RACVIAC held its third Change of Command Ceremony, in Rakitje on Thursday 11 October 2007, in the presence of the Chairperson of the RACVIAC’s Multinational Advisory Group, Colonel Ion SAVCIUC, high-ranking officials; Mr Mato RABOTEG, State Secretary from MoD Republic of Croatia, Ms Andrea GUSTOVIĆ ERCGOVAC, Assistant Minister from Croatian MFAEI, Ms Ana TRŠIĆ-BABIĆ, Deputy Minister from MFA B&H, Mr. Igor POKAZ, Assistant Minister from Croatian MoD and Mr. Igor CRNADAK, Assistant Minister from MoD of B&H, as well as Special Coordinator of SP for SEE, Mr. Erhard BUSEK. Guests also included Ambassadors and Defence Attaches accredited in Zagreb.

After 3 years in post, Major General Stergios PAPOTIS handed over the Directorship of RACVIAC to Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ, from MFA of Bosnia and Herzegovina. General PAPOTIS joined RACVIAC in 2004 continuing the excellent work of his predecessors. During his speech, General PAPOTIS emphasized that “…the transformation of Stability Pact to a purely regional institution changed also significantly the internal dynamics of RACVIAC. The last decisions of MAG, concerning the future status of RACVIAC, were the first important messages to all European countries and institutions. The region has started to take over its own responsibilities and the donor countries could feel proud achieved. Of course, there are still a lot of things to be done before all the countries of the region implement the necessary criteria to be integrated into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions. And this is a challenge to the new Director and the RACVIAC staff for the future….”.

Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ emphasized that “Major General PAPOTIS represents not only the most successful departing Director of RACVIAC who accomplished tremendous results and made a strong imprint in the RACVIAC endeavour through last three years, thus offering us really solid platform to build on newly reformed RACVIAC, tailored gradually in order to meet new challenges in ever changing regional and international landscape.”

Regarding RACVIAC’s future, Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ defined RACVIAC as a Center with an excellent future, stressing that in his work he will focus on intensifying cooperation with relevant international institutions, in the first place with NATO, EU and OSCE, as well as RACVIAC’s “sister companies” - IAEA, OPCW, SECI Center, MARRI Center, SEESAC, DPPI, and, of course, RCC.

Special Coordinator of the SP for SEE, Mr Erhard BUSEK, underlined that “NATO would like to see RACVIAC becoming an educational tool in SEE on defence and security sector reform for the NATO/Partnership for Peace”. On behalf of host nation Mr Mato RABOTEG, State Secretary of Croatian MoD and Ms Andrea GUSTOVIĆ ERCGOVAC, Assistant Minister from Croatian MFAEI, both stressed in their speeches the important role of RACVIAC in the future and assured that Croatia will continue and even deepen her strong support to RACVIAC.
The NEW DIRECTOR OF RACVIAC

Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ is a carrier diplomat who started his career finishing Diplomatic School of MFA of ex-Yugoslavia in 1981. From 1982 till 1986 he worked as the First Secretary in the Embassy of ex-Yugoslavia in Stockholm, Sweden. From 1986 till 1989 he was Head of the Department for Europe, in MFA of ex-Yugoslavia, in Belgrade. Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ was appointed as the Minister Counsellor & Charge d’Affaires in the Embassy of ex-Yugoslavia in Brussels for three years, and the following four years as the Minister Plenipotentiary, Head of Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to European Union and NATO, in Brussels.

In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of B&H Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ was the Ambassador in charge of representing B&H in SECI, and Political Director for Implementation of Dayton Peace Agreement and Security and Stability. Apart from other positions, he acted as a Senior Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina responsible to facilitate implementation and monitoring of Stability Pact for SEE Anti-corruption Initiative and a Chair of the Political Directors Committee during the B&H’s Presidency (April 2003 – April 2004) of the SECP. He also worked in MFA of B&H as the Director for Political Multilateral Relations and Co-operation. On many occasions Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ led B&H Delegation to a number of international events in Europe and beyond. Ambassador Hadžimusić was also nominated as Co-Chair of the State Commission for NATO and PfP by the B&H Council of Ministers. Lecturing on many occasions, as well as visiting various universities, Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ was a Guest Speaker at NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany. He has an excellent knowledge of English, French and solid understanding of Slovenian, Russian and other Slavic languages. Among many professional achievements, he also wrote several OP-ED articles that were published in «International Herald Tribune» and «The Wall Street Journal Europe».

