



**CENTRE FOR SECURITY
COOPERATION**

**Open Skies Treaty Orientation –
Aerial Observation Course**

29 September – 10 October 2008

*In cooperation with the Federal
Republic of Germany and the Republic
of Hungary
(Sponsored by the United Kingdom and the
Republic of Hungary)*

I. INTRODUCTION

According to the RACVIAC Programme 2008 Training & Verification Division organized and executed the Open Skies Treaty Orientation – Aerial Observation Course (C-06) during the period of **29th September – 10th October 2008**. The course was carried out in English language and it comprised lectures/presentations and a practical phase, executed in Croatia and Hungary (RACVIAC / Rakitje, and at the **59th Szentgyörgyi Dezső Airbase Kecskemét** in Hungary).



Course Participants

The Course was organised for the ninth time in favour of military representatives of the countries of South Eastern European (SEE) region. The two-week Course provided the participants with the opportunity to meet

their colleagues from the SEE region as well as representatives/experts coming from different countries and agencies being engaged in the execution of the Open Skies Treaty (OST) and/or other arms control regimes for years.

II. PROGRAM/METHODOLOGY

Methodology of the Course was: A combination of lectures (presentations) and practical activities. The practical phase included an observation flight over the territory of the Republic of Hungary.

Location: RACVIAC/Rakitje and at the 59th Szentgyörgyi Dezső Airbase Kecskemét.

The purpose of this course was to provide respective personnel from SEE countries with proper education, training and practical experience in planning, organizing and executing an Aerial Observation Mission based on the provisions of the OST, focusing on the duties and responsibilities of the personnel to be engaged in the implementation of this document, demonstrating the real spirit of the confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs).

a) Course Objectives were:

- To overview specified elements of the OST, highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules and procedures of its execution;
- To provide the participants with the information about the current situation in the implementation of the OST;
- To provide training for the participants in the subjects related to the planning and conducting of such activities, whether they are employed as visitors/evaluators or escorts and based on best practices;
- To provide the participants with the basic knowledge on the rules and procedures regarding conducting of an Aerial Observation Mission;

- To increase their knowledge in training and enrich their practical experience in planning, organizing and executing missions based on the provisions of the OST;
- To deepen contacts between representatives of national organizations and agencies, engaged in the accomplishment of arms control and/or security- and confidence-building measures,
- To provide the participants, especially during the practical part of the course, with the opportunity to exercise or “observe” the real events, thus adding a real value to the SEE region and showing fields and ways as how to work in the future as a platform for co-operation on national, regional and international level.

b) Participation

Two participants, each from one of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Moldavia, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, and Slovenia were invited to take part in the Course. Lecturers were invited from Croatia, Germany, Hungary and Latvia.

Fourteen participants from eight different countries participated in the Course, namely as follows: Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Republic of Croatia (2), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*(2), Moldova (1), Montenegro (1), Republic of Serbia (2) and Slovenia (2). Most of the participants, representing Ministries of Defence and Verification Centres had only little or no knowledge with regard to the provisions of the Open Skies Treaty. The ratio between the new comers and the experienced participants was 40%: 60%.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

RACVIAC hosted six lectures from Croatia (1), Germany (2), Hungary (2), and Latvia (1).

The practical part was executed in Hungary with the assistance and support provided by the Republic of Hungary in providing an Observation Aircraft of the Hungarian Army with a team of five members, as well as the four members of Arms Control Department HDF, four members of the Ministry of Defence Mapping Company and one member of Meteorological Forecast.

In total 20 participants, representing 11 countries, attended this Course.

c) Overview of the Course

RACVIAC conducted a successful and a well-organised Training Course (C-06) in Croatia and Hungary on the above-mentioned topic as per the relevant paragraphs of the OST. A most fruitful cooperation was established between RACVIAC and the Hungarian authorities during this event.

The two-week Course provided the participants with the opportunity to meet their colleagues from the SEE region as well as to meet representatives/experts from organisations and agencies, all dealing with the execution of the OST and/or other arms control regimes.

Altogether six lecturers and about 21 instructors (during the practical phase at the 59th Szentgyörgyi Dezső Airbase Kecskemét) provided assistance and support in the execution of the activity.

The 1st phase (29 September – 05 October) was conducted as a combination of presentations, lectures and a practical work on a mission plan for the accomplishment of the flight. The presentations on the related topics are listed hereunder:



Mr. Robert Barić from Croatia

1. Historical background of Arms Control



Commander Eriks Zingis from Latvia

1. Film processing, duplication, access to information
2. Mission Plan Negotiation, Mission Report (OSF 15, OSF 14)



LtCol Andres Weller from Germany

1. The Treaty on Open Skies (I. II. III.)
2. OS platforms and sensor suits
3. Mission planning (basic information and considerations)

The invited lecturers covered all the topics efficiently and presented a comprehensive, and detailed enough overview of the relevant parts of the Treaty taken for investigation. However, **there was only a very a short discussion** (“questions and answers”) **period** after presentations. At the end of each day there was a “plenary section” proposed and aimed at clarifying the questions occurred.



LtCol Gábor Szűcs from Hungary

1. OS Notifications, Formats
2. Certification, pre-flight inspection, demo flight.
3. Mission rundown I. (Possible timetable of an active mission)
4. Preparation of receiving an OS mission (Formats, logistics, OSCC Dec. 1.)

During the practical phase the participants were divided into two teams and practiced the preparation of a “Mission Plan” for the accomplishment of the real observation flight under the supervision of the lecturers.



Clarifying the situation



Start up (Introduction to Practical exercise)

- Observation flight I.
- OSF 14 analyzing
- Controlling the film developing process (at the Mapping Agency)



Preparation of the Practical Part

The 2nd phase (05 - 10 October) was performed as a real mission of the OST over the territory of the Republic of Hungary with all elements pertaining to the Treaty. The film that was made during the observation flight was processed in the Lab in Budapest and participants had the opportunity to observe the film processing.

The participants practiced performing their duties both, as members of the Observation team and Escort team on the real Aerial Observation Flight Mission of the OST at 91st Air Base, pursuant to the following procedures:

- POE procedure
- Pre-flight Inspection
- Mission Plan Negotiation (background activities)
- Preparation for the Flight (in flight duties)

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