



RACVIAC Newsletter

REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE CENTRE

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CHANGE OF COMMAND IN RACVIAC

RACVIAC held its second Change of Command Ceremony, in Rakitje on Wednesday 29 September 2004, in the presence of the Chairperson of the RACVIAC's Multinational Advisory Group, Colonel Marin RADU of Romania.

Guests included Ambassadors and Defence Attaches working in Zagreb, as well as high-ranking officials from the Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence and the General Staff.



After 2 years in post, Brigadier General Johann PUCHER handed over the Directorship of RACVIAC to Brigadier General Stergios PAPOTIS of Greece. General PUCHER joined RACVIAC in October 2002 continuing the excellent work of his predecessor in Arms Control matters, and initiated a second phase for RACVIAC.

The second phase was characterized by opening RACVIAC towards other organizations and institutions, attracting participants from beyond the Arms Control community, broadening the scope of activities and expanding RACVIAC's visibility.

During his speech, General PUCHER emphasized that RACVIAC has not fully reached all its goals. Improvement is possible and required, in particular regarding closer relations with PfP

processes and relevant institutions of the EU, in order to meet new demands and requirements of the countries in the region which are on their way to integration into Euro-Atlantic security structures.

On behalf of the host nation, Assistant Minister Dr. Jelena GRČIĆ-POLIĆ and Assistant Minister Mr. Tomislav VIDOŠEVIĆ both stressed in their speeches the important role of RACVIAC and assured that Croatia will continue and even deepen her strong support to RACVIAC.

BRIGADIER GENERAL STERGIOS PAPOTIS, THE NEW DIRECTOR OF RACVIAC

Brigadier General Stergios PAPOTIS joins RACVIAC with 30 years service in the Hellenic Air Force. He is a distinguished pilot with over 4000 flying hours and during his service has worked in NATO and has experience with WEU and EU matters.

During his acceptance speech at the Change of Command Ceremony, he expressed his honour at being selected by the MAG as the new Director of RACVIAC. He stated that he would continue the efforts to fully achieve the objectives and tasks as laid down and approved by the MAG.



General PAPOTIS promised to bring RACVIAC to the highest level among other organizations working to promote peace and stability for the benefit of all nations in SEE. He believes that the objective of RACVIAC is to better prepare SEE to deal with Security Policy and Arms Control matters and secondly to concentrate its activities towards providing an even more effective regional forum for comprehensive discussions on politico-military issues.

DEFENCE MINISTERS VISIT RACVIAC

RACVIAC had the honour to host the Ministers of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro, Mr Nikola RADOVANOVIĆ and Mr Prvoslav DAVINIĆ, who visited RACVIAC on Tuesday 25 May 2004. It was also our pleasure to host Ambassador Janez PREMOŽE, the Chairman of Working Table III (Defence and Security Issues) of the Stability Pact.

The Ministers were invited to take part in RACVIAC's Seminar on **Military-Political Security Issues and Possibilities for Regional Co-operation in SEE**; the two Ministers made a statement to the Seminar participants on their national Military-Political Security Issues. Their visit was connected with the first ever meetings with their Croatian counterpart Mr RONČEVIĆ.

The Ministers commented on the challenges facing their nations on the road to defence reform, and highlighted the progress made to date as well as their aspirations for the future.



Both Ministers expressed their nations orientation towards Euro-Atlantic integrations (PfP, NATO, EU), and stressed that one of the key elements for security and stability in the region is multilateral co-operation between Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia & Montenegro. They also expressed their support for RACVIAC and commended RACVIAC's efforts in fostering and strengthening regional co-operation. Each Minister stated that the biggest challenge facing them was the lack of knowledge of people at all levels, and emphasized the need to develop expertise, better education and a change of mindset.

It was clearly underlined by the Ministers, that RACVIAC has a relevant role to play in assisting the countries of the region regarding the improvement of the capacity of staff working in Ministries and Parliamentary Committees.

