



RACVIAC Newsletter

REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE CENTRE

Issue 4

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Moldova joins RACVIAC during 9th MAG Meeting in Ankara

33 representatives from 17 countries met in Ankara, Turkey, from Monday 19 to Wednesday 21 April 2004, for the 9th meeting of the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG). Also present at the meeting were Ambassador Janez PREMOŽE, the Chairman of Working Table III of the Stability Pact and Mr Oguz ATES, the Political Advisor of the South Eastern Defence Ministerial (SEDM), as well as observers from Moldova and Poland.



Brigadier General Süleyman CANPOLAT, the current MAG Chairperson and Head of the Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division in the Turkish General Staff, chaired the meeting. A special welcome was given to Norway, who was attending this meeting as full MAG members for the first time.

Major topics discussed during the meeting included:

- Financing of RACVIAC in 2005
- Bilateral/Multilateral Agreement – Way Ahead RACVIAC's Personnel Policy
- Manpower issues
- Observer status in the MAG
- Programme 2004/2005
- Regional support for RACVIAC

During the meeting, the Moldovan delegation gave a statement which confirmed the Republic of Moldova's wish to join the MAG as full members. The MAG welcomed Moldova as a full member of MAG

and RACVIAC. This brings the number of nations involved in RACVIAC to a total of twenty-one. The MAG endorsed the paper on Personnel Policy, and a number of MAG nations confirmed their pledges regarding the future provision of personnel to RACVIAC's permanent staff.

The MAG agreed to include Observers and defined the conditions for Observer Status. Canada, Spain and Poland are currently Observers in the MAG. A meeting of legal experts will be held in June in order to discuss the way forward regarding a possible new Multilateral Agreement for RACVIAC.

On Tuesday 20 April, Lieutenant General Aydogan BABAĞLU, Chief of General Plan and Policies Directorate of the Turkish General Staff, hosted a dinner for the MAG in the Merkez Officers Club .

The Director of RACVIAC meets the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Croatia

The Minister of Defence of the Republic of Croatia, Mr Berislav RONCEVIC, received the Director of RACVIAC, Brigadier General Johann PUCHER and Deputy Director Colonel Željko AKRAP on Wednesday, 31st March 2004.



The Director of RACVIAC, Brigadier General PUCHER, informed the Minister about RACVIAC's annual programme of activities. He highlighted the redefined concept of RACVIAC's future role, in view of the fact that the political and security situation in the region has changed significantly in the past three

years. The challenges ahead of RACVIAC are to ensure that the staff has the necessary capability and experience to undertake and tackle also the new focus of RACVIAC's future task, while sustaining the multinational structure of RACVIAC.

Other challenges are intensifying regional ownership and continuing to secure a broader financial basis for 2005 and beyond, to put RACVIAC's future activities on a solid basis. After some introductory words, the Minister of Defence, Berislav RONCEVIC, said that the Republic of Croatia would continue to support and foster the RACVIAC project as one of the truly successful projects under Working Table III of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. He also said that the process of reform, which the Croatian Armed Forces is undergoing at present, would not influence the support which the Republic of Croatia gives to RACVIAC.

Course on DAYTON Art.IV

"The C-3 Training Course on the DAYTON Art. IV" was conducted in Croatia from 15th to 26th of March 2004. There were two phases: a theoretical phase (1st week) in Rakitje (RACVIAC) and a practical phase (2nd week) in Varaždin.

The aim of the course was to prepare designated individuals to perform duties as inspectors and/or escorts in accordance with the Dayton Agreement, Article IV, and to establish a common approach to the Agreement in order to ensure a mutual behaviour of confidence and transparency during the performance of their tasks.

Sixteen participants from the signatory parties attended the course (Croatia-3, Serbia & Montenegro-3, Bosnia & Herzegovina-3, Federation of B&H-4, Republika Srpska-3) as well as five participants from other OSCE countries (Germany, Slovenia, Poland, France and Spain). RACVIAC hosted ten lecturers from Croatia, Serbia & Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Belgium, France, Germany, United Kingdom and OSCE.



The 1st phase (15– 9 March) was a combination of lectures and syndicate work on the content of the Dayton Art.IV, and mission planning.

The 2nd phase (22-26 March) was a training inspection on a declared site, according to the Protocol on Inspection of Dayton Article IV. During the

2nd week of the Training Course the class was divided into two teams, who performed both Inspection and Escort Team tasks. Professional lecturers, as well as the Site Commander, substantially contributed to achieve the objectives of the course; these were also achieved thanks to the good co-operation between RACVIAC and the relevant Arms Control Agencies.



