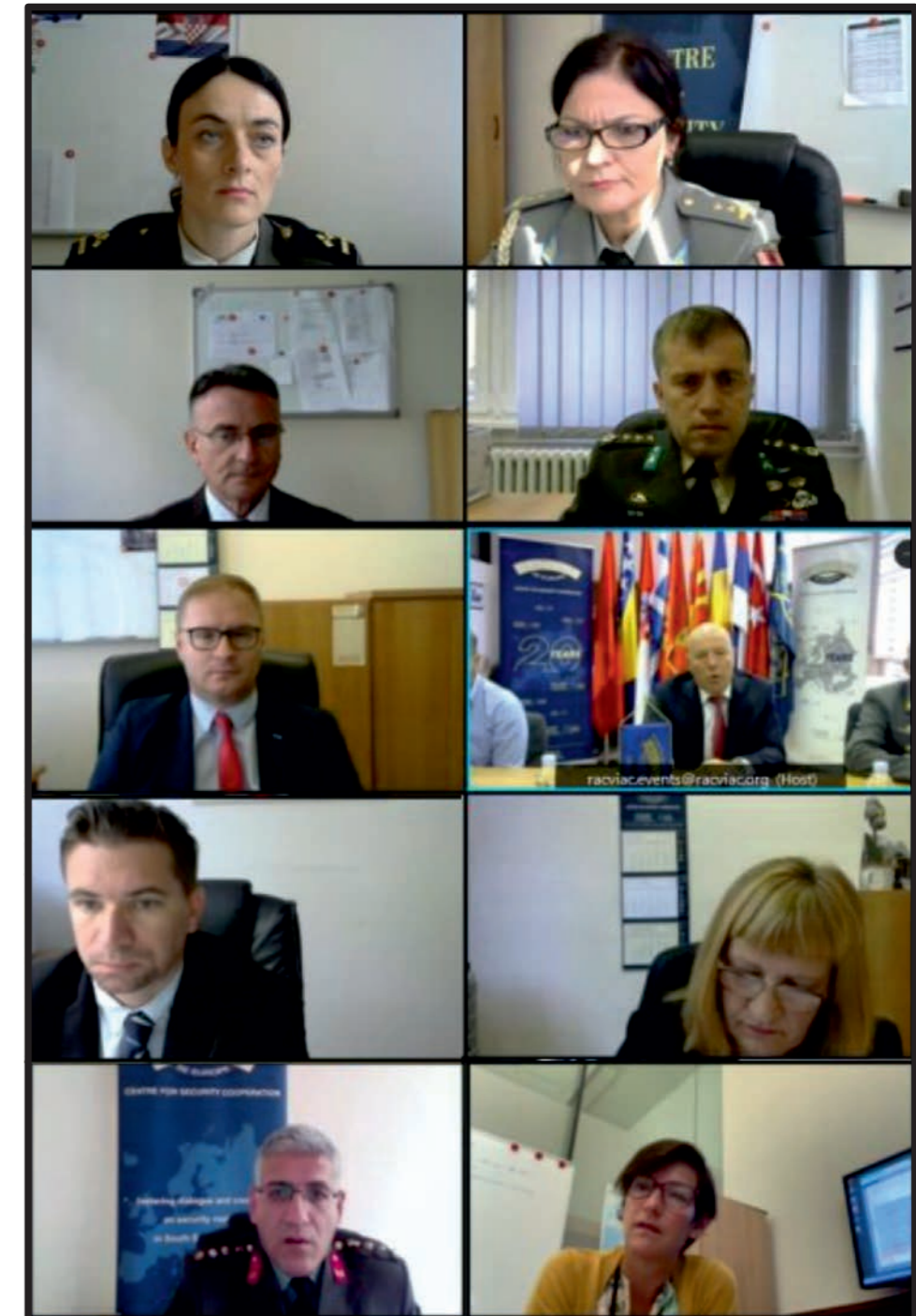
From left to right: BG Aristeidis Iliopoulos, SEEBRIG Commander and MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director

## VTC meeting with the Head of Arms Control Office, Operations Department, Defence Staff Norway

On September 1st, 2021 RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation had a virtual meeting with the Head of Arms Control Office, Operations Department, Defence Staff Norway (Oslo) who addressed RACVIAC with an offer to explore further ways of cooperating with and supporting RACVIAC.

MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director, warmly welcomed the Norwegian team headed by Ms Ragnhild Hustad with the following words: *“It is a pleasure, it is a privilege to welcome you back, we warmly welcome your cooperation with us.”*

Ms Ragnhild Hustad thanked for the kind words and introduced her team participating in the meeting. She also mentioned their willingness to collaborate on individual projects that would be of common interest for both sides. During the meeting and while presenting RACVIAC mission and projects, it was found out that there are many areas where the interests of the Head of Arms Control Office, Operations Department, Defence Staff Norway intersect with the interests of RACVIAC. Both sides have expressed a desire to cooperate on projects in 2022, and future communication will define more specific areas of cooperation. ●





## Visit of prof. Heinrich Kreft and a group of students from Andrassy University, Budapest



Prof. Heinrich Kreft, PhD, Head of the Chair of Diplomacy, Andrassy University

On 1 September 2021 RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation warmly hosted a group of students from the Chair of Diplomacy and Chair of Political Sciences at Andrassy University, Budapest, headed by Prof. Heinrich Kraft, PhD, Head of the Chair of Diplomacy.

They were introduced to the work of RACVIAC as an international organization as well as its structure, mission and organizations it cooperates with. The students took

the opportunity to raise many questions related to RACVIAC Programme 2022. Furthermore, they were very interested to hear about the history of the Organization and the current situation in South East Europe. MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director, kindly offered answers to all the questions that were posed.

RACVIAC management and staff are grateful to Prof. Heinrich Kraft, PhD and his students for choosing us as one of their destinations on their study trip and we look forward to some future joint encounters. ●



## A visit of the representatives of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

It was a great pleasure to receive Dr. Johannes Gold, Desk Officer for Western Balkans/Southeast Europe at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Mr Holger Heibach, Head

of KAS Office Croatia and Slovenia and Ms Anita Šakić, Project Coordinator at KAS Office Croatia and Slovenia in RACVIAC on 2 September 2021.



From left to right: Dr. Johannes Gold, Desk Officer for Western Balkans/Southeast Europe, KAS, Mr Holger Heibach, Head of KAS Office Croatia and Slovenia, Ms Anita Šakić, Project Coordinator, KAS Office Croatia and Slovenia and MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director

RACVIAC Director warmly welcomed the distinguished delegation. The main topic of the meeting held in RACVIAC was cooperation between RACVIAC and KAS and the current challenges facing South East Europe. ●

## Dean of Academics of Turkish PfP Training Center pays a visit to RACVIAC

Dean of Academics of the Turkish Partnership for Peace (PfP) Training Center paid a courtesy visit to the RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo. COL Önalán took part in the "Gender Training of the Trainers Course" as a Course instructor and a Syndicate leader from 3rd to 17th September. They shared mutual willingness regarding possible future cooperation between Turkish PfP Training Center and RACVIAC. ●



From left to right: MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director and COL Okan Önalán, Dean of Academics of the Turkish PfP Training Center

## Visit of German Defence Attaché

On Friday, September 3rd, 2021, the German Defence Attaché, LTC Guido Altendorf, paid an inaugural visit to RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. He was received by RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo and Deputy Director, MG Slaven Zdilar.

Mr Bazo took the opportunity to express his appreciation on behalf of the Organization for the constant and

invaluable contribution and support that Germany, as an Associate Member, has been providing to RACVIAC since its inception in terms of finances, expertise and overall support.

LTC Altendorf expressed his appreciation for RACVIAC contribution to security of the SEE region as a whole. ●



From left to right: MG Slaven Zdilar, RACVIAC Deputy Director, LTC Guido Altendorf, German Defence Attaché and MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director



## Visit of the representatives of RACVIAC to USA



From left to right: Mr David L. Musgrave, Defense Threat Reduction Agency and MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director

A RACVIAC delegation consisting of MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, Director, COL Öztürk, CSE Pillar Programme Manager, and Mr Josip Mandić, C-WMD Leader, paid a visit from 6th to 10th September 2021 to the USA. The purpose of the visit was to solidify and enhance the longterm cooperation between the U.S. Government and RACVIAC in achieving broader C-WMD cooperation in SEE as well as to explore cooperation opportunities in conducting Arms Control activities.

During the first day RACVIAC delegation was welcomed by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) acting Director Dr. Rhys M. Williams and DTRA SES members, Dr Robert Pope and Mr David L. Musgrave, with whose teams it discussed topics such as the elimination of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials, prevention of the spread of especially dangerous diseases and the fulfilment of Arms Control treaties obligations.

