Change of Command in RACVIAC

RACVIAC presented at the OSCE Security Forum
Cyber Defence Workshop supported by NATO Science for Peace Programme
Seminar on the OSCE landmark document in the field of security sector governance
Conference on Partnership Policy and Smart Defence

INTERVIEW:
Mr Fabian Grass, OSCE
NATO School Oberammergau pays a visit to RACVIAC

On 16 July 2012 the NATO School Oberammergau staff, headed by Colonel Mark D. Baines, NSO Commandant, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, Deputy Director, Colonel Zeljko Cepanec, and RACVIAC senior staff members welcomed the guests.

This was the first extended working visit, which gave both organizations a chance to present their programmes and plans. Despite the distinguishing features of the two organizations, one internationally and the other regionally oriented, both of them recognized some corresponding programme activities and possible areas for a closer and deeper cooperation. Both sides expressed their interest in revitalizing this cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

Head of OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit visited RACVIAC

On 25 July 2012 Mr Thomas Wuchte, Head of Action against Terrorism Unit, Transnational Threat Department, from the OSCE Vienna visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. The occasion for the visit was the wish expressed by Mr Wuchte to make personal acquaintance with RACVIAC, as he was newly appointed to the mentioned position in March this year. Mr Wuchte was welcomed by the RACVIAC Director and seconded staff members.
The Ambassador of the Republic of Chile to the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Mr Germán Orlando Ibarra Morán, visited RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation on the 30th of July 2012. The occasion for the visit to RACVIAC was the desire expressed by H.E. to make personal acquaintance with RACVIAC’s mission, aims and organization. The guest was welcomed by the Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, and senior RACVIAC staff members. After the presentation on the history of RACVIAC, its organizational structure, mission and achievements, given by the RACVIAC PR Officer, the Chilean Ambassador and his hosts engaged in an interesting discussion on RACVIAC’s activities and role in the SEE region. The Chilean Ambassador extended his congratulations to RACVIAC on the work it is undertaking to assist strengthening of peace and stability in the region.

Visit of the Chilean Ambassador

The Ambassador of the Republic of Chile to the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Mr Germán Orlando Ibarra Morán, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on the 30th of July 2012. The occasion for the visit to RACVIAC was the desire expressed by H.E. to make personal acquaintance with RACVIAC’s mission, aims and organization. The guest was welcomed by the Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, and senior RACVIAC staff members. After the presentation on the history of RACVIAC, its organizational structure, mission and achievements, given by the RACVIAC PR Officer, the Chilean Ambassador and his hosts engaged in an interesting discussion on RACVIAC’s activities and role in the SEE region. The Chilean Ambassador extended his congratulations to RACVIAC on the work it is undertaking to assist strengthening of peace and stability in the region.

New Deputy Director appointed

The tour of duty of Colonel Zeljko Cepanec, RACVIAC Deputy Director, ended on 31 July 2012. The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia appointed Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop as the new Deputy Director and he assumed his new duties on the 1st of August 2012.

In accordance with the MAG Decision on New RACVIAC Organization, Deputy Director is seconded on a permanent basis by the host nation, the Republic of Croatia. The scope of his responsibilities includes coordinating all operational tasks and staff work in the Centre with the aim of RACVIAC Programme development and execution, developing policies and procedures that support RACVIAC mission, coordinating integrated pillar activities, reporting to the Director and assuming his functions in the Director’s absence, developing RACVIAC annual budget, proposing allocation of resources to activity programmes, monitoring expenditures, maintaining contact with the Croatian national institutions, offices, as well as with other relevant international and regional organizations. RACVIAC is pleased that Brigadier General Jakop’s expertise and leadership skills have been acknowledged through this new appointment.
RACVIAC staff visited the town of Lepoglava

In order to get a better insight into the municipal and judicial system of the Republic of Croatia, RACVIAC staff paid a visit to the town of Lepoglava on 20 September 2012.

The Mayor of Lepoglava, Mr Marijan Skvaric and his deputy, Mr Alojz Gredelj, gave a warm welcome to RACVIAC staff members in the town hall. Mr Skvaric delivered a presentation on the Croatian municipal and county system and gave a vivid overview of the town's history, cultural heritage, and economic situation.

The next stop on the visit was the Lepoglava penitentiary. The penitentiary warden, Mr Miljenko Mavrin, delivered a comprehensive presentation on judicial and prison system of the Republic of Croatia, while sharing some interesting stories and figures regarding high-quality products made by the inmates.

In addition to the warm hospitality of its people, RACVIAC staff also enjoyed an amazing historical and cultural heritage of the town of Lepoglava by visiting Pauline Church of Blessed Virgin Mary and the 16th International Lace Festival.

