VIENNA DOCUMENT 2011- “EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY BUILDING”, COMPLIANCE AND VERIFICATION COURSE CSE-05-C

12 - 16 March 2012, Croatia

Introduction


The Course was carried out on the territory of the Republic of Croatia in two parts. The theoretical part was held at the RACVIAC facilities. The practical part of evaluation was carried out at the Artillery Rocket Launcher Regiment in Bjelovar, while inspection was carried out in the 91st Air Base in Zagreb.

The purpose of this Course was to provide the participants with an outline of the Vienna Document 2011 and to give a comprehensive theoretical analysis and guidance for practical implementation of the activities related to Chapter IX of the Vienna Document 2011. It was organized in the spirit and letter of the New Vienna Document 2011, based on a special meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation which adopted a decision on 30 November 2011 on reissuing this document that encompasses key OSCE confidence- and security-building measures, focusing on duties and responsibilities of the personnel engaged in the implementation of the aforementioned document. The Course objectives were:

- To give an overview of the specified chapters of the Vienna Document 2011, highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules and procedures in the implementation thereof;
- To provide participants with information about the current status of the Document and the implementation of the inspection and evaluation visits according to Chapter IX of the Vienna Document 2011;
- To train members of evaluation, inspection and escort teams in the subjects related to the implementation of these activities;
- To deepen contacts between representatives of national armed forces engaged in the implementation of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures;
- To exercise the performance of evaluation and inspection.
Due to the limitations pertaining to the flight itself, during the practical part of inspection, the number of participants was limited. Seventeen participants from eleven countries participated in the Course, namely from Albania (2), Austria (1) Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (2), Germany (1), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*) (2), Montenegro (1), Poland (2), Serbia (2), Slovenia (1), along with 1 participant from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

In the classroom

Lecturers included representatives of the national arms control agencies and verification centres from Austria, Croatia, Germany and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre.

Overview of the Course

The Course was attended by personnel from the Ministries of Defence, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Verification Agencies, International Organisations and part-time inspectors. The Course was aimed at filling the gap in national training capacities by providing the participants with the opportunity to plan and execute both evaluation and inspection on a foreign terrain.

During the theoretical part, the lecturers delivered presentations on the following topics:

- RACVIAC’s contribution to the arms control process;
- Vienna Document 2011 in the light of the current arms control and confidence- and security-building measures;
- Vienna Document 2011, contents, main parts of the document, basic definitions;
- Inspection and evaluation visit;
- Local escort and logistic support;
- Safety measures and regulations during inspection and evaluation.

During the first day of the practical part of the Course, the participants carried out a training evaluation visit at the Artillery Rocket Launcher Regiment in Bjelovar. The programme of the evaluation visit included:

- Regiment commander’s presentation;
- Visit to the military premises;
- Display of major weapon and equipment systems;
- Visit to the warehouse;
- Conversation with personnel;
- Conclusions of evaluation.

During evaluation

The participants carried out training inspection on the second day. The programme of inspection training included:

- Air Force commander’s presentation;

(*) Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name
- 91st Air Base commander’s presentation;
- Engineering Regiment Commander’s presentation;
- Aerial flight planning;
- Flight safety briefing;
- Aerial inspection of the Specified Area;
- Conclusions of inspection.

**Conclusion**

The Course accomplished all of its objectives. All instructors were truly professional. They shared with the participants their extensive experience and practical skills.

*Specified area*

Both, the theoretical and practical part of the Course, were organised with military precision due to the close cooperation between RACVIAC and the Croatian Armed Forces.

*During aerial inspection*

All participants were actively engaged in the roles of evaluation/inspection team members and escort team members. This provided the participants, particularly those coming from smaller countries that were allocated minimum active and passive quotas, with the opportunity to get trained and to obtain information on the national, Croatian, data exchange.

In 2012, in line with the priorities identified in the Astana Commemorative Declaration, signed at the OSCE Summit in December 2010, RACVIAC has carried out intensive planning activities aimed at updating and modernising its program related to the area of confidence- and security-building as well as at implementing parts of the Vienna Document 2011 with a view to reflecting the current political military reality. The continuation of the Course in 2013 was highly recommended.

According to the participants’ assessment, the Course proved to be successful and well organized.

Compiled by: Major Sulo MUSTAFARAJ, Course Coordinator, RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION