VIENNA DOCUMENT 1999
FORMATION/UNIT COMMANDERS’ COURSE

Hosted and sponsored by the Republic of Hungary

Dates
03–08 April 2011

Venue
Szentendre, Hungarian Defence Forces Central Training Base (CTB) / Hungary

Background
In order to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the Vienna Document 1999 (VD ’99), RACVIAC has been organizing VD ’99 courses for the countries of the South East European region since 2001. In the 24th MAG Meeting, the Republic of Hungary offered RACVIAC to organize a Vienna Document 1999 Formation/Unit Commanders’ Course on the territory of Hungary, as its contribution to the regional Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs), RACVIAC and the respective Hungarian authorities are going to carry out this task in close cooperation.

Purpose & Objectives
The purpose of this course is to provide Formation/Unit Commanders with an overview of the VD ’99 and to give a comprehensive theoretical analysis and guidance for practical implementation of activities. It is organized in the spirit and the letter of the VD ’99, focusing on the duties and responsibilities of Formation/Unit Commanders engaged in the implementation of the aforementioned document, thus demonstrating the real spirit of the confidence- and security-building measures. The course objectives are:

• To overview the specified elements of the VD ’99, highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules and procedures of its implementation;
• To provide participants with information about the current status of the Document (and the “VD ’99 +”) and the implementation of the inspections and evaluation visits according to the VD ’99;
• To train Formation/Unit Commanders in the subjects related to the planning and conducting of such activities based on the best practices;
• To deepen contacts between representatives of the national armed forces engaged in the accomplishment of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures;
• To provide the participants, especially during the practical part of the course, with an opportunity to exercise an inspection and a visit to a military unit, thus showing representatives of the SEE region ways of working that in the future should constitute a platform for cooperation on the national, regional and international level.

Participants
Approximately 20-25 participants, two from each of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Moldova**, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia, as well as representatives from other MAG countries. Participants should be Commanders of Formations/Units reported under the paragraph 10 of the VD ’99. Participants are expected to have basic knowledge of the VD ’99 and/or other arms control regimes and CSBMs. Lecturers will represent national arms control agencies or verification centres (AT, DE, HU and RS) and other relevant international organisation, such as the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC).

Methodology
This course is designed as a combination of theoretical lectures and practical activities planned to be carried out at the Szentendre CTB in Hungary. The invited lecturers/experts will cover all the topics and will present a comprehensive and detailed overview of the relevant parts of the VD ’99. A short questions and answers session aimed at clarifying possible uncertainties will follow the presentations. The practical part should provide an excellent opportunity for the participants to gain experience of the duties of Formation/Unit Commanders receiving VD ’99 inspection or evaluation visit. The course working language will be English (STANAG – 3332 or equivalent).

Point of Contact
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* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
** Moldova during the 24th MAG meeting announced that it would change its status to observer country.