RACVIAC presented to OSCE/FSC in VIENNA

The Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, and Col Ferdinand Klinser, the Liaison Officer for Western Europe and International Organisations, gladly accepted the invitation to the OSCE/FSC Meeting on 26 September 2012 in Vienna to present the achievements, developments, enlargement of cooperation and the future of RACVIAC, based on its Strategy for the period of 2012 - 2015.

The Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) is one of the OSCE's two main regular decision-making bodies. It was established at the 1992 Helsinki Summit in order to strengthen the Organization's focus on politico-military security.

The Forum meets weekly in Vienna and provides a unique platform for the 56 OSCE participating States to discuss topical security challenges on an equal footing. The FSC Meeting agenda always includes “security dialogue”, allowing participating States to raise and discuss security concerns and challenges. These discussions regularly lead to initiatives and measures to strengthen politico-military security, including confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs).

Ambassador Todorcevski took this opportunity to draw the attention of the participants to one of the events taking place in October in RACVIAC premises. The event is entitled A Decade of Peace Support Operations - South East Europe from Consumer to Provider of Security.

Col Klinser outlined the history of RACVIAC, focused on the achievements of the three pillars in cooperation with the OSCE and gave an outlook of the future development of RACVIAC and broadening the scope of cooperation.

In the final, vivid Q & A session RACVIAC received compliments for the quality of its achievements in all of the three pillars, notably for the following events: CSE: Dayton Peace Accord, Arms Control, Vienna Document; IRC: The SEE Path towards EU, Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) - EU's Contribution to the Security and Involvement of SEE; SSR: Code of Conduct, Border Management, Gender and SSR. In this regard, our Centre was highlighted as a unique and important platform for security dialogue and stability in the SEE.
Visits to/outside RACVIAC

SEDM meeting in Sarajevo

On 3 October 2012, RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, accompanied by Major Sasa Konjevic, Planning and Liaison Officer for SEE, participated in the South East Europe Defense Ministerial (SEDM) meeting, held in Sarajevo and hosted by the Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Muhamed Ibrahimovic. Gathering 15 defence ministers or their representatives from SEDM member and observer countries, as well as representatives of several international organizations, the meeting was focused on the future of SEDM and its synchronization with other regional efforts in order to avoid unnecessary duplications. RACVIAC was recognized as a platform with which cooperation needs to be further elaborated and made concrete.

Representatives of EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence in RACVIAC

On 05 October 2012 Mr Francesco Miorin, CBRN Regional Coordinator from the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and Ms Francesca Longo from the European Commission Joint Research Centre, accompanied by Ms Sanja Bujas Juraga and Ms Ivana Zerec from the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

This visit was organized on the margins of the fourth round-table meeting of the European Union’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative in South East Europe, the Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine, held in Zagreb on 4 October 2012 at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia.

The occasion for the visit was the presentation of the CBRN CoE Initiative, as well as of the implementation mechanism of the projects approved by the CoE Initiative, with a view to discussing possible ways of cooperation with RACVIAC.

The guests were welcomed by RACVIAC Director Nikola Todorcevski, Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, and RACVIAC senior staff members.

Following the presentations of both Centres, the representatives of the CBRN CoE Initiative and the hosts engaged in a fruitful discussion on possible activities and plans for the future. Subsequently, both sides expressed their hope that the cooperation between the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative and RACVIAC would be enhanced in the time to come.
The 28th semi-annual Meeting

The 28th semi-annual Meeting of the RACVIAC steering body - Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) started on the 09th of October 2012, in Raktije, Republic of Croatia, under the Chairmanship of Albania.

The Meeting gathered representatives from the majority of RACVIAC Member States and a representative of the Regional Security Council (RCC).

Pursuant to the Meeting Agenda, the first day was dedicated to budgetary issues. All relevant aspects of the RACVIAC Budget were discussed, more specifically the 2012 and 2013 Budget, including the 2014-2016 Budget Projection. Furthermore, the Meeting was aimed at giving the opportunity to the Associate Members to declare their pledges for the 2013 Budget pursuant to preliminary calculations based on the Draft 2013 Programme.

The main topic on the second day of the MAG Meeting was the Director's Interim Report, which covers the first eight months of the current year. It was meant to provide the Autumn MAG Meeting participants with all the relevant information and highlight RACVIAC's achievements during the reporting period. The Director's presentation was followed by the presentations given by RACVIAC Programme Managers with regard to respective pillar programme achievements in the first eight months of the year 2012 and the programme projections for the period 2013-2016. Following their presentations, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, RACVIAC Deputy Director, informed the MAG about the current personnel situation.