In the afternoon hours the Department of State (DoS) delegation joined the RACVIAC and DTRA team to engage in discussions on global contemporary C-WMD challenges with a focus on SEE and the existing and future regional cooperation in the C-WMD field. Special emphasis was put on the need to build effective national strategic trade control systems in SEE countries to help establish a global WMD detection architecture. On the second day RACVIAC team visited FBI HQ where they met with the representatives of WMD Directorate to explore enhanced future cooperation. The two sides discussed a number of WMD topics such as WMD Cybercrime, Counterproliferation Finance, International Dual Use Investigations and International Bio Terrorism. RACVIAC Director took the opportunity to thank the FBI personnel

for their previous generous involvements in RACVIAC. FBI experts pledged their future involvement in RACVIAC activities.

After the meeting in the FBI RACVIAC delegation had a working lunch with Allison Johnston, Director of the Office of International Security at the National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy. During lunch RACVIAC team engaged in dialogue on joint plans to implement various nuclear security training activities in 2022 for RACVIAC C-WMD Network participants, including best practices and technical exchanges. Further joint cooperation with IAEA was also welcomed.

During the morning of the third day RACVIAC delegation had a very valuable meeting with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Counter-proliferation Boston Unit, on prospects of future WMD counter proliferation cooperation between RACVIAC and DHS. In the afternoon hours, RACVIAC delegation was honoured to be welcomed by Honorable Judge Richard G. Stearns at the U. S. District Court, District of Massachusetts. After a short debate on the importance of the rule of law RACVIAC Director thanked Honorable Judge Stearns for long-term cooperation and the knowledge he has cascaded to the SEE region through RACVIAC.

On the last day of the USA visit RACVIAC Director delivered a speech at Boston College on the topic of Regional Cooperation and Euro-Atlantic Integration to a group of senior international students. After the speech there was productive feedback from the audience and MG (ret.) Bazo and Honorable Judge Stearns answered many interesting and mind-provoking questions posed by the students. ●



DTRA Hosts and RACVIAC Delegation

## RACVIAC representative participated in the 45<sup>th</sup> SEDM-CC and 46<sup>th</sup> PMSC Meetings

RACVIAC representative, LTC Arta Driza, Planning & Liaison Officer for SEE, participated in the 46th Political Military Steering Committee (PMSC) and the 45th South-Eastern Europe Defense Ministerial Coordination Committee (SEDM-CC) Meetings which were held on 15-16 September 2021 in Sofia, BG.

The main objective of the SEDM process is to strength understanding and politico-military cooperation in the region in order to enhance the stability and security in SEE. Furthermore, such initiatives serve the purpose of exchanging information and exploring the needs for closer cooperation at the regional, and, broader international levels, increasing interoperability and collaboration between NATO, EU and PfP countries.

The main aim of LTC Driza's participation in the meetings was to update RACVIAC on the current developments regarding the security situation in the region and to discuss issues of

common interest in support of RACVIAC mission in strengthening its role when it comes to cooperation and dialogue on security issues in the region and beyond.

Regional security cooperation serves as a strong response to today's challenges to regional and international foreign and security policies leading to building of confidence and security among the countries. On behalf of RACVIAC – Center for Security Cooperation, LTC Driza expressed willingness to support SEEDM in meeting future challenges when it comes to enhancement of security. She also highlighted some RACVIAC activities that reflect and address the latest threats in the region with the intention to continue intensifying SEDM-RACVIAC cooperation to overcome the current security challenges and help all members achieve a comprehensive solution to these challenges.

The next meetings of PMSC and SEDM-CC will be held in Bulgaria in March 2022. ●



Group Photo



## RACVIAC Meeting with the Verification Centre



VERC Hosts and RACVIAC Delegation

A meeting of RACVIAC representatives and their counterparts in the Verification Centre of Slovenian Armed Forces (VERC) was held in Šmajerske Toplice, SI on 16th September 2021. RACVIAC representatives were Col Deniz

Öztürk, Programme Manager in CSE Pillar, CPT Levente Toth, Activity Manager in CSE Pillar and Mr Predrag Omrčen, Activity Coordinator in CSE Pillar.

The aim of the meeting was to establish and develop close cooperation of the two Centres in order to facilitate support of RACVIAC planned activities. The meeting was held upon the invitation of the Slovenian Armed Forces and the expressed intention to support the practical part of the Vienna Document Course 2022.

The representatives of VERC held a presentation on the mission, structure and challenges of their Organization. COL Öztürk presented the draft of RACVIAC Programme 2022 expressing the possibility of Slovenian participation and emphasized the intention to cooperate more closely in other areas.

