VIENNA DOCUMENT 2011 COURSE HELD IN HUNGARY

SIXTH GENDER TRAINING OF THE TRAINERS COURSE CONDUCTED IN RACVIAC

ARMS CONTROL SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZED IN RACVIAC

THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE C-WMD NETWORK
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FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

RACVIAC participates in RCC Annual Meeting

RACVIAC Director MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo participated in the eleventh Annual Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) that took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 8 July 2019.

The RCC’s Secretary General Majlinda Bregu presented the main findings of the fifth, 2019 edition of its public and business viewpoints survey, Balkan Barometer, giving an in-depth look into the survey data per each WB economy: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, and sharing what citizens and businesses in the region think about the current situation and circumstances in their societies.

The RCC’s Annual Meeting participants endorsed the RCC’s Annual Report for 2018–2019 and the Organisation’s Strategy and Work Programme 2020–2022, which will be forwarded to the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs for final adoption.

The Meeting took place within the framework of the high-level meetings organised at the end of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Chairmanship-in-Office (C-i-O) of the SEECP.

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Montenegrin DG for Defence Policy visits RACVIAC

Mr Ivica Ivanović, the Director General for Defence Policy at the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro, accompanied by Ms Ana Radušinovic, Chief of Section for EU Affairs and Regional Initiatives, and Col Ivan Mašulović, Defence Attaché to the Republic of Croatia, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on 15 July 2019.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the forthcoming MAG Chairmanship of Montenegro as well as the Montenegrin future contribution to RACVIAC activities. RACVIAC Director MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo took this opportunity to shortly present the major achievements, projects and activities of the Centre planned for 2019-2020 and express his gratitude for the ongoing support that Montenegro is providing to RACVIAC, especially in terms of financial contributions and continuous hosting of certain activities.

Mr Ivanović expressed his appreciation for RACVIAC work on enhancing security and dialogue in SEE and its role in accelerating the Euro-Atlantic integration processes and emphasized that Montenegro will continue to provide strong support to the Centre.

HO/TO of SEDM-CC/PMSC Chairmanship and 20th Anniversary of SEEBRIG

On Friday, 30 August 2019, RACVIAC Director MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo attended the handover-taking ceremony of the Presidency of the SEDM-CC Coordination Committee, as well as the Political Military Leadership Committee (PMSC) from the Hellenic Republic to the Republic of Albania within the framework of the SEDM (South-Eastern Europe Defense Ministerial Process), held at the SEEBRIG (the South-Eastern Europe Brigade) headquarters in Tyrnavos, Larissa.

After two years of Greek Presidency of SEDM-CC/PMSC, chaired by Ambassador a.h. Eleutherios Angelopoulos, who was also the Chairperson of the Multinational Advisory Gorup (MAG), the Steering Body of RACVIAC, the Presidency was handed over to Albania.

On the same day the SEEBRIG, the only military component in the context of the SEDM Process, celebrated the 20th anniversary of its founding (31st August 1999).
On Wednesday, 11 September 2019, H.E. Mr Andrew Dalgleish, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Republic of Croatia, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. Ambassador Dalgleish was accompanied by the Defence Attaché to Croatia and Hungary Wg Cdr John Kelly.

After a presentation on RACVIAC history, mission and accomplishments of the Centre Director MG (Ret.) Jeronim Bazo provided further explanations related to RACVIAC Members, the nature, aim and outcomes of RACVIAC Programme of activities, emphasizing that apart from promoting dialogue and cooperation between the SEE countries networking has always been a very important aspect of RACVIAC overall aims in order to exchange information and harmonize practices and procedures.

MG (ret.) Bazo also took the opportunity to express appreciation to Ambassador Dalgleish regarding the readiness of the United Kingdom, as a RACVIAC Associate Member, to intensify mutual cooperation in the future.

In continuation more detailed aspects of future cooperation that will contribute to a safe and stable South East European region were discussed.