Later in the day a representative of the Croatian MFIA and RACVIAC Management jointly provided MAG with the information on the draft version of the Host Nation Agreement.

Taking into account the statement by the Greek representative on the temporary change of their status to the observer one, part of the Meeting was dedicated to the necessary Budget recalculation.

With a view to improving RACVIAC programme of activities and successfully meeting the needs and requirements of the Member Countries, the MAG encouraged the establishment of a Programme Development Group that would primarily deal with launching of new ideas and proposals.

Although at the autumn MAG Meeting a new MAG Chairperson is usually elected for the upcoming year, this time the MAG decided to extend the Chairmanship of Major General Zyber Dushku for an additional month, as the census on the nominees from two countries, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia, was not reached. If the agreement is not reached in the designated period, in accordance with the RACVIAC Agreement, the term of the current MAG chair will be extend for an additional year.

MAG delegates also took this opportunity to express their gratitude to the outgoing Director, Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, and welcome the incoming one, Ambassador Branimir Mandic.

Concluding the Meeting, the MAG chairman Major General Zyber Dushku, pointed out that it could be said without any false modesty that RACVIAC, started as a project under the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe, has definitely proved to be one of the most successful projects in the SEE region, a project owned by the region and working for the region. RACVIAC succeeded in its efforts to foster dialogue and cooperation on various levels by bringing together high-ranking officials such as ministers, parliamentarians, attaches and ambassadors.
RACVIAC Handover/Takeover Ceremony

On 12 October 2012 the Handover/Takeover Ceremony was held in RACVIAC. Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski handed over his duties to the new RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Branimir Mandic. Ambassador Todorcevski came to this position in October 2009 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, as a career diplomat. He held the leading position in RACVIAC for three years, in the course of which the Centre completed a challenging process of transformation to the international, regionally-owned organization focused on fostering dialogue on security cooperation in South East Europe, both among the countries in the region and their international partners. The new Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Branimir Mandic, comes from Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he previously held the position of Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

RACVIAC Handover/Takeover Ceremony was attended by the representatives of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Croatian Parliament, Croatian Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatian Army HQ, as well as the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albanian Ministry of Defence, RACVIAC Member countries and other diplomatic missions in the Republic of Croatia and the local municipality.

Welcome speeches for the new RACVIAC Director were given by the sending nation representative, Ms Ana Trisic-Babic, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the host nation representative, Ms Vesna Batistic-Kos, Head of the Department for Multilateral Affairs and Global issues, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

Ms Trisic-Babic pointed out that Ambassador Mandic, with his professionalism and international experience, would undoubtedly contribute to the promotion of RACVIAC as an international, regionally oriented organization, endowing it at the same time with the ability to respond to the emerging needs and requirements of the countries in the region.

Welcoming Ambassador Mandic on behalf of the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ms Vesna Batistic-Kos emphasized that, regardless of some financial constraints, RACVIAC had managed to expand its scope of activities in the last few years and to broaden the cooperation with other international organizations also working on enhancing stability and cooperation in the SEE. She reiterated the commitment of the host country to the Centre and its activities.

RACVIAC staff visited CARITAS Centre

In order to continue the well-established cooperation with the local community, as well as to get acquainted with the CARITAS Centre for Homeless People located in Rakitje village, close to the RACVIAC headquarters, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop paid a visit to the CARITAS Centre on 12 October 2012.

He was welcomed by Mr Ivan Mavrek, the CARITAS Care for the Homeless Project Manager. Mr Mavrek informed the RACVIAC Deputy Director about the operations and daily activities of the Centre, as well about their needs and problems.

General Jakop took this opportunity to deliver some food to the beneficiaries of the Centre, saying that both the CARITAS Centre for Homeless People and RACVIAC were doing a worthy job, hoping that this small donation made by RACVIAC would brighten the day of the beneficiaries.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
Interview with Mr Fabian Grass, Forum for Security Co-operation Support Officer, OSCE, conducted on the occasion of the "OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security" Seminar

Mr Grass, could you please explain what is the main function, mission of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre?

The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) was established by the participating States in 1990. The CPC supports the Chairperson-in-Office and other OSCE bodies in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. The CPC also plays a key role in supporting OSCE field operations through its regional desks. In addition, the Centre has a Situation Room which monitors developments in the OSCE area affecting security and stability on a 24 hours/7 days a week basis. The CPC's FSC Support Section, the Section I am working with, provides a wide range of support to the Chairmanship and Troika of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) is one of two regular decision-making bodies of the OSCE, alongside the Permanent Council. The FSC Support Section assists in the implementation of projects and of major OSCE politico-military commitments. In addition, we also enable a direct and secure channel for communication and exchange of information between the capitals of the OSCE participating States through our Communication Network.