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere and both sides fully embraced further cooperation and have agreed to organize future meetings required to pin down areas of closer cooperation. ●

## Inaugural visit of Canadian Defence Attaché to RACVIAC

On Thursday, September 23, 2021, the Canadian Defence Attaché, Captain (N) André Boisjoli, paid an inaugural visit to RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. He was received by RACVIAC Deputy Director, Major General Slaven Zdilar. During the meeting they mentioned former support of Canada to our Organization and discussed possibilities for future cooperation. ●



From left to right:  
CPT (N) André Boisjoli, Canadian Defence Attaché and  
MG Slaven Zdilar, RACVIAC Deputy Director

## Gender Training of the Trainers Course

6-17 September 2021

From 6th to 16th September 2021 RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation together with the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM) and the Personnel Department of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia co-organized the “Gender Training of the Trainers Course (GToT)”.



*The GToT Course was a 10-day training event designed as a combination of lectures, corresponding individual and syndicate work, followed by a practical exercise and the final exam.*

Hence they arrived with a common level of knowledge about the subject matter.

This year the Course continued to grow in terms of the regionally-owned aspect: the Course Director was COL Fahir Žilić, BA, and most of the syndicate leaders and instructors came from the SEE region, while one syndicate leader was a representative of the Swedish Armed Forces and the other of the Portuguese Armed Forces.

Opening the Course RACVIAC Deputy Director, MG Slaven Zdilar, said: “This event is a continuation of a series of annual activities launched in 2013, aimed at promotion of gender equality policies and equal opportunities in the security sector. This being the 7th Course organised by RACVIAC so far certainly shows RACVIAC relevance as a regional hub for gender mainstreaming in the South East European region.” MG Zdilar pointed out that recent events in Afghanistan have shown that the integration of the gender perspective still is, and in the years to come, will be,



Welcome Address by MG Slaven Zdilar, RACVIAC Deputy Director

The importance of the gender aspect in military operations had prompted NATO, as well as other national and multinational defence organisations to address, regulate and implement the integration of the gender perspective, both on the duty level and on the level of participation in Peace Support Operations (PSO). According to the Review of the Practical Implications of UNSCR 1325 for the Conduct of NATO-led Operations and Missions (2013) a very important recommendation to NATO and all current and future operational partner nations is to “train trainers on UNSCR 1325 and gender mainstreaming, with the objective of supporting on-the-job training”.

Prior to their arrival the students were obliged to complete the NATO “ADL 169” online Course, “Improving Operational Effectiveness by Integrating the Gender Perspective”.



Course opening

a valuable tool in the toolbox that a commander has in order to successfully accomplish a mission.



Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM) Commander, LTC Peter Östman, also greeted the Course participants. He wished them luck and referred to the long-standing cooperation of RACVIAC and NCGM via a video call, taking the opportunity to congratulate RACVIAC on its 20th anniversary.



Practical Outdoor Exercise – Role Playing Training

During the academic part the students were introduced to the gender-related terms and definitions and the basics of training assessment tools, instructional strategies and techniques. Furthermore, the syndicate system of work was presented and the four syndicates themselves were established (a syndicate set-up). From the very beginning the students were encouraged to be open and actively contribute to joint work primarily as members of a designated group – a syndicate.

The first week of the Course was dedicated to the gender-related terms and definitions, the basics of training assessment tools, instructional strategies and techniques, NATO Bi-SC Directive 40-1, the international humanitarian law and human rights, UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security and related Resolutions. The students also learned how to identify the gender perspective as a tool in the Commander's operational tool kit and to apply the gender perspective at the strategic, operational and tactical level in military tasks.

The first Course day ended with the Team building event which was designed to support the Course objectives and had the primary purpose of facilitating the students' informal introduction, initial syndicate bonding and creation of the positive competitive spirit among the syndicates.

The final day of week one of the Course a "Project Work Day" was held. The aim of "Project Work Day" is to plan education, training or an exercise that integrates a gender perspective. Instead of having lectures students were working on project-planning education, training or exercises for different training audiences at different levels from the tactical to the operational and strategic level. The first Course day ended with the Team building

event which was designed to support the Course objectives and had the primary purpose of facilitating the students' informal introduction, initial syndicate bonding and creation of the positive competitive spirit among the syndicates.