10th MAG MEETING

45 representatives from 19 countries met in RACVIAC, Rakitje, Croatia, from Monday 13 to Wednesday 15 September 2004, for the 10th meeting of the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG). Also present at the meeting was Ambassador Janez PREMOŽE, the Chairman of Working Table III of the Stability Pact, as well as the Director Designate of RACVIAC – Brigadier General Stergios PAPOTIS from Greece.

The meeting was chaired by Colonel Marin RADU from Romania, the newly appointed MAG Chairperson. Major topics discussed during the meeting included:

- RACVIAC's Programme for 2005
- Financing of RACVIAC for 2005
- Selection of the new Director of the RACVIAC
- MAG Terms of Reference
- Discussion on RACVIAC Personnel/Manpower; RACVIAC SOP; Friends of the Chair

At the meeting, the MAG members present fully supported and accepted the nomination of Brigadier General Stergios PAPOTIS, as their candidate for the position of Director of RACVIAC. The Chairperson welcomed the new Director and General PAPOTIS introduced himself and thanked the MAG for entrusting their confidence in him.



During the Meeting, the MAG agreed the establishment of an open ended group called the "Friends of the Chair". The Friends of the Chair will be an informal structure to help the Chairperson fulfil his tasks, will offer support to the MAG Chairperson in his tasks, and assist when decisions need to be taken.



The MAG Secretary, Aji BUCHANAN, bid a sad farewell to the MAG representatives present. Aji BUCHANAN joined RACVIAC in August 2000 and has been responsible for organizing all 10 MAG Meetings held to date, as well as assisting the MAG Chairpersons' in all other MAG matters.

RACVIAC SEMINAR ON "CONTEMPORARY LEADERSHIP IN THE ARMED FORCES"

RACVIAC's Seminar 07/04 was held from 20 to 23 September 2004 in RACVIAC, Zagreb. The aim of this high-level seminar was to define the scope of, and the constraints on Leadership in contemporary Armed Forces.

The objectives of the Seminar were to:

- Assess the role and responsibilities of the armed forces in a modern democracy.
- Put forward and discuss criteria for modern military leadership.
- Analyse and interpret the effects of international/national obligations, law regulations and agreements/documents on commanders.
- Discuss ways to increase awareness of military commanders and staff officers of the implications of international agreements/documents on the conduct of military affairs.

The seminar was designed for high-level military commanders and staff officers/planners

VISITS TO RACVIAC

- 25 May - **Mr. Nikola RADOVANOVIĆ**, Defence Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, accompanied by **Ambassador Zlatko DIZDAREVIĆ**
- **Mr. Prvoslav DAVINIĆ**, Defence Minister of Serbia and Montenegro, accompanied by **Ambassador Miroslav SIMURDIĆ**
- 22 July - **LTC Wolfgang SCHULZ**, German Defence Attaché to Croatia
- 23 July - **SFOR Liaison to Croatia: LTC Ladislav BUCEK (CZ)**, Chief Liaison Officer, **Maj Raphael GUAY (CA)**, Deputy Chief Liaison Officer, **C3 Maj Bas BESTERS (NL)**, **C4 Liaison Officer Flight Lt Steve FORD (UK)**, Aeromed detachment commander
- 11 August - **Col Mehmet ÖZOĞLU**, Turkish Defence Attaché to Croatia
- 2 September - **LTC Michael REES**, British Defence Attache to Croatia
- 15 September - **Col HUGENSCHMIDT**, Dep. Director of German Verification Centre
- 15 September - **Ms Goska WASILEVSKA**, Project Co-ordinator, Saferworld
- **Ms Archana PATEL**, EU & Arms Controls, Saferworld
- 21 September - **H.E. Ambassador Lionel VEER**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Croatia
- **LTC Richard Van Den ANKER**, Defence Attaché of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Croatia

working on training and personnel management in MOD and General Staff of SE European countries. 20 Representatives attended from AL, BA, BG,HR,MK,MD,RO,S&M,SI and TR. RACVIAC hosted lecturers from BG,DE,NL,RO,S&M & TR.