On 13 September 2019 RACVIAC Director MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo had a courtesy meeting with the Hungarian Minister of Defence Dr Tibor Benkő.

During the meeting MG (ret.) Bazo briefly presented the Centre’s mission and accomplishments and provided certain insights related to the nature, aim and process of development of RACVIAC Programme of activities. He emphasized that apart from promoting dialogue and cooperation between the SEE countries networking has always been a very important aspect of RACVIAC overall aims.

MG (ret.) Bazo also took the opportunity to express appreciation on behalf of the Centre for the highly valuable support that Hungary, as a very reliable and active Associate Member, has been continuously providing to RACVIAC since its inception in 2000. Director Bazo expressed special gratitude for Hungary’s invaluable contribution to the RACVIAC Vienna Document 2011 Compliance and Verification Course which took place in Szolnok on 8-13 September 2019.

Dr Benkő elaborated on the recent reform processes in the Hungarian Armed Forces. He also emphasized the importance of security and stability in the SEE region and expressed his appreciation for RACVIAC role in maintaining it. The Minister availed himself of this opportunity to underline that Hungary will continue to support the Centre in the future as well.
RACVIAC PLO attends 42nd PMSC and 41st SEDM-CC Meetings

On 17-19 September 2019 Ms Kloalda Kamberi, RACVIAC Planning and Liaison Officer for South East Europe and Regional Organizations, attended in Tirana the 42nd PMSC and 41st SEDM-CC Meetings of the South East Europe Defence Ministerial Process, which were chaired for the first time by Albania.

The Minister of Defence H.E. Mrs Olta Xhaçka welcomed the representatives from 13 SEDM Nations, SEEBRIG and RACVIAC that participated in the Meetings. The Meetings were chaired by Deputy Minister H.E. Mr Petro Koçi, who presented the Tirana Chairmanship Priorities, such as promotion of confidence building mechanisms, strengthening of the military cooperation in SEE, enhancing the interaction with the other International organizations, enhancement of SEEBRIG interoperability and capability to deploy in peace support missions, etc.

The Meetings were conducted in a friendly spirit and mutual understanding. Various programs and initiatives were discussed, aiming at fostering international collaboration and promoting enduring peace and security.

Visit to ITF

RACVIAC CSE Pillar Programme Manager Col Servet Aya and Activity Manager Ms Beata Varga paid a visit to ITF Enhancing Human Security (ITF) in Ljubljana on 26 September 2019.

The purpose of the Meeting was to plan and coordinate the “Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)/Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM)” activity for 2020 as well as to identify and detect the new requirements that could be addressed within RACVIAC framework.

On behalf of ITF Ms Sabina Beber Boštjančič, Deputy Director, and Blaž Mihelič, Project Manager, participated in the Meeting.

During the Meeting it was emphasized that issues of surplus and especially the safe storage of SALW are still problems in the SEE region. The parties agreed that they will continue discussions on both the possibility of a longer-term project as well as a realisation of next year’s program.
On 30 September 2019 the Meeting of Points of Contact of the Multinational Advisory Group, RACVIAC Steering Committee, was held on RACVIAC premises.

The purpose of the Meeting was to discuss and coordinate details related to the inputs received from RACVIAC Members and partner organizations regarding the proposed draft of Programme 2020 as well as the draft Concept Paper for the new Strategy 2021-2026.

Opening the Meeting RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, welcomed the representatives from Members, Associate Members and Observers saying that the Centre greatly appreciates their outstanding support and cooperation.

The Meeting began with a presentation by RACVIAC Deputy Director BG Gordana Garašić who provided information on the draft Programme 2020 as well as some additional proposals and remarks received via the Questionnaire regarding specific requests and/or aspects of participation by RACVIAC respective Members, Associate Members and partners.