Since 1999 the Participating States have annually exchanged information on their implementation of the Code of Conduct, on the basis of the Questionnaire. How would you assess the answers to the Questionnaire on the Code? Have there been any improvements in this regard over the years and how sincere are the countries in their answers? For instance, with regard to reporting on both paramilitary and internal security forces, the rights of armed forces personnel?

The participating States adopted in 1998 for the first time a document which contained several questions on how the Code of Conduct is implemented. This so-called Questionnaire has been updated several times thereafter, the last time in 2009. Currently, the Questionnaire contains 24 questions and sub-questions which cover all aspects of the Code of Conduct. Every year, by 15 April, the participating States exchange their replies to the Questionnaire among each other. In 2012, most OSCE participating States (53 out of 56) have provided replies, which attests to a very high level of compliance. Even other OSCE documents. What exactly did you mean by that?

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security was adopted in 1994 as a landmark document in the field of security sector governance. Through the Code of Conduct, the participating States of the OSCE committed themselves to important principles of inter-state relations and intra-state conduct. The Code of Conduct sets out for the first time the requirements for the democratic political control of armed forces: all participating States commit themselves to “at all times provide for and maintain effective guidance to and control of its military, paramilitary and security forces by constitutionally established authorities vested with democratic legitimacy” (article 21). The Code also stipulates that armed forces should be politically neutral, that the rights of armed forces personnel should be protected and that all soldiers should be made aware that they are individually accountable for their actions. The Code of Conduct hence contains very far-reaching provisions which are, as described by Dr. Alexandre Lambert, revolutionary in nature. Twenty years after its adoption, the Code of Conduct is still able to provide relevant guidance on how to organize and govern the security sector. However, it is also true that the Code of Conduct has lost visibility and that it is not known to the wider public. It is therefore a “hidden jewel” in the OSCE toolbox.

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security is, as you stated, a hidden jewel among other OSCE documents. What exactly did you mean by that?
though the quality and scope of replies vary greatly from country to country and from question to question, it can be observed that replies provide valuable insights into how the Code of Conduct is implemented in each State. Over the years we can note that the quality of replies is increasing. The Reference Guide of 2010, a voluntary document which assists participating States to structure and fill out their replies, has certainly helped a great deal in this respect. Room for improvement still exists regarding the reporting on intelligence forces or on paramilitary forces, and also on the rights of armed forces personnel. More positively, we can note that about half of participating States report in detail on the competences of their parliament, the role of Ombudspersons or how the deployment for peacekeeping operations is decided.

The SEE region, which experienced various military conflicts in the past, is very actively working on security sector reform, especially on the implementation and standardization of several internationally binding documents, agreements, rules, etc. They are aware that no stability can be sustainable if the democratic control of armed forces is not assured. In your opinion, how far have the SEE countries progressed with the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct? The countries of South East Europe have come a long way in the implementation of the Code of Conduct. Today, all countries of the region comply with the annual information exchange and the quality of replies is in general among the highest of the OSCE area. The countries of the region as well as our OSCE field presences have been strong supporters of the Code and of its implementation. For example, Montenegro just recently held a seminar on the Code of Conduct for the parliamentarians of their Defence and Security Committee, and Bosnia and Herzegovina has included the Code as a constant feature in training activities for its armed forces. Also, RACVIAC's activities promoting the Code of Conduct, including this seminar, were very important in this respect.

In that regard, could you highlight the most sensitive issues or, more precisely, the main shortcomings of the regional countries in the implementation of the Code? Not specifically for the region, but in general, we can observe the challenge of certain information lacking in the information exchange. This includes for example detailed information on the democratic control of intelligence services, descriptions of the competencies of parliaments or the control of the police. It might also be beneficial for the countries of the region to engage in peer-to-peer dialogue on the individual submissions included in the annual information exchange.

The first annual discussion on the implementation of the Code of Conduct was held on 12 July 2012, with the aim to assess, review and improve the implementation. What was the general conclusion of the discussion? The first annual implementation discussion on the Code of Conduct provided a good opportunity to discuss how the Code is implemented and to examine its relevance in the context of the existing political and military situation. Several good suggestions were made during the meeting, which will be discussed in the FSC. These pertain in particular to strengthening outreach of the Code of Conduct to key stakeholders, such as parliamentarians, as well as to other regions, such as the Mediterranean and North African region. A great number of delegations also called for a more detailed assessment of the annual information exchange, which is currently limited to a statistical overview.

