Background

Surplus of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Conventional Ammunition (CA) that exceeded its shelf life presents a continual threat to people, the environment and overall security. In 2014, together with the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sports of the Republic of Austria and the Bundeswehr Verification Centre (BwVC) of the Federal Republic of Germany, RACVIAC organised a workshop that dealt with experiences and pressing issues in Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM). The 2015 workshop will be based on advancements and suggestions made during the previous event. While the 2014 workshop strove to indicate the elements of PSSM and evaluate the directions in which the countries of the region were heading, the 2015 workshop will be more oriented towards PSSM capacity building. In this regard, the workshop will evaluate possibilities of regional cooperation and the formation of a network comprised of experts in the field. Through this type of cooperation countries will not only be able to discuss individual issues and solutions in capacity building, but also provide training assistance to each other by using RACVIAC as a joint platform. In addition to the theoretical component of the workshop the one day practical part will include the visit to the Croatian storage site. (TBD)

Purpose & Objectives

The purpose of the workshop is to discuss the possibilities of potential cooperation with the purpose of improving managerial, systematic and infrastructural aspects of PSSM.

The PSSM workshop objectives are:

- To bring together professionals and experts in the field, namely SALW experts within the military and national MoDs, Commanders of storage sites, etc.;
- to bring together academics who are experts for physical security, stockpile and material reserve management;
- to present and discuss PSSM practices in different countries, particularly issues within those practices and potential solutions;
- to indicate differences and common points in national defence policies with regard to PSSM;
- to evaluate the possibility of constructing and managing a common network for the purpose of cooperation;
- to indicate the essential elements that the network should be made up of;
- to evaluate the possibility of using RACVIAC as a platform and intermediary for regional cooperation regarding PSSM;
- to increase overall operational capabilities and problem solving regarding PSSM in the region;
- to indicate positive experiences from past cooperation that could serve as models for future improvements;
- to assess the role of cooperative security in PSSM;
- to explore the possibilities of international assistance (Republic of Austria, Federal Republic of Germany and OSCE);
- to examine the possibilities of improving overall cooperation among the countries of the SEE region in general (RACVIAC, OSCE and others);
Participants

Up to 30 participants from RACVIAC member states, employees of governmental organizations and agencies involved in the management of national stockpiles of SALW/CA are welcome to attend the workshop that is designed for mid to high-level officials at a managerial level.

Requirements:

1. The Participants should be at least staff officers and persons who play key roles in the SALW/AC management cycle.
2. They should hold Major to Colonel ranks (O-3 to O-5) and should be able to brief respective decision-makers (Generals) on SALW/CA matters.
3. Each participant should prepare a short presentation that should include their current position, their current responsibilities and expectations regarding this activity.
4. Each country (SNR) should give a briefing on the SALW/CA management cycle in the country.

Lecturers will represent OSCE, SAS, MSAG and the MoD and Verification Centres of the Federal Republic of Germany and Republic of Austria.

Methodology

The workshop will last three days (theoretical and practical part) and will be comprised of theoretical lectures / presentations and discussions whose purpose is to get the participants acquainted with international standards and, more importantly, ways and methods for enhancing regional cooperation in resolving PSSM issues.

At the end of the workshop a CD will be distributed with the materials related to the workshop. The working language will be English. STANAG 6001 – 3.3.3.2 level or equivalent knowledge of English is required.

Member States are kindly informed that RACVIAC encourages all lecturers to submit written essays on their area of expertise to be referred to during their presentation at the RACVIAC activity. Most prominent and current essays will then be published in the “RACVIAC Compendium – Assortment of RACVIAC Prominent Lecturers’ Insights” that will be issued at least once a year, preferably at the beginning of the year for the year preceding but with an option and aim to become semi-annual if input and interest of the targeted audience is satisfactory.

Understanding the additional effort and time needed to be put into the writing of this essay, RACVIAC will stimulate it with an amount of 100 euros per essay. The essays should comprise at least 1500 words and should be submitted electronically and in the hard copy version to RACVIAC before the actual lecture or presentation is given. The author of the submitted essay should give his/her written permission to RACVIAC to publish the essay in the “RACVIAC Compendium” waiving future claims or compensations towards RACVIAC.

Point of Contact

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