13th MAG Meeting in RACVIAC

38 representatives from 19 MAG countries met in RACVIAC, Zagreb, Croatia, for the 13th Meeting of the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG), which took place from 18-19 October 2005. Also present at the meeting were Mrs Frederique JACQUEMIN from NATO, Mr. Pieter VERBEEK, Mr Jiri KALASNIKOV and Ms Melanie POLLARD from the Stability Pact WT III, as well as Mr. Marc REMILLARD from DCAF. Representatives from Canada, Spain, Czech Republic, Poland, USA and Ukraine also attended our meeting, as observer countries or the countries, which expressed their interest in RACVIAC.

Major topics for discussion have been the following:

1. Director’s Report on RACVIAC Activities
2. Defence Conversion Issues
   • Approval of the Defence Conversion documents (Concept Paper, Report on the Questionnaire, Modalities Paper)
   • First meeting of the three Working Groups
   • Change in the RACVIAC manpower structure
   • Change in RACVIAC’s main documents (MAG TOR’s, Medium Term Strategy)
3. Approval of Programme for 2005 and 2006
4. Financial issues
5. Approval of RACVIAC SOP
6. Observer Countries/Status of MAG nations (regarding supported and non-supported countries)
7. Selection of the new MAG Chairperson

The MAG accepted the candidate of Serbia and Montenegro for the position of the new MAG Chairperson, Major General Zdravko Ponoš. (see his CV on page 8)

RACVIAC’s 5th ANNIVERSARY

On 27th October RACVIAC celebrated the fifth Anniversary of RACVIAC, an international organization which has proved itself to be one of the most successful projects under WT III of the Stability Pact for SEE. Since its establishment, RACVIAC has assisted the states in the region to improve and harmonize the standard in implementation of arms control agreements and CSBM’s. Till today through RACVIAC’s doors passed more than 2800 people who are dealing with not only typical military matters but also political matters concerning armed forces and security sector reforms. RACVIAC has accomplished its mission so far and has enjoyed good reputation and confidence from the region countries.

Three Directors of RACVIAC: (left to right)
BrigGen Johann PUCHER (Oct 02 - Oct 04);
BrigGen Stergios PAPOTIS (Oct 04 - present);
Brig Nikola NOGOLICA (Oct 00 - Oct 02)

Getting the new mandate in July 2005, RACVIAC is opening the new page and extending it’s current mission into the field of very complex issues of Defence Conversion.
Regional Table and III WT Meeting of Stability Pact in Prague

The Stability Pact's biannual Regional Table, its highest decision-making body, met in the Czech capital Prague on 16 November 2005 to debate the issue of regional ownership and to set work priorities of the Pact for 2006. The meeting of the Regional Table was preceded by a day (15 November) of theme-focused Working Table meetings.

About 220 participants representing over 80 countries and organizations (including representatives of South Eastern European governments, EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland, the US, the European Commission and the European Council, the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, OSCE, Council of Europe, OECD, World Bank, IMF and EBRD) debated opportunities and challenges for regional co-operation in South Eastern Europe.

Director of RACVIAC, Brig Gen Stergios PAPOTIS and Chief of Planning and Liaison Cell /SEE in RACVIAC, Col Dragan GOSTOVIĆ, participated in the Regional Table and Working Table III meetings. Working Table III reviewed progress in regional co-operation and towards regional ownership regarding fighting organized crime and corruption. Working Table III Task Forces have made considerable progress towards regional ownership, as demonstrated by the establishment and functioning of regional secretariats. They have concluded that regional cooperation on defence conversion is also moving to the implementation phase, with the support of international partners and with a new role for RACVIAC as a regional forum for defence conversion, and with the growing recognition of SEESAC as regional tool, not only to fight the spread of illicit small arms and light weapons but also as a technical support mechanism for the destruction of surplus military stockpiles.

There were four panel discussions during the Working Table III meeting. One of them was devoted to defence conversion and the Director of RACVIAC was one of the panellists. He delivered a presentation on the new role of RACVIAC in the field of defence conversion, which was well received.

He made a review of RACVIAC activities in the last six months and explained future plans. He asked the countries, as well as organizations and institutions, to support the role of RACVIAC as a regional centre for defence conversion, without diminishing its role regarding the other issues in its mandate. Following the special role given to RACVIAC in the integrated regional approach towards defence conversion, participants welcomed the establishment of the Defence Conversion Cell and the three Working Groups (WGs) on key aspects of defence conversion, which will meet 6-7 December 2005. In 2006, the WGs should assist in generating concrete projects, for which support from the side of international financial institutions and other SP international partners, including bilateral and multilateral donors will be of great importance.

