



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION Training & Verification Division

Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar

Zagreb 4 - 8 February 2008

*In cooperation with OPCW
(Organization for Prohibition of
Chemical Weapons)*

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to RACVIAC programme 2008, the Training & Verification Division organized and executed the Seminar on Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) from the 4th to the 8th February 2008. The Seminar C-01/2008 was organized in close cooperation with Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and it was a successful follow up of the last Seminar on CWC, which was held in RACVIAC in 2007.

The purpose of the seminar was to present all relevant topics related to Chemical Weapons.

II. PROGRAM/METHODOLOGY

The seminar was conducted as a combination of lectures/presentations followed by discussions, and at the end a tabletop exercise. This seminar was designed to share expertise, opinions, lessons learned, to identify problems and to find possible solutions as well as to explore the way ahead. The seminar also

*Share expertise
to find solutions*

provided a valuable environment and atmosphere to encourage focused discussions.

a) The Course Objectives were:

- To provide the participants with information about the Chemical weapons agents and their effects.
- To provide the participants with information about the procedures that OPCW followed for Investigation of Alleged Use (IAU) and Delivery of Assistance (DA).
- To give to the participants the opportunity to exchange opinions about the assets they could provide in case of emergency response involving chemical weapons and examine the procedures they follow in such case in their respective countries.
- To provide the participants with the opportunity for practical training through a tabletop exercises.

b) Participation

Eighteen participants attended the Course, namely from: Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (6), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (1), Hungary (2), Moldova (2), Romania (1), Serbia (1) and Slovenia (1).

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

The seminar was conducted with the assistance of three lecturers from OPCW:

- Ms. Cristina Rodrigues
- Mr. Hermann Lampalzer
- Mr. Jeremy Smith.



Course participants

c) Overview of the Course

RACVIAC conducted the Seminar on CWC in cooperation with OPCW for the fifth time. Also, this was the second time that a practical phase was included in the program.

Mr. Alexander Khodakov, Director-Secretary to the Policy-Making Organs represented OPCW in the opening remarks.

During the 1st day the following topics were presented:

- Risk assessment of Chemical Terrorism;
- Protection Databank;
- Agent dispersion devices.

On the 2nd day the following topics were covered:

- Response to CBR security incidents;
- Investigation of Alleged Use (IAU);
- OPCW exercises for Delivery of Assistance (DA) including lessons learned video from the exercise "Joint Assistance 2005";
- Tabletop exercise: Stoneville exercise;
- National and Regional capacity building.

During the 3rd day the following topics were presented:

- Analysis of scenarios for IAU and DA operations. OPCW readiness to deliver assistance;
- Qualified experts;
- Presentations delivered by the participants on the assets/capabilities that their countries might provide in case of emergency response involving chemical weapons.



Attending a presentation

The 4th day included a scenario-based tabletop exercise. The aim of the exercise was to provide practice for relevant government representatives who might be involved in a request for assistance under *Article X*.

III.SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

The Course proved to be successful by the participants' assessments given at the end of the event. Several participants were NBC officers or members of the national authorities dealing with the chemical weapons in their countries.

Issues to be highlighted:

- The cooperation between RACVIAC and OPCW ensured the presence of the high-level instructors. Their professionalism and experience were highly appreciated by the participants.

- Most of the participants were interested and highly motivated during the Seminar.
- Generally, the participants were satisfied with the topics chosen. They suggested holding similar seminars in the future and they recommended the following:
 - To organize, if possible an inspection as an exercise;
 - To include more topics about terrorism related to CBR substances and security measures for that;
 - To invite, if possible, more participants from each country (1 civilian and 1 military

is a good combination) and ask countries to be represented by the same participants, because they have already a significant background on the subject matter.

The practical phase of the seminar comprised a major and a minor tabletop exercise. It was very well organised. The participants asked for more exercises of this kind to be included in the next year activities, because they would provide them with the significant information, experience and “food” for thought.

Compiled by: Major Lazaros Lazaridis, Course Director,
RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

**RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY
COOPERATION**
at
www.racviac.org