In addition, MAG POCs informed RACVIAC about their readiness to host or otherwise support certain activities. Also, several details were clarified resulting in a more precise and concrete draft Programme 2020 that will be presented for approval at the upcoming MAG Meeting in October 2019.

In accordance with the adopted Roadmap for strategy development the afternoon session of the Meeting concerned the presentation and discussion on the 1st draft of the Concept Paper for the new Strategy 2021-2026 that outlines RACVIAC way ahead and main fields of interest.
This year the aim of the Arms Control Symposium was two-fold: to reveal new perspectives regarding confidence-building measures in Europe as well as to go a little further, to explore the most recent significant global trends in the field of non-proliferation. This event was a very useful one as related to drawing attention to challenges concerning new advanced military technology and to new circumstances in which the old Arms Control protocols do not prevail anymore.

The Symposium, building on the experience of the symposiums from previous years, aimed at presenting the latest developments in the Arms Control area. This year the aim was two-fold: to reveal new perspectives regarding confidence-building measures in Europe as well as to go a little further, to explore the most recent developments in the bigger context of Arms Control development, i.e., in the area of non-proliferation.

The Symposium was attended by 38 participants, lecturers, speakers and RACVIAC staff. The participants came from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, South Korea, Turkey, Kosovo* and the NATO School Oberammergau.

The Symposium started with the Opening remarks by MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director, who emphasized that the Symposium aims at offering a range of topics which encompass the most recent developments in the Arms Control domain, as well as significant global trends in the field of non-proliferation in order to have a look at the other side of the coin as well. He added that there will be presentations on the 'big guns': the nuclear weapons-related issues, as well as on the 'small guns', the latest news related to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), and the global and regional developments concerning them.

After the Opening remarks the first presenter to take the floor was Dr Zoltan Bács from the National University of Public Service, Hungary, on the topic of global Arms Control and non-proliferation trends and tendencies. Dr Bács, in his scene-setting presentation, addressed the global challenges in the areas of non-proliferation and Arms Control putting the topics of the Symposium into context and drawing attention to challenges related to new advanced military technology and to new circumstances in which the old Arms Control protocols do not prevail anymore. He also warned about the new evolving arms race.

Following Dr Zoltan Bács Mr Andrew Dolan, Consultant to the Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), elaborated on the recent developments in the field of nuclear non-proliferation. Mr Dolan also focused on counter-proliferation issues to a great extent. He discussed the problems concerning the perception of WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction), new risks in the field of proliferation, elaborated on the 'vulnerable world' hypothesis and pointed out that even cyber-attacks could pose a risk in terms of Arms Control.

Dr Erzsébet Rózsa Nagyné from the National University of Public Service, Hungary, delivered her presentation on WMD issues in the Middle East (MENA). Dr Rózsa Nagyné introduced the region in terms of non-proliferation and WMD issues in detail also elaborating on the realities/obstacles in terms of establishing a WMD-Free Zone. She put regional issues into the context of the global non-proliferation regimes. Dr Rózsa Nagyné elaborated on

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the latest developments in the area of (nuclear) non-proliferation including the Iran Nuclear Deal as well.

The morning session of the Symposium was closed by Dr Joung Hyun Choi from the Korea Institute for Maritime Strategy, who introduced the process of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s (DPRK’s) Nuclear Disarmament including the fundamental conditions for a successful agreement. He provided detailed information about the history of Pyongyang’s Nuclear Program as well as about the current status of the WMD programs in North Korea. In his presentation he introduced a possible model of a verification regime for the Korean Peninsula.

While the morning session of the Symposium was more focused on the wider context of Arms Control and non-proliferation issues, the afternoon session was devoted to Arms Control issues per se including SALW.