Dr. Erhard Busek visits RACVIAC

As part of his official trip to Croatia, the Stability Pact's Special Co-ordinator - Dr. Erhard BUSEK visited RACVIAC. He was accompanied by the Director of Working Table III - Mr Pieter VERBEEK, the Croatian Assistant Minister for Defence Policy - Dr. Jelena GRCIC POLIC, and the National Stability Pact Co-ordinator for Croatia -Ambassador Spomenka CEK.

During the visit, he addressed parliamentarians, MOD officials and media members from SEE who were participating in RACVIAC's Seminar on "Arms Control in SEE - An Instrument to Foster Security".



Dr. BUSEK underlined that arms control and confidence building measures seek to reduce or eliminate mistrust and hostility amongst modern states, increase transparency and openness and motivate countries to commit themselves to far-reaching co-operation, stating that this in turn promotes stability and thus contributes to international security.

Dr. BUSEK painted a very positive picture of the achievements of the centre in its three years of existence, highlighting that RACVIAC had made a significant contribution to arms control training and to fostering comprehensive security dialogue and expanded cooperation in Southeastern Europe. He stated that the confidence building activities, as they are

stimulated by RACVIAC, are a very direct contribution to stabilizing Europe. In addition, Dr. BUSEK commended the countries of the region for the amount they had achieved in such a short time, and in particular commented on the positive sign shown within this RACVIAC Seminar by seeing people from all countries in the region sitting together discussing and sharing different experiences, views and ideas.



The Assistant Minister of Defence Policy, Dr. Jelena GRCIC POLIC, made clear that the new Croatian Government would continue to fully support RACVIAC, especially in view of its refocus and expansion of activities to provide a regional forum for even more comprehensive discussions on politico-military matters. Dr. BUSEK concluded the visit by meeting members of the multinational staff working at RACVIAC.

English Arms Control Course

“The English Arms Control Course” was conducted in RACVIAC from 02 –13 February. The aim of the Course was to increase the English conversational capability and knowledge of Arms Control Terminology of officers/civilians dealing with arms control in the region of SEE.



A total of 25 participants from Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (8), Croatia (3), FYR of Macedonia (3), Serbia and Montenegro (2) and

VISITS TO RACVIAC

- 9 Jan - **Mr Adrian WILKINSON**, SEESAC Team Leader
- **Mr Simon RYNN**, NGO Coordinator, SEESAC
- 14 Jan - **H.E. Mr Francis BELLANGER**, French Ambassador to Croatia
- **LTC Pascal HART**, French Defence Attache to Croatia
- 6 Feb - **Mr Grégoire GOODSTEIN**, Head of the IOM Project to Croatia
- 24 Feb - **Dr. Erhard BUSEK**, Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
- **Mr Pieter VERBEEK**, Director WTIII of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
- **Mr Roland BLESS**, Spokesperson of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
- **Dr. Jelena GRCIC POLIC**, Assistant Minister for Defence Policy (Croatia)
- **Ambassador Spomenka CEK**, National Co-ordinator for Stability Pact (Croatia)
- 1 Mar - **Mr Andrus ÖVEL**, Chairman, DCAF International Advisory Board for Border Security
- 25 Mar - **Ambassador Janez PREMOŽE**, the Chairman of WT III (Stability Pact)
- **Mr Pieter VERBEEK**, the Director of WT III (Stability Pact)
- 26 Mar - **Mr Mervyn HERVEY**, Croatian MOD
- 29 Mar - **LtC Richard Van den ANKER**, Netherlands Defence Attaché
- 29 Mar - **Brig Gen Süleyman CANPOLAT**, MAG Chairperson
- 22 Apr - **George KATSIRDAKIS**, Director, Defence Co-operation Section, NATO
- 23 Apr - **Colonel Bogdan KOPRIVNIKAR**, Defence Attaché of the Republic of Slovenia

Slovenia (3) attended the course. Also present were two members of the OSCE and one representative from RACVIAC.

The Course was conducted with the assistance of two Croatian University professors from the language faculty of the University of Zagreb, one representative from the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG) - United Kingdom, a representative from the General Staff of Serbia and Montenegro - Foreign Liaison Section and one representative from their Arms Control Agency.

Arms Control in SEE Countries

The RACVIAC Seminar 01/2004 on “*Arms Control in SEE Countries – an Instrument to Foster Security*” was held from 24th to 25th February in RACVIAC, Zagreb. The aim of this seminar was to emphasize the role of Arms Control Agreements in SEE for increasing transparency and improving the level of stability.