AMBASSADOR PREMOŽE'S ADDRESS TO THE 10TH MAG MEETING PARTICIPANTS

I consider the 10th MAG Meeting as an important part of the preparation of the upcoming Stability Pact Regional Table /Working Table III meetings in Skopje on 18 – 19 November 2004. In this context, I would like to reiterate the continued Stability Pact support for RACVIAC. This was again confirmed at the last WT III meeting in Portorož where RACVIAC's central role as a facilitator of regional cooperation on politico-military issues was again highlighted, as well as during the visit of the Special Coordinator Dr. Busek to Zagreb last week. Let me assure you that Dr. Busek will not forget to mention RACVIAC's contribution to the stabilisation of South Eastern Europe during his meeting with the Secretary General of NATO in the middle of this week.

Today, RACVIAC is a broadly recognized "institution" in the SEE region. We should now do everything in order to keep the positive momentum. In this connection I would like to remind you that my country will take over the OSCE Chairmanship as of 1 January 2005. It is now a timely moment to think how to use this opportunity to deepen existing ties and cooperation between OSCE and RACVIAC. The WT III Director, Pieter Verbeek, and his expert Jiri Kalasnikov have already had consultations on this issue with the Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, Ambassador Zannier, in Vienna last week. We are happy to be able to say that the OSCE Secretariat and its Conflict Prevention Centre are fully aware of RACVIAC's role and are fully ready to cooperate.

As regards RACVIAC's 2005 activities, I would like to stress that I appreciate that some of our ideas regarding the future "RACVIAC mission" (i.e. defence conversion, SALW, border management and security, democratic control of armed forces) are embodied in the RACVIAC Draft Programme for 2005.

Any discussion on the future role of RACVIAC needs to take place in the context of the new security challenges the international community is facing today. Another priority item is regional defence and military cooperation. Here, RACVIAC serves as an excellent platform for discussion on these issues.

SALW AWARENESS SUPPORT PACK OUTREACH WORKSHOP

RACVIAC and SEESAC organised a joint seminar in Croatia from 12 to 14 July 2004 entitled "SALW Awareness Support Pack Outreach Workshop". The aim of this seminar was to provide all participants with the capacity to design effective awareness programmes following the SASP (SALW Awareness Support Pack) process, and with a good knowledge of the resources which SASP places at their disposal.

The seminar included: one day of guest lectures on key components of awareness raising (Needs Assessment and Project Design; Co-ordination with National Strategies; The Safer Community Plan; Working with Children; SASP Field Test Case Studies; Implementing, Monitoring and Evaluating projects; Working with the Media), and a second day of critical reading made by participants in working groups of SEESAC's SALW Awareness Support Pack (SASP 2003) and the accompanying CD ROM; a further capacity building exercise lasting half a day.

The workshop objectives were to develop capacities of stakeholders to design, implement and gain funding for SALW Awareness projects, to review and develop a consensus for the SEESAC SALW Awareness Support Pack and to stimulate future SALW awareness-raising activity.

The participants were NGOs and Ministry of Education officials from BA, HR and S&M who wished to gain capacity in the design of awareness raising programmes. UNDP programme staff were also invited both to share expertise by giving presentations and to build internal capacity on awareness-raising.



CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION SEMINAR

RACVIAC held its first Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar (CWC) from 17 to 19 May 2004, in co-operation with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

The aim of this seminar was focused on both the basic provisions of the CWC and the practical implementation experience for receiving inspections from the Technical Secretariat of OPCW, as well as to provide a platform, where the countries from South Eastern Europe could present their experiences and exchange information on CWC related issues concerning the region.