Mr Grass, the OSCE has cooperated with RACVIAC for years and you have personally taken part in several RACVIAC activities. How would you evaluate RACVIAC's role in strengthening the dialogue on security matters in the SEE? What are the areas we could extend the scope of our activities to? RACVIAC definitely plays a key role in facilitating the implementation of the Code of Conduct in the region of South East Europe. Your Centre enjoys access and you have established a network of key stakeholder over the years. It is therefore only natural that the OSCE closely co-operates with RACVIAC in promoting and implementing the Code. In future, I would see the merit in including different stakeholders of the Code of Conduct. This could for example mean reaching out to parliamentarians and staffers of parliamentary defence and security committees. I look forward to co-operating with RACVIAC and the countries of your region in this respect.

Fabian Grass is seconded by the Swiss MoD to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) where he works for the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC). Prior to his assignment, Fabian worked for the Swiss MFA as Interim Head of the Taskforce for Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation (until end 2011), the Swiss Delegation to the Conference on Disarmament (2010-2011), the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (2008-10) and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (2004). He holds a Master's degree from the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies in Geneva.
Cyber Defence Workshop conducted in RACVIAC

Supported by NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme

With the aim of bringing together policy makers and senior cyber defence experts from the SEE region and exposing them to cyber defence strategy and policy oriented experience and know-how of experts from the countries and international organizations outside of the SEE region, Advanced Research Workshop on “Cyber Defence Strategies and Policies: Addressing a Constantly Changing Threat” was conducted in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, in the period of 11-12 September 2012.

This two-day workshop was co-organized and supported by NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme, as the first in a series of activities on cyber issues planned for the forthcoming period.

In order to effectively address cyber security challenges, it is not sufficient merely to establish centres, commands and other organizational structures to deal with cyber threats. More importantly, it is vital to establish strategies, specify objectives and provide the big picture that describes the desired end state, as well as to develop policies providing the strategic link between the objectives and day-to-day actions.

Cyber defence strategies and policies have to reconcile two opposing requirements: to be understandable and specific on the one hand and, on the other, to be flexible enough to address emerging, innovative forms of cyber threats.

Developing such strategies and policies is a challenge in itself, especially for the countries without a wealth of experience. Bearing in mind that the countries of the SEE region are at different levels when it comes to the establishment of organizational structures dealing with cyber threats, this workshop was an opportunity to exchange experience and to be exposed to the experience and know-how of experts from the countries and international organizations outside the SEE region.

Bringing together more than 30 civilian and military officials dealing with policy development and senior cyber security experts, as well as representatives of NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, the European Defence Agency (EDA), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies, SELEC - Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre, Croatian Association of Security Managers, Global Cyber Defence & Security Services (Italy), this event served as a forum for experience and knowledge exchange, facilitating international and inter-organizational cooperation and regional approach to cyber defence.

The workshop comprised two sessions. In the first session, entitled “Cyber Defence Strategies and Policies: International Level,” representatives of international and non-governmental organizations and independent experts presented cyber defence related strategies and policies of their organizations, sharing their views on the topic and some suggestions on how international cooperation in this area could be improved.

In the second session, entitled “Cyber Defence Strategies and Policies at National Levels,” representatives from the SEE region and the Republic of Slovenia presented their views and provided information on the level of development of cyber defence strategies and policies, and cyber security systems in their countries.

Concluding the workshop, the newly appointed RACVIAC Deputy Director, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, said that RACVIAC regarded this event as successful, which attested to the fact that there was a high level of interest in cyber security in the SEE region. On that note, he also informed the participants that RACVIAC planed to organize the next workshop on the “Legal Aspects of Cyber Security” in early March 2013, again with the support of NATO SPS Programme.

The workshop proved to be worthwhile, as it provided an opportunity for cyber defence experts and policy makers from the SEE region to exchange knowledge, experience and know-how, as well as to listen to the experiences of experts from the countries, international and non-governmental organizations outside the SEE region. Particularly notable was the rare opportunity to listen to the opinions of independent experts and representatives of the private sector.
Dealing with the landmark OSCE document in the field of security sector governance, the seminar on “Security Sector Reform and OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security” was organized in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, in the period of 17-19 September 2012, in Rakitje.

The idea for organising the seminar on the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (CoC) and for emphasising its importance for successful security sector reform in South Eastern Europe originates from the RACVIAC Strategy 2012-2015, which highlights the enhancement of security cooperation in the SEE region as one of the most important objectives.