The objectives of the Seminar were to:

- Inform on Arms Control Agreements particularly to parliamentarians, academics, NGO's and media members,
- Analyse the impact of Arms Control Agreements and Confidence Building Security Measures (CSBMs) on risk reduction and their contribution during crises and conflict situations,
- Share experiences gained by individual countries,
- Underline the importance of mutual transparency and confidence in democratic societies.

The seminar was designed for Parliamentarians and parliamentarian staff, media members, academics and NGOs, as well as for staff officers or civilian equivalents planning to work in arms control and disarmament sections of MOD and MFA.



Participants were invited from AL, BA, BG, HR, MD(observer), MK, RO, S&M and the OSCE.

The following lectures were given:

- “*Security and stability processes in SEE*” by Dr. Vlatko CVRSTILA (Croatia)
- “*Arms Control a process for stabilization (The CFE treaty, the Adapted CFE, the Dayton IV and V, VD 99 and the Open Skies treaty)*” by Maj Gen Vasile PAUL (Romania) and Col Jean SASI (France)
- “*Arms Control as an instrument in crisis (pre crises/ conflict prevention and post crises/conflict rehabilitation)*” by Mr Pentti OLIN (OSCE)
- “*Experiences gained and lesson learnt on the role of Arms Control Agreements for security and stability*” by representatives of BA and S&M.

Informative seminar on SALW

Given the fact that possession of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) generates a critical environment which not only slows down the stabilisation process but even favours the emergence of an illegal power capable of destabilising a region, RACVIAC and SEESAC again combined their resources from 09 to 11 March 2004 to hold an informative seminar on SALW in Rakitje.

The main purpose of the seminar was to introduce Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) participants to the theory and practice of independent observation and monitoring support to SALW intervention operations and to enable them to make a positive during national SALW amnesties and voluntary SALW collection operations. Presentations were given by both RACVIAC and SEESAC members and were addressed to 26 participants. The audience consisted of members from



OUTSIDE OF RACVIAC

LT Col Giulio BIOT, Seminar Director in the Dialogue and Co-operation Division, attended the third **Demobilisation & Retraining Working Group Meeting** which was run by DCAF on 11 and 12 March 2004 in Ljubljana. Participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro updated the WG on the present state of their Demobilisation & Retraining Programmes.

Lt Col Frank ODENDAHL, Planning and Liaison Officer, participated at **South Eastern Defence Ministerial—Coordination Committee and Politico—Military Steering Committee of Multinational Peace Force SEE Meeting** held in Ankara, 16 to 18 March 2004.

Lt Col Frank ODENDAHL, Planning and Liaison Officer, attended the **9th International Conference of the Albanian Atlantic Association** in Tirana from 15 to 18 April.

10 NGOs (HR, S&M, BA, MK and AL) and representatives of SALW National Focal Point Offices from Croatia, Serbia & Montenegro and Albania. In addition 6 participants from JACIG and some UNDP regional offices attended. Apart from theory, two practical activities were scheduled.

The first one was a CAX (Computer Assisted Exercise) where participants were asked to plan a SALW collection and destruction operation. The other one consisted of a visit to two Weapons Collection Points (one ideal and one bad) laid out in RACVIAC's facilities, in cooperation with the Croatian Armed Forces.

During the seminar participants were tasked to identify the most appropriate organization of such collection points, always bearing in mind to ensure safety, security and transparency.

SEECF Meeting of the Defence Ministers of South Eastern Europe

Brigadier General Johann PUCHER participated with Ambassador Janez PREMOŽE, the Chairperson of WT III SP, as the Stability Pact's official delegation at the South East European Co-operation Process (SEECF), Meeting of the Ministers of Defense. The Meeting took place in Sarajevo, on 15 April 2004. Ministers of Defence and representatives attended from the following nations and organisations: AL, BA, BG, GR, HR, MK, RO, S&M, TR and the EU, EUSR, OHR, OSCE and NATO.

During the meeting, the Ministers discussed: stability and security in SEE, improvement of defence administration, better communications, MAP obligations and especially Arms Control measures and CSBM's as a way of strengthening regional co-operation. The Ministers also encouraged the development of a Regional partnership among parliamentary bodies for Defence and Security issues and during the discussions, RACVIAC was mentioned as a good example of regional co-operation and practical development of CSBM's.



PEOPLE IN RACVIAC

Goodbyes:

Colonel Giovanni PIACENTINI

After three years of dedicated work in RACVIAC, Colonel Piacentini, Chief of Training & Verification Division, returned to Italy.

