Centre for Security Cooperation

C-WMD NETWORK

PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI) TABLE TOP EXERCISE (TTX)

15-17 April 2015

Organised with the support of the United States European Command and the Croatian Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs

INTRODUCTION

This PSI TTX is the first event planned within the newly-established C-WMD Network in RACVIAC, organised with the support of US-EUCOM and the Croatian MFEA. In a way, it may be seen as a continuation of the SEE Regional PSI Executive TTX held in Zagreb in November.
2013, to which President Josipović of Croatia and H.E. Kenneth Merten, US Ambassador to Croatia, gave their full support in their official remarks during the event. Since then, the C-WMD Network in RACVIAC, US-EUCOM and the Republic of Croatia have been working together on a project that would enable interested countries in the region to meet their needs with regard to facing the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Specifically, this PSI TTX was tailored to discuss issues related to the development of strategies to counter WMD proliferation such as: international C-WMD obligations, the risk assessment process, best practices and critical capabilities for a successful strategy to counter proliferation in WMD.

ACTIVITY VENUE, DURATION AND PARTICIPATION

The activity was held in RACVIAC premises, Zagreb, Croatia, and it lasted three working days.

In all, 21 representatives participated in the event, namely from: Albania (3), Bosnia & Herzegovina (3), Bulgaria (2), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ (3), Montenegro (2), Romania (1), Republic of Serbia (2), Republic of Turkey (1) and Kosovo² (4). Participants came from the fields of foreign affairs, law enforcement, customs, defence, and intelligence.

Presenters and exercise facilitators from DTRA, ICP, FBI CWMD, EU CBRN CoE, Bulgarian SANS, Croatian MFEA and MoI united their efforts into the realisation of this very successful exercise.

Before the event, participating countries filled out a questionnaire which was instrumental for the organisation of the exercise itself and which, together with excellent participation on the part of the audience, confirmed a high degree of willingness to share experience and knowledge in issues related to WMD.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

The exercise was structured in such a way that presentations delivered in the morning hours were followed by a plenary debate. Further discussion was then

¹ Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name
² This designation is without prejudice to the position on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244

and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence (in accordance with arrangements regarding regional representation and cooperation)
motivated in smaller exercise break-out groups during the afternoon.

Before beginning with the exercise itself, each break-out group selected a group leader and a briefer who was in charge of presenting the group’s conclusions in the plenary sessions.

It was very important to encourage open and free discussion, so the Chatham House Rule was applied, i.e. discussions were considered for non-attribution. In the same vein, the exercise was totally fictitious in nature.

RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić during the opening session

The event was opened by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić.

During the three working days that followed, 8 presentations were delivered in all, 4 plenary discussions were opened, and 4 break-out sessions were held to allow for discussions in smaller groups.

The first presentation dealt with emerging threats. Mr Andrew Dolan (ICP Programs) provided an overview of some technologies that may have an impact on national security and proliferation, like drones, cyber weapons, nanotechnology, lasers and BitCoin.

Mr Michael Thorton (IPSC) then spoke of the importance of incorporating international obligations into national and regional efforts to counter WMD proliferation. He also highlighted the relevance of inter-agency cooperation and briefly presented the EU projects (NAQ, National Assessment Questionnaire and NAP, National Action Plan) to mitigate CBRN risks.

This was followed by the Croatian case study. Ms Mihaela Barić (MFEA) presented the development of the Croatian National Strategy to counter the proliferation of WMD. She spoke of the reasons that led the Republic of Croatia to develop such a strategy, Croatia’s geopolitical position, the potential threats and the strategy’s goals and functional areas.

The fourth and fifth presentations concentrated on the issue of counter proliferation threats. Mr Spas Stoyanov (SANS) presented an overview of the threats encountered in programmes for development of WMD, illicit export of dual-use goods, tangible and intangible illicit WMD transfer and CBRN materials which can be used for WMD. On the other hand,

3 International CP Programs
5 Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia
6 State Agency for National Security, Republic of Bulgaria
Mr. Krešimir Mamić (MoI) focused in his presentation on the threats and risks of WMD proliferation posed by organised crime and terrorism.

Later on, Mr Richard Hoskins (ICP Programs) presented a comprehensive view of the role of enforcement policies in counter proliferation, touching upon enforcement at the strategic, national and agency levels, as well as operational enforcement tools and challenges and their relation to the development of a strategy to combat WMD proliferation.

Mr Michael Pettry (FBI) spoke of the legal basis for effective counter proliferation policies. He highlighted the importance of national and international law in combatting WMD and provided an overview of key regulations associated with WMD counter proliferation. He also underscored the importance of collaboration with other international bodies such as IAEA, OPCW, BSC and UNSCR 1540.

Finally, the question of a national action plan was discussed. Ms Mihaela Barić (MFEA) addressed the issues of a concept for the development of the strategy and action plan, the establishment of a national interagency working group and a clear road-map which includes testing the various phases of strategy development through exercise. Ms Basilika Kostallari (Albanian Customs Service) presented the way CBRN control is organised in the Republic of Albania, from Albania’s international obligations, through the national legal framework and the work of the Inter-Agency CBRN Working Group.

Plenary discussions touched upon issues related to the transfer of intangible know-how, deterrence of cyberattacks and what elements a national strategy should encompass in terms of process, people and assets.

Break-out sessions produced lively discussions on the mechanics of developing national strategies, the importance of information-sharing, threat analysis and capability gaps. Participants talked about various forms of risk assessment and used a SWOT model to assess risks. They also discussed information management and analysis as well as policy and operational planning.

Before the exercise drew to a close, Col Lonnie Carlson (US-EUCOM) gave a brief overview of the next expected steps in the process of developing a strategy to counter WMD proliferation.

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7 Ministry of Interior, Republic of Croatia
8 US Federal Bureau of Investigation
9 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
10 United States European Command
The closing section was honoured with the presence of Ms Margaret Nardi, Deputy Chief of Mission at the United States Embassy to Croatia, Ms Sanja Bujas Juraga, Director for NATO and International Security at the Croatian Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs, Mr Petar Mihatov, Director for International Defence Cooperation and Security at the Croatian Ministry of Defence and Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, RACVIAC Deputy Director.

Highlighting WMD counter proliferation as a security priority, all of them expressed their strong support for regional cooperation in this field and great appreciation for the willingness to share and learn best practices to face this threat. Participants were further encouraged to continue with their efforts in this complex endeavour of developing national strategies and action plans to counter WMD proliferation.

CONCLUSION

The whole event was very well structured to allow lively discussions on the various factors that need to be taken into account in the development of a strategy to counter WMD proliferation. The audience was highly motivated and, therefore, very active when it came to participation which, together with the enthusiastic engagement of the presenters and facilitators, made this PSI TTX a big success.

Participants departed aware of the complexity and seriousness of WMD proliferation but with undiminished enthusiasm for the work ahead. They appreciated having the opportunity to deepen contacts among themselves and expressed their willingness to focus on the development of a national strategy.

On the other hand, RACVIAC C-WMD Network and US-EUCOM confirmed their continuous support for this endeavour, assuring the audience that the upcoming events will be strictly tailored to meet their needs.

The event was covered by SSgt Ashley Corkins for the American Forces Network and can be watched at the following sites:

https://www.facebook.com/afneurope/videos/vb.74799177601/10152849620787602/?type=2&theater
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