Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar
Co-organized with
Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Dates
18-21 March 2013

Venue
RACVIAC, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Croatia

Background
Seminars focusing on the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) have been organized annually since 2004 in cooperation with the OPCW. The OPCW came into existence on 29 April 1997, following the entry into force of the CWC. The CWC has four principal objectives: the elimination of chemical weapons and the capacity to develop them; the verification of chemical non-proliferation; international assistance and protection in case of CW use; and international cooperation in peaceful use of chemical substances. Seminars on the topic of the CWC serve as a forum for enhancing regional capacity building in the fight against CW. They also provide an opportunity to discuss practical challenges in building a response system to be employed in a scenario of CW use or a threat of CW use.

The 2013 seminar is a continuation of a fruitful cooperation between RACVIAC and the OPCW in promoting the implementation of the CWC in SEE, which directly helps enhance regional stability, transparency and trust.

Purpose & Objectives
The purpose of this seminar is to discuss relevant issues related to the CWC and to provide a broad overview of the Chemical Weapons Convention implementation procedures and a general outline of specific conditions in the region.

The seminar objectives are:
• To clarify any uncertainties in the fulfillment of Article X obligations of the CWC by the Member States to the OPCW;
• To provide an overview of the CWC, Article X in particular, including major achievements and challenges;
• To inform the participants about the implementation of Article X of the CWC and roles and capabilities of the OPCW under the Article X of the CWC;
• To emphasize the importance of capacity building in the fight against Chemical Weapons Agents (CWA) and Toxical Industrial Chemicals (TIC), through projects on national and regional levels;
• To update participants on Contingency Operations (Assistance Delivery operations (ADO) and Investigation of Alleged Use (IAU)), 2012 IAU exercise;
• To enhance the knowledge of the participants about OPCW verification procedures, OPCW inspections;
• To talk about regional support during IAU and ADO in the field;
• To provide information about the assistance offered by the countries in the region under Article X of the CWC, and about their preparedness, reaction time, and provision of logistic support;
• To execute training with table-top exercise for typical Schedule 2 and OPCW inspections.

Participants
Approximately 35 participants, namely three from each of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro and Serbia. Representatives from each of the remaining MAG countries, the OSCE, relevant international organizations and academics will also be invited. They should be either senior and junior military or civilian recommendation-makers dealing with CWC issues and responsible for escorting inspections from the Secretariat of the OPCW. The content of this seminar will be of particular interest to the members of national authorities dealing with declarations.

Methodology
The duration of the seminar is 4 days. It will comprise presentations, discussions and exercises. The seminar will provide an appropriate setting and atmosphere to encourage focused discussions. The seminar working language will be English (STANAG 3232).

POC
Ms Vedrana DJUKARIĆ, Tel.: +385 1 333 0 830, Fax: +385 1 333 0 829, E-mail Address: vdjukaric@racviac.org, Web: www.racviac.org.

* The Republic of Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.