Before having been selected for the position of the Director of RACVIAC in October 2007, Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ occupied the position of the Assistant Minister for Multilateral Relations in the MFA of B&H.

18 MAG Meeting & Budgetary meeting in RACVIAC

Thirty-three representatives from twenty-one RACVIAC member countries participated in the 18th Biannual MAG Meeting held on 4th October of this year in RACVIAC, located in the Croatian military barracks “Vitez Damir Martić” in Rakitje, near Zagreb. Meeting participants also included representatives of countries with observer status (Canada and Switzerland), as well as Stability Pact representative Mr. Jiri KALASNIKOV, and SEDM representatives Mr. Pance ANGELOV, Major Nexhat LIMANI and Capt Goran ELENSKI.

Budgetary Meeting took part in advanced of the 18th MAG Meeting in RACVIAC, on Wednesday 3rd October 2007. The aim of this meeting was to discuss all financial issues of RACVIAC, especially after the results of the last MAG Meeting, regarding the new status of RACVIAC. Top-
It has been a genuine pleasure to have our Director, **Major General Stergios PAPOTIS** as “the Boss”. After more than three years, his secondment to RACVIAC has come to an end and he will return to Greece and at the same time he will retire also from Hellenic Air Force after 36 years service. During his directorship, the whole RACVIAC admired his openness, his communication skills and were delighted with the pleasant working atmosphere he personally created and upheld in his capacity as Director of RACVIAC. We would like to thank MajGen PAPOTIS for his outstanding support and guidance of RACVIAC and wish him all the best in the future in his new life.

After 3 years in the RACVIAC as the Chief of Dialogue and Cooperation Division, the tour of duty for **Col Ibrahim ARSLAN** ended in August 2007. During his tour of duty in RACVIAC Col ARSLAN fulfilled his mission with professional approach. With his energy and extraordinary performance to leading from the front he showed himself worthy of our praise. It was an excellent experience to work with him.

RACVIAC welcomes **Col Omer Faruk BASTURK**, the new Division Chief of the Dialogue and Cooperation who joined us in August 2007. He has a Master’s degree in international relations from Malaysian University, and started his military career as a Provost Marshal Platoon and Company Commander in Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. He is married with Ebru, and has two children.

RACVIAC would also like to thank **Capt Aldin ZAMETICA** for his dedicated energy and knowledge to fulfill his mission in RACVIAC. Cpt ZAMETICA joined RACVIAC in November 2004 and worked as wg2 Officer in Defence Conversion Cell.

At the same time RACVIAC welcomes his successor **1st LT Mehmed HALILOVIĆ**, who is coming from B&H and joined us in July 2007. He graduated from the University of Khartoum Faculty of Military Skills. 1LT HALILOVIĆ is married with Seada and has three children.

*Complete conclusions can be read on RACVIAC website*
In July 2007 RACVIAC’s Chief Planning & Liaison Officer to Western European Countries & International Organizations, LtC Thomas MERGEL, paid a visit to NATO’s Allied Joint Forces Command in Naples, Italy where he met with General Dennis BLEASE who serves the Deputy Commander as the Special Adviser on Security Sector Reform. General BLEASE heads the Office of Security Sector Reform with thirteen international officers and civilians, serving in staff and country desk officer positions. He is responsible directly to the Deputy Commander for supporting defense reform activities relating to the three MAP countries (Albania, Croatia, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*), as well as the three new PfP countries (BA, RS, MONT).

The discussions with General BLEASE on a close cooperation in the future were very fruitful and will strengthen RACVIAC’s cooperation with NATO. In this context General BLEASE called this cooperation “a Strategic Partnership between JFC Naples and RACVIAC” and introduced the idea to cooperate closely in a series of two or three activities in 2008 suggesting a Security Sector Reform - Needs Assessment, and seminars on Budgets & Planning, and Human Resources Management and Development. The activities could be conducted at RACVIAC, at JFC Naples, and in a county from SEE, which may volunteer for this. Thus, the proposals have already been incorporated into RACVIAC’s first draft of the Annual Programme 2008.