Brig Gen PAPOTIS and Col GOSTOVIĆ also had a lot of useful meetings with the participants from various countries and organizations. They presented RACVIAC’s plans for the future and tried to attract financial and other support.

The Director of RACVIAC met Mr. Josef Fucik, an expert from the Czech Republic who was directly involved in the restructuring of the Czech defence industry. Mr. Fucik’s contribution to the work of RACVIAC Working Group III might be expected in the next period.

The representatives of RACVIAC had talks in the Czech MoD (with Mr. Martin Belcik, Deputy Minister) and MFA (with Ms. Veronika Kuchynova Smigolova, Director of the Security Policy Department) regarding the future cooperation. In the near future we can expect the Czech Republic neither to change its observer status in the MAG nor to participate more in RACVIAC activities. Both sides emphasized that the door for full cooperation was open. The Czech Republic will reconsider its possible stronger involvement in RACVIAC activities in coming years.
RACVIAC Newsletter

NEW PEOPLE IN RACVIAC

HELLOS:

Col Spiros PAPAGLIMIS

Col Spiros PAPAGLIMIS joined RACVIAC on 22nd November as a Seminar Director in RACVIAC Dialog & Cooperation Division. In 1978 he entered the Hellenic Air Force Academy and graduated in 1982. During his carrier he was flying the F-4E Phantom, then T-33 and till now AB Helicopters and fire fighting aircraft - the Bombardier CL 215 and CL 415. Last two years he was acting as Commanding Officer of the 383 SQ. He is married and has two children.

LtCol Kalman NEMETH

RACVIAC welcomes Lt.Col Kalman NEMETH who joined RACVIAC on 1st December 2005 as a Course Director in RACVIAC Training & Verification Division. He started his military career in 1984. He has earned Master degree in both Military and Peace Studies. After serving in different position in the Hungarian Army and at the MoD he is appointed to RACVIAC for 3 years.

RACVIAC visited
US European Command in Germany

From 27th till 29th November Director of RACVIAC, Brig Gen Stergios PAPOTIS and LtC Frank ODENDAHL, Planning and Liaison Officer, visited USEUCOM in Stuttgart, Germany for gaining information on their mission, activities in SEE and find opportunities for exchanging lecturers and participants wherever possible.

The RACVIAC delegation was met by MG GRATION, Col ANDERSON, LtC McINTOSH (all J5 USEUCOM) and later joined by Mr Bob GIBNEY (ECJ5-W/DTRA).

The exchange dealt with general information about both institutions, but also covered immediate concerns, such as USEUCOM participation in RACVIAC Defence Conversion Workshop in Dec, DTRA participation in T&V Division events and possibly changing the location of 4th SEEC from Zagreb, Croatia to Belgrade, S&M.

In summary a very beneficiary visit for RACVIAC, with the potential of gaining US support and cooperation in the future.

High level visits to RACVIAC

Mr. Jozsef BALI, the Deputy State Secretary for Defence Policy in Hungarian MOD, together with the Hungarian Defence Attaché in Croatia, LtC Mihaly SZOKE, visited RACVIAC on 24th November 2005.

The purpose of their visit was to receive more information about RACVIAC, especially about its new mission in the field of Defence Conversion. After that Mr BALI informed Brig Gen Stergios PAPOTIS, Director of RACVIAC, that Hungary will send additional staff member, besides the one they are already providing to Training and Verification Division. A new staff member will start his tour of duty on the beginning of January 2006 and will be appointed as an expert in WG II of Defence Conversion cell. Mr BALI also stressed that they are ready to send lectures on the topics related to the DC issues and as well as their willingness to host one activity in 2006 (visit to the air base) and in that way contribute to the budget for the next year.

On 30th November 2005 RACVIAC hosted the Ambassador Ruediger LÜDEKIN, Deputy Commissioner of the Federal Government for Arms Control and Disarmament in German MOD, accompanied by the German Ambassador to Croatia, H.E. Mr. Jürgen STAKS and the German Defence Attaché to Croatia, LtC Wolfgang SCHULZ.