On Saturday, "Gender Training for the Trainers Course" participants and their instructors had the opportunity to enjoy the beauties of the Plitvice Lakes National Park, and on Sunday a tour of the city of Zagreb as a part of teambuilding programme.

The second week of the Course was dedicated to essential required teaching skills like conducting the learning assessment, making a good presentation, integrating gender into already existing education and training and handling resistance in training situations. Additionally, students worked in syndicates on extraction of the main provisions of national Action plans or MoD-related policy regarding UNSC Resolution on Women, Peace and Security.

The key event was the practical outdoor exercise on how to use role playing in gender integrated training, which was held during day six. This type of exercise facilitates an active understanding of the information and gives participants the opportunity to apply new skills and abilities. The simulation serves as a rehearsal on how to conduct future activities.



Group Photo - Field Trip to National Park "Plitvice Lakes"

On day eight the schedule included the time dedicated for the final exam preparations that were supported by the syndicate leaders and instructors. This was the pinnacle of the Course efforts from the students' side after which the final exam and graduation day came.

During the last day of the Course a final assessment also took place and involved all Course actors. All students succeeded in their final exam thus confirming their qualities as instructors and professionalism.

The engagement of an instructor/mentor from NCGM and Swedish and Portuguese Armed Forces gave a new dimension to the whole event thus additionally expanding the Course's reach beyond SEE. This particular RACVIAC training activity is an excellent example of the level of cooperation and synergy achieved among the three main organizational partners in utilizing mutual resources and support.

*RACVIAC will continue to maintain an international environment and involvement of the key partner organizations (NCGM, CAF GS) in the future as well.*

On 16th September 2021 graduation day was held. All students succeeded in their final exam thus confirming their qualities as instructors and professionalism. During the last day of the Course a final assessment took place and involved all Course actors.



Syndicate work

The official part of the Course was concluded with a Closing ceremony attended by RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, NCGM Commander, LTC Peter Östman (via video call) and Croatian Ministry of Defence representative, COL Boženko Đevoić. MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director, closed the GToT Course with the following words: „During these two, quite demanding weeks we have witnessed how complete strangers became very



Closing Ceremony, from left to right: MG (ret) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director, LTC Peter Östman (video call), LCDR Matz Palm, COL Fahir Žilić and Col Boženko Đevoić



Graduation day, awarding of certificates

*good colleagues, and, I would even dare say, good friends. This is exactly what we were hoping to see here in RACVIAC again. Your openness and willingness to actively participate in all assignments and practical exercises conducted by highly skilled and capable gender instructors was crucial for the success of this Course.*“ He especially thanked the Course Director, COL Fahir Žilić, who tailored this Course to RACVIAC needs perfectly. Furthermore, he used this opportunity to thank RACVIAC long-standing partners in this activity, Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations – NCGM and the Croatian Armed Forces, for their continuous support.

This two-week Course prepared instructors and trainers to successfully plan, conduct and evaluate education, training and exercises on how to integrate the gender perspective within their own respective functional area.

Additionally, the Course provided participants with the knowledge of frameworks and guidelines in regulating gender in military operations as well as skills and competencies required to effectively plan, conduct and evaluate the training of security sector personnel in both the national and international context.

In total 35 participants, military officers and NCOs as well as civilian equivalents from Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia including Subject Matter Experts and instructors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, North Macedonia, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey and RACVIAC staff, took part in the Course. Out of this number 21 were Course students while the rest were involved in the Course execution as academic, administrative or support personnel. ●

*This is the longest and also the most demanding RACVIAC activity in terms of the instructing staff involved and the level of applied IT support.*



# C-WMD Phase 2-Project - Multinational Table Top Exercise

27-29 September 2021

From 27 to 29 September 2021 in Hotel „Dubrovnik“ and Institute Ruđer Bošković in Zagreb RACVIAC C-WMD Network organized its first in-person activity in 2021 in cooperation with the US European Command (USEUCOM), Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), European Space Agency (ESA) and the Republic of Croatia. The aim of this three-day activity was to provide facilitated discussion and case study tutorial on four C-WMD projects.



USA, and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense.

During his Opening speech MG Bazo underlined: „Your continued personal commitment to the project has made RACVIAC C-WMD Network a real success. I would like to encourage you to continue with the same enthusiasm and dedication you have exhibited since the first Workshop. This event allows us to “scan the horizon” for threats and to explore ways of finding common solutions to counter proliferation. We look forward to working together with you during the next few days and we wish you a pleasant stay in Hotel „Dubrovnik“ and city of Zagreb.“ He also stressed the



Opening Remarks by MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director



The main objectives of this activity were to discuss development of four C-WMD Phase 2-Projects, to exercise regional cooperation through the RACVIAC C-WMD portal, to peer review progress in the development of C-WMD national strategies and to support the execution of national table top exercises.