The Code of Conduct is a core document with regard to the OSCE politico-military dimension that commits the participating states to a set of principles governing democratic control of armed forces, police and security forces. The purpose of this two-day seminar was to raise awareness about these commitments and discuss experiences and challenges in the practical implementation thereof. Special emphasis was placed on security sector governance and reform.

The seminar gathered more than 20 participants - senior military and security officials, Members of Parliaments and parliamentary professionals, representatives of the Ministries for Foreign Affairs from the SEE countries, whose duties relate to the OSCE and the Code of Conduct, as well as representatives from the public sector, civil society, and experts from the OSCE and DCAF.

Opening the seminar, the Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Nikola Todorcevski, said that “no matter how deeply the countries of South Eastern Europe are engaged in the security sector reform, the OSCE Code of Conduct is a perfect tool for keeping track of the changes they have made towards the democratisation of their transition societies, while the seminar is a great opportunity to transparently show to the public the improvements in the overall security of their societies”.

The seminar was divided into three panels. Panel I, Introduction to the Code of Conduct, gave an overview of the content, structure, implementation and recent developments of the CoC in the OSCE framework outlined by Mr Fabian Grass form the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre. The anthropological and ethical aspects of the OSCE Code of Conduct were presented by Mr Beno Arnejcic, Ph.D, the University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia.

In the second panel, entitled Democratic Control of Armed Forces and Security Forces, Mr Emir Vajzovic, M.Sc., University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, explained the role of the Code of Conduct in the democratic control of armed forces and security sector governance. Mr Vajzovic also outlined the mechanisms and procedures for parliamentary oversight over armed and security forces and the role of parliaments/ ombudspersons.

Having in mind that the SEE region, which experienced various military conflicts in the past, is very actively working on the security sector reform, particularly on the implementation and standardization of internationally binding documents, agreements, and regulations, it was very interesting to listen to the presentations given in the third panel dedicated to national experiences in implementing the Code of Conduct. Presentations were made by the representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Slovenia.

The implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct is, by and large, considered a challenge, bearing in mind the lack of certain information in the information exchange. This includes, for instance, detailed information on the democratic control of intelligence services, descriptions of the competencies of parliaments or the control of the police.

The conclusion of the seminar was that this event was really beneficial for the countries of the region, providing a good opportunity to discuss how the CoC was implemented and to examine its relevance in the context of the existing political and military situation in the SEE.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
Conference on Partnership Policy and Smart Defence conducted

In cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia and with the support of NATO

After the Chicago NATO Summit, the Alliance and its Partners are facing numerous challenges with regard to the expansion of partnership policy, limitation of resources, the need to reconcile values and interests, and engagement of partners in emerging security challenges. Furthermore, the dialogue and cooperation with partners can make a concrete contribution to enhancing international security, to defending the values on which the Alliance is based, to NATO operations, and to preparing the interested nations for NATO membership.

In the times of crisis, while cuts in defence budgets present a great challenge for policy makers, planners and officials in the security sector, procurement is among the most strategically relevant and financially difficult segments of national defence systems. Apart from outsourcing, introduced two decades ago and recognized as an important defence resource management tool, amid the economic and financial crisis the countries have turned to a new concept in defence system, the concept of Smart Defence. In this regard, it is more than relevant to address with due care and sensitivity the practices and experiences with the effects of outsourcing and efforts in implementing the Smart Defence concept in national defence sectors.

Opening the conference, RACVIAC incoming Director, Ambassador Branimir Mandic, said that because of the effects of the economic crisis and cuts impacts on defence budgets, the necessity for cooperation in defence and security sector in the SEE and beyond had to be highlighted in order to develop capabilities with the purpose of improving and maximizing efficiency and effectiveness.

The conference gathered more than 40 participants, civilian and military officials at decision-making levels, and experts representing relevant ministries and international organizations dealing with planning and policies, international cooperation, procurement and finance.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia and with the support of NATO Public Diplomacy Division, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation conducted a two-day event entitled “Conference on Partnership Policy and Smart Defence in the Context of the New NATO Strategic Concept”, in Poljce, Slovenia.

The purpose of this event was to foster Partnership and Smart Defence by presenting conclusions of the last NATO Summit held in Chicago, examining regional prospects of NATO partnership and informing the SEE countries about the contribution of the SEE to NATO-led missions in the pre-accession phase and its impact towards full NATO membership. The conference was also aimed at promoting the required deeper and wider partnerships for the accomplishment of goals in order to build capability through multinational and innovative approaches and strengthen NATO’s relations with partners, presenting Smart Defence Concept and challenges of outsourcing as well as the necessity for cooperation in the defence and security sector in the SEE and beyond.