After familiarizing with the mission and the aims of RACVIAC, Ambassador LÜDEKIN, stressed that “RACVIAC fulfills an important confidence building role in SEE, a role that can not be underestimated. It will have to continue to do so in the future. I wish RACVIAC all the best in the future in carrying out it’s outgoing activities.” He concluded that Germany will continue to support RACVIAC financially and by sending permanent staff members.
Farewell to members of RACVIAC

Col. Mihail KARNAHORITIS and Maj. Cristinel POPESCU, as Seminar Directors in Dialogue and Cooperation Division, have tried to do their best for this region to contribute this aim during their tour of duty. From time to time they have faced with some difficulties, but they have never lost their confidence and resistance to overcome them. They have not hesitated to submit whole their knowledge, effort, capacity and overtime to do their job at the high-level.

It is impossible to leave out their contributions and collaborations to create a warm and fruitful ambient in Dialogue and Cooperation Division. For us, it was truly a pleasure and a privilege to serve with such outstanding professionals, says Col ARSLAN, Chief of D&C Division in RACVIAC.

Their brilliant performance brought great credit upon them, RACVIAC and their countries. We will never forget them; they will always stay the members of RACVIAC. RACVIAC wishes all the best to them and their family in future.

Orientation Course for Site Commanders

The Course C-08/2005 was organised for the third time for the commanding personnel of military units of the SEE region to overview their tasks and responsibilities related to the execution of the relevant (existing or future) arms control documents.

The aim of this Course was to provide participants with a comprehensive overview of the most essential elements of the arms control documents taken for examination, highlighting the most complete and commonly followed rules and procedures of the execution of real inspections or evaluation visits.

The Course objectives were:

- To overview the key elements of the documents specified above and to highlight the common rules and measures to be followed during the execution of real inspections or evaluation visits.
- Based on best practices, to inform and train the participants in the subjects related to the preparation (planning) and conduction of those activities as hosting unit commanders
- To deepen contacts between representatives of national organisations, agencies and military units possibly affected or engaged in the accomplishment of the tasks of existing or future arms control issues

The Course was carried out by combining the theory (at RACVIAC/Rakitje) and a half-day practical activity organised and hosted by a Croatian military unit (done in Dugo Selo, 202nd Air Def Bde) from 23 to 26 of October 2005.

Seventeen participants attended the Course from: Bosnia and Herzegovina (5), Croatia (5), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (2) and Serbia and Montenegro (5). Presentations were provided by experts of verification agencies of the SEE countries (BA/1, HR/1, SI/1 and SM/1) and from US DTRA (1) (Defence Threat Reduction Agency), as well as, a guest lecturer from the OSCE (Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE CIO for Articles II and IV of DPA).

The two-day Course gave the opportunity for participants to meet their colleagues from the SEE region as well as meet representatives/experts coming from organisations and agencies being engaged for years in the implementation of existing arms control, confidence- and security building measures (CSBMs). The lecturers invited covered all topics efficiently and presented a comprehensive and detailed overview of the relevant parts of the documents examined.

Within the practical phase, attendees got valuable impressions about a real CSBM-activity to be organised at an active military unit.
The Course was organized and performed in close co-operation with the Croatian Arms Control Centre. All efforts made by the involved unit’s personnel (202nd Air Defence Brigade, Dugo Selo) substantially contributed to achieve the objectives of the Course.

The Course brought an added value and confirmed the general directions and ways how to go on with this project. With the strong believe, that such activities are fulfilling all the requirements of the CSBMs, it is suggested to evaluate the possibility to invite attendees from more countries of the region.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

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### RACVIAC at the SECI Meeting in Bucharest

On 9th of November, Maj. Cristinel Popescu, Seminar Director in Dialogue and Cooperation Division visited SECI Center in Bucharest, having as purpose to establish the frame of a future cooperation between the two organizations on fields of common interest.

The meeting was also attended by the following: Dr. Alexandru IONAS (RO), Deputy Director, Head of Operational Support Department; Snejana NENOVA (Bg), Head of Legal/Internal Department; Dr. Milan S STURGIS (USA), US Department of State Coordinator from SECI Center and Col. Marin RADU, Chief of Arms Control Verification Directorate.

In the preamble of the discussions Maj Popescu performed a short overview of RACVIAC, presenting in the same time the programme for 2006 and RACVIAC’s willing for a cooperation regarding the Seminar S3 / 2006.

