Military Diplomatic Corps Accredited to Croatia visits RACVIAC

32\textsuperscript{nd} MAG Meeting Held In RACVIAC

OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: 20 Year Anniversary / Peer Review Conference

Regional Search and Rescue Seminar: Coastal Search and Rescue and Mass Casualty Situations

Arms Control Symposium

Interview with Ms Nika Jabbarova
Mr Jon Trumble of TNDT Border Unit, OSCE Secretariat visits RACVIAC

On September 10th, 2014 Mr Jon Trumble from the TNDT border unit at the OSCE secretariat visited RACVIAC.

Upon his arrival Mr Trumble was welcomed by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic. Following a short office call with Director Mandic, Mr Trumble met with members of the RACVIAC staff. He was given a briefing on the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Operation and provided with details regarding the work of the organization.

Considering the OSCE involvement in Ukraine, Mr Trumble was given the opportunity to present the work of the OSCE in that region. He briefly explained the OSCE monitoring mission in the Ukraine and its involvement in assisting the international community during the investigation into the crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur. Furthermore he explained the work of the OSCE in monitoring two border crossings between Ukraine and Russia and noted that the OSCE has been invited to monitor the ceasefire between the two sides.

Director Mandic thanked Mr Trumble for visiting RACVIAC and providing staff members with the current efforts of the OSCE in Ukraine.

The meeting continued with discussion between Mr Trumble and Programme managers on possible areas of cooperation between the OSCE and the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, particularly in issues related to border management.

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Romanian delegation visits RACVIAC

A Romanian delegation consisting of Mr Valeriu Nicut, State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning and LTC Jan-Florin Ganea, Head of SEDM-CC/PMSC Secretariat visited the RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation on September 24th, 2014.

The delegation was greeted by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic, who said that he was glad to have the opportunity to welcome a Romanian delegation at RACVIAC considering the cooperation between the Centre and Romania.

Following an introduction to the RACVIAC staff present at the meeting, the Romanian delegation was given a presentation on the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. A discussion followed in which various aspects of RACVIAC business were discussed.

Mr Valeriu expressed his support for the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation adding that he was glad he had an opportunity to visit a Centre that was doing much good in the region.

The delegation ended their visit with a dinner in the Zagreb city centre hosted by Director Mandic.

SEEBRIG Commander Brigadier General Hakan Eser visits RACVIAC

On Thursday September 25th, 2014 SEEBRIG Commander Brigadier General Hakan Eser visited the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in the company of Colonel Huseyin Gurgen, the Military Attache at the Turkish embassy to the Republic of Croatia and Captain Nuir Emre Mayakan ADC.

The delegation was welcomed by RACVIAC Deputy Director, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop who said that it was a pleasure to welcome such a distinguished delegation to the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

Following initial introductions by the RACVIAC staff present, a presentation on the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation was given by Language Expert Sanja Romić. A discussion followed in which Brigadier General Jakop and the RACVIAC staff informed their guests of the various aspects of programme development at RACVIAC. It was noted that RACVIAC is adopting a project oriented approach to activities, under which each pillar will focus on four or five main projects with several activities under each project. It was also noted that in conjunction with 15th anniversary celebrations, RACVIAC will be launching its new Strategy 2020 next year.

Signing the guestbook Brigadier General Eser wrote „It was a great honour and pleasure to visit RACVIAC as commander of SEEBRIG. I understood RACVIAC has been contributing much to security and arms control issues of South East Europe. Best wishes and thanks for all presentations, preparations and the hospitality.■

RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic (left), Mr Valeriu Nicut, Romanian State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning (right)

SEEBRIG Commander Brigadier General Hakan Eser (left), RACVIAC Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop (right)
A RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation delegation participated from 14 to 17 October 2014 in a Comprehensive regional ministerial meeting of the political directors of the Western Balkan States (WBPD), a meeting of defence ministers of the US-Adriatic Charter (A-5) and a meeting of defence ministers of South-Eastern Europe (SEDM), held in Budva, Montenegro, which gathered around 130 participants from 18 countries.

This comprehensive regional ministerial meeting provided a unique opportunity for open discussion on reduction of unnecessary duplication, facilitating coherence, streamlining of structures and improvement of working methods. In this way, joint efforts are being pooled more efficiently in order to strengthen regional cooperation.

A strong interest was shown for improvement of concrete forms of cooperation following a presentation by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić, in which RACVIAC was identified as a partner of the A-5 Initiative in view of the realization of the Centre's projects primarily related to the fight against corruption within the framework of building integrity, cooperation between the parliamentary committees for security and defence, search and rescue as part of the Civil Emergency Response within the A-5 Initiative and the project directed towards defence system reform.

Deputy Assistant of the NATO Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning Mr. Jonathan Parish strongly supported the RACVIAC - Center for Security Cooperation in these areas as well as in regards to future development of projects in the area of cyber security and cooperation of the Parliamentary Committees for Security and Defence of South-Eastern Europe. He demonstrated his willingness that the correct implementation of the forthcoming steps to create closer cooperation be discussed with a RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation delegation during an official visit to NATO in Brussels.

On the margins of the Comprehensive regional ministerial meeting, official meetings also took place between the RACVIAC delegation and the Defence Minister of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Zoran Jolevski; the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Albania, Ms. Mimi Kodheli; the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr Janko Veber; the Minister of Defence of Montenegro, Professor Milica Pejanović-Durišić and the Deputy Assistant of the NATO Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning Mr Jonathan Parish.

Professor Milica Pejanović-Durišić, the Minister of Defence of Montenegro emphasized the importance of the presence of the RACVIAC - Center for Security Cooperation in the comprehensive regional ministerial meeting SEEC, SEDM and A-5, emphasizing the importance of participation of an international organization which, with its program of activities, sublimes the joint efforts of the countries to improve cooperation in the region. In this regard, she informed the participants about the determination of Montenegro to join in the RACVIAC project related to building integrity and to host a conference in the part that relates to the field of fighting corruption in 2015.

In accordance with the abovementioned, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić informed the participants about the interest of RACVIAC to actively participate in all regional formats in order to more adequately look into the needs of those countries and their implementation of further courses of action and development of its program. In this respect, he expressed his gratitude for Montenegro’s active contribution to the RACVIAC - Center for Security Cooperation.

During the meeting, the Minister of Defence of Albania, Ms. Mimi Kodheli, emphasized the importance of the role of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation when it comes to the improvement of cooperation in the region, stressing that inclusiveness in the current international circumstances is unavoidable.
In addition to the above stated, she expressed the interest of the Republic of Albania to gain greater visibility in the framework of regional cooperation and in this regard announced that the Republic of Albania will be the host of activities in the field of search and rescue operations during 2015 from the RACVIAC Program of activities. Furthermore, she described the readiness of the Republic of Albania to consider the possibility that, through closer cooperation with NATO, it organizes a conference related to the topics and further directions of activity of the region in view of this year’s conclusions of the NATO Summit in Wales.

During the meeting, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Mandić briefed his counterpart about new developments in the RACVIAC Programme of activities and thanked the Republic of Albania for its active contribution to the RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation.

During the meeting with the Defence Minister of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Mr. Zoran Jolevski, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Mandić informed him about the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation's Programme of activities and explained what the new components of development within the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation are. In addition, he expressed his thanks for the active contribution the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* has been making and its dedication to the projects relating to building of integrity and the fight against corruption as well as in the framework of the RACVIAC project relating to cyber security.

In this sense, Mr Jolevski provided open and strong support to RACVIAC activities relating to the building of integrity and the fight against corruption as well as cyber security. He also expressed support for the upcoming signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Military Academy of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and the RACVIAC - Center for Security Cooperation that is based on expert support in the area of projects on cyber security and announced that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* will continue to support the Centre's work and overall development.

In view of the aforementioned, he invited the delegation of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation for an official visit to the Ministry of Defence of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* during the execution of the activity "Building Integrity and Fight against Corruption," which is planned to be held in Skopje, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, from 23 to 26 November 2014.

During the meeting with the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia Mr. Janko Veber RACVIAC Director Ambassador Mandić informed him about the current conditions and future directions of development of RACVIAC. In this regard, he stressed the importance of the Republic of Slovenia’s active presence as an associated member of the RACVIAC - Center for Security Cooperation.

In the context of the above mentioned, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Janko Veber expressed the Republic of Slovenia’s firm resolve to actively participate in the process of promoting regional cooperation and pledged continued financial support, further organization of activities on its territory and the presence of its representative in the Centre as a sign of its firm support for the Centre's Programme of activities. Furthermore, he invited a RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation delegation for an official visit to the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia in December 2014.

At the end of the Comprehensive regional ministerial meeting of political directors of the Western Balkan States (WBDPD), the meeting of defence ministers of the US-Adriatic Charter (A-5) and the meeting of defence ministers of South-Eastern Europe (SEDM) the commitment to continued promotion of policy of regional cooperation was stressed. The ministers agreed to continue developing and enhancing good neighbourly relations, mutual trust, contributing thus to stability and prosperity in South-Eastern Europe. They agreed to explore new, and further enhance the existing, modalities of cooperation in the field of defence, in accordance with Euro-Atlantic initiatives and processes, as it is the only way to ensure sustainability of peace, stability and prosperity.

In the part that concerns defence cooperation and how to make it more concrete and provide a common response to global security challenges, the opportunities for joint participation in international missions and operations were initiated as well as joint responses to natural disasters and accidents. Furthermore, in order to improve the capabilities of the armed forces, the importance of using existing regional training centers in different areas of defence and security was also pointed out.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
RACVIAC Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Institute for Corporative Security Studies from the Republic of Slovenia.

A delegation from the Institute for Corporative Security Studies in Ljubljana, Slovenia visited the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation on Tuesday, October 21st. The delegation consisted of Mr Denis Čaleta, PhD, Assist. Prof. President of the Council; Mr Miran Vršec, PhD, Assist. Prof. Vice President of the Council and Mr Mr Aljoša Kandžič, MSc, Director of the ICS. Upon the arrival the delegation had an office call with RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Branimir Mandić, followed by a broader meeting including RACVIAC staff.

Welcoming the guests, RACVIAC Director Mandić emphasized the good cooperation between the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the ICS, expressing his desire to build on it even further.

ICS Council President, Mr Denis Čaleta stressed the long term cooperation between the two organizations noting that RACVIAC participants were very active at their activities and vice-versa. He added that a memorandum of understanding will provide a good platform for further cooperation.

Following initial introduction, the ICS delegation was given a briefing on the RACVIAC - Centre for Security cooperation which was followed by a discussion on current events taking place at the Centre. It was noted that RACVIAC, as an academic organization, has the possibility of receiving volunteers and interns interested in advancing their knowledge on security-related issues.

Mr Čaleta pointed out several fields of possible cooperation between the two organizations including: critical infrastructure protection, cyber threats and countering terrorism. He suggested the possibility to mutually organize conferences on processes of radicalization that could have an influence in the region, noting that the ICS could support RACVIAC with experts in these fields and other.

A memorandum of understanding between the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Institute for Corporative Security Studies was then signed by RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Branimir Mandić and ICS Council President, Mr Denis Čaleta PhD, Assist. Prof.

A brief discussion was then held with programme managers on projects underway in their respective pillars followed by a tour of the RACVIAC facilities and a lunch hosted by RACVIAC Director Mandić.

Albanian Ambassador to Croatia Pays Introductory Visit to RACVIAC


Welcoming Ambassador Melo, RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Branimir Mandić, said that it was good to welcome a person that has been a friend of RACVIAC for so long.

Following an introduction of RACVIAC staff, Director Mandić informed the Albanian ambassador of the current state of affairs in RACVIAC noting that next year the Centre will be celebrating its 15th anniversary at which the new Strategy 2020 will be presented, describing it as a concise and workable document. Noting that RACVIAC is implementing a project oriented
approach to activities, Director Mandic said that each pillar within the Centre will have around 5 projects each while at the same time leaving room for other topics. He also informed our guest of the initiative to form a regional WMD network within RACVIAC. Touching upon the issue of personnel Director Mandic noted that it is an area that is lacking, adding that volunteers are a temporary solution but that he also hopes countries in the region will find a solution for seconding more personnel to the Centre. Ambassador Melo then addressed the meeting noting that he was happy to be considered a friend of RACVIAC. He said that Albania attaches great importance to the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, has supported it from the very beginning and will continue to do so. He noted that it is not usually easy to survive as a regional entity and that he is glad to see RACVIAC as a stable organization. Commenting the Strategy 2020 Ambassador Melo said that it was good to see a vision for the future. Addressing the problem of personnel he suggested that Albania may be ready to propose a volunteer to work at the Centre. Deputy Director, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop then took the floor noting that RACVIAC has had over eleven thousand participants at their activities and that they now come from several state agencies within the member countries including the parliamentary dimension, something that is very important when discussing security building measures and defence.

The floor was then given to programme managers who elaborated upon the activities of their respective pillars and plans for the future.

In conclusion Ambassador Melo underlined the importance of all-inclusiveness in the region and said that, following the MAG decision to include Kosovo* in the work of RACVIAC, he is looking forward to seeing their participation.

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Greg Delawie visits RACVIAC on margins of Arms Control Symposium.

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Greg Delawie and Mr Aaron Schwoebel, Political Unit Chief at the U.S. Embassy to Croatia visited RACVIAC on the margins of the Arms Control Symposium on Wednesday November 5th, 2014.

RACVIAC Deputy Director, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, welcomed Mr Delawie and Mr Swhoebel thanking them for showing an interest in the work of RACVIAC.

Following a short introduction to the staff present at the meeting, a presentation on the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation was given by Public Affairs Office Capt. Branko Lozancic. Following the presentation programme managers provided the U.S delegation with information regarding the programmes of their respective pillars for 2015.

Programme Manager for Security Sector Reform, Mr Branko Kromar, provided information on projects regarding parliamentary oversight, human rights protection, defence resource management and border security. Lt Col Muharrem Gulcan informed the American delegation of activities planned for 2015 that include the Open Skies Ariel Observation course, the Chemical Weapons Convention seminar, a mine action symposium, the Dayton Article IV course and the project for a WMD network to be established in RACVIAC.

Planning and Liaison Officer for South East Europe, Ms Iviv Nocka elaborated on her work in coordination and assistance to Programme Managers, coordinating with international organizations and work within the Program Development Group. Mr Delawie thanked the RACVIAC staff for the briefing after which he attended the Arms Control Symposium as a keynote speaker.

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Kosovo* Ambassador to Croatia visits RACVIAC

H.E. Shkendije Geci Sherifi the Kosovo* Ambassador to Croatia and Mr. Asdren Gashi, a counsellor at the embassy, visited the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on Monday November 10th 2014.

Racviac Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić and Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, welcomed the Kosovo delegation beginning with an introduction of the RACVIAC staff present and a short briefing on the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

Following the briefing Director Mandić informed the delegation of current events taking place in the work of RACVIAC. He noted that next year RACVIAC will be celebrating its 15th anniversary at which the new Strategy 2020 will be launched. The strategy foresees a shift from a 3 year planning period to longer term planning that is project oriented. It will define the main areas of focus for RACVIAC activities with 5 or 6 projects that have already begun under each pillar.

Director Mandić noted that participation by partners demonstrates that RACVIAC is on the right path, something that is reflected in the stable budget. He also noted that at a recent meeting of the OSCE it was said that they consider RACVIAC to be their extended hand in the region. Ambassador Mandić also underlined strengthening cooperation with both the EU and NATO.

The Director pointed out that RACVIAC has been recognized in the region as a platform for security dialogue, something that was reflected in the fact that over 230 people took part in two recent events that were organized in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, while over 22 media houses covered the events.

The floor was then given to Programme Managers and planning and Liaison Officers who elaborated on the work they do within the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation.

Deputy Director, Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, informed the guests of the personnel situation within RACVIAC pointing out that the Centre also supports a number of volunteers and interns who have come to gain experience.

H.E Shkendije Geci Sherifi, thanked the hosts for welcoming her noting that she is a PhD candidate in the field of Security Sector Reform and is quite familiar with the field. She thanked all countries that supported the participation of Kosovo* in the work of RACVIAC and the MAG noting that for their part they are ready to participate fully in all activities under all pillars.

Following the meeting the Deputy Director escorted the delegation for a tour of the RACVIAC facilities.

Military Diplomatic Corps Accredited to Croatia visits RACVIAC


RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić and Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop welcomed the guests.

Brigadier General Fischer thanked the RAVIAC management and staff for welcoming their visit. He noted that they initiated the visit in order to gain an insight into activities at the Centre where they could perhaps take part.

Following a short briefing on the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Director Mandić informed the visitors of events taking place at the Centre. He noted that next year RACVIAC will be celebrating its 15th anniversary and the opportunity will be used to launch the new RACVIAC Strategy 2020. He added that the Strategy will change the basis for planning activities in RACVIAC, shifting to a project oriented approach that looks between 3 and 6 years forward. Director Mandić also said that projects will be developed in cooperation with members and partners forming a network of cooperation. Each pillar within the Centre will be focusing on approximately 5 projects.

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In other developments, Director Mandić noted that RACVIAC has a programme that has been recognized in the region and beyond, something reflected in its stable budget. He added that RACVIAC continues to foster communication as participants from the region and beyond take part in activities.

A discussion followed where representatives from each of RACVIAC’s pillars presented their part of the programme, while Planning and Liaison Officers explained their work and the work of the Programme Development Group.

The meeting ended with a presentation of a RACVIAC plaque by Director Mandić to Brigadier General Fischer, followed by coffee and informal discussions.

Meeting held at RACVIAC regarding development of WMD network.

On November 18th 2014, on the margins of the Proliferation Pathways course that was held at the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation (17-21 November), a meeting was held regarding the WMD Network under development at RACVIAC.

RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić met with LtCol Lonnie Carlson (EUCOM), LtCol Ryan Fayweather (Chief of the Office for Defence Cooperation at the US Embassy in Zagreb), Ms Ivana Barbara Blazevic (Croatian MOD) and RACVIAC staff.

During the meeting participants discussed the future of the WMD Network that is currently under development at RACVIAC. Preparations for the establishment of the network are in the final phase while future developments were presented. The intention is to promote the WMD Network through three RACVIAC activities in 2015.

LtCol Faryweather stated that the US Embassy would like to promote such regional projects and events that deal with important topics such as proliferation of WMD, underlining they they intend to provide full support to the project.

In conclusion it was evident that there was a consensus regarding the benefit of the project for the entire region.

New Turkish Ambassador to Croatia visits RACVIAC

H.E. Mr Ahmet Tuta, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Republic of Croatia, made an inaugural visit to the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on Wednesday November 19th, 2014.

Welcoming Ambassador Tuta, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić, pointed out the good cooperation RACVIAC has with the Republic of Turkey in terms their support for the Centre through personnel, contributions and involvement in activities. Furthermore he expressed thanks to the Turkish government for ratifying the agreement on RACVIAC noting that it is a good sign and basis encouraging cooperation in the region.

Following a briefing on the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, programme managers and planning and liaison
Visits to/outside RACVIAC

officers informed the ambassador of coming activities at the Centre, projects within their respective pillars and issues they address.

Director Mandić pointed out that next year RACVIAC will be celebrating its 15th anniversary and in conjunction with ceremonies the new RACVIAC Strategy 2020 will be presented. The Strategy is in line with other political processes in the region and is mainly project oriented, in order to provide a better approach to activities and provide follow up on issues addressed. He underlined that the Strategy will avoid duplications with similar initiatives by other organizations while at the same time fulfilling the needs of member countries.

Furthermore Director Mandić pointed out support RACVIAC has from other international organizations noting that ten MOUs have been signed which help to avoid duplication and reach a new synergy. In terms of visibility, Director Mandić pointed out that RACVIAC organizes an ambassadorial meeting each year and that guests have included Croatian President Ivo Josipović and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Vesna Pusić.

Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop informed the Turkish Ambassador of challenges the Centre is facing in terms of personnel. Noting that the possibility to receive volunteers and interns has proven to be a valuable asset.

The meeting ended with an exchange of gifts and H.E. Mr Ahmet Tuta signed the RACVIAC guest book, followed by coffee in the office of Director Mandić.

RACVIAC Delegation visits MK Ministry of Defence

On Tuesday, November 25th 2014, a RACVIAC delegation headed by Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić met in Skopje with the MK Minister of Defence, Mr Zoran Jolevski, PhD and the representatives of the MK Ministry of Defence. Minister Jolevski expressed his appreciation and support for RACVIAC work stating that only through cooperation the Region will be able to move forward. He emphasized that it is important to unblock the processes that impede some countries of the Region to move forward so that the whole region can achieve greater development without unnecessary obstacles or obstructions.

RACVIAC Director Ambassador Mandić informed his counterparts about the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation’s Programme of activities and explained what the new components of development within RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation are. In addition, he expressed his thanks for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia’s* active contribution and its dedication to the projects related to building of integrity and the fight against corruption and those within the framework of the RACVIAC project related to cyber security. He cited the excellent cooperation that RACVIAC has so far had with the Military Academy in Skopje.

Apart from military activities, RACVIAC is currently oriented to the civil sector as well. This means that RACVIAC has gained greater dynamics in its work that has garnered strong support of its member countries. This meeting was a good opportunity to discuss the topical issues and other technical details related to the current and future cooperation as well.

Minister Jolevski once again announced that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* will continue to fully support RACVIAC work and overall development.

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Visits to/outside RACVIAC

RACVIAC Delegation attends UNODC Programme Steering Committee meeting in Vienna, Austria

On invitation by the UNODC, RACVIAC Deputy Director Brig Gen Zdravko Jakop and Planning & Liaison Officer for Western Europe & International Organizations, Col Franz Gaugl attended the 6th meeting of the Programme Steering Committee at the Vienna International Centre on December 9th, 2014.

The organizers praised the presence of RACVIAC and dignified inter alia the close cooperation with and the importance of RACVIAC for the SEE region several times. UNODC has started developing a Strategy 2016-2019, in which RACVIAC is still expected to remain one of the partners.

During this well-organized and informative meeting the representatives of RACVIAC had the opportunity to introduce the RACVIAC Programme for 2015 with an aim to achieve best possible participation of UNODC.

Recalling the MOU between UNODC and RACVIAC, it was agreed that cooperation can be intensified.

The main areas of interest in the RACVIAC Programme for 2015 by UNODC are currently “UNHCR 1540” and “Fighting Corruption and Building Integrity”. Willingness for cooperation in these areas of interest is strengthened by the principle of avoiding duplication.

RACVIAC is looking forward to continuing the work with the UNODC as one of our important partners.

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission visits RACVIAC


The guests were greeted by RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Branimir Mandić, Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop and RACVIAC staff.

Following a short briefing on the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Director Mandić informed the guests of events taking place at RACVIAC. He also informed them that in conjunction with RACVIAC’s 15th anniversary a new RACVIAC Strategy 2020 would be launched next year. A key aspect of the Strategy 2020 would see each pillar focus on five or six main fields with a project oriented approach to activities.

Director Mandić also invited the USA to change its status of observer member country to that of associate member considering it’s support for two activities next year regarding proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Ms Nardi thanked the RACVIAC staff for their welcome and a short discussion was held regarding various aspects of RACVIAC’s activities.

Signing the RACVIAC guest book Ms Nardi wrote: “Thank you very much for sharing the vision and future of RACVIAC with me. This is an impressive organization with a bright future and, on behalf of the U.S. Embassy in Zagreb, and the USG, I look forward to working with you.”
32nd Financial and Multinational Advisory Group meetings held in RACVIAC

The Autumn financial meeting and the meeting of RACVIAC’s Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) were held in RACVIAC from October 9-10, 2014.

On the first day representatives of MAG member countries and associate members met to discuss realization of the RACVIAC budget for 2014, and discuss projections for the future. The head of RACVIAC’s Administration and Finance Cell, Capt. Vlatka Jakupec, provided members with an overview of budget realization for 2014, a draft budget proposal for 2015 and budget projections for 2016-2017.

On the second day, the MAG meeting was held under the chairmanship of Major General Milan Mojsilovic, the Military Representative of the Republic of Serbia to NATO and the EU.

During the meeting members were presented with Director Branimir Mandic’s Interim Report for 2014, covering the most significant moments in RACVIAC work until September 2014, such as successful conduct of the planned Programme to date. The Director underlined increased cooperation with other international organizations and regional initiatives, visible through nine signed Memoranda of Understandings, which are being followed by jointly organized activities. He also reminded all that during the last MAG Meeting, MAG accepted the proposed roadmap of finalization of the Strategy Paper 2015-2020 and tasked RACVIAC Management to follow the described process, in order to have a final document for adoption at the 33rd MAG Meeting. Director Mandic furthermore noted that next year RACVIAC will have its 15th Anniversary, which will not only be marked by a solemn celebration, but also with a special conference.

In continuation MAG members approved the Annual Programme for 2015 and took note of the Projection of the RACVIAC Programme for 2016 - 2017. Ms Ivana Barbara Blažević, Head of the Arms Control Section at the Croatian Ministry of Defence, gave a presentation of the Counter-WMD Network as a follow up to the Chairman’s Conclusions form the 31st MAG Meeting, where MAG considered the proposal made by the Republic of Croatia and RACVIAC to establish a Regional WMD Non-Proliferation Network within RACVIAC and endorsed the initiative to build a WMD Non-proliferation network. MAG encouraged RACVIAC and Croatia to continue with this initiative.

In other proceedings MAG accepted the recommendations of the Budgetary Meeting, which took place the day before the MAG Meeting, taking note of the realization of the RACVIAC 2014 Budget and approving the 2015 Operating Part of the RACVIAC Budget.

MAG also confirmed Ms Vesna Batistić-Kos PhD, Assistant Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, as the new MAG Chairperson. At the same time, MAG expressed its gratitude for the excellent job done by Major General Milan Mojsilović during his MAG Chairmanship.

In final business, MAG invited Kosovo* to participate on a permanent basis, at all levels and on equal terms in all activities and meetings of RACVIAC / MAG**.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence. (In accordance with Arrangements regarding regional representation and cooperation.)

**The Republic of Serbia stated that the participation of Kosovo should be in accordance with the Agreement on principles governing the normalization of relations and Arrangements regarding regional representation and cooperation and in compliance with Gymnich formula and UNSCR 1244. The participation will not apply to security forces.
The main purpose of the seminar was to address the concept, the benefits and the ways of implementing consensus in long-term matters on any decision-making level.

The main objectives of the seminar were to elaborate on: What Consensus is; How Consensus is executed when agreed upon; Can national positive or negative case studies prove the potential benefits of Consensus; Consensus in Defence decision-making and What would be the results of Consensus becoming a standard in decision-making.

Opening the event RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic said „This seminar will address the concept of consensus, one of the most difficult goals to reach even in the so called old democracies. Consensus is the process of negotiation through which all participants take into account ideas and views of all the other participants and through which an acceptable level of giving-up on their own ideas and views leads to balanced and realistic decisions that can stand the test of long-term execution and implementation. The result of a decision reached through the process of consensus by all means represents a saving of the national (or sub-national) financial resources, enhances the political stability by involving the whole nation and provides the necessary space to better focus on other important projects."

Over the course of the seminar participants discussed various aspects of consensus in decision making and had an opportunity to see national presentations from the representatives present.

Guest speakers included Mr Sebastian von Munchow, Ph.D., George C. Marshall Center, DE; Ambassador Imre Varga, Special advisor, Intl Centre for Democratic Transition, Hungary; Mr Gordan Bosanac, Centre for Peace Studies, Zagreb, HR; Mr Sandro Knezović, Ph.D., Institute for International Relations, Zagreb, HR; Mr Marko Savković, B.Sc., Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, RS and Mr Slaviša Šćekić, Expert-Advisor for Security and Defence, the Parliament of Montenegro.
Regional Search and Rescue Seminar: "Coastal Search and Rescue & Mass Casualty Situations"

Split, Croatia - 29 September - 02 October, 2014

A regional search and rescue seminar titled Coastal Search and Rescue and Mass Casualty Situations was held in Split, Croatia from September 29 to October 02, 2014. The seminar was organized by the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in cooperation with the Tactical Air Command of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Croatian Coast Guard.

In his opening address RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic noted that this regional seminar is part of the RACVIAC Regional Search and Rescue project and it is a continuation of a series of activities organized on this topic. The initial event was held in May 2011 in Belgrade, followed by a fact-finding conference held in RACVIAC in November 2012, Basic Search and Rescue Course in April 2013 in Sarajevo and a Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator Course at the Tara Mountain in Serbia.

He went on to say that unfortunate cases that have occurred so far teach us that the prevention of loss of human lives and reduction of consequences could be possible through the implementation of prevention practices before disasters occur and afterwards, with well-planned, fast, efficient and professional intervention. This suggests that education, prevention and treatment are very important, as well as the technology needed to cope with disasters, which is a matter of preparedness and application. However, we also need cross-border contingency plans and provisions to ensure a rapid and efficient response. Bureaucracy must be crossed out in situations that pose a threat. We are all “ambassadors” who have the responsibility of Search and Rescue development. That is why we need to start from our own level and spread the knowledge to the next. Even more, we need to challenge our own national/state systems where we see room for improvement, because politicians do not necessarily know everything about search and rescue. I think that the situation on the terrain requires action in a more effective and responsible way. We are all witnesses to what is happening with the latest floods that continually affect the region. This should spur us to cooperate closer in order to be more active and more prepared against these threats.

The purpose of the seminar was to inform, educate and inspire through discussions the designated SAR responsible persons from different national institutions, selected to direct and coordinate SAR operations, especially with regards to coastal SAR and mass casualty situations. The objectives were: to specify the role and responsibilities of the involved SAR mission staff in order to enable them to deal with coastal emergency situations with mass casualties; to present examples of best practices needed to manage coastal emergencies and mass casualty situations; and to inspire the generating of contingency plans for the management of efficient and cost effective response and rescue.

Over the course of the event lectures covered such topics as: Volunteer Maritime and Coastal Rescue by LtCDR B. T. Madsen...
Cold weather rescue equipment and operational considerations when working in extreme conditions by Sgt Bo Sørensen (DK); a Presentation on the 2014 Rescue Operations in Serbia - Command, Coordination and Communication by LTC Miroslav Zečević (RS); COSPAS SARSAT status of the new MEOSAR Satellite system and program updates by LtCol Ove Urup-Madsen (DK); Aviation Accidents and a Search and Rescue - Case Study by Mr Drago Radić (BA); and Cold Exposure and Hypothermia by Dr Benedict Kjærgaard (DK).

The theoretical part of the seminar was followed by a practical demonstration of search and rescue at sea conducted by the Croatian Coast Guard.

In his closing remarks, RACVIAC Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop thanked all those that took part in co-organizing the seminar without whom the event wouldn't have been a success.

He added that presentations by experts from our SEE Region showed that there is a need for closer cooperation between countries on concrete topics of Search and Rescue in the future. This means that the responsible institutions in the field of Search and Rescue have marked a notable development, but there is still work to be done. The legislative and institutional framework about Search and Rescue should be corrected and improved in terms of facilitating and increasing efficiency of all competent entities in the system, including volunteers as a SAR concept. There is a need for broader participation of all subjects that comprise the Search and Rescue field, especially the participation of the civil sector which is inadequately included in this field and so-called SAR by volunteers.

In conclusion Brigadier General Jakop noted that political will and commitment is crucial in supporting measures and activities in terms of creating better legal, financial and institutional conditions to actors involved in Search and Rescue.

### SECURITY SECTOR REFORM/INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

“OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: 20 Years Anniversary / Peer Review Conference”

Given the importance of the OSCE Code of Conduct in the last 20 years, its values, standards and relevance for the Security sector reform and governance, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in SEE organised, from 30th September to 2nd October 2014, in close cooperation with the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, a three-day conference on the “OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: 20 Years Anniversary / Peer Review Conference.”

The Conference was twofold, comprising a high level opening and commemorative session at the cabinet of the President of the state level, including statements by individual high level representatives of the ministers, and a second, working part of the conference, where experts and representatives of SEE countries, through their presentations, worked in a very productive atmosphere in the format of a Peer review. This project is traditionally supported financially by the Federal Republic of Austria.
On the first day, after a high-level opening, which included speeches by Mr Zlatko Gareljić, Defence Adviser in the Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Major General Michele Torres, Personal Representative for Article IV, OSCE, Dr Istvan Gyarmati, Director of International Centre for Democratic Transition (ICDT)and former Executive Secretary of the Budapest OSCE Summit (1994), Mr Georg Diwald, Minister-Counsellor in the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Austria to Croatia and Mr Zoran Šajinović, Assistant Minister for International Cooperation in the Sector for International Cooperation in the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a welcome reception took place. It was opened by Ms Sanja Bujas Juraga, Director for NATO and International Security at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia and Ambassador Branimir Mandić, RACVIAC Director, who, in their speeches, underlined the political significance of the Code and the fact that it has lost visibility and resonance with the wider public in spite of being a landmark document.

Overall, the conference was a truly unique event. This was the first time that the exchange of ideas, experience and lessons learned in the field of Security Sector Reform was conducted via a Peer review since the Code has been implemented in practice.

In view of the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct in particular, which was adopted in 1998, in order to mark this conference per se a report was published on the way forward towards better implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. This report carried the title "Report on The Way Forward Towards Better Implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security".

Adopted in 1994 as a landmark document, the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security stipulates that every year, by 15 April, the participating States exchange their replies to the Questionnaire among each other. In 2012 RACVIAC conducted a Seminar on the occasion of the Code of Conduct which was very important for the promotion of the Code.

During this seminar it was noticed that certain challenges are observed when it comes to lack of specific information in the information exchange and that it might be beneficial for the countries of the region to engage in a Peer review dialogue on the individual submissions included in the annual information exchange. This year’s Conference presented precisely that, an attempt to implement the idea of a Peer review, which was successfully accomplished in the working part of the Conference that was executed from 1st to 2nd October at the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

Its first panel was dedicated to the implementation of the Code as a milestone document within the South East European region, while the second part provided an introduction to the Code of Conduct Information Exchange. The rest of the Conference was devoted to the in-depth Peer review among South East European states. During the Peer review an opportunity arose to ask questions and request clarifications on the different aspects of the 2014 submissions and how individual countries should improve their reporting practices, based on expert evaluation of Ms Nika Jabbarova, MSc, author of the “Report on The Way Forward Towards Better Implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security”.

This year’s Conference was jointly organized in partnership between the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre in Vienna with, as has already been mentioned, the Republic of Austria providing financial support for the project. It succeeded in bringing together 50 participants on the level of the cabinet of the President of the state, ministerial and ambassadorial level, including nominees from RACVIAC member countries AL, BA, HR, MK, ME, RS and SI, senior military advisers (OSCE, the Swiss Confederation), experts (ICDT, DCAF) as well as RACVIAC management and staffers.

The main purpose of the opening part of the Conference was to stress and outline the importance of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security in the last twenty years, its values and standards, their relevance for security and peace today and the future. It is often said that the OSCE CoC is a “hidden jewel” in the OSCE toolbox. Since its adoption the Code of Conduct has significantly improved its standing in security relations, and therefore, demands a stronger representation and implementation efforts on the part of the OSCE participating States.

In the Peer review part of the Conference, followed by SEE countries’ presentations concerning their implementation of the OSCE CoC, the Questionnaire was again recognised as an important mechanism for successful defence reform, SSG/R and protection of human rights of the armed forces in the
context of the international humanitarian law. The fruitful discussions and exchange of views among participants showed the progress made in the implementation of the OSCE CoC in SEE countries as well as their willingness to actively engage in the process and do so transparently. There are lessons still to be learned, and while the response rates remain at a high level, there is definite room for improvement. Therefore, the way forward towards better implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct lies in the need to further update the Questionnaire. Through the Code, States get together to provide and maintain the democratic oversight of their armed, internal, paramilitary, intelligence and police forces - a custom that is widely advocated within the field of international relations. It is more than obvious that the OSCE Code of Conduct continues to serve as one of the most important normative frameworks for successful Security Sector Governance and Reform. In its new 2015-2020 Strategy RACVIAC will pave the way forward towards better implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct and its importance for SSG/R as one of its main goals for the SEE region. Thus, RACVIAC will continue to serve as a platform for Security cooperation in SEE in the future too.

INTERVIEW

Interview with Ms. Nika Jabbarova, MSc


Where did the Peer-to-peer review idea concerning the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military aspects of Security originate from? Can you explain what the main concepts and driving tools behind it are?

The implementation of the Code of Conduct is assessed through a questionnaire on which all OSCE participating States (pS) provide their answers by 15 April. However very little is done with the volumes of information exchanges. Indeed, the OSCE Secretariat has not been given a wider mandate by the States than to provide for a statistical overview. The assessment should therefore be made by each State individually. Over time a call has been made to engage in a more meaningful discussion about the different national submissions. The States of SEE and also RACVIAC played an avant-garde role in this respect by convening this peer review event.

The objectives of the event were twofold. First, to hold a commemoration event on 20 years of the Code of Conduct and its implementation in the SEE region, and second, to have a so-called peer to peer review on the different national submissions where each State was asked to present their national replies and implementation practices and the other States were invited to ask questions, clarifications and/or make comments. In this regard, an expert study for each country was also made available. The idea was, therefore, to promote an open exchange about the different national submissions and to give opportunities for other SEE State representatives to ask questions and clarifications.

Which countries did it encompass?

The event focused on 9 SEE countries including the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, and the Republic of Slovenia.

Before becoming an independent expert, you worked at the OSCE headquarters in Vienna. Can you please elaborate on your work and professional experience up to date?

At the OSCE headquarters in Vienna, I worked for the Forum for Security Co-operation Section (FSC) and the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) where a few of my duties included conducting an extensive statistical analysis on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and producing the annual OSCE report on the Assessment and Implementation Procedures of the Vienna Document 2011, among others. Prior to this assignment, I worked for the Canadian Centre for German and European Studies as a Research Assistant at where I assisted the centre faculty with variety of research, and project coordinating tasks, and at the Center for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA), a non-governmental human rights organization focusing on housing discrimination, where I worked as a Data Analyst and Survey Designer.

How did you establish, set out the criteria for the analytical part of the Peer-to-peer review among different countries involved?

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How did you establish, set out the criteria for the analytical part of the Peer-to-peer review among different countries involved?

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
Before starting my analysis, it was expected that each answer would differ considerably in length and quality, first due to national interpretation, and also given the fact that the military capabilities of each State differ considerably. So, the way that I chose to conduct my analysis was from the point of view of a questionnaire designer, or a survey designer if you will. By looking at the submissions from this lens, it allows the analyst to keep the goal of the questionnaire firmly in mind, while at the same time analyze each question from the perspective of the respondent. This was a useful strategy because it measured the respondent's ability to provide accurate and useful information by focusing on the response itself, and in turn on the question itself. The 2010 Reference Guide was also a useful tool in this regard, as it provided a comprehensive list of references to work off of.

**What is the general assessment you could make of their performance?**

Analysis of the 2014 submissions revealed two main issues: the States' ability to provide accurate and useful information decreased significantly as certain sub-questions began asking two different things in one question; and repetitive sub-questions decreased States' ability to comprehend and effectively respond to certain questions despite the fact that the reference guide provided useful guidance on how to answer each question. Hence, the repetitive nature and language of the questions led to non-response and in many instances misinterpretation. To avoid this, I provided a number of suggestions that participating States could consider should there be any subsequent update to the questionnaire including the possibility of merging, extracting and re-phrasing certain sub-questions. Details of the suggestions can be found in the report.

In general, we can observe that there are obvious gaps between the questionnaire, the reference guide and the actual answers being provided. The evidence which I have collected from the submissions provided in the last couple of years offer good insight not only into how the Code is implemented, improved, and deepened across the OSCE region, but also, insight into specific technical issues within the questionnaire which make it difficult for States to provide the kind of answers that the Code requires, and the reference guide advocates.

**What suggestions and advice for the future did you provide on an individual basis? Can you give a few examples?**

Of course, there is simply no single way of answering the sub-questions, and this was evident by the answers that each State provided. However, there are basic guidelines which have been offered by the reference guide, and my suggestions were based on both the kind of answers that the reference guide advocated and the Code required. A few examples include:

Section I, sub-question 3.2 which asks States to provide information on how they pursue arms control, disarmament and confidence-and security-building measures with a view to enhancing security and stability in the OSCE area. Certain pS provided no answer for this sub-question, and instead the reader was asked to refer to the answer provided under sub-question 3.1. However, majority of the time, the lack of detail in sub-question 3.1 fails to cover all of the substantive references underlined in the reference guide that would also effectively answer sub-question 3.2. As such, more information can be provided with regards to internal regulations, and international contribution in pursuit of commitments in the field of arms control, disarmament, and CSBM's.

Section II, sub-question 2.3 which asks States about the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces, and how does your State control that such forces act solely within the constitutional framework. Certain pS only provide a list of duties without description on how the State ensures that the forces act within the constitutional framework. In future replies, more detail can be given with regards to Government oversight.

Section II, sub-question 4.3 which asks States to provide information on how they ensure that the armed forces are not used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of human and civil rights by persons as individuals or as representatives of groups nor to deprive them of national, religious, cultural, linguistic or ethnic identity. Certain pS should re-focus their answer to non-limitation of human and civil rights by the armed forces, as opposed to of the armed forces. It would benefit to highlight, for example, additional special training of military forces on human rights law in preparation for peace missions.

Section III, sub-question 2.1 which asks States to provide information on the national point of contact for the implementation of the Code of Conduct. Majority of provide only the name of the department in charge. In future replies, it is recommended to list a contact person, address, and phone number in future replies.

**What would your main recommendations be from the South East European Perspective?**

As it has been stated before, the countries of SEE have come a long way in the implementation of the Code of Conduct. Seeing as all participating States of the region comply with the annual information exchange, my main recommendation for SEE would be to continue focusing on activities which emphasize the qualitative analysis of the Code of Conduct in order to continue to improve the quality of replies. In this regard, RACVIAC’s role in hosting this conference sets an important foundation in promoting the Code of Conduct on an analytical front in both the SEE region, and the OSCE region as a whole.

**How would you rate this exercise overall and what suggestions for improvement can you offer?**

Given the fact that this was the first exercise of its type, I think the results were very successful. This is a great opportunity to bring participating States together and to share experiences, to explore challenges and to find effective ways to resolve them. From the feedback that we have received from the participating States, there is ample reason to have a qualitative analysis of the submissions, and continue with this useful practice in the future as there is much potential in the Code of Conduct that is yet to be uncovered. The idea of sharing experiences and implementation practices is what makes this type of exercise, and the Code of Conduct, successful.

One suggestion to improve the exercise in the future would be to tailor the peer-to-peer review on two levels, one on the political level and one on the working level, which concerns the implementation. In this regard, it may be beneficial to hold a two-day event, with the morning session focusing on both the political and the working levels, and the second day focusing solely on the implementation level.
The Vienna Document 2011 - Efforts to Revitalise Confidence and Security Building - Verification and Compliance Course is a part of the traditional project activity carried out by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation with special focus on Article IX (Compliance and Verification), Inspection and Evaluation, giving a comprehensive, theoretical and practical analysis of the implementation of these activities. It was organized in the spirit of the Vienna Document 2011, focusing on constraints and obligations arising from the aforementioned parts of document.

The workshop participants came from the following countries: Republic of Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Republic of Croatia (2), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (2), Montenegro (2), Poland (1), Republic of Serbia (1) and the Republic of Slovenia (2). The participants were both senior and junior military personnel and civilians dealing with arms control or VD2011- related issues.

The workshop was conducted with the assistance of six (6) lecturers: LtCol Cecilia Montes de Oca (DTRA, US), Mr Marijan Barić (MFEA, HR), LtCol Marijan Jozić (MoD, HR), CDR Michael Runde (BWVC, DE), Mr Tamás Lattmann, PhD and LtCol (ret.) László Szabó, PhD (National University of Public Service, Budapest, HU).

It was carried out as a combination of lectures and presentations followed by questions and answers, completed by syndicate work and a practical work day for evaluation. This course was designed with the aim of sharing expertise, opinions and lessons learned, identifying problems and teaching methods, as well correcting the possible mistakes. The course also provided a favourable environment and atmosphere for valuable and focused discussions.

The course began on 14 October 2014 with the opening address of RACVIAC Deputy Director. Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop noted that RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation has been organizing Vienna Document courses for the countries of the South East European region since 2001. This year RACVIAC is able to respond again to the challenges of being the first in the region to plan and carry out the Vienna Document 2011 (VD’11) Compliance and Verification Course, reflecting the changes of the New Vienna Document 2011 adopted in December 2011. He added that the respected lecturers invited from the national arms control agencies, international organizations or verification centres, as well as the members of the academia of the Republic of Croatia, Hungary, Federal Republic of Germany and the United States, who have a wide range of experiences in this field. Their sound knowledge and experience, he said, are a guarantee of quality and success of the Course. Furthermore,

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he expressed special thanks to the Republic of Slovenia for being the host of the practical part of the course. The course began with an introductory presentation by Commander Michael Runde (DEU Navy) who briefed the participants with an Overview of the Vienna Document 2011 (historical background, previous agreements, the need to make regular updates, etc.), positioning it onto the “genealogical tree” of arms control.

During the day the audience could listen to lectures delivered by LtCol Marijan Jozić “The role of the Vienna Document 2011 as part of CSBMs from the NATO point of view” (from the point of view of NATO), Mr Marijan Barić “Vienna Document 2011 inspections in Ukraine and the overall situation (recent events)” (from the point of view of the MFEA HR in the light of the crisis in UA), then LtCol (ret.) László Szabó, PhD (about the geopolitical questions in general and the geopolitical aspects of the treaty), Mr Tamás Lattmann, PhD (the legal aspects of the treaty).

The second working day was consecrated to the preparation, and in this spirit presentations were delivered from the three presenters: CDR Michael Runde, LtCol Marijan Jozić and LtCol Cecilia Montes de Oca (“National experience in the planning and conduct of a Chapter IX Inspection”). The presentations were followed by syndicate work, separating the participants into three groups (escorting, inspecting and evaluating teams).

On the last working day the participants have visited the Cerklje Airbase and conducted a practical exercise at the 15. Aviation Regiment in Slovenia. The commander of the base and his colleagues shared comprehensive information with the participants according to the instructions and in the spirit of the Treaty. The whole visit’s atmosphere was an extremely friendly one, together with the closing ceremony, with lunch, exchanging of gifts and certificates.

The lecturers professionalism and experience, as well as their presentations, were highly appreciated by the participants. According to the participant’s evaluation, the course was successful, very interesting and well organized.

RACVIAC, in cooperation with its partner of this successful event, will continue to promote the issue of the Vienna Document in particular, and arms control in general.

SECURITY SECTOR REFORM/INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Equal Opportunities: Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related UNSCRs - Differences between Proclamation and Reality

In this fourth programme activity on the subject of implementation of the UNSCR 1325 as the landmark UN resolution on women, peace and security, including all corresponding and supporting resolutions, the main intention was to initiate the establishment of a tentative framework for monitoring and evaluation of the regional progress made to implement the subject resolutions. In that respect this Conference was a welcome move in the process of laying down of the foundation for the creation of a common framework based on measurable indicators, that were duly identified and discussed constructively and in great detail during the Conference. Thus, thanks to the valuable inputs and motivation demonstrated by the Conference participants and speakers, an important set of conclusions was made that can serve as a foundation for future projects.

This Conference was a fourth programme activity in a row of events that have aspired to track progress of the process of
implementation of UNSCRs 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960 and 2112 in the countries of South East Europe participating in RACVIAC work, i.e., in line with a series of events jointly organised by RACVIAC and the relevant ministries and agencies in the SEE region.

This time around the conference was conducted in cooperation with the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina. For the express purpose of this conference RACVIAC also partnered up with regional coordination mechanisms monitoring the implementation of NAPs.

The participants were members of coordination mechanisms established to monitor the implementation of 1325 NAPs, experts from Parliaments, governmental agencies/institutions and ministries dealing with human rights protection and the Gender aspect, as well as representatives of the public sector and the civil society from South East Europe, namely Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia and Republic of Slovenia.