This Strategic Partnership will raise RACVIAC’s visibility and attractiveness substantially - not only to Western Balkans MAP and PfP countries - and will promote RACVIAC’s efforts to become a valuable tool for the Regional Cooperation Council. Furthermore, taking advantage of the expertise provided, in particular the one of the desk officers’, will certainly raise the quality of seminars in the field of SSR and ensure international support and advise.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

**Open Skies Treaty-Arial Observation Course**

The C-5 “Open Skies Treaty-Arial Observation Course” was carried out in the period between 26 June and 5 July 2007 in accordance with the RACVIAC Programme for 2007. The Course was conducted in two phases: Theoretical phase (1st week) in Rakitje and Practical phase (2nd week) in the Croatian Airbase Pleso. During the practical phase two observation flights were performed over the territory of Croatia.

The aim of this course was to train personnel from SEE countries providing them with proper information and practical experience in planning, organizing and executing an Aerial Observation Mission based on the provisions of the Treaty on Open Skies. The objectives were as follows:

- to provide the participants with the knowledge on basic rules and procedures regarding the conducting of an Aerial Observation Mission
- to extend their training and practical experience in planning, organizing and executing missions based on the provisions of the Treaty on Open Skies.

Thirteen participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro attended the Course. The participants, representing Ministries of Defence and Verification Centres were mostly with no knowledge or little one concerning the provisions of the Treaty on Open Skies. Experienced participants and newcomers were in a percentage of 20% and 80% accordingly.
RACVIAC hosted five lecturers from the Verification Centres of Germany and Latvia. The practical part was executed by using an Observation Aircraft of Romania with a team of ten members. The 1st phase of the Course (26-29 June) was a combination of presentations, lectures and practical work of a mission plan for the accomplishment of the flight. The 2nd phase (2-4 July) was performed as a real Open Skies mission over the territory of Croatia with all elements pertaining to the Treaty. The film that was made during the observation flight was processed in Lab and participants had opportunity to consider the whole film processing.

Participants’ interest and motivation were very high, probably due to the fact that they were mostly beginners in this activity, with low or without experience in Open Skies Missions. During the practical phase, participants showed an exceptional professionalism performing their mission and demonstrated a remarkable cooperation, by which they approached the standards of a real Inspection. The invited lecturers covered the theoretical and practical part of the Course in a satisfactory way. The preparation of the Observed Side and the work of the local escorts, reaching a high level of organization, contributed positively to the success of the Course. The execution of the whole Training Activity proved to be satisfactory and very well organized in order to achieve our goal.

The course was organized and performed in close cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia. In this context it was a good training and a preparation for the fulfilling of their obligations as full-fledged Treaty members in the near future. The countries in the SEE region are interested to take part in Aerial Observation Courses. In this way they appreciated the efforts of RACVIAC in organizing and performing such activities.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

---

**RACVIAC at the Annual Conference of the Balkan Communication Network**

Between 28 June and 01 July 2007 RACVIAC’s Planning and Liaison Officer for SEE, LtC Wolfgang WECHSELBERGER, took part at the Annual Conference of the Balkan Communication Network (BCN) in Bucharest.

Representatives from European Commission and NATO, as well as members of the institutes of the BCN participated at this event, with the title “EU and NATO acting together in SEE - The Role of the NGOs networks”. BCN is an informal network of research policy centres from nine Balkan countries who joined their strategic efforts to establish, develop and strengthen transparency, good governance, human rights and democracy in the region.

BCN aims to create a platform providing the Member Centres with an opportunity for sharing information about their activities, researches and publications, identifying and pursuing joint projects.

RACVIAC is on a good way of becoming a member of this Network between the Strategic and Research Centres of South East Europe.

---

**RACVIAC and International Organizations**

RACVIAC’s cooperation with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) will become closer and more formal in the future. A Draft Memorandum of Understanding is in the last phase of development and will most likely be signed by Ambassador Dr. Fred TANNER, Director of GCSP and Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIC, new Director of RACVIAC by the end of this year. RACVIAC and GCSP will, in the interest of their respective activities, seek each other’s expertise in order to optimize the effects of their activities.