This event was also an excellent opportunity to present national situations and information on the existing and future common projects in the SEE region (such as Joint Participation in the Crisis Management Operations, Balkan Regional Approach to Air Defence - BRAAD, Regional Training Centres, etc.).

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
In accordance with the conference agenda, the first day was dedicated to NATO Partnership Policy. The first speaker was Mr Anton Bebler, Ph.D., Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, who gave a presentation on “Security challenges in SEE”. The second session was continued by the presentations given by Col Foto Duro, Director of the Directorate for Security and Defence Policy MoD (AL), Col Nihad Dervisevic, Chief of Section, Armed Forces MoD (BA), Maj Panche Stefanovski, Advisor for NATO-led Exercise and Operations MoD (MK), on the “Contribution of the SEE Countries to NATO-led Missions in the Pre-accession Phase”. The third session was dedicated to “Strengthening NATO’s Network with Partners” and the presentations were given by Ms Dana Lusa, Ph.D., Faculty of Political Science, Zagreb (HR), Ms Edina Becirevic, Ph.D., President of the Atlantic Council (BA), Mr Ismet Ramadani, Vice President of the Euro-Atlantic Council (MK), Mr Savo Kentera, President of the Atlantic Council (ME), Mr Boris Viculin, Project Manager, the Atlantic Council (RS).

The second day focused on the effects of the economic crisis on defence budgets and projects in the field of smart defence in the SEE. This topic was elaborated by Mr Marko Vucak, Head of Defence Policy, MoD (HR), Mr Erik Kopac, Ph.D., University of Ljubljana (SI), Mr Davor Cutic, Senior Expert, MoD (HR). The last session of the conference covered the topic of Smart Defence/Pooling & Sharing in the SEE. It identified some common regional projects, while the presentations were given by national representatives coming from the ministries of defence.

**GOODBYES & HELLOS**

In July 2012 RACVIAC bid farewell to LtCol Konstantinos Alexopoulos. LtCol Alexopoulos served in RACVIAC as Subject Matter Expert on Arms Control Treaties in Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control Pillar for three years. Thanks to his extensive professional and international experience and knowledge, LtCol Alexopoulos made a great contribution to RACVIAC, not only during preparation and execution of RACVIAC activities, but also in daily routine work. He successfully cooperated with all RACVIAC staff and proved to be an excellent team player, able to carry out his duties to the benefit of our organization. We will especially miss his optimistic and enthusiastic approach, as well as his very friendly attitude.

LtCol Alexopoulos continues his professional career in the Hellenic Armed Forces. We wish him all the best in his future career and private life.

RACVIAC bids farewell to its Deputy Director Colonel Zeljko Cepanec. It has been a great pleasure working with him during his three-year tour of duty at RACVIAC that ended in July 2012. We would like to thank Col Cepanec for his professionalism and substantial contribution to the promotion of RACVIAC and implementation of the new RACVIAC Agreement and Strategy. He was not only an efficient and successful Deputy Director, but also a good colleague. We would like to wish him and his family all the best in the future.

Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop assumed the position as RACVIAC Deputy Director on 01 August 2012, having been seconded by the Croatian Ministry of Defence.

He was born on 14 October 1967, in Ivanec, Croatia. His last assignment was that of the Head of Croatian Verification Centre, Defence Policy Directorate, Croatian Ministry of Defence. Prior to that, in the course of his over 20 year-long military career, he performed several commanding duties in the Croatian Armed Forces.

He completed numerous national and foreign schools and courses, of which the most significant are the War College “Ban Josip Jelačić” in Croatia and NATO Defence College in Rome. He was awarded several military medals and orders.

Brigadier General Jakop holds a bachelor’s degree from the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering in Zagreb. He also completed postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb.

He is married and has two children.
RACVIAC is very glad to welcome its new staff member, Colonel Zafer Kılıç. Colonel Kılıç was born in Balıkesir/Turkey in 1970. He graduated from the Military Academy in 1992 as First Lieutenant and from the Artillery School in 1993.

Colonel Kılıç served as Platoon Leader and Project Officer in various units and headquarters subordinate to the Turkish Land Forces until 2006. Having graduated from the War College as Staff Officer in 2008, he held the position of Staff Officer at the Department of Operations and Public Order of Gendarmerie Corps Headquarters. He served as a Commander of the 1st Motorized Infantry Battalion, 10th Brigade in 2010. Colonel Kılıç was appointed a Chief of Staff of the 16th Mechanized Infantry Brigade in 2011, concurrently completing his education at the Turkish Armed Forces Staff College.

Colonel Zafer Kılıç will serve in RACVIAC as a Programme Manager of the Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control Pillar. He is married to Gülfizar Kılıç and has two children.