The Opening Remarks on 27 September morning were given by MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director, and Dr. Charles J. Ball, Associate Chief of Staff at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, CA,

importance of conducting live activities, which we have all been deprived of for the past 18 months, and encouraged participants to be active, not to be shy and to share their comments and opinions.

Dr. Ball, on the other side, emphasized: „The Table Top Exercise affords us an opportunity, in a more realistic and concrete way, to identify our gaps as well as our strengths and to determine ways that we can do things better and toward very practical effect and operational capabilities.“



Opening Remarks by Dr. Charles J. Ball, Associate Chief of Staff at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, CA, USA

The first day of the activity was dedicated to the Regional Risk Atlas project led by North Macedonia, with presentations and discussions on topics such as Nuclear Risk Assessment and Risk Methodology, Risk Atlas Data Fusion and Platforms, Platform case Studies, etc.

During the second day of the activity a Table Top

Exercise was held at the Ruđer Bošković Institute, the largest scientific institute in Croatia, on WMD proliferation risks connected with scientific research with focus on Insider Threats and Cyber Threats. This TTX was a part of C-WMD Network „Dual use and Emerging Technologies“ project which aims to reach out to academia, scientific and industry communities and raise awareness of the need to safeguard the integrity of emerging dual use technologies.

The last day of „C-WMD Phase 2-Project – Multinational Table Top Exercise“ was focused on „Syn Biology“ and possible misuse of such technology. The Phase 2-Project was lead by Romania.

The activity gathered more than 40 participants from 11 countries.

It can be concluded that the activity accomplished all of the projected aims and objectives. The intention to peer review progress in the development of C-WMD national strategies as well as exercise regional cooperation through the RACVIAC C-WMD portal was successfully carried out. Furthermore, the importance of enhanced regional cooperation, in the fields of contemporary WMD proliferation challenges, which will be realized through four (4) launched C-WMD projects, was emphasized. Finally, a tentative agreement was reached to sign the MOU between ESA and RACVIAC to enhance the already existing cooperation. ●



Group Photo



Workshop/Demonstration Exercise

# “Strengthening Resilience and Capacities of Floods Protection and Response Stakeholders - Good Practices and Development”

11 May 2021

RACVIAC, together with the Croatian Ministry of Interior, Civil Protection Directorate, organized a hybrid Workshop/Demonstration Exercise, “Strengthening Resilience and Capacities of Floods Protection and Response Stakeholders – Good Practices and Development” on 28-29 September 2021. In RACVIAC yearly calendar of events related to Crisis Disaster Management – Natural Disasters floods present a thematic field that in this event was interlinked with EU project DAREnet, and coordinated by German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW).



Opening Remarks by MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director

Special focus of the Workshop was to exchange information regarding the standard and innovative practices, and development of national flood defence systems.

The Workshop participants were the representatives of the relevant ministries and agencies from the following countries: Republic of Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Republic of Croatia (18), Montenegro (3), North Macedonia (3), Kosovo (2) and, online, Kingdom of Belgium (1), Federal Republic of Germany (1) and Republic of Serbia (1).

Opening the Workshop MG (ret) Jeronim Bazo, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, said: “ Taking into consideration the importance of an efficient floods management system we saw this Workshop/Demonstration Exercise as an excellent opportunity for the further development of regional cooperation in this area through the exchange of information and sharing of the lessons learned and best practices, which is in accordance with RACVIAC mission of fostering dialogue and cooperation on security matters in SE Europe.”



Danube River Region Resilience Exchange network

The purpose of the 2021 Workshop was to present national Subject Matter Experts and decision-making officials with examples of highly successful real life floods prevention and protection systems, and to introduce the emergency response and disaster relief system in the Republic of Croatia.

The event focused on the main issues that the South-Eastern European countries are facing in the field of flood protection and response. The aim of the Workshop was to introduce the participants to present national Subject Matter Experts and their experiences in real life floods prevention and protection systems, and facilitate transfer of knowledge. In addition, the aim was to check the operational procedures of all participants in water rescue and flood defense.