Colonel Ewald Helmut Nau from the Verification Centre of the Bundeswehr delivered a presentation on the current aspects and developments in the field of conventional Arms Control (CAC) in Germany. He presented Germany’s key priorities in this field such as addressing the numerous challenges, reinvigorating CAC in Europe, modernization issues, extending the territory of application, opening up of the Vienna Document (VD) for the inclusion of new weapon systems, issues concerning structured dialogue, WMD, means of delivery in international cooperation and training, etc. In terms of German priorities he introduced the present status of the Open Skies Platform 2020 and elaborated on the activities (SALW, WMD-related) of the Verification Center.

Colonel Robert Kordik from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and Other International
Organisations in Vienna focused on the outcomes of the OSCE 2019 Annual Security Review Conference. Colonel Kordik provided a very thorough insight into the issues that were on the agenda of the Conference and summarized the main ideas of the event's keynote speakers.

Mr Andrei Sarban from OSCE of BA provided an overview of the OSCE Arms Control activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA) as well as of their support to BA with regards to the implementation of the “Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW in the Western Balkans” project. Mr Sarban introduced their past and ongoing projects as well as their future priorities.

Finally, Ms Bojana Balon, who represented SEESAC, elaborated on SALW and other aspects of Non-Proliferation. Ms Balon provided a detailed introduction on the Roadmap project as well as an insight into the process including the key findings in terms of the Roadmap Reporting Framework as well as the updates concerning the project.

Thought-provoking topics and open discussions underlined some of the major arms control challenges on a global scale: disrupted trust between key role-players, outdated international documents, agreements and treaties; the new round of the arms race: using new advanced military technology and accelerating arms race as well as existence of old Arms Control protocols that do not work properly any more.

In the area of non-proliferation there is a growing amount of fields where the measures for prevention of proliferation should be implemented. Major challenges are sporadic political will, non-coordination, diversity of actors included (state and non-state) and management of data on proliferation threats.
RACVIAC C-WMD Network, launched in 2015, facilitates the development of national WMD counter-proliferation strategies and management of response plans, with the support of the US-EUCOM, US Defence Threat Reduction Agency International Counterproliferation Programme Proliferation Security Initiative, and the Republic of Croatia. Currently, the project is in Phase Two: developing the mechanisms and projects for future regional cooperation.

The twelfth Meeting of the C-WMD Network on Developing National WMD Counterproliferation Strategies took place in RACVIAC on 04-06 September 2019. The Meeting was organized with continuous support from U.S European Command (USEUCOM) that facilitates the participation of experts from the U.S. Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), the International Counterproliferation Program (ICP), the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), and Republic of Croatia.

The purpose of the Meeting was to further facilitate and review the progress in the development of national C-WMD strategies and examine recent trends and emerging technologies in WMD proliferation. Additionally, the event aimed to discuss future project management and mechanisms of continued regional information sharing.

Opening the Meeting RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, said: “C-WMD Network has achieved great success so far: most of the participating states have either completed or are in the process of completing their national WMD Counterproliferation Strategies or validating them. During Phase two of the project the Network is moving forward to develop new and sustainable regional cooperation mechanisms and an information sharing platform”, MG (ret.) Bazo underlined.

Speaking on behalf of the co-organizer Mr Scott Dunn, WMD Programme Manager at USEUCOM, emphasized that taking steps to solidify regional cooperation is critical to counter proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Meeting started with the presentation on the Recent Trends and Emerging Technologies, Black Biology, ITT, Drones and Dispersal Devices. A part of the Meeting Agenda concerned the updates on
two projects for future regional cooperation: the Risk Atlas development, a project led by North Macedonia, and the Bio-Security Project led by Montenegro.

As a result of previous discussions and persistence of participating nations to continue sharing best practices, experiences, challenges and risk assessment, details on the development of the information sharing platform were presented by RACVIAC. This information sharing platform will additionally support the sustainability of CWMD regional cooperation efforts.

Based on the previous practice the greatest part of the meeting was dedicated to the Tabletop Exercise (TTX). The aim of this simulation TTX was to examine the role and importance of combating proliferation from a regional cooperation perspective. Although the exercise was fictitious, it was nevertheless based on a number of real events, and feedback by participants on the given case studies was very positive.