GCSP and RACVIAC envisage cooperating in assisting Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Defense Institution Building (DIB) in SEE countries, in particular with the following objectives:

- To support the reform of the armed forces in SEE

*Continued on page 6*
• To assist in developing the administrative capabilities of civilians and the military engaged in security sector reform
• To train personnel as Defense Attaché and/or as Nation representative in International Organizations
• To underscore the role of the parliaments in their oversight functions of security and defense and to develop the required ability and skills to implement them
• To emphasize the role of civil society and the media on public awareness on political military and arms control issues
• To promote Confidence and Security Building Measures at the regional level.

* * *

The dialogue and cooperation between RACVIAC and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) from the United States Department of Defense will also become more formal in the very near future. Mutual consultations have already been scheduled to assess the areas and means of cooperation and to develop standing procedures.

RACVIAC’s presence at regional meetings and conferences such as; Crans Montana Forum in Tirana (May); SE Europe Clearinghouse in Sarajevo (June); PfP Consortium Annual Conference in Zagreb (June); Regional MoD Policy Directors Meeting in Dubrovnik (September) and NATO-Lessons Learned in Defense Reform Management in Ljubljana (September) provided not only very good opportunities for direct consultations with its target audience, but contributed to the needs assessment also and increased RACVIAC’s visibility. RACVIAC’s readiness and willingness to support all efforts within the scope of activities were stressed through presentations and statements at any given occasion.

Amongst many bilateral consultations at the above-mentioned occasions a spotlight should be drawn on the two with representatives from NATO’s Defence and Security Economics Directorate, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division and from NATO’s Euro-Atlantic Integration and Partnership Directorate. Both directorates agreed to identify particular activities for co-organization for 2008 as soon as RACVIAC’s Draft Annual Programme would be releasable.

“VIENNA DOCUMENT 99” COURSE

According to the RACVIAC Programme 2007, the Training & Verification Division organized and executed the Course: “Vienna Document 1999” from 24–28 September 2007. The Course consisted of lectures and presentations done in RACVIAC and a practical phase done at the 16th Artillery Rocket Brigade of the Croatian Armed Forces in Bjelovar.

The aim of this course was to provide participants with a theoretical overview of the VD 99’, giving a comprehensive analysis in theoretical and practical level of the implementation of these activities. It was organized in the spirit and the letters of the Vienna Document’ 1999, focusing on the duties and responsibilities of the personnel to be engaged in the implementation of the aforementioned arms control document demonstrating the real spirit of the confidence- and security-building measures.

Course Objectives were:
• To overview the specified elements of the VD 99’ highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules and procedures of the execution of that.
• To provide the participants with information about the current situation in the implementation of VD 99’.
• Based on best practices, to train the participants in the subjects related to the planning and conducting of such activities being employed as visitors/evaluators or escorts.
• To deepen contacts between representatives of national organisations, agencies engaged in the accomplishment of arms control and/or security- and confidence-building measures.
• To provide -especially the practical part of the course - opportunity for participants to exercise or “observe” the real events, adding a real
value to the SEE region and showing fields and ways of how to work in the future as a platform for co-operation at the national, regional and international level.

Fifteen participants from five countries attended the Course: Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Croatia (3), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (3), Montenegro (3), participated in the Course. Lectures arrived from Croatia (1), Germany (1), Hungary (2), Turkey (1), and from the NATO ACCS (Arms Control and Coordination Section) (1). The four-day Course gave the opportunity for participants to meet their colleagues from the SEE region as well as to meet representatives/experts coming from organizations and agencies being engaged for years with the execution of the VD 99’ and/or other arms control regimes.

Lecturers invited covered all the topics efficiently and presented a comprehensive and detailed overview of the relevant parts of the treaty taken for investigation. This course, especially the practical part, has provided an excellent opportunity for participants to “observe” the real events - brought and added a real value to the SEE region and showed fields and ways of how to work in the future as a platform for co-operation on national, regional and international level.

*Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

Seminar on Media and Security Sector

According to the RACVIAC annual programme, RACVIAC held a seminar on Media and Security Sector that took place from 17th to 18th of September 2007 in Zagreb/Croatia.

The aim of the seminar was to provide a forum for discussion concerning the relation between media and security sector touching problems, difficulties and expectations of both sides to create more transparent environment in our region.

The seminar objectives were the following:

- To highlight the role of Media in Security Affairs
- To share ideas and experience related: Media and Non-Governmental Organizations, and armed conflict and Media
- Conflict prevention and role of Media in peace building and peacekeeping
- To try to define involvement of media in new Wars and challenges of the 21st Century
- To try to clarify difficulties, expectations and possible solutions from both sides (Media and Governmental institutions).

The seminar was designed especially for staff of MOD, MOI, MFA, NGOs, Academics and Media. The participation and lecturers were coming from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Hungary and Serbia.

The following lectures were given:

Keynote Speech: “The role of Media in Security Affairs (effects on planning, use of sources, public awareness and so on…)” Dr Radica GAREVA – MK;

Lecture-1: “Conflict Prevention and the Role of the Media in the Peace building and Peacekeeping” Dr Aleksandar DONCEV – MK;


Lecture-3: “Difficulties, expectations and possible solutions from both sides (Media and Governmental institutions)”, Mr. Igor CRNADAK - BA;

Lecture-4: “Media and non-Governmental Organizations in the field of Security issues” Dr Mladen STANICIC – HR;

Lecture-5: “Armed conflict and Media/Lessons learned from recent and current operations” Col. Hamza VISCA - BA.

Discussions were fruitful and gave the participants an opportunity to exchange ideas and reach the following conclusions:

- Citizens have a right to obtain information about public issues, including security.
- All states can have secrecy laws and other regulatory devices that are designed to restrict flow of sensitive information.
- The media and security sector should work together on a daily basis in both peace and conflict situations.
- Crisis plans of security sector should be prepared in advance, taking into account different ideas, also involved media.
- Experts from both side on the same table.
- Respect, coordination and communication between security sector and media are all important.
- Independent Media
- Training is needed for both – to increase knowledge level
- Mutual understanding, trust and perception
- Be sensitive for national interest
- Specific law regulations for Media
- Transparency for Public information

*Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Regional Approach in the Planning of Demining Programmes (C-7)</td>
<td>22 - 26 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil—Military Relations OSCE Code of Conduct (S-8)</td>
<td>29 - 31 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG1 Meeting (3) on retraining and resettlement of military personnel (WS-7)</td>
<td>12 - 14 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Management (C-8)</td>
<td>12 - 16 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WG2 Meeting (3) on Base Conversion (WS-8)</td>
<td>19 - 21 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resource Management workshop (WS-9)</td>
<td>25 November - 01 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Course on CFE, ACFE (C-9)</td>
<td>03 - 07 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet, digital revolutions—effects to the SEE security (S-10)</td>
<td>10 - 14 December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Main Goals:**
- Exchange of experience and knowledge in the field of mine action in the region of SEE
- To discuss civil/military relationship in national relevant bodies and highlights the necessity of Civil—Military relations in Democratic countries
- The main topics (goals) will be decided at the previous meeting according to the current countries situations and needs
- To discuss national and regional issues on Disaster Preparedness and Prevention in SEE; to deepen contacts between representatives of national, regional and international organizations engaged in this issue
- The main topics (goals) will be decided at the previous meeting according to the current countries situations and needs
- To give an insight into the personnel and organizational aspects of the transition of conscript oriented AF to the professional AF
- To inform site commanders about their perspective duties and responsibilities under the requirements of the relevant documents
- To highlight the importance of internet taking into account advantages, challenges and treats in the field of security

**Target Audience:**
- Representatives of National Authorities and NGO of the countries of the region of SEE, dealing with that issue
- Parliamentarians, staff from MOI, MFA, MOD, high level from National Army, Media
- Permanent WG1 members (MAG countries and organizations)
- Permanent WG2 members and organizations
- Officers and civilians working in Human resources management of the Armed Forces
- Site Commanders, inspector/escort personnel
- Representatives of MOD, MFA, MOI, IT Companies,..