Ms Ankica Tomić, MSci, Deputy Chairperson of the Coordination Board of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers for the implementation of the AP UNSCR 1325 - Women, Peace and Security was the main conference speaker who, together with Ambassador Branimir Mandić, RACVIAC Director, gave on the first day of the conference an introduction on the Conference Agenda and Methodology.

After the introductory Panel, i.e., after each Conference participant presented her/himself to the audience, a video projection was shown, titled „Man and Woman: A duality in Gender Equality” which was presented by Mr Beno Arnezič, PhD, Professor at Primorska University, Koper, SI, which demonstrated an attempt to analyse the perennial question why the struggle for equal opportunities has been going on for the last 200 years. During his presentation, Mr Arnezič emphasized the fact that a change of our ways of thinking and politics of equality and empowerment of women’s rights is needed, that we cannot change culture but society and that freedoms and rights are the same side of the coin. Ms Janja Vuga’s presentation that followed immediately afterwards, given by Mr Branko Kromar, MSci, SSR Programme Manager in RACVIAC revolved around gender mainstreaming and equal participation of women and men in decision-making, the security sector and civil society organizations and why equal participation of women and men matters. The presentation focused primarily on the case of Slovenia, the female peacekeepers, male vs. female ratio during the deployments and opportunities for women in the SAF in particular.

The ensuing part of this session of the conference was devoted to the process of adoption of the UN SCR 1325 National Action Plans (NAPs) in the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Republic of Serbia and Republic of Slovenia, whose representatives gave 10-minute presentations on the subject. This was followed by national presentations on „Establishing a functional coordination mechanism for UN SCR 1325 NAP implementation“ for the same countries.

As could be expected, a majority of the countries cited budgetary constraints, lack of administrative capacities and women in decision making positions in politics, political parties, police and military structures, furthermore, insufficient understanding of the importance of the UNSCR 1325, the need to further sensitize the governmental and civil society sector and a gender sensitive policy in the area of peace of security as the main problems they face while striving to more strongly integrate women in the security and defence sectors at home. One of the suggestions on how to improve cooperation in the region when it comes to the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and other relevant resolutions, put forth by Ms Ankica Tomić, MSci included the establishment of a Secretariat for monitoring of the implementation of these resolutions, whereby Ms Tomić cited RACVIAC as „our joint tool“ for the achievement of the desired goal(s).

Although in countries such as the Republic of Croatia and, the Republic of Albania the status of women in the military is equal to men’s, their role necessitates improvement and methods need to be devised on how to prevent the number of women gradually falling down once they start to climb the ladder of duties. Attracting women to the security sector forces and keeping them satisfied is one of the main challenges the Republic of Serbia currently faces in its attempts to achieve better levels of gender equality in defence and security fields. In Bosnia and Herzegovina 7 % of women are employed in the Armed Forces and the target minimum is 10 %, while in Montenegro this percentage is slightly higher, with 9,6% of women employed in the Armed Forces and 41,4% in the MoD. „Each country is a case for itself“, concluded Mr Sandro Knezović, PhD (IRMO) who in his presentation on the subject of “Women and security sector forces” underlined that the gender aspect should be included more actively in training, planning and operations since female military personnel provides a unique contribution in the fight against security threats and challenges. By providing further “food for thought”

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
this presentation served as an intro into the last day of the Conference which encompassed in-depth country presentations on „Gender mainstreaming and NAP 1325“ and „Regional cooperation and implementation of 1325 NAPs“.

In accordance with its conclusions and individual evaluations the event was a true success. What is even more important, it identified a significant potential for the future developments in this activity area, primarily in the context of regional cooperation that is being facilitated by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. All participants without exception provided great insights regarding the conference topics, showing rare enthusiasm that has high importance in this particular line of work due to its limitations and difficulties.

The stated dedication on the participants’ part was truly visible during the presentations of conclusions and concrete recommendations. These are some of the most significant ones:

- To develop and sustain formal regional gender networking mechanisms;
- to establish a “knowledge base” for this particular field of interest;
- to diversify different types of events (conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.);
- to design a “key leadership” seminar in order to include all decision-making levels;
- to present a region with “global” experiences and solutions;
- to extend the scope to other components of the security sector and not just to the military and police forces;
- to transform these types of events into regularly occurring activities (taking place at least once a year);
- to insist on the participation of the same profile of participants (operational level professionals working on a daily basis on issues of gender equality);
- to discuss decision-making processes which should include the gender aspects, etc.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that RACVIAC shall continue to dedicate its resources and thus fully support regional gender equality efforts not just through the programme activities but also through the development and execution of corresponding regionally owned projects. To achieve this, a specific document is being drafted in the form of a joint statement that should be verified by all the participating countries and then serve as a common platform - a source of guidelines for future activities conducted together and through RACVIAC. To a certain point this should enable a strategic and regional approach and provide a foundation for the synergy of our future joint efforts.

Meeting of DCAF Course Alumni under the Auspices of the DCAF Border Security Programme

RACVIAC - October 18, 2014.

A meeting of DCAF course alumni under the Auspices of the DCAF Border Security Programme was held at the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation on Tuesday October 28th, 2014. The meeting brought together the alumni from the Western Balkan countries, Croatia and Slovenia, who have concluded either the 1st or the 2nd generation of the DCAF International Training Course for Regional Commanders (ITCRC) between 2005 - 2011. It represents a timely effort to assess the added value of border police education and training for regional border policing as well as future prospects to utilise the gained knowledge and competences, in line with the strategic guidelines of the relevant regional programmes in the area of border security.

In his opening address RACVIAC Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop said that it was a great privilege to welcome the participants pointing out that the DCAF border Security Programme, financed by the DCAF Office Ljubljana has been contributing to the South East European region through the provision of education and training events in the area of border security and management since 2005. He also noted that this contribution has become even more significant due to a recognition of priorities regarding the strengthening of capacity-building and EU integration processes in South Eastern Europe. He said that RACVIAC and DCAF Ljubljana
both recognized the importance of the regional approach and cooperation in this highly specific area, where the countries of South Eastern Europe should together identify current and future challenges concerning this important element of national, regional and global security.

General Jakop expressed his great appreciation for DCAF being in RACVIAC adding that he believed the mutual cooperation will develop into a long lasting partnership.

Ms Jelka Klemenc the DCAF Ljubljana Coordinator of the Border Security Programme, thanked RACVIAC for hosting the event underlining the constructive partnership between the two organizations. Ms Klemenc pointed out the synergy between the police and armed forces in terms of internal and border security, noting that the DCAF Border Security Programme focuses in this synergy. In conclusion she warmly welcomed all the participants stressing that she was happy to bring alumni together to gain feedback in order to improve their activities.

Over the next two days participants conducted discussions assessing the ITCRC Course and discussing novelties in regional and European border policing and border police training.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Conference on
"Ensuring personal data protection while securing cyber space (Challenges and perspectives for the South East European countries)"

29-30 October 2014, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Activity Background

Technological development of social networks, smart cards, cloud computing and location based services has brought forth new challenges in view of personal data protection. Disclosing personal data is increasingly becoming a part of modern life and people feel that they give away too much data and that they are not in control of their data.

The aims of this event included exchange of information, transfer of knowledge, views and ideas as well as dissemination of international standards regarding data protection. Another aim of this event was to identify the key actors and their priorities regarding who, when and where in SEE countries is responsible for the actions needed to organize and conduct effective personal data protection while building a secure cyberspace.

Activity Venue, Duration and Participation

The Conference took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 29-30 October 2014 on the premises of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Parliamentary Assembly.

It comprised three sessions which were designed to include presentations and discussions.

The participants and lecturers included representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, the USA, the EU Institutions, NATO, RACVIAC and other institutions and organizations deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with around 150 participants in total.

Conference Opening

The opening speeches were given by Ambassador Branimir Mandić, Director of RACVIAC, Dr Danilo Türk, former President of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr Igor Rajić, Director of SEECSC, Mr Esmir Ganić, President of AUBiH and Mr Tomislav Limov from the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ambassador Branimir Mandić expressed gratitude to the respective ministries in Bosnia and Herzegovina- the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Security and Ministry of Defence-

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
for extending their support in making this event a reality. Also he expressed thankfulness to the American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina for its generous support as a co-organizer of this event, and appreciation to the Military Academy "General Mihailo Apostolski" from Skopje which also decided to support the event.

Ambassador Mandić went on to say: "As soon as RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation adopted the new strategy and broadened its scope of activities and area of interest to new issues, cyber security was recognized as one of the subjects that should be a part of the RACVIAC curriculum due to the fact that the volume of cybercrime is significantly increasing, while cyber security is at different levels in different countries in the South East European Region."  

From 2007 to the present day RACVIAC has organized six events that have covered different topics related to cybercrime and cyber security threats, vulnerabilities in cyberspace, discussions on Cyber Defence Strategies and Policies, Impact of Cybercrime in Economy Environment, etc. The last one was organized in May 2014 when cyber security experts, members of Computer Emergency Response Teams from SEE countries got together and discussed at length relevant topics in the field. The aim of that event was to enable participants to exchange knowledge and experience as well as to facilitate networking among them, and once again to raise awareness of the importance of cooperation in response to cyber threats on the national and regional level.

As a kind of conclusion to all of these events, it was recognized that due to certain challenges or barriers which are mainly political, financial, organizational and legal in nature, the level of cyber security is at a different level in different countries.

Ambassador Mandić also pointed out: "New technologies bring new challenges - new technologies also imply uncontrolled sharing of information that is to say, sharing of information in the wrong way and with or among wrong people, whereby the largest proportion of information shared is personal (private) data."

Information technology development and use of cyberspace is progressing much faster than legislative development in this field and privacy or personal data protection is (or should be) based on legislation or regulations and there is that gap between technological development and the legal framework that needs to be narrowed down. Precisely for that reason it is very important to confront different perspectives, public policy makers, industry representatives and technical experts in order to hear things from different perspectives (in other words, possible agreements and disagreements, all points of view)."

Former president of the Republic of Slovenia Dr Danilo Türk emphasized the importance of the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina is taking an initiative in the area of cyber security which is of great importance for this part of Europe.

Dr Turk continued “I believe that all countries of South East Europe are interested in this subject and they all know how important it is to protect their citizens from cyber-attacks. We are talking here about a very important subject for our future. Slovenia is dealing with this issue in the framework of the European Union and NATO, but it is very important to establish a connection among the experts from the region.”

Mr Tomislav Limov, head of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who in his speech among other things emphasized that this conference is a good opportunity to see what we did and what we need to do in order to be more effective in terms of personal data protection in cyber space.

The conference propounded activities of the AUBiH’s newly established Southeast Europe Cyber Security Center (SEECSC) which will contribute to the protection and data security development of institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.

The Director of the Center Mr Igor Rajić welcomed all participants and said that “The cyber-attacks on the web pages and information systems, fraud, identity theft and child pornography are just a small piece of the globally expanding phenomenon of mushrooming cybercrime. With that in mind, the use of advanced technology and education is a critical factor in overcoming cyber security challenges and creating a more secure environment.”
Human rights and privacy in the digital age in the context of “Security vs. Privacy”

During the first session Dr Metodi Hadji-Janev, (Col), from the Military Academy “General Mihailo Apostolski” - Skopje elaborated on the topic “Human rights and privacy in the digital age in the context of 'Security vs. privacy debate'”. At the start of his presentation Dr Hadji-Janev talked about the geopolitical environment, security trends and human rights in the context of the process of power redistribution and redefinition of power after the end of the Cold War. Globalization and technological development enabled many non-state actors (groups and individuals), but also some states to gain strategic power. New technologies also create new challenges and threats that only a few security concepts could partially be applied to in order to counter them.

By asking the question “National security vs. human rights - where is the right balance?” Dr Hadji-Janev explained that actually there are some challenges in finding the right balance between national security and human rights because we (people of different countries) have different cultural perspectives, threat perceptions and different approaches when we talk about criminalization and punishment of cyber offence. Dr Hadji-Janev also talked about data protection and data retention, giving the example where the European Court for Human Rights found “that the indefinite retention of biodata such as fingerprints, cell samples and DNA profiles from persons suspected of, but not convicted of, crimes was an intrusion into privacy that was disproportionate to the public interest which was sought to be protected.”

