



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Cooperative Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar

“Dayton Article IV Course”

26-31 March 2017

Rakitje, Croatia



Opening remarks, 1st working day

Introduction

On 26-31 March 2017 the “Dayton Article IV Course” was held in Rakitje, Republic of Croatia, which was hosted by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in accordance with RACVIAC Programme 2017. The Course was organized with the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany. The theoretical part was held on RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation premises while the practical part of the Course was held in two Croatian military barracks: ‘3. Gardijska Brigada KUNE’ barracks in Đakovo and ‘Našice’ barracks in

Našice. The Course was carried out in the official languages of the Parties to the Agreement. During both the theoretical and practical part simultaneous translation into English was provided.

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

The Course objectives were:

- To inform and educate the participants about the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Accords), with a particular focus on the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, Protocol on Inspection.

- To train the participants in the roles of inspectors and escorts within the framework of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control.

The Course was attended by thirty seven participants, lecturers, and speakers from Bosnia and Herzegovina (4), Republic of Croatia (3), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*(1), Montenegro (3), Republic of Serbia (2), Republic of Slovenia (2), Republic of Turkey (1), Kosovo** (3), Italian Republic (1), French Republic (1), and RACVIAC staff (6). They represented the relevant ministries and agencies, as well as the regional Verification Centres involved in the Arms Control Regime of Dayton Article IV.

The Course was opened by the Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Haydar Berk, after which the MFA representatives of all signatory countries and the OSCE presented national views on the development of the Agreement and introduced the Chapters of the Agreement. As a conclusion to the first day's introductory part each Course participant introduced himself/herself shortly to highlight experiences, comments, and expectations regarding the Dayton Article IV Agreement and the ensuing Course. The Course was conducted with the assistance of five lecturers, coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Republic of Croatia (2), Federal Republic of Germany (1), Montenegro (2), Republic of Serbia (2), and the OSCE (1).

The Course lasted 4 days and consisted of a theoretical and a practical part, with a debriefing at the end of the practical part. Participants from Kosovo** took part in the theoretical part of the Course.

The practical part was conducted in two parts. In the first part 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 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.

Execution

The first working day of the Course started on Monday, 27th March with the Opening remarks of H.E. Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC. He pointed out that this Course represents one of the most important annual activities of the Organization, since it evidently makes a significant contribution to regional stability, transparency and trust. The Welcome address was followed by speeches given by the representatives of the signatory countries: Mr. Momir Brajić, Head of Department for NATO and PfP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Igor Kuželka, Minister counsellor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Milovan Lučić, 1st Secretary in the Embassy of Montenegro to the Republic of Croatia, and Mr. Ivica Škrinjarić of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia.

They gave national views on the history and development of the Agreement and outlined the path each country has taken in the process thus promoting the establishment of confidence and strengthening the security building measures in the region. Although it was a difficult and turbulent process, the Signatory countries are now the owners of the Agreement and stand ready to share their experience and lessons learned with other countries and regions.

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



Practical part, Đakovo

During the theoretical part of the Course the participants were presented with the following topics:

- Presentation on the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Accords) and a detailed analysis of Article IV of the Agreement, Protocols on Reduction and Inspection as well as the POET.
- Preparation of a training inspection on a declared site and practical advice about inspection and/or escort duties.



Counting the armaments, Đakovo

During the first day of the practical part the lecturers were divided into two teams. Each team conducted a training inspection - one acting in the role of an inspection team and the other in the role of an escort team. The teams carried out the whole process of inspection (preparation of the inspection, execution of the inspection and debriefing) in such a way so as to allow participants to observe and ask questions at all points of the exercise.

After the first practical day the participants were divided into two groups and were tasked to demonstrate what they learned during the theoretical part and by observing the lecturers. After the wrap-up of the exercise the participants were given certificates of successful completion of the Course. They were highly motivated during the whole Course thus contributing to its overall success. They were then addressed by H.E. Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC and BG Siniša Jurković, Deputy Commander of the Land forces of the Republic of Croatia.

Conclusion

The participants expressed their satisfaction with the activity and topics chosen, especially when considering the personal efforts and interest expressed by many participants. They considered the Course overall, and in specific to the two days of the practical exercise, valuable for their future work. They all agreed that it is necessary to conduct such Courses and have the same work structure in the future as well with the aim of contributing to the security and confidence building measures in the region.

Overall, the lecturers were very well prepared and ready to share their experience and knowledge with the participants. They provided them with all the necessary information for their future work in arms control deployments.

During the Course the participants showed exceptional professionalism in conducting

missions both as inspectors and escorts, thus demonstrating a spirit of cooperation and meeting the standards of a real Inspection. The Course was very well organized due to excellent cooperation and relations between RACVIAC, the members of the Sub-regional Consultative mission, and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia, especially when considering the early commencement of preparations and meetings.

As has been announced, henceforward, each year, the practical part of the Course will be conducted in another signatory state. Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed its willingness to host, in 2018, the practical part of the Course.

*RACVIAC – Centre for
Security Cooperation*



Group photo, Našice

* 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