Introduction

Pursuant to RACVIAC 2012 Programme, the Cooperative Security Environment Pillar carried out the Course “Dayton Article IV” CSE-03-C in the period of 29 May - 1 June 2012. The Course was organized in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Office of the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV of the Dayton Peace Accords. It was carried out in the English language.

The purpose of this Course was to instruct designated participants on how to successfully perform their duties as inspectors and/or escorts 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 on 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 in the framework of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control.

The Course was attended by twenty-eight participants from eight countries and two organizations, namely from: Bosnia and Herzegovina (6), Croatia (6), Germany (3), Montenegro (2), Serbia (4), Poland (2), Switzerland (1), OSCE (2) and PSOTC (1). They represented relevant Ministries and Agencies, as well as regional Verification Centres involved in the Arms Control Regime of Dayton Article IV.

Course Participants

Opening session
First working day of the Course

The Course was conducted with the assistance of seven lecturers, coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (1), Germany (1), Montenegro (1), PSOTC (1) and OSCE (1).

The Course lasted for 3 days and it consisted of a theoretical (first two days) and a practical (one day) part, with a debriefing at the end of the 3rd day. The theoretical part comprised lectures about the history of Arms Control, the Dayton Peace Agreement with a focus on the Protocol on Inspection. The practical part included a training inspection on a declared site in Bjelovar, Barracks ‘BILOGORA’, which enabled the participants, divided into two teams, to practice both the roles of inspectors and escorts.

The Execution

The welcome address by Ambassador Nikola TODORČEVSKI, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, marked the opening of the Course.

The theoretical phase included the following topics:

- Information about historical and conceptual basis of Arms Control, Office of Personal Representative of the OSCE CiO for Article IV, the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Accords) and 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.

During the practical part, the participants were divided into two teams. Each team conducted a training inspection - one in the role of the inspection team and the other in the role of the escort team in the selected OOI (Objects of Inspection) under the following procedures:

- Preparation of the inspection
- Execution of the inspection
- Debriefing - evaluation of the inspection - lessons learned.

Conclusion

According to the participants’ assessment provided at the end of the event, the Course proved successful, very interesting and well organized. Generally, they were satisfied with the topics chosen and considered the overall Course valuable for their future work. They all agreed on the necessity of conducting such courses in the future as well with the aim to contribute to the security
and confidence building measures in the region.

The lecturers covered the theoretical part of the Agreement in a satisfactory way. Their professionalism and experience were highly appreciated by the participants. The lecturers were also observers during the practical part in Bjelovar.

Participants’ interest and motivation were very high, probably due to the fact that most of them had little or no experience in inspection procedures. During the practical part, participants showed exceptional professionalism in performing their mission both as inspectors and escorts, thus demonstrating a remarkable spirit of cooperation and fulfilling the standards of a real Inspection. The experienced observers expressed very positive comments about the participants’ progress.

Course Participants during the Practical Phase of the Course

The practical part of the Course was well organized, much owing to the excellent preparation with regard to the declared site and close cooperation between RACVIAC and the Verification Centre of the Republic of Croatia.

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