From left to right: MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director and Mr Damir Trut, General Director, Civil Protection Directorate, Ministry of Interior

On behalf of the Croatian Ministry of Interior, Civil Protection Directorate, Mr. Damir Trut, PhD, Director General, in his Welcome address stressed that floods are becoming more frequent globally and at the national level and as such are recognized as a significant security risk. He added that the Civil Protection Directorate has first-hand experience that can be used to identify the needs and possible solutions for more effective prevention and response, which will be presented through a Workshop and Demonstration Exercise on the second day. He elaborated: “the exercise tomorrow will give us the opportunity to see in action the response phase if floods have not been prevented”, and concluded: „I hope we will never need the expertise we will see tomorrow“.

The first day included a series of presentations aimed at introducing participants to the different organizational aspects of the key elements of the disaster relief system with an emphasis on flood prevention and protection. The participants had an opportunity to listen to a presentation on floods management as a multidimensional challenge (Mr Primoz Banovec from the University of Ljubljana) and

about how the Croatian Mountain and Rescue Service operates (Rene Tonkli from The Croatian Mountain and Rescue Service). Furthermore, the Disaster management Working Group was presented by Mr. Zsolt Kelemen, Head of Budapest firefighters Association, then, Transnational cooperation for effective disaster risk management at the Sava River Basin Commission in the presentation “Exchange of meteorological and hydrological data for the effective flood forecasting” by Mr. Mirza Sarac from the Sava River Basin Commission as well as “Floods and Floods Defence in Croatia” (Mr. Danko Biondic from Hrvatske vode). The afternoon sessions continued with online presentations by Mr. Ronald Nippold from DLR - Germany Research Center, who held a presentation on Standards and Procedures.

The second day was reserved for the Demonstration Exercise and was an opportunity for the participants of the Workshop to observe a Demonstration Exercise at Lake Rakitje. The Exercise was conducted by simulating a rupture of the embankment caused by a large water wave with the aim of showcasing and checking the training and readiness



Demonstration Exercise, Rakitje Lakes





Demonstration Exercise, Rakitje Lakes

of operational forces and participants in the civil protection system. The Exercise was conducted by members of the Civil Protection Directorate, the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service, the Croatian Fire Brigade, the Croatian Institute of Emergency Medicine, the Croatian Red Cross and Rakitje Firefighters' Association, who all showed what the operational actions and procedures in such a situation are and displayed mutual cooperation, coordination and speed in exchange of relevant information.

*The Workshop gathered 32 civilian and military officials at a decision-making level and experts representing relevant national institutions dealing with flood-protection related issues.*

This event was an excellent example of sharing of best practices and lessons learned and introduced concrete solutions and measures aimed to minimize the threats caused by floods. It was very well organized due to excellent cooperation and relations between RACVIAC and the Croatian authorities. ●



Opening Remarks by Mr Damir Trut, General Director, Civil Protection Directorate, Ministry of Interior



Group Photo



**Captain Levente Tóth** joined RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on July 1, 2021 as an Activity Manager in CSE Pillar. He graduated from the University of Law in 2007. He has been a member of the Hungarian Defence Forces since 2008. Since 2014 he has been serving as an officer at the Hungarian Ministry of Defence. He was assigned as legal officer, senior officer at the Deputy Secretary of State for Defence Economics and also senior officer at the Defence Policy Department. As a member of HDF, he participated as a legal advisor in one International EU Mission (EUTM Somalia). He is married and has one daughter. He likes traveling, playing sports and reading books.

**Lieutenant Colonel Arta Driza** joined RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on August 2, 2021 as the Planning and Liaison Officer for South East European Countries. She graduated from the Military Academy in Tirana, Republic of Albania and was commissioned as an active duty officer in the Albanian Armed Forces. She started her career as Platoon Commander and her last posting was as a Standardisation Officer in the Albanian Armed Forces. During her career she has attended and completed many career courses at the Military academy. She holds a Master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy. She participated in one International NATO Mission Operation (ALTHEA, EUFOR). She is a chess player with high results on the national and international level. She represented the Albanian national chess team (female) in eight World chess Olympiads from 1990 to 2018. She was awarded the Champion of Albania award in 2002. She is married and has two daughters and one son. She likes travelling, running and reading books.