Lt Colonel Dieter ROTHBACHER

At the end of January 2004, RACVIAC said farewell to Lt Col Dieter Rothbacher. Dieter joined the staff in August 2003 and was the S3 Officer, in the Director and COS's Office. He is currently working in the OPCW in the Hague.

Captain Ciprian ANTONESCU

The tour of duty in RACVIAC for Captain Antonescu ended in January 2004 after two years in the position of Chief IT Cell. Ciprian has returned to Bucharest where he works in the Arms Control & Verification Directorate as an Inspector.

During the visit, General PUCHER also met with Mr Nikola RADOVANOVIC, the new Defence Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Minister confirmed BA's full support for RACVIAC and supported the idea for possible meetings at higher levels at RACVIAC. General PUCHER also met with S&M's Deputy Defence Minister - Mr Vukašin MARAS, and with members of the OSCE Mission to BA.

Director's visit to Bulgaria

The Director of RACVIAC, Brigadier General Johann PUCHER, visited Bulgaria for the first time since taking over his post, from 10-14 March 2004. During the visit he met with the Deputy Chief of General Staff for Operations, Lt Gen Dimitar ZEHTINOV in the General Staff of the Bulgarian Armed Forces, with the Director of International Cooperation Directorate, Mr Nikola MIHAILOV, in the Ministry of Defense, and the Head of Euro-Atlantic Co-operation and Regional Security Department - Mr. Ivo MOUSKOUROV in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meetings, questions were raised concerning the military/political situation in SEE and RACVIAC's contribution to stability in the region. The Bulgarian authorities expressed very positive comments regarding RACVIAC in general, and confirmed their willingness for further participation in the project and in the activities of RACVIAC. Also discussed were ideas about the possibilities and modalities for further co-operation between RACVIAC and Bulgaria.

PEOPLE IN RACVIAC

Hellos:

Colonel Emilio LIVERANI

RACVIAC welcomes Col Emilio LIVERANI from Italy, who joined the staff at the end of February as the Chief of T&V Division. Col LIVERANI is a Paratroop Officer, who joins us from EUROFOR, where he was the Commander of HQ Support unit.



He has much experience in Peace-keeping operations and recently served in Kosova with KFOR. Col LIVERANI is married and his home is in Tuscany.

Lt Colonel Oscar TOMASH

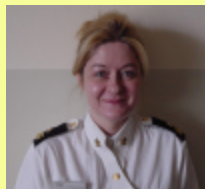


Lieutenant Colonel Oscar TOMASCH joined RACVIAC in January as the new S3/Operations Officer. Lieutenant Colonel TOMASCH is from Austria, and before joining RACVIAC he worked as a Branch Chief in the Austrian Verification Centre in Graz.

He is an infantry officer who has served abroad in Cyprus and Germany as well as working as the Assistant Military Representative, in the Permanent Representation of Austria to the European Union in Brussels. Lieutenant Colonel TOMASCH speaks fluent English and French as well as basic Italian and has started to learn Croatian. He lives in Graz with his wife.

Major Marcella KRANJCEC

Maj Marcella KRANJCEC, S3 officer in RACVIAC's permanent staff came from the Croatian General Staff, Logistics Department (J-4) where she worked as Ops & Planning officer.



Marcella graduated from the Faculty of Political Science, later finished Advanced Officer School in the Military Academy, both in Zagreb. She is married with two children, Tara (9) and Tibor (16).

Mr Krešimir FILLA

The new IT Chief in RACVIAC is Mr Krešimir FILLA. Filla was born in Zagreb and lives close to RACVIAC in the village of Bestovje.



Filla joined RACVIAC in February and has good experience in the IT business, having worked in a number of IT companies which include Koncarinem, Digital City Media and Technomax. He has achieved a number of IT Certificates, including the prized IBM's certificate for System Engineers. His interests are music, reading, films and of course IT.

1st Manpower Planning Meeting

22 representatives from 14 nations met in RACVIAC, in Zagreb, Croatia, for the first RACVIAC Manpower Planning Meeting which was held from 27 to 28 January 2004. Also present at the meeting was Brigadier General CANPOLAT, MAG Chairperson and an observer from Moldova.

