



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Cooperative Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar

“Vienna Document 2011 Compliance and Verification Course” CSE-A3-C-19

9-13 September 2019, Szolnok, Hungary

Introduction

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 (SEE) region, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) has been organizing Vienna Document courses since 2001. Since its launch, this course has been co-organised and hosted by Hungary approximately every second year, this year included. The venue of this year's Course was Szolnok, HU.

The purpose of this activity was to provide participants with a theoretical overview of the Vienna Document 2011 (VD '11), providing a comprehensive analysis of both the theoretical as well as the practical level of the implementation of VD activities. The Course objectives were:

- To provide an overview of the specific elements of the VD '11 highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules and procedures of its execution
- To focus on 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
- 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

- To deepen contacts between the representatives of national organizations, 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 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.

The participants of the 2019 Course came from the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Hellenic Republic, 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

* 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.

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).

Execution

The Course was designed mainly for military personnel of the SEE region but it also provided useful insights for civilians, experts from the defence, foreign policy or other related areas. This four-day activity served also as a networking forum for the participants who had an opportunity to meet their colleagues from the SEE region as well as to meet the representatives and experts from different countries, organizations and agencies dealing with the execution of the VD '11 and/or other elements of the Arms Control regime.



Theoretical part

Following the Welcome addresses by BG Gordana Garašić, Deputy Director of RACVIAC and Col Gyula Andrejcsik, Head of Arms Control Division, HDF, HU on behalf of the Hungarian hosts, eight lecturers representing Arms Control agencies of several countries as well as 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'.

Theoretical part

The topics on the first day were as follows:

- Col László Szatmári, PhD: *"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"*
- LtC Dietmar Koeppen: *"VD'11 Contents, Structure, Main Parts and Basic Definitions"*
- LtC Gianfilippo Vagnoni: *"VD'11 Chapter III - Risk Reduction"*
- Col Andrei Tsaryk: *"Prior Notification & Observation of Certain Military Activities"*.

The topics discussed on the second day were:

- Lt Paul Denoyel: *"Chapter VII-VIII, Annual Calendars and Constraining Provisions"*
- LtC Arnur Akzhigitov: *"Chapter IX, Compliance and Verification"*
- Col Thomas Krainz: *"Chapter IX, Compliance and Verification"*
- LtC Dietmar Koeppen: *"Chapter IV, Contacts"*
- Cpt Mihail Várdai: *"Chapter X, Regional Measures"*
- Cpt Mihail Várdai: *"Preparation for the Practical Part"*.

Practical Part

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, which included the following programme parts:

- Briefing on the unit (Col Gábor Sánta Commander) including a brief history, organization, mission, list of key tasks, training, development, etc.
- Dynamic and Static Displays/Shows
- Assessment.

During the second day of the practical part, an airbase visit was carried out in accordance with Chapter IV to the

Hungarian Defence Forces' (HDF) 86th "Szolnok Helicopter Base" consisting of the following main programme elements:

- Briefing on the airbase (BG József Koller, PhD, Helicopter Base Commander) including a brief history, organization, mission, key tasks, training, logistics network, etc.
- Dynamic and Static Displays/Shows
- Assessment.

Both the "Vitéz Bertalan Árpád" Special Operations Brigade 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.



Practical part

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. The end of the Course was marked with a Farewell dinner.

Conclusion

After a very successful and interactive theoretical part the practical part of the Course was very well organized thanks to the professionalism and excellent preparedness of the Hungarian hosts.

The Course provided participants with the opportunity to gain both the theoretical and practical knowledge about the Vienna Document 2011 including how to execute a Chapter IV activity thus adding special value to the Course. The Course was conducted not only according to the letter but also the spirit of the VD'11.



Vienna Document 2011 Compliance and Verification Course
09 - 13 September 2019
Szolnok, Hungary

Group photo

Compiled by: Ms Beáta Varga
Activity Manager, CSE Pillar
RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation

RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION
www.racviac.org