In principle, the SECI Management team accepted to organize a joint event on the topic proposed, stressing that the MoU is not a priority for SECI at this time but later it might be possible, according to the future development of the cooperation. Nevertheless, cooperation between the both organizations can be fulfilled without a MoU but with a technical agreement accepted by the both parts, punctually for each common activity that is going to be performed.

On the other hand, the US representative Dr. Milan S STURGIS, after he was given the RACVIAC programme for 2006, express the willing to attend on behalf of SECI, the RACVIAC activity in 2006 titled “Brokering Workshop on SALW”.

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### RACVIAC participated in VD’99 event in United Kingdom

In accordance with the obligations under the terms of the Vienna Document 1999 (VD’99), the Government of the United Kingdom has arranged a combined event - a visit to a military facility and a demonstration of a new type of major weapon and equipment system, on its territory between 12th and 14th October 2005.

The large-scale activity was carried out at the Land Warfare Centre (LWC) in Warminster in presence of 32 OSCE delegates invited by the Host Nation. The United Kingdom, with the intention to foster the transparency, confidence- and security building measures has invited representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Korea and NATO, RACVIAC as well.

RACVIAC, as an institution assisting the education/preparation processes of experts involved in VD’99-related issues, was represented by Col Rajko Dumančić, Deputy Director/COS and LtCol Albert Tamás, Course Director of Training and Verification Division.

All the invitees had been briefed on the LWC’s history, structure, tasks, manpower and had the possibility to observe a Manoeuvre Demonstration and a Firepower Demonstration. Being divided into three subgroups delegates visited several facilities of LWC, stands of new systems “Titan” and “Trojan” displayed and the Combined Arms Tactics Trainer.

According to the final remarks gathered and stated by the spokesperson nominated by consensus of delegates of OSCE community’s representatives, the combined activity was proved as a well organised, successful and highly valued event what was carried out in the full compliance with the requirements laid down in the VD’99.
The first Working Groups meeting on Defence Conversion was held in RACVIAC on 6th and 7th December 2005, which was financially secured by Republic of Austria.

The Working Groups deal with problems of Defence Conversion, in particular the conversion of military facilities and industry for civilian use and the downsizing of military personnel, i.e. their transition into a civilian life and career.

Each WG is co-chaired by a country of the region and by RACVIAC and assisted by support-organizations.

The participants (76) of this meeting were permanent members of the Working Groups as follows: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro, Moldavia and Ukraine, as well as from international organizations: EU, OSCE, Stability Pact and NATO.

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A combination of lectures, followed by panel discussions encouraged the participants to dialogue on aspects concerning the ESDP. During the panel discussions, the participants were given the necessary tools to launch a think tank in order to develop a positive approach towards the European integration. The planned working groups developed the most interesting issues resulted after debates.

(for more info visit: www.racviac.org)
The meeting started with a plenary session, which has been opened by the Director of RACVIAC, Brig Gen Stergios PAPOTIS. It was followed by introductory words of high-level representatives from the international organization involved in defence conversion (SEESP, SP, NATO, MFA Croatia) and by keynote speakers: Dr. Reinhard H. Weise - BICC, Mr. Mark Remillard - DCAF and Mr. Efrem Radev from Bulgaria.

Chairmanship for 2006 was nominated to Croatia (WG1 - Maj Zvonimir Popovic); Bulgaria (WG2 - Col Yonko Stefanov Totevski) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (WG3 - Mr. Vladislav Jokic). All three WG’s were chaired by above-mentioned chairman except WG3, which was chaired by Gen. Henny Van der Graaf (Stability Pact) due to the fact that Mr Jokic wasn’t able to attend.

DCAF has showed the willingness to actively support activities of WG1 as well as NATO to support activities of WG2. Very importance role had expertise of Mr. Josef Fucik (CZ) in work of WG3 in preparing draft Questionnaire on defence conversion progress and needs, which was discussed and agreed to be send the capitals of respected countries regarding military industry conversion. It was mentioned that UK Defence Academy also is going to support WG3. During the WG’s sessions all countries presented current situation and needs in their countries, discussed on the answers received to the Questionnaire and matrix (cross tab between questions and countries) and made proposal for WG’s activities in 2006.

At the closing session of the meeting, chairmen of WG’s gave the final words and reported what has been done during WG’s session. The Working Groups agreed that there are common problems regarding the financing of this project and emphasized that some countries already developed programs and projects on Defence Conversion, while others have only defined the problem as such. The Working Groups defined the programme of activities for 2006, each group for its area of expertise, they also determined the task to develop a regional support network, to concentrate on experiences in Defence Conversion issues and to foster sponsorship of concrete projects in the Defence Conversion area.