The National Briefings, which were held at the beginning of every meeting, continued through Phase Two as well, thus addressing the challenges of completing, testing, and implementing individual National Strategies. The briefings are valuable for planning and designing the National TTX exercises for each country's strategy and to reflect the span of each country's progress in the overall process.

The Meeting gathered more than 40 participants, members from national drafting/working groups of the participating states, competent authority planners and implementers engaged in the implementation of the C-WMD national strategy, and experts from USEUCOM and DTRA.

The Meeting ended with the conclusion that confidence building, information sharing and risk assessment are crucial to efficiently counter the proliferation of WMD.
Vienna Document 2011 Course
held in Hungary
9-13 September 2019, Szolnok, Hungary

In order to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the Vienna Document as well as to increase confidence and security in the South East European region, RACVIAC has been organizing Vienna Document courses since 2001. Since its launch, this course has been co-organised and hosted by the Hungarian Defence Forces approximately every second year, providing participants with the opportunity to gain both the theoretical and practical knowledge according to the letter but also the spirit of the VD’11.

The “Vienna Document 2011 Compliance and Verification Course”, organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Hungarian Defence Forces (HDF), was conducted in Szolnok, Hungary on 09-13 September 2019.

The purpose of the Course was to provide participants with a theoretical overview of the Vienna Document 2011 (VD ‘11) offering a comprehensive analysis of both the theoretical and practical rules and procedures of its execution as well as the duties and responsibilities of the personnel to be engaged in the implementation of the aforementioned Arms Control document thus demonstrating the real spirit of the confidence- and security-building measures. The Course also aimed to train the participants employed as visitors/evaluators or escort team members in the subjects related to the planning and conducting of such activities based on best practices.

The participants of the 2019 Course came from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo* and USA (DTRA Europe). Among the participants there were both senior and junior military officials as well as civilians, dealing with related issues.

The event consisted of two parts: a two-day theoretical and a two-day practical part. The theoretical part was conducted with the support of eight lecturers: Col László Szatmári, PhD (Military Representative, Permanent Mission of Hungary to the UN, OSCE and other International Organisations in Vienna, Head of MilAd Group), Col Thomas Krainz (Head of Verification, Austrian Verification Center), Col Andrei Tsaryk (Chief, Verification Division, International Military Cooperation Department, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Belarus), LtC Arnur Akzhigitov (Chief of Section, Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan), LtC Gianfilippo Vagnoni (Head of Land Inspection Section, Plans and Policy, Arms Control, Verification and Counter-proliferation Office - UCVAC - Chief), LtC Dietmar Koeppen (Arms Control Staff Officer, Bundeswehr Verification Center, Federal Republic of Germany), Cpt Mihail Várdai (Arms Control Officer, Arms Control Division, HDF Command Operations Directorate), Lt Paul Denoyel (Arms Control Inspector, French Verification Unit).

Opening the Course RACVIAC Deputy Director, BG Gordana Garašić, welcomed all the participants and also

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took the opportunity to express utmost gratitude to HDF for hosting and co-organising the Course, as well as to Germany and Croatia for the provision of financial support.

Speaking on behalf of the host country COL Gyula Andrejcsik, Head of Arms Control Division, HDF, underlined that cooperation is very important since it enhances mutual understanding and security in the region. He further expressed pleasure of having participants from nearly all nations in the Balkan region as well as lecturers from seven different nations.

Eight lecturers representing Arms Control agencies of several countries as well as the HU OSCE Mission delivered presentations on a range of topics during the two-day theoretical part. Some of the countries represented by the presenters took part in RACVIAC activities for the first time contributing to RACVIAC activity as ‘outsiders’. The topics covered Historical Background of Arms Control, the Role of the VD’11 in Light of the Current State of Affairs in the Area of Arms Control, VD’11 Contents, Structure, Main Parts and Basic Definitions, as well as Chapters related to Risk Reduction, Prior Notification & Observation of Certain Military Activities, Annual Calendars and Constraining Provisions, Compliance and Verification, Contacts and Regional Measures.

