Regional Search and Rescue

Dates  
23 - 25 April 2013

Venue  
Sarajevo (BA)

Background  
The event is a follow-up to the Regional Conference on Search and Rescue (SAR), which took place in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in November 2012. It is a continuation of a series of activities dedicated to the topic of search and rescue in the South-Eastern Europe (SEE), first of which was held in Belgrade in May 2011 and co-organized by RACVIAC and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia.

The mentioned regional event in November 2012 was held with a fact-finding purpose. According to the points of view of national representatives who participated in the event, it was concluded that the topic of search and rescue was very important and that further promotion and development in this area was needed.

RACVIAC and its Members have thus recognized the importance of efficient SAR structures, national and regional alike, as one of the security issues that should be further discussed and explored. In that regard, this year’s event aims to open a way ahead in the search and rescue area. It will bring together regional representatives with the knowledge of and experience in supporting SAR capacity building in the SEE countries, thus providing a broad platform for the exchange of information and best practices.

Purpose & Objectives  
The purpose of this event is two-fold: to sign the Letter of Intent of RACVIAC countries aimed at promoting and strengthening further regional cooperation on search and rescue and to conduct a Basic SAR Course.

The main objectives are:

a) To sign the Letter of Intent, by way of which the countries will express their efforts aimed at regional SAR cooperation;

b) To conduct a Basic SAR Course, with a focus on:
   - SAR concept, terms of reference documents;
   - International SAR organization obligations;
   - SAR working group mandate and tasks;
   - National laws on SAR responsibilities;
   - National SAR providing authority agreements.

Participants  
The event will include participants from each of the RACVIAC Agreement signatory countries, civilian or military officials at decision-making levels and experts representing relevant national institutions dealing with SAR issues: Defence/Armed Forces, national RCC authorities, national Directorates for Search and Protection, Civil Aviation Authorities, Ministries of the Interior, Civil Emergency Management Authorities, etc. Representatives of other MAG countries and relevant international organizations, NGOs and the media will be invited.

Methodology  
The event will last for two days. It will commence with the opening session, followed by the signing ceremony of the Letter of Intent and continued with the Basic SAR Course. The working language will be English.

POC  
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