NATO policy on personal data protection while securing cyber space

LTC Brian Bengs, Legal Advisor from the NATO School talked about the NATO perspective regarding Personal Data protection and offered an explanation concerning the NATO Cyber Defence Procedure.

Answering the question in regards to the NATO Policy on Personal Data Protection, LtC Bengs said: “NATO does not have a single, comprehensive policy on Personal Data Protection, but multiple sources address different topics”.

It is the national responsibility to develop and maintain capabilities for personal data protection in cyber space, in other words - Cyber defense & personal data protection are the primary responsibilities of NATO member nations, not NATO.

Talking about NATO Biometrics Information Policy it was emphasised that it allows each NATO nation to choose its level of participation in NATO biometric operations & maintain control of the biometric data produced by its national forces as required by national legislation.

Referring to the NATO Summit 2014: Wales Summit Declaration, LtC Bengs emphasized the part of the Declaration that is related to cyber threats: “Cyber threats and attacks will continue to become more common, sophisticated, and potentially damaging. To face this evolving challenge, we have endorsed an Enhanced Cyber Defence Policy, contributing to the fulfillment of the Alliance’s core tasks... Our policy also recognizes that international law, including international humanitarian law and the UN Charter, applies in cyberspace. Cyber attacks can reach a threshold that threatens national and Euro-Atlantic prosperity, security and stability. Their impact could be as harmful to modern societies as a conventional attack. We affirm, therefore, that cyber defence is part of NATO’s core task of collective defence. A decision as to when a cyber attack would lead to the invocation of Article 5 would be taken by the North Atlantic Council on a case-by-case basis.”

Future Threats in Cyber Security

Dr Brian Woerner, Professor & Dept. Chair of the Lane Department of Computer Science & Electrical Engineering at West Virginia University started his presentation with the following words: “Just as gunpowder made obsolete the use of castles as defensive measures in modern warfare, disruptive technologies threaten to render traditional Cyber Security measures inadequate to protect information assets.”

“...it is a user responsibility to update/secure the operating system and security software on individual machines...”

Dr Woerner continued his presentation by explaining some future challenges for cyber security and data privacy and talked about Wireless and mobile systems, Cloud assets, Social media and data aggregation, Biometrics and Blurring of jurisdictional boundaries.
Technical aspects of protecting privacy in cyberspace
During the conference the participants had the opportunity to see some practical samples of cyber-attacks (Cyber Warfare using Mobile Device as a Weapon), the ways of prevention and cybercrime investigation and use of data by the legislative authorities. This was presented by the team members and experts from SEECSC.

National experience, challenges and perspectives to ensure personal data protection while building a secure cyberspace
The last session was dedicated to the national presentations, during which the country representatives had an opportunity to present their own experiences, the current status, challenges and perspectives regarding personal data protection.

During this session it was recognized that all participating countries have the legislation and institutions (agencies) in place that deal with personal data protection. These legislative documents are mainly in line with the EU Directives and regulations dealing with cyber security.

As was mentioned by almost all of the speakers during this conference, it is impossible for one nation to protect itself against cyber-attack and, thus, cooperation on a regional and global scale is a must.

The participants acknowledged that the information provided during the conference and issues discussed were of great benefit to them.

One of the main conclusions was that there is still room for improvement concerning personal data protection and ensuring cyber security and that we should continue with our activities to fulfill the joint needs of the countries of the SEE Region.

CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

1. Creation of a sustainable system on a continuous basis, intermediate and advanced education of the pupils and teachers/professors regarding the principles of personal data protection in primary and secondary education.

2. Strengthening of the public-private partnership and international cooperation in dealing with cyber security issues.

3. State institutions and organizations should comply with the principles of data processing and should not obtain personal data excessively.

4. Involvement of the civil sector, educational authorities and media in the process of raising of public awareness (advancing the cyber security culture).

5. Keeping up to date with the latest technologies used in processing of personal data.

6. Continuing the harmonization of the national legislation in separate areas with the documents of the Council of Europe, European Commission and use of good practices of the EU member states. Consumers should give their personal data consciously to related parties in the context of buying a product or subscribing to a service.

7. It is essential that personal data must be processed:
   - fairly and lawfully;
   - upon consent of the data subject;
   - adequately, relevantly and not excessively in relation to the purposes for which they are collected;
   - accurately, and, where necessary, up to date;
   - kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than necessary.

8. Continuous adjustment of the legislation with the problems faced in practice.

9. Detecting and mitigating digital intrusions means that visibility and response is an absolute must.

10. The Information technologies such as mobile devices are useful and they are here to stay but we have to be aware that they could be used as a weapon against users and their organizations.

11. It is the responsibility of assigned organizational management to take reasonable and appropriate measures to safeguard sensitive information in line with regulatory demands and consumer expectations.

12. Ensuring that the law of personal data protection is respected in all areas where personal data is processed, particularly in cyberspace.

13. Identification of problems and violations regarding the applicability of the legislation related to the protection of personal data.


15. Unification of implementation of the legislation for personal data protection.

16. Introduction of online inspection where possible.

Compiled by: LtC Josip Mlakic, Conference Coordinator, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation
The Arms Control Symposium is an activity with a long tradition in the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. This year it was organised as a one-day event.

This year's event built on the experience of the last year's symposium and its purpose was to present the latest developments in arms control, with the aim of opening new perspectives on confidence-building measures for peace and stability in Europe. The event served as a platform for discussions on the fundamental role of arms control treaties as a cornerstone of European and the SEE security.

The symposium aims were to examine:
- The objectives and means of a modern, stability oriented pan-European arms control regime;
- The situation regarding military capabilities in future conventional arms control;
- The role of cooperative security and NATO;
- The role of arms control in resolving remaining security issues in Europe;
- New arms control requirements from a military perspective;
- Future arms control and modern force capabilities.

The Symposium was conducted with the assistance of lecturers from Austria (BrigGen [ret.] Heinz Vetschera [Institute for Political Science, Vienna]), Croatia (Ms Sanja Bujas-Juraga, Head of International Security Division, MFEA of Croatia), Germany (Col [ret.] Wolfgang Richter, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, and Dr Hans-Joachim Schmidt, Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt am Main), Serbia (Amb. Branka Latinović, Director of Directorate of Arms Control, MFA of Serbia), the USA (Mr James Cox, former senior US conventional arms control representative in Europe), the OSCE (MajGen Michele Torres, Personal representative of the OSCE Chairperson in Office for Article IV, Annex B-1 of Dayton Peace Agreement), NATO (LtCol Jörn Wiederholz, Arms Control Staff Officer).

It was carried out as a combination of lectures and presentations followed by questions and answers and discussions. This Symposium was designed with the aim of sharing expertise, opinions and lessons learned, identifying problems and finding possible solutions, as well as exploring historical background of arms control. The Symposium also provided a favourable environment and atmosphere for really valuable and focused discussions.

The Symposium was opened on 13 November 2014 with a welcome address by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić, followed by opening remarks given by MajGen Michele Torres which was followed by opening remarks by Col [ret.] Wolfgang Richter, who was an excellent moderator of the one-day event and who, among other things, emphasized the role of the Pan-European nature of arms control in Europe.

During Wednesday, 13 November, the following topics were presented:
- From Arms Control to Force Control - Cooperative Military Security in the New Environment by BrigGen [ret.] Heinz Vetschera from the Institute for Political Science, Vienna.
- Brigadier General Vetschera gave a detailed overview of the structure and notion of arms control (AC), supported by an excellent and clear presentation. Special emphasis was put on the history of the AC from the late 60s to the present day. One of his striking remarks was as follows: “It is impossible to always carry around a fire extinguisher, because we do not need it all the time, only in the event of fire. The same is true of [the role] of arms control.”
- Possibilities for advancing arms control in Europe by Col [ret.] Wolfgang Richter, German Institute for International and Security Affairs. This presentation with a subtitle “Is conventional arms control relevant?” provided a great historical overview with an emphasis on Europe and examples were illustrated with lots of maps. The strategic context of arms control in Europe was highlighted. According to the presenter, NATO’s enlargement broke the party concept. In the end, the future role of conventional AC in the European security architecture was outlined.
- Possibilities for advancing arms control in Europe by Ambassador Branka Latinović, Head of Department of Arms
control, MFA of Serbia. In this presentation the AC was highlighted as an important cornerstone of the European security. Ambassador Latinović pointed out the evident crisis in the work of international bodies on disarmament items. According to Ms Latinović, future negotiations on arms control should be open to all interested OSCE participating States.


Arms Control - What It Can and Cannot Do by Mr James Cox, former senior US conventional arms control representative in Europe. Mr Cox gave a very clear, impressive, purist style presentation about AC agreements and treaties, pointing out that they are “highly specific antibiotic medicines” constructed by mixing highly specialized components and applying them to treat very specific and serious “illnesses.” According to Mr Cox, AC can help prevent a conflict, which is probably its most important contribution. Finally, he emphasized that “we should not forget that Europeans and North Americans hold virtually all expertise in the world in formulating, negotiating and implementing effective arms control agreements”.

Arms Control and Its Impact on Stability and Security in SEE by Ms Sanja Bujas-Juraga, Head of International Security Division, MFEA of Croatia. The presentation provided information on the possibilities and capabilities of Croatia in the field of AC. It also covered AC issues and treaties from a more general point of view. In her closing remarks, Ms Bujas Juraga pointed out: “arms control agreements depend upon changes in the development of military forces. Numerical reduction of armaments can serve only as an element of a more comprehensive approach in arms control providing military transparency, flexibility and predictability. The same model cannot be introduced in different circumstances, but these same principles, based on effective practices, can be universally applicable”.

Verified Transparency of Military Capabilities: Their Chances and Possible Problems by Dr Hans-Joachim Schmidt, Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt am Main. The presenter gave an overview of a Verified Transparency (VT) of military capabilities and pointed out why discussions about it were important in the first place. He outlined the goals of the VT, while the evaluation of conventional military capabilities (CMC) was illustrated with the example of strategic airlift.

Thanks to the harmonized cooperation inside RACVIAC and to the long-standing tradition of the event, the presence of high-level lecturers was ensured. Their professionalism and experience, as well as their presentations, were highly appreciated by the participants.

The participants were highly motivated during the Symposium and they showed deep interest in the subject matter. They expressed various ideas regarding topics for possible future activities, which may prove to be a valuable source of needs assessment. In particular, they reiterated the need to put greater emphasis on the time slot given to each presenter. They unanimously underlined the necessity for an additional working day for the next year's Symposium in order to have truly fruitful discussions and in-depth exploration of topics.

These recommendations will certainly be taken into consideration by the organizers in the course of preparation of the next year's activity.

This event proved to be a good example of a traditionally popular activity of the RACVIAC CSE Pillar. In this regard and under the same aegis, RACVIAC will continue facilitating future discussions about arms control with all means at its disposal.

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**COOPERATIVE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT**

**INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION**

**Regional Conference „FLOODS IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE - Lessons Learned and Ways Ahead“**

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
November 05 - 06, 2014.

The recent floods in several countries of the South East European Region resulted in emergency situations which had disastrous consequences with human casualties. The stabilization of unpredicted circumstances and rehabilitation of the resulting damage is a troublesome process for the affected countries.

The majority of these situations make it impossible for the countries to get over the disasters on their own. Countries need the help of the neighboring countries and beyond as well as relevant international institutions and organizations which were established with the aim to help countries overcome these types of situations.

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, serving as a platform for security cooperation for the countries in the SEE Region, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and
Herzegovina and the UNDP Office to Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted a Regional Conference: „Floods in South-Eastern Europe Lessons Learned and Ways Ahead“. This was the first regional conference that tackled the topic of floods in SEE so far.

The aim of the Conference was to encourage national authorities of all participating countries to discuss issues, obstacles and solutions in flood mitigation, readiness for inter-institutional and cross-border cooperation as well as preparedness for harmonization of domestic laws and regulations in this area with international and EU laws and regulations.

The purposes of the Conference were:
- To bring together relevant and responsible officials who will exchange and share their experiences in tackling floods and their consequences;
- To identify the lessons learned and discuss the potential solutions and the ways ahead in order to reduce the consequences of floods, by being more prepared and by organizing better protection.