The main purpose of this meeting was to agree the Personnel Policy paper, for endorsement at the 9th MAG Meeting. In addition to the Personnel Policy paper, the meeting also discussed Current Manpower Issues, the Rotation of Personnel for the following years and RACVIAC's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

2nd Budget Planning Meeting

15 representatives from 13 MAG countries, together with Director RACVIAC and RACVIAC staff, met in RACVIAC on Thursday 1st April 2004 for the 2nd Budget Planning Meeting. The meeting was chaired by Brigadier General Johann PUCHER, Director RACVIAC.

This was a preparatory meeting in advance of the 9th MAG Meeting, and the main topics discussed were as follows:

- Results of the Audit Team
- Financial Contributions for 2004
- RACVIAC's Draft Budget for 2005
- Financial Contributions for 2005
- Financial Regulations and Monitoring Procedures

Forthcoming Events

Disaster Management

3-7 May

Main Goals: - Discuss national and regional issues on disaster preparedness and prevention in SEE

Target Audience: - Representatives of MOD, MFA, MOI of SEE countries experienced in dealing with CIMIC and disaster management

Vienna Document 1999 / Inspections; Evaluation Visits

10-14 May

Main Goals: - Specify the constraints / obligations of these activities

Target Audience: - Military personnel that will be employed as VD- Inspectors/Escorts

Chemical Weapons Convention

17-19 May

Main Goals: - To inform on specific issues of the CWC in SEE

Target Audience: - As required

Military – political security issues and ways for regional co-operation in SEE

24-28 May

Main Goals: - To define what has been achieved and what more can be done in the field of the major military—political security issues in SEE

Target Audience: - Senior Ministry Staff
- Parliamentarians

Programme Planning Meeting

01-04 June

Main Goals: - Receive inputs from nations and organizations/ institutions

Target Audience: - Staff from relevant ministries, General staff and organizations/ institutions

Orientation-Course for Site Commanders

7-9 June

Main Goals: - To inform site commanders about their duties and responsibilities during Dayton Inspections

Target Audience: - Site Commanders

Demobilization and retraining

21-25 June

Main Goals: - Stock taking and lessons learnt
- Follow up workshop of RACVIAC/DCAF Seminar held in June 2003

Target Audience: - Staff from MODs, other ministries, General Staff and Units

Open Skies

28 June-9 July

Main Goals: - To train personnel to accomplish missions as observing/observed parties

Target Audience: - Air Force personnel which will be involved in Open Skies missions

REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE CENTRE

RACVIAC was established in 2000 by Croatia and Germany with the aim of supporting Working Table III of the Stability Pact, mainly in the field of arms control - in its widest sense - and related security matters. There are now twenty-one nations involved in RACVIAC*, and military and civilian members from sixteen of the above nations staff this multinational body. RACVIAC epitomises the expression "Regional ownership" - it is located in the region, it includes personnel from all countries in the region who fill key positions on the staff, and it exists specifically for the countries in the region.

The overall direction of RACVIAC is determined by the Multinational Advisory Group, (MAG), made up of representatives from the 21 nations involved in RACVIAC. Canada, Poland and Spain, have received observer status in the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG).

At the 7th MAG meeting in Ljubljana in April 2003, representatives from the MAG nations discussed refocusing RACVIAC's activities. RACVIAC has redirected and steadily concentrated its activities towards providing a regional forum for even more comprehensive discussions on politico-military issues. Future tasks will include contributing to transparency and co-operation in the region by encouraging exchange of information, views and ideas on, for example: Compliance with the OSCE's Code of Conduct, Reform of Armed Forces, Disaster and Border Management Issues.

Regarding Arms Control training, RACVIAC will continue to facilitate and assist the implementation requirements for the countries in the region and will extend training to arms control experts in the wider sense.

This should be accomplished in co-operation and co-ordination with relevant international organizations and institutions in order to achieve synergetic effects, to avoid duplications and to invest means economically.

In its Seminars and Training Courses, RACVIAC deals with all confidence and security building measures and related security sector reform and security policy issues, (Small Arms and Light Weapons, Code of Conduct, Democratic Control of Armed Forces etc), as well as the major arms control treaties and agreements, (Vienna Document 1999, Dayton Peace Accords, Aerial Observation/ Treaty on Open Skies, Treaty on Conventional Forces Europe).

RACVIAC is located in the Vitez Damir Martić Barracks, 10 km west of Zagreb, and has completely modern, fully equipped offices. Its facilities include a Seminar room capable of holding up to 40 participants, including simultaneous translation capabilities, as well as two large working group rooms and high standard accommodation for 45 personnel.

* (AL, AT, BA, BG, DE, DK, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IT, MD, MK, NL, NO, RO, RU, SI, S & M and TR)



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