RACVIAC’s new Operations Manager is Captain Nevena Skender-Markic, who assumed her duty on 01 September 2012. Captain Skender-Markic was seconded by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia, where she joined in 1992. She graduated from the Faculty of Criminology Science, University of Zagreb, and pursues her Master’s Degree at the Faculty of Political Science.

Cpt Skender-Markic served in various functions, but came to RACVIAC from the Defence Policy Directorate of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia, where she held the position of an expert advisor for multilateral affairs at the Department for International Defence Cooperation.

Cpt Skender-Markic devotes her leisure time to family and enjoys cycling and mountain walking.

Captain Drazen Pecnik was appointed the new Service Branch Chief in RACVIAC on 01 September 2012. He joined the Croatian Armed Forces in 1991. At the beginning of his career he served as a maintenance officer, specializing in weapon systems maintenance. Later on, he worked with the US MPRI team on reorganizing the logistics systems at the MoD and Armed Forces. At his last position, he was in charge of the implementation of the NATO Codification System. He also worked on standardization issues, and is one of the creators of the MoD and Armed Forces standardization system, primarily focused on the implementation of NATO standards.

Cpt Pecnik is a devoted skydiver and glider pilot, spending much of his free time at the nearby airfield.

Forthcoming events

SSR in the Context of PSO: Ten Years of SEE’s Countries Participation in PSO Missions

Ottawa Convention Seminar

Demographic Trends and Social Economical Challenges in SEE

Physical Security and Stock Pile Management (PSSM) Course

Financial Aspects of Economic Crisis and Their Impact on Security Sector

Search and Rescue

Arms Control Symposium

Private Security Companies /PMSC vs. National Security Sector

Meeting of Regional Parliamentary Defence and Security Committees

Promoting Security Strategies and Emerging Policy Priorities in SEE
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SSR-02-C</td>
<td>Border Management: Capacity Building</td>
<td>04-07 Feb</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>SSR-01-S</td>
<td>Basics of SSR: Defence Accountability in the Framework of CSDP</td>
<td>18-21 Feb</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>IRC(CSP)-02-W</td>
<td>Advanced Research Workshop: Legal Aspects of Cyber Security</td>
<td>04-06 Mar</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>CSE-04-C</td>
<td>Vienna Document – Formation/Unit Commanders’ Course</td>
<td>04-08 Mar</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>CSE-02-S</td>
<td>Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar</td>
<td>18-21 Mar</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>SSR-03-C</td>
<td>Border Management: Capacity Building</td>
<td>08-11 Apr</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>IRC-01-W</td>
<td>Organized Crime and Global Counter Terrorism Conference/ Critical National Infrastructure – Protection, Security &amp; Resilience</td>
<td>06-08 May</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>SSR-07-RT</td>
<td>SSR and Gender: Implementation of UNSCR 1325</td>
<td>11-14 May</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>IRC-06-P</td>
<td>Search and Rescue (Joint Regional SAR Development)</td>
<td>19-21 May</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>SSR-11-RT</td>
<td>Border Management and Gender</td>
<td>21-24 May</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>CSE-03-C</td>
<td>Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) - Orientation Course</td>
<td>27-29 May</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>IRC-05-CF</td>
<td>Strategic Communication – The Coordinated and Appropriate Use of the Communications Activities and Capabilities</td>
<td>03-05 Jun</td>
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<td>SSR-10-W</td>
<td>Workshop on the 20th Anniversary of OSCE CoC</td>
<td>14-17 Jun</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>SSR-06-S</td>
<td>Parliamentary Oversight and Gender</td>
<td>17-20 Jun</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>IRC(CSP)-03-C</td>
<td>Regional Computer Emergency Response Teams Conference</td>
<td>26-28 Jun</td>
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<td>09-12 Sep</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>SSR-12-S</td>
<td>CSBM: Oversight and Building Integrity of Defence Institutions</td>
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<td>CSE-8-W</td>
<td>Workshop on Customs Procedures and Licensing Issuance: Integrating the National Processing of Dual Use Goods and Conventional Weapons</td>
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<td>SSR-08-M</td>
<td>Annual Meeting of Regional Parliamentary Defence and Security Committees</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>IRC-02-CF</td>
<td>Modern Civil Protection Systems and New Global Challenges</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<td>Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) Course</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>SSR-09-S</td>
<td>Defence Resources Management: Strategic Procurement Issues and Scarce Resources</td>
<td>25-28 Nov</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>SSR-05-C</td>
<td>Border Management: Capacity Building</td>
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Centre for Security Cooperation

"fostering dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South East Europe"