During the first day of the practical part of the Course the participants carried out a Chapter IV military unit visit to the HDF 2nd “Vitéz Bertalan Árpád” Special Operations Brigade. Col Gábor Sánta, Commander, provided a briefing on the unit that included a brief history, organization, mission, list of key tasks, training, development, as well as Dynamic and Static Displays/Shows and Assessment.

During the second day of the practical part, an airbase visit was carried out in accordance with Chapter IV to the HDF 86th “Szolnok Helicopter Base”. BG József Koller, PhD, Helicopter Base Commander provided a briefing on the history, organization, mission, key tasks, training, and the logistics network of the base. The Programme also included Dynamic and Static Displays/Shows and Assessment.

Both the “Vitéz Bertalan Árpád” Special Operations Brigades as well as the Szolnok Helicopter Base, who put up static displays and spectacular dynamic shows, excelled in their preparedness of all related tasks and their execution.

After the assessment the Course was finalized with a Closing Ceremony including the evaluation, the handing over of certificates and, finally, the Closing remarks by MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, Director of RACVIAC, who thanked the Hungarian hosts for excellent organization, their preparedness and professionalism.

The Course deepened contacts between the representatives of national organizations, agencies engaged in the accomplishment of Arms Control and/or security- and confidence-building measures and provided the participants, especially during the practical part of the Course, with an opportunity to exercise or “observe” the real events thus showing how this form of cooperation will work in the future on the national, regional and international level.

Although the Course was designed mainly for military personnel of the SEE region it also provided useful insights for civilians, experts from the defence, foreign policy or other related areas and served as a networking forum for the participants.
The importance of the gender aspect in military operations had prompted NATO, as well as other national and multinational defence organisations to address, regulate and implement the integration of the gender perspective, both on the duty level and on the level of participation in Peace Support Operations (PSO). According to the Review of the Practical Implications of UNSCR 1325 for the Conduct of NATO-led Operations and Missions (2013) a very important recommendation to NATO and all current and future operational partner nations is to “train trainers on UNSCR 1325 and gender mainstreaming, with the objective of supporting on-the-job training”.

The 2019 GTOT Course gathered students and instructors from 14 countries.

Opening the Course RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, said: “This is already the sixth Course in a row organised by RACVIAC which shows the relevance of the Centre as a regional hub for gender mainstreaming in South East Europe.” Referring to the United Nations Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security and related Resolutions, MG (ret.) Bazo pointed out: “the Resolutions are also calling for women’s meaningful participation in peace processes beyond mere representation and quotas. Meaningful participation means that women are at the table when peace negotiations are taking place, that women’s interests and needs are fully reflected in peace processes, and that women are equally considered in the aftermath of conflict. In terms of planning and conducting a military operation it is important to...
recognize that by addressing and recognising the whole population we are increasing the operational effectiveness”, concluded MG (ret.) Bazo.

The GToT curriculum was built based on the NCGM template certified by NATO with some improvements and adjustments made in accordance with the lessons learned from previous similar training events held from 2014 onwards.

Provisions of corresponding expertise and overall organization were respectfully divided between RACVIAC, the Personnel Department of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, with NCGM’s support that was the main Course facilitator. All parties were at a certain point included in the Course preparation and organization as well as the development of the Course Agenda and experts’ engagement.

In total 29 participants, military officers and NCOs as well as civilian equivalents from Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, and Ukraine took part in the Course. Subject Matter Experts and instructors came from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, North Macedonia, Slovenia, Sweden, NCGM and RACVIAC.