It was stressed out that Defence Conversion has been recognized as an important step towards stability in Southeast Europe. However, the majority of the countries still do not see it as a national problem of the country, but as a part of the defence system and the armed forces of SEE countries.

The importance to raise it to the state level has been emphasized several times, as well as the involvement of other ministries, such as the ministry of economy, ministry of environmental protection, ministry of foreign affairs, ministry of interior and others, governmental - and nongovernmental organisations and definitely the financial support of international financial institutions.
Main Goals:
● To increase the English conversational capability of officers/civilians dealing with arms control in the region of SEE

Target Audience:
- Civilian or military personnel dealing with Arms control who already attended the basic grammar course of English language, coming from MOD, MFA, MOI, GS.

Target Audience:
- Permanent WG1 members (countries, DCAF, OSCE...), IOM, US AID, lecturers,

Main Goals:
● To discuss programmes (infrastructure, database); good & bad practice – progress, case study; project – developing vocational retraining, info campaign; experience from the international org. (US AID, IOM..) and the agenda for the next meeting

Target Audience:
- Military and civilian personnel from SEE coming from MOD, MFA, MOI, GS.

Main Goals:
● To examine the context and need for export control and to inform about legal and administrative issues.

Target Audience:
- Staff coming from MODs, MOIs, MOEs

Main Goals:
● To identify the number of redundant military bases and to develop conversion projects (MBC); exchange of information on the projects; discussing possibilities to establish contacts between municipalities and other participants; identify possibilities of attracting international donors and financial/private institutions interested in MBC Projects in the region

Target Audience:
- National institutions related to MBC, municipalities developing MBC projects, international donors, financial institutions

New MAG Chairperson
Curriculum Vitae

First name: Zdravko
Surname: Ponoš
Date of birth: November 3 1962
Place of birth: Knin, Republic of Croatia
Nationality: Serbian
Military rank: Major General
Military branch: Army
Marital status: Married

Education
- 1986 - BSc - Military Technical Academy, Zagreb
- 1999 - MSc - Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade
- 2004 - Royal College of Defence Studies in London

Courses
- 2005 - Senior Executive Seminar, College of International and Security Studies, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, DE
- 2003 - ETC course Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Switzerland

Prior posts and years of duty
-1986-1988 - Platoon (Company Commander)
-1988-1993 - Desk Officer, SIGINT/EW Department GS
-1993-1994 - Desk Officer, Intelligence Dep. GS
-1994-2002 - Development and Procurement Officer SIGINT/EW Department GS
-2002-2003 - Head of the Integration Section MoD
-2004-2005 - Head of International Military Cooperation Department MoD
- from Oct 2005 - Deputy Chief of General Staff, Serbia and Montenegro AF

Forthcoming events - 2006. (draft programme)

English Arms Control Terminology Course
Main Goals:
● To increase the English conversational capability of officers/civilians dealing with arms control in the region of SEE

Target Audience:
- Civilian or military personnel dealing with Arms control who already attended the basic grammar course of English language, coming from MOD, MFA, MOI, GS.

Chemical Weapons Convention
Main Goals:
● To inform military and civilian personnel from SEE on provisions of the CWC and to provide them on the inspections/escorts according to the convention.

Target Audience:
- Military and civilian personnel from SEE coming from MOD, MFA, MOI, GS.

WG1 Meeting - on retraining and resettlement of military personnel
Main Goals:
● To discuss programmes (infrastructure, database); good & bad practice – progress, case study; project – developing vocational retraining, info campaign; experience from the international org. (US AID, IOM..) and the agenda for the next meeting

Target Audience:
- Permanent WG1 members (countries, DCAF, OSCE...), IOM, US AID, lecturers,

Dual Use/Export Control
Main Goals:
● To examine the context and need for export control and to inform about legal and administrative issues.

Target Audience:
- Staff coming from MODs, MOIs, MOEs

WG2 Meeting - taking stocks for military site conversion
Main Goals:
● To identify the number of redundant military bases and to develop conversion projects (MBC); exchange of information on the projects; discussing possibilities to establish contacts between municipalities and other participants; identify possibilities of attracting international donors and financial/private institutions interested in MBC Projects in the region

Target Audience:
- National institutions related to MBC, municipalities developing MBC projects, international donors, financial institutions