The objectives of the event were:
- To specify the role and responsibilities of the relevant institutions and their staff in order to be more prepared when facing and tackling floods and their consequences;
- To present examples of best practices needed to manage flood emergencies.

The event took place in Hotel Holiday, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 4-6 November 2014. It lasted two days and comprised lectures, presentations and discussions. Speakers gave presentations whose content reflected the topics of the Conference. During the panel sessions highly constructive discussions were held. The work of the sessions’ moderators, Mr Samir Huseinbašić PhD, Mr Idriz Brković, Ms Marija Žužek and Mr John Martin gave impetus to the Seminar sessions initiating discussions on different aspects of the topic.

The Conference consisted of:
- The welcome addresses and introductory key notes by the heads of the co-organizing institutions (Ministry of Security of BA, RACVIA - Centre for Security Cooperation, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the UNDP Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- Three plenary sessions moderated by the representatives of the Ministry of Security of BA, RACVIA - Centre for Security Cooperation and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- The final summary - wrap up, conclusions and recommendations.

The event brought together 93 civil protection professionals, water management experts and decision-makers from AL, BA, HR, MK, ME, RS and SI.

The participants were mostly officials at the decision making level or came from civil protection agencies, river basins agencies, ministries relevant for water management, ministries that cover energy and environmental issues, municipalities and towns affected most severely by floods as well as international and non-governmental organizations.

The media of Bosnia and Herzegovina showed strong interest for this event.

Most of the print and electronic media covered extensively the work of the Conference with a strong focus on what would be internal and cross border actions in flood mitigation and flood disaster reduction. In the framework of the agenda of the Conference a media opportunity was foreseen during which the co-organizers gave statements to numerous media representatives.

During the Conference issues, obstacles and solutions in flood mitigation, preparedness for and inter-institutional and cross-border cooperation and coordination in response to floods in South-Eastern Europe in the light of the domestic and international regulations and standards were discussed. The participants reviewed the key lessons to be learnt from the recent floods and the ways ahead, i.e. the internal and cross border actions in flood mitigation and flood disaster reduction. Presentations on different topics were given by national experts on the local and national level, as well as international experts from international institutions and organizations such as the UN, EU, DPPI, etc.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Being aware of the causes and grave consequences caused by floods in 2014 and importance of undertaking joined actions, representatives of participating public institutions, the local government, academic community, representatives of different sectors relevant for floods and international organizations taking part in this Conference have agreed that the Conference on this topic has fully justified its overall organization. Through specific presentations and discussions the following conclusions were made:

1. The problem of larger scale floods is closely connected to the river basins extended through many countries and, hence, an urgent, close and efficient regional cooperation in flood control and flood protection in the light of the EU Flood Directive is required. Therefore, the reduction of vulnerability through improvement of the waterways infrastructure connected with joint flood prevention and preparedness is of crucial importance.

2. Development of Civil Protection Mechanism capabilities (New EUCPM) in combination with climate change adaptation and environmental protection policies is also an area relevant
for flood prevention and preparedness (such as harmonization of legislation, more effective and more efficient coordination, etc.) that needs to be in the focus of national efforts and regional cooperation.

3. More specific areas of cooperation regarding regional flood prevention and preparedness in the light of the EU Flood Directive and Water Framework Directive should be the following combination of measures: sector management (clusters) and coordination, flood risk assessment, flood risk mapping, flood risk communication, flood risk planning, flood control and mitigation (hydro-meteorological and flood monitoring and forecasting, etc.), early warning systems, harmonization of legislation and practices (with the EU Flood Directive), joined building of operational capacities, trainings and exercises and evaluation of measures through river basins commissions and other relevant bodies of the countries in the region for the purpose of bilateral cooperation.

4. Integrated flood risk management and climate change adaptation in a country should become a good practice and, as such, should encompass all relevant stakeholders in prevention and preparedness for flood-related and other disasters, through competent authorities in civil protection and protection and rescue, involving relevant sectors, at all levels of organization. This integrated framework (recognized by UNISDR HFA for disaster reduction) should be interlinked regionally.

5. Bureaucratic procedures in the process of damage assessment and risk analysis must be reduced, simplified and in line with the institutional competencies under relevant laws.

6. Climate change is evident and it’s going to cause extreme weather conditions, more severe hazards and, very likely, new, emerging environmental, health and other risks and, therefore, requires urgent risk treatment and risk communication.

Each participating institution in the conference shall, in line with the conclusions, identify specific recommendations for further consideration and implementation by the relevant local, Entity and State institutions, as well as international organizations and other relevant authorities in connection to the issue of floods and flood-related risks. Recommendations (max. 5 per each group, both national and international / regional) shall undergo a “silence procedure” of up to 7 days (from the date of reception), and then be delivered to the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the co-organizers for consideration, editing and polishing, after which recommendations and conclusions shall be made public for all participants and thereafter addressed to policy-making and decision-taking institutions for enforcement/implementation, depending on the availability of resources and funds. These conclusions shall then be made available on the official websites of all the partners participating in this initiative.

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**COOPERATIVE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT**

**Proliferation Pathways**

**RACVIAC - November 17 - 21, 2014.**

The Proliferation Pathways course took place in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation between 17th and 21st November. The course was organized by the Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and supported by RACVIAC.

The purpose of the course was to assemble regional officials and professionals from different agencies related to counterproliferation which perform functions such as customs, internal affairs and those related to the military forces. More than 40 participants were engaged in discussions and group exercises. The latter gave the participants an opportunity to demonstrate the ways in which their agencies deal with proliferation and cooperate on a regional level.

The main objectives of this event were to: provide new insights into the concept of proliferation; give participants a full understanding of the extent and complexity of global arms proliferation; explore ways in which proliferation is achieved by states and non-state actors and evaluate the key differences between the two; provide examples of how to discover proliferation operations; indicate red flags that lead
to individuals who deal with proliferation; examine case studies that lead to better understanding of the mechanics of modern proliferation; stress the importance of regional cooperation in counterproliferation activities.

In his opening address RACVIAC Director Branimir Mandić emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in counterproliferation activities and the common effort to develop a full understanding of the complexity of proliferation. He also noted advancements on the regional level by mentioning national laws and regulations that recently came into force. Finally, the Director reaffirmed RACVIAC as a future platform for proliferation issues: “Since the topic of the course remains more current than ever, I hope that this could be the first in a series of similar events. RACVIAC stands ready to be a platform for its member states and a possible regional promoter of the questions related to the WMD, as it does now with one of its flagship events, UNSCR 1540.”

**INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION**

**Regional Conference „Trends and Challenges in Implementing Anti-Corruption Strategies”**

Skopje, MK - November 25, 2014.

Security Cooperation, the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) and the Ministry of Justice of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*

The conference gathered anti-corruption practitioners from the Ministries of Justice and Anti-corruption Agencies dealing with the drafting, implementation and monitoring of Anti-corruption Strategies and Action Plans in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Republic of Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Moldova, Republic of Serbia, Romania and Turkey, as well as the representatives of the governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations engaged in anti-corruption activities.

„Our expectations for further successes in the fight against corruption are based solely on our commitment to invest efforts in maintaining and comparing the anti-corruption policy and overcoming this devastating phenomenon”, said Adnan Jashari, Minister of Justice of MK. Minister Jashari thanked RACVIAC and RAI for the actions taken to promote regional cooperation to support the implementation of anti-corruption events and activities in the member countries, as well as for organizing this event in MK.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
Ambassador Branimir Mandić, Director of RACVIAC, said: „Being confident that through cooperation and synergy in action we can do more for our countries and beyond, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation has raised this partnership to a prominent level, the result of which is the today's Regional Conference. We believe in multi-stakeholder cooperation, in cooperation between the countries, civil society and businesses. It's one of the preconditions in the promotion of successful policies and mechanisms in all aspects, including the fight against corruption.”

Mr. Gjorgji Slamkov, President of the State Commission for prevention of Corruption in MK emphasized that the fight against corruption should be constant and permanent, directed towards eliminating the causes that generate it, quick in disclosing its emergent forms, with more effective treatment of its sanctioning institutions in order to close the valve through which the vital values of the social system are being threatened. Mr. Davor Dubravica, Chairman of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative stressed the importance of the implementation of the strategic documents: „On the one hand there is the process of strategic planning and on the other hand the process of implementation. Both of these components must be strongly related and adapted to each other. Even the best strategy without an efficient implementation is not a story we need.”

During the conference, the following recommendations and conclusions were made:

- Existence of political will is an important precondition for the implementation of a National Anti-Corruption Strategy. By political will participants understand the recurring cycle of monitoring - evaluation - action, i.e. a sustained effort for progress on an informed anti-corruption agenda;
- by sharing their national practices, participants concluded that there is room for improvement of the existing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) has committed itself to develop a tool which will help countries to do so;
- besides its importance as an external monitoring mechanism the civil society should be given a role within the monitoring commissions. Regional initiatives, such as the South East Leadership for Development and Integrity, should be considered when it comes to involvement as a partner in this process;
- progress and evaluation reports should be publicly available;
- countries should consider moving towards non-paper based reporting, which should also ensure higher transparency and publicity of the process;
- political accountability should serve as a control mechanism for deficient implementation of the anti-corruption strategy.

Conference on New Security Challenges in South East Europe

A conference organized by the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office in Croatia, and the Alumni Association of the George C. Marshall Center, Croatia was held from December 10th to 12th, 2014.

The conference, titled New Security Challenges in South East Europe, was a continuation of a joint Conference on the “European Union External Border Regime” held last year as RACVIAC’s first activity to be developed in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office in Croatia, and the Alumni Association of the George C. Marshall Center.
Association of the George C. Marshall Center, Croatia.

The purpose of this joint event was to continue addressing the transformation processes in South Eastern Europe (SEE) in the view of EU and NATO membership responsibilities and readiness in the area of security. The Conference was aimed at bringing together representatives from the SEE countries whose international position is shifting following Croatian entry into the EU in terms of becoming front-line countries bordering with the EU area.

In his opening address, RACVIAC Deputy Director Brigadier General Zdravko Jakop, welcomed several of the distinguished guests present including H.E. Ambassador Emanuela D’Alessandro, the Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Republic of Croatia; H.E. Ambassador Hans Peter Annen, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Croatia; Mr Michael A. Lange, PhD, head of the KAS Office in Croatia; Mr Smiljan Ćubelić, President of the Alumni Association of the George C. Marshall Centre, Croatia; BrigGen (ret.) Klaus Wittmann, PhD, Senior Fellow at the Aspen Institute, DE and former Director of the NATO Defence College Rome as well as Dr. Tomo Radičević, the Head of the Defence Policy and Planning Department at the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia.

The event opened with several keynote speeches in which varying security challenges facing South East Europe were underlined as well as efforts to implement confidence and security building measures.

Over the next two days participants heard lectures and presentations during five panel discussion titled: New Security Challenges in Europe; Energy Security in South-Eastern Europe; The Migration Challenge for the European Union; Financial Crisis and Military Capabilities; and Towards Schengen.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Regional Cooperation for Better Response to Trafficking in Human Beings in SEE

Ohrid, MK - December 16 - 17, 2014.

The workshop “Regional Cooperation for Better Response to Trafficking in Human Beings in SEE” was held on 16 and 17 December 2014, in Ohrid, in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*. The event was jointly organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, MARRI Regional Centre and the Ministry of Interior of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*. Delegations from the following countries were present: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. Even though Kosovo** is not member of the two organizations, representatives were invited and took part. The representatives from the US Embassy, OSCE Mission and IOM Office in Skopje were also present as well as the representative form ICMPD-International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Police Attaché from the Austrian Embassy in Skopje and the Swiss Federal Police Liaison Officer from the Swiss Embassy in Pristina.

The purpose of the workshop was to analyze the current situation in the area of combating trafficking in human beings, promote regional cooperation in supporting the capacity building of the SEE countries, promote a regional approach as a necessary response to trafficking in human beings, learn lessons from real cases and consider possible common activities.

