In cooperation with The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Introduction

According to the RACVIAC programme 2009, the Cooperative Security Environment Pillar carried out the Course “Dayton Article IV” T-04 in the period of 04th – 15th May 2009. The Course was organized together with the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) for the fifteenth time and it was carried out in English language with simultaneous translation to local languages.

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

Eighteen participants from eight countries and organizations attended the course, namely from: Albania (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (4), Croatia (5), Germany (2), Montenegro (1), Switzerland (2), United Kingdom (1) and Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) (2), representing relevant Ministries and Agencies involved in the Arms Control Regime of Dayton Article IV.

Its objectives were:
• To inform and educate the participants on the Dayton Peace Agreement, with a particular focus on the Article IV;
• To train the participants in the role of an inspector and an escort in the frame of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Attending a presentation

The course was conducted with the assistance of eight lecturers, coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (1), Montenegro (1), United Kingdom (1), PSOTC (1) and OSCE (2).
Altogether 26 participants representing 10 countries or organizations attended this course.

The course lasted 12 days and it consisted of a theoretical (1st week) and a practical (2nd week) phase. The theoretical phase was focused on lectures about the history of Arms Control and the Dayton Peace Agreement. The practical phase included training inspections on two different sites, enabling the participants, divided into two teams, to practice both the roles of an inspector and of an escort.

The Execution

The Course was opened by welcoming remarks from Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

The theoretical phase included the following topics:
- Information about OSCE and the history of Arms Control and the DPA
- Detailed analysis of the Article IV
- Overview of CFE Treaty and comparison to Dayton Article IV
- Preparation of the 1st training inspection
- Practical exercise on Point of Entrance (POE) procedures.

During the practical phase the participants were divided into two teams and each team conducted two training inspections - one as the inspection team and one as the escort team in two different OOIs (Objects of Inspection) - Gašinci and Našice (Croatia) under the following procedures:
- Preparation of the inspection
- Execution of the Inspection

The lectures covered the theoretical part of the Agreement in a satisfactory way. Their professionalism and experience were highly appreciated by the participants. Two lecturers, one from Bosnia and Herzegovina and one from Croatia, were present during the practical phase as observers.

According to the participants’ assessments provided at the end of the event, the course proved successful, very interesting and well organized. They considered it valuable for their future work. They all agreed on the necessity of conducting these kinds of courses in the future aimed at contributing to the security and confidence building measures in the region.
Participants’ interest and motivation were very high, probably due to the fact that most of them had low or no experience in arms control. Observers expressed very positive comments about that. During the practical phase, participants showed exceptional professionalism in performing their mission both as inspectors and escorts and demonstrated a remarkable cooperation, thus fulfilling the standards of a real Inspection.

Generally, the participants were satisfied with the topics chosen. They proposed as alternative choice for the practical phase the inspection of an air base.

The practical phase of the Course was well-organized thanks to the preparation of the Declared Sites and the work of the local escorts, as well as the good and close cooperation between RACVIAC and the General Staff and Verification Centre of the Republic of Croatia.

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Course Participants during the Practical phase