**Lieutenant Colonel Marinko Romić** joined RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on August 1, 2021 as an Activity Manager in CTST Pillar. He graduated from the Faculty of Economy in BA. He joined the army in 1991 and was a member of the 2nd Guard Brigade, HVO. During his rich military career he worked on various positions such as Platoon Commander, Company Commander, Military Police Officer in JS AF of BA, Chief of office for general support in Joint Staff AF of BA, Infantry battalion commander, Deputy commander of JS for operation AF of BA, head of air space department AF of BA at MoD, and expert adviser for security and defense plans at MoD. He was a member of the Enduring Freedom mission in Kandahar. He is married and has a daughter. Marinko likes running, football and is a passionate Dinamo (Zagreb) fan.

**Ms Teuta Kajtazi** joined RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on September 28th, 2021 as an intern in the CTST – Countering Transnational Security Threats Pillar. She holds a Master's degree in Tourism Destination Management from a Dutch University. During her studies she discovered an increasing interest in international relations and diplomacy and took it a step further and enrolled into a Master's program of International Business and Economic Diplomacy with a specialization in International Economic Relations at an Austrian University. RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation was a perfect opportunity to put theory into practice and start developing in the field of international relations and diplomacy. In her free time she enjoys traveling, nature and reading.







RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo and Deputy Director, MG Slaven Zdilar, bid farewell to our colleague **LTC (ret.) Vesna Iveković** in July 2021. She joined RACVIAC on June 1, 2020 as a substitute English Language Specialist. It was a pleasure to work with her for one year. We are grateful for her friendship and professionalism and wish her all the best both privately and professionally!



After three and a half years of service as Activity Manager in CTST Pillar, **LTC Ivica Budimir** left RACVIAC in July 2021 to take up a new assignment in the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina. His professionalism, diplomatic demeanor and courtesy made him an indispensable asset to CTST Pillar and the Centre in general. During the time spent in RACVIAC LTC Budimir was also a very good colleague and friend to all of us, always ready to help and make us smile. We were pleased to work with him over the past few years and are very grateful for his noticeable contribution to the Centre. Thus, we would like to thank him and wish him all the best in his future career.



On June 8, 2021, RACVIAC staff bid farewell to our Hungarian colleague **Ms Beata Varga**. She worked as Activity Manager in Cooperative Security Environment Pillar for 5 years and was an indispensable asset to the Centre. We would like to thank her for her professionalism and friendship. We were pleased to work with her. Good luck Beata!



In July 2021 we attended a farewell party of our colleague, **Ms Kloalda Kamberi**, Planning & Liaison Officer, who ended her 5-year-long tour of duty in RACVIAC. We were pleased to work with her over the past few years and are very grateful for her marked contribution to the Centre and smooth planning of Programme activities. She was not only a good staff member but also a very helpful and courteous colleague to us all. She came as a colleague but left as a friend. We would like to thank Kloalda for her professional commitment and friendship and wish her all the best in her future career and private life too.





After 4 months of service in RACVIAC as an intern we bid farewell to **Ms Maja Jalšovec** who joined RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on March 15th, 2021. Maja holds a Master's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from 2020 and she recognized RACVIAC as an excellent international platform for gaining useful knowledge and skills for her future career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She would like to continue her educational specialization at Zagreb University, Faculty of Political Science. It has been a great pleasure to meet and work with her. Thank you, Maja, for helping each of us in our everyday tasks. We wish you all the best in both your future career and private life.



On September 30, 2021, after four years of service as Activity Manager in SSG Pillar, **Mr Boško Rotim** left RACVIAC to take up a new assignment in the Defence Policy Directorate of Croatian MoD. We are extremely grateful to him for his professionalism and good relationships he has continuously built and nurtured. Working with him was extremely easy and stress-free, and with his experience and ways of building good contact networks he contributed immensely to RACVIAC.

Boško, thank you very much for your great support and friendship and we know that you will excel in your new job. We wish you all the best for the future!

Cooperative Security Environment

No.	Topic / Title	Host/Venue	Date
1.	Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) - Orientation Course	HR	03-05 November 2021
2.	Vienna Document 2011 Course	HU	23-25 November 2021

C-WMD Network

No.	Topic/Title	Host/Venue	Date
1.	C-WMD Albanian Table-Top Exercise	AL	8-10 November 2021

Countering Transnational Security Threats

No.	Topic/Title	Host/Venue	Date
1.	Conference on Media, Terrorism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters	RACVIAC	23-24 November 2021
2.	CSDP Orientation Course	RACVIAC	06-09 December 2021

Security Sector Governance

No.	Topic/Title	Host/Venue	Date
1.	Strategic Communication Course	RACVIAC	19-21 October 2021
2.	Conference on Security Challenges for Europe	ZAGREB, HR	01-02 December 2021





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