The GToT Course was a 10-day training event designed as a combination of lectures, corresponding individual and syndicate work, followed by a practical exercise and the final
assessment/exam. Prior to their arrival the students were obliged to complete the NATO "ADL 169" online Course, "Improving Operational Effectiveness by Integrating the Gender Perspective". Hence they arrived with a common level of knowledge about the subject matter.

From the very beginning the students were encouraged to be open and actively contribute to joint work primarily as members of a designated group - a syndicate.

During the Course the students were introduced to the gender terms and definitions, the interlink between culture, religion and gender, the requirements, learning objectives and target audience analysis, international humanitarian law and human rights, framework and United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) on Women, Peace and Security and conflict related sexual and gender-based violence. Students also learned how to apply the gender perspective at the strategic, operational and tactical level in military tasks, how to plan gender training at different levels, and how to identify the training requirements and learning objectives for different target audiences. One part of the Course was dedicated to essential teaching skills, instructional strategies and methods, handling resistance in training situations and conducting the learning assessment. Additionally, students worked in syndicates on extraction of the main provisions of national Action plans or MoD-related policy regarding UNSCR on Women, Peace and Security. They also learned how to apply the gender perspective into SSR processes.

The Course included also the practical outdoor exercise on how to use role playing in gender integrated training.

At the end all students successfully passed the final exam thus proving that they learned to use and teach about gender terms, definitions and the international framework of the gender perspective in different contexts and properly demonstrate their teaching skills with an applied gender perspective.

The Course Closing ceremony was attended by RACVIAC Director, MG (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Deputy Director BG Gordana Garašić and COL Georgii Falko, the Ukraine Defence Attaché.

The diversity of students’ backgrounds, nationalities, previous experience as well as engagement of mentors and instructors from NCGM and the Swedish Armed Forces gave a new dimension to the whole event thus additionally expanding the Course’s reach beyond SEE. RACVIAC will continue to maintain an international environment and involvement of the Course’ key partner organizations (NCGM, CAF GS) in the future as well.
FAREWELL

After four years of service as Activity Manager in IRC Pillar Mr. Bujar Maxhuni left RACVIAC in September 2019 to take up a new assignment in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo*. His performance, organizational skills and communication abilities, professionalism, diplomatic bearing and courtesy of the highest standards made him an indispensable asset to IRC Pillar and the Centre in general. He also demonstrated in-depth knowledge of contemporary and emerging security challenges and an ability to analyze the situation in the region, which was a considerable benefit in planning and organization of the Pillar’s Programme of activities. During the time spent in RACVIAC Mr. Maxhuni was also a very good colleague and friend to all of us, always ready to help and make us smile. Thus, we would like to thank him and wish him all the best in his future diplomatic career.

After three-and-a-half years of service in RACVIAC as Admin/Driver we bade farewell to our colleague SFC Predrag Markulinčić at the end of July 2019. We would like to thank him for his remarkable contribution in supporting the Organization and smooth conduct of various tasks related to RACVIAC activities. He was not only a good staff member but also a very helpful and courteous colleague to us all. We are also proud to mention that during his employment in RACVIAC, SFC Markulinčić achieved remarkable sporting success in Orienteering during the Championships of the Croatian Armed Forces. Thanking him for his professional commitment and friendship, we wish him all the best in his future military career and private life.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

C-WMD Network

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Security Sector Reform

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Crisis and Disaster Management Workshop</td>
<td>RACVIAC</td>
<td>28-30 October 2019</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Annual Meeting of the Representatives from Defense and Security Committees from SEE Parliaments</td>
<td>Tirana, Albania</td>
<td>04-06 November 2019</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Conference on Security Challenges for Europe</td>
<td>Zagreb, Croatia</td>
<td>9-11 December 2019</td>
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International and Regional Cooperation with the focus on Euro-Atlantic Integrations

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Workshop on Developing Strategies on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF)</td>
<td>RACVIAC</td>
<td>11-13 November 2019</td>
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“...fostering dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South East Europe...”

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