The morning session was opened by Ms. Marija Žužek Programme manager for international and regional cooperation with focus on European and Euro-Atlantic integration pillar from RACVIAC, followed by a welcome address delivered from Ambassador Branimir Mandić Director of RACVIAC. In the continuation of the opening part, Ms. Anastasija Ilieska State secretary in the Ministry of Interior of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* delivered a speech and presented herself as the new National Coordinator for Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration. Thereinafter, Mr. Trpe Stojanovski Director of MARRI Regional Centre and

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** This designation is without prejudice on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.
Ms. Ruth Pojman, Deputy Co-ordinator of the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in OSCE, Vienna, addressed the audience with their speeches. The opening part of the morning session was followed by a press conference.

Following national presentations Ms. Sena Uzunović presented the very interesting case of labor exploitation realized by the Public Prosecution Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This case referred to labor exploitation of citizens from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* in Azerbaijan. The period in which the crime was committed is 2007 - 2009 and approximately 635 workers were heard during the investigation. In order to be better prepared before the court, Public Prosecutor Office obtained precious information using mutual legal assistance. In June of 2014, an Indictment was issued against 12 persons for the criminal offense of Organized Crime, in conjunction with the criminal offense of Trafficking in Persons, as well as against 2 persons for the criminal offense of Money Laundering. Currently, the case is pending court proceedings. Presentation of the case was followed by discussion with many questions and appreciation to Ms. Uzunović for the willingness to present this very complex case of international labor exploitation.

The next morning session started with presentation of the MARRI draft regional project "Common regional profile of the victims of THB and traffickers in the MARRI region" by Mr. Trpe Petrović, State official from Serbia in MARRI. The main goal of the project is determining the regional profile of victims and perpetrators of criminal offences in the field of trafficking in human beings. The project foresees to involve all MARRI member states and Kosovo**, and indirect beneficiaries of the project will be the victims of THB. This project was initiated and proposed by the Network of the National Coordinators from MARRI member states in November 2011, but the implementation did not start because of lack of financial resources. Upon completion of the presentation, all national representatives gave positive comments for the idea. Later on, Ms. Melita Grujevska Graham presented the concept of a Trans-referral mechanism for which in 2007 “Guidelines for Development of a Trans-Referral Mechanism for Trafficking in Human Beings” were adopted which represent a set of relevant international organizations were invited as well, incorporating in all existing MARRI networks) and the RACVIAC MS (the South East Europe countries). The relevant international organizations were invited as well, and this concept confirms the optimum synergy in developing the channels for regional cooperation and partnership.

Conclusions:

1. MARRI and RACVIAC recognize the importance of a regional dimension for cooperation in the field of THB and organize a two day workshop, inviting the National coordinators for THB in MARRI MS (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro and Serbia, and Kosovo** as a party which will be incorporated in all existing MARRI networks) and the RACVIAC MS (the South East Europe countries). The relevant international organizations were invited as well, and this concept confirms the optimum synergy in

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

2. The presence of the National THB coordinators and relevant Law Enforcement representatives from south east Europe make progress in identifying the regional needs and priorities for further more fluent cooperation and partnership through the existing MARRI Network (www.marri-rc.org).

3. National representatives coordinators in trafficking in human beings in south east Europe presented current state of play in their respective countries in the field of labor exploitation, child abuse and effective measures and actions against other forms of crimes related to human trafficking.

4. All of them expressed a real need for incorporating as many as possible other national institutions, NGO’s and media in the wider support of actions of National THB mechanisms.

5. The closer co-operation among key players in combating THB like Police investigation teams, Prosecutors and representatives from Justice, seems to be crucial in the struggle to efficiently fight against traffickers. The cooperation should be established through common work and especially in further and permanent education in recognizing and treating victims of THB crimes. This should be followed by properly sentenced traffickers, according to updated legislature.

6. Interactive efforts of National institutions and international organizations is needed whenever is possible. The main question was how to improve and strengthen regional cooperation in this field of work. Proposals for common actions in the area of prevention, education and exchanging information were just some of the ideas which were presented during two days of work.

7. MARRI and RACVIAC as regional organizations could help in developing a regional approach in common combat of human trafficking in the region using outcomes of all relevant projects of other international organizations like ICMPD, IOM, ILO, FRONTEX, OSCE, PCC SEE, relevant partners from the US etc. as well as developing genuine regional projects. The permanent task and challenge is to support integration of governments and other stakeholders to address separate, but related issues of alien smuggling, trafficking in human beings and other forms of trans-border crime.

8. MARRI and RACVIAC should provide permanent support for further activities of MARRI Network for Cooperation of National Coordinators in CTHB and projects which were designed after being proposed by National coordinators in CTHB. This approach will secure that actions respond to real needs of beneficiary countries;

9. Having in mind all expressed needs and proposals for enhancing future regional cooperation, MARRI and RACVIAC will continue their efforts organizing events (conferences, workshops and meetings) bringing together representatives from national institutions, policy makers, low enforcement, intelligence, diplomatic and last but not least, academic areas in fighting human trafficking.

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COL Fraz Gaugl
Colonel Franz Gaugl, MBA MSD has been seconded to RACVIAC as a Planning & Liaison Officer for Western Europe and International Organizations by the Austrian MOD for a period of two years. His previous assignments included the position of Chief of the CIMIC Section & NBC Expert at the Austrian Forces Operational Command in Graz, the post of Commander of a Service Support Battalion and a four-year posting in the Austrian International Operations Command. He was trained at the Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt and has served as NBC Defense officer on different regional and national levels as well as in disaster relief missions in Austria and abroad. Col Gaugl is a UN and EU Expert for disaster assessment and coordination. He holds postgraduate master’s degrees in “Environmental Threats and Disaster Relief Management” and “Security and Defense”. Col Gaugl is married with two daughters and lives in Graz, AT. He likes hiking, gardening and sports, especially skiing, tennis and football.

LT COL Muharrem Gülcan
Lt Col Gulcan has joined RACVIAC as the programme manager for the Cooperative Security Environment pillar. He graduated from the Turkish Military Academy in 1994, I has served at different posts in Turkey and in Afghanistan. In 2012, Lt Col Gülcan was appointed as the Battalion Commander to the Peacekeeping Force Battalion. Before RACVIAC he served at the Turkish Land Forces Headquarter in Ankara. He is married with three children.

COL Davor Kiralj
Colonel Davor Kiralj has been seconded by the Croatian MoD to serve as an activity manager within RACVIAC’s Security Sector Reform pillar. This is Colonel Kiralj’s second tour of duty at RACVIAC. We are confident that his vast knowledge and experience in the fields of manpower and personnel research as well as development and transition of military personnel will provide an invaluable asset to our organization.

Mr Stefan Brajić
Mr Stefan Brajić arrived at RACVIAC as a volunteer in the International and Regional Cooperation pillar. He was born in Sarajevo on January 16th, 1992, where he began attending primary school. Later he moved to Argentina where he lived for four years and completed his primary education. In 2006 he returned to Sarajevo where he completed his secondary education and enrolled at the American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina he earned a BS degree in International Law and Diplomacy. Subsequently he began his Master studies in the field of International Public and European Law. Upon obtaining his Master’s degree he started a new master program which is focused on the field of International and National Security. Stefan anjoys playing football, tennis and basketball.

Mr Tin Kastelic
Mr Tin Kastelic, from Slovenia, joined the RACVIAC team as an Erasmus intern in the Security Sector Reform pillar in October 2014. Additionally, he is finishing his last year of Defence studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. His professional interests are linked to South Eastern Europe and GEOINT. In his spare time he enjoys cycling and sports climbing.
Lt Col Neven Bajić

Lt Col Bajić served as an activity manager at RACVIAC within the Security Sector Reform pillar from 2010. He will be remembered for his sharp insight and clearness of thought that greatly contributed to his outstanding organizational capabilities. Upon completion of his tour of duty at RACVIAC, Lt Col Bajić has gone into a well deserved retirement. We wish him all the best in his private life.

Col Ferdinand Klinser

Colonel Ferdinand Klinser came from the Austrian MoD in 2011, filling the position of Planning & Liaison Officer for Western Europe and International Organisations. He will be remembered for forming the RACVIAC Planning and Development Group and for his contribution to expanding the RACVIAC network of cooperation to several other international organizations. RACVIAC wishes Colonel Klinser all the best in his current duties as well as in his private life.

Ms Marija Žužek

Ms Marija Žužek M.Sc., was seconded by the Serbian Ministry of Defence, to assume the post of RACVIAC Programme Manager for the International and Regional Cooperation Pillar in June 2013. During her management the pillar began a series of projects driven by her enthusiasm and selfless devotion to work. She will be remembered for her dedication to the organization and the energetic work atmosphere she fostered in the International and Regional Cooperation pillar. Ms Žužek ended her tour of duty at RACVIAC at the end of 2014. We wish her all the best in her personal and professional life.

COL Zafer Kilic

Colonel Kilic was seconded by the Republic of Turkey to the post of Programme Manager of RACVIAC’s Cooperative Security Environment pillar. His extensive experience from his previous career provided an invaluable asset within his pillar’s activities, especially those related to arms control and confidence and security building measures. In 2014 Colonel Kilic’s tour of duty came to an end. The RACVIAC staff wishes him all the best in his career and private life and will miss his frequent emails inviting us to try some Turkish sweets in the kitchen.

SSG Zlatko Starešina

Staff Sergeant Zlatko Starešina joined RACVIAC in November 2011 as a driver. He will be remembered for his selfless dedication and willingness to assist any and all members of staff whenever necessary without question. He proved to be a valuable contribution to the organization through his reliability, punctuality and devotion. In December 2014, Staff Sergeant Starešina’s tour of duty at RACVIAC came to an end. He has returned to the Croatian Army PSO centre where he will continue his career. RACVIAC wishes him all the best in his personal and professional life.

Ms Lavinia Elena Ciurez

Ms Lavinia Elena Ciurez arrived at RACVIAC from Romania on April 1st 2014 as an intern under the Erasmus programme of the EU. Ms Ciurez assisted in the Security Sector Reform pillar and demonstrated a high level of interest in the subject matter covered by the pillar. She will be remembered for her cheerful spirit and desire to learn and contribute to the organization. Ms Ciurez completed her internship in September and returned to Romania. We wish her all the best.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Topic/Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MAG POC</td>
<td>RACVIAC programme 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SSR-02-C</td>
<td>Border Security and Management: Examination and Detection at the Border</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CSE-01-C</td>
<td>Open Skies Treaty (OST) Aerial Observation Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SSR-01-S</td>
<td>Defence Resources Management: “Transition of the Military Educational Systems in SEE II”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>CSE-04-W</td>
<td>Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>IRC-01-CF</td>
<td>International Approach to the Energy Security Concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>IRC-03-P</td>
<td>SAR - Regional cooperation and joint actions (from 2014 Programme)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SSR-03-S</td>
<td>Civil-Military Relations: Seminar on P(M)SC III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>CSE-02-W</td>
<td>Chemical Weapons Convention Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>CSE-11-CF</td>
<td>Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>33rd MAG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>CSE-03-W</td>
<td>Symposium on Mine Action (Workshop on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions merged with the Ottawa Convention Seminar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>IRC-04-P</td>
<td>Cyber Security /Continuation of the Cyber Security project /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>SSR-04-C</td>
<td>Human Rights Protection: Gender Training of the Trainers Course (GToT) for the SEE Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>IRC-02-CF</td>
<td>Building Integrity and Fighting Corruption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>CSE-05-C</td>
<td>Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) - Orientation Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>SSR-05-CF</td>
<td>Parliamentary Oversight: Annual Meeting of the Representatives from Defence and Security Committees from SEE Parliaments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>CSE-10-S</td>
<td>Effective Practices in Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (Prg 2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>IRC-05-CF</td>
<td>UN Resolution 2178/14 Dealing with the Problem of Foreign Terrorist Fighters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>CSE-12-CF</td>
<td>C-WMD Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>CSE-07-C</td>
<td>Vienna Document – Verification and Compliance Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>34th MAG Meeting and RACVIAC 15 Years Anniversary Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>IRC-06-P</td>
<td>SAR - The Ordeal of the SAR Mission Imposed by the Features of the Region and Specifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>IRC-07-CF</td>
<td>EU Security and Further Evolution in SEE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>CSE-08-S</td>
<td>Arms Control Symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>SSR-07-S</td>
<td>Security Challenges for the EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>IRC-08-P</td>
<td>Cyber Security /Continuation of the Cyber Security project/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fostering dialogue and cooperation in South East Europe

Centro for Security Cooperation

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