20 military and civilian personnel from AL, AT, BA, BG, HR, MK, RO, SI, S&M and TR attended the Course. The participants, representing MOD/Verification centres, were dealing with CWC issues and were responsible for escorting inspections from the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. The lecturers came from OPCW, the German Verification Centre, the Swedish CWC - National Authority, and from Albania.

ORIENTATION COURSE FOR SITE COMMANDERS

The Course was organized from 19 to 22 July for the commanding personnel of military units from Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia to inform them about their tasks and responsibilities related to the execution of relevant arms control agreements. The aim of the Course was to provide participants with a comprehensive overview of the relevant ele-



ments of specific arms control documents highlighting best practices and commonly followed rules and procedures regarding the execution of real inspections or evaluation visits. The second and even more prominent purpose of the course was to bring together commanders from the three countries, for the first time since the war ended.

22 participants took part in the Course from BA (12), HR (5), S&M (5) and 7 lecturers (BA/2,

HR/3 and SM/2) assisted the Course by providing presentations on specific topics. There were no practical activities organized during this first such course, however the participants received a well-prepared commander's briefing on a real unit.

The Course was to our knowledge the first meeting of unit commanders from the three countries since the war. It was suggested by the participants to have a practical phase included in future course programmes. Participants expressed their support to continue with this project in the future organising similar, but longer and more detailed training courses on these specific topics.

For many of the participants it was the first time they had the opportunity to be outside their country. The visit to Zagreb complemented the second purpose of the course, namely supporting the re-establishment of dialogue and trust

AERIAL OBSERVATION COURSE

The C-7 Aerial Observation Course took place from 29 June to 8 July. The course was conducted in two phases: a theoretical phase in RACVIAC (29 June - 2 July) and a practical phase in the 91 Airbase Pleso (Croatia) and at Sarajevo airport (5 July – 8 July). On 6 July an observation flight took place over the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The aim of this course was to train personnel from SEE countries providing them with proper information and practical experience in planning, organizing and executing an Aerial Observation Mission based on the provisions of the Treaty on Open Skies.



The course was organized in close cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This course RACVIAC also tried to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in the preparation for the implementation of the Treaty on Open Skies in connection with her receipt of her first passive quota for 2004.

15 participants representing Ministries of Defence, Verification centres and National Air Traffic Authorities from AL, AT, BA, HR, MK, S&M and SI attended the Course. RACVIAC hosted 4 lecturers from the Verification Centres of Germany and Bulgaria and the practical part was executed by using an Observation Aircraft provided by Ukraine.

JOINT DCAF/RACVIAC SEMINAR ON "LOGISTICAL SUPPORT WORKING GROUP MEETING"/SMART BORDERS

The SMART BORDERS project is designed for specialists in the relevant field, rather than service leaders, with an educational background in engineering, including IT, and with extensive operational experience in practical border guarding.

The aim of this Smart Borders project is to ensure that participating services have managers in the areas of communication, IT and surveillance that are able to find out and understand what operational needs exist, and to respond to them by using the specialized technical knowledge of the service's engineers and logistic specialists to elaborate individual projects.

This first working group meeting was held in Rakitje, 27 to 30 April, and 25 participants from AL, BA,HR,MK and S&M attended.

THE 4TH DEMOBILIZATION AND RETRAINING WORKING GROUP MEETING"

RACVIAC hosted "The 4th Demobilization and Retraining Working Group Meeting" in Rakitje from 21 to 23 June 2004, in co-organization with the Geneva Centre for DCAF. The aim and objectives of the Working Group were to:

- share experiences and to evaluate progress made by specific countries in the region.
- work toward a regional strategy, which will aim to develop closer ties with relevant international financial institutions (IFI's), in light of urgent financial requirements.

- Analyze and evaluate individual approaches and strategies for demobilization, in preparation for more comprehensive DCAF led regional approach- is a vis requesting financial aid from IFI's.

The 22 participants, from 8 SEE countries, were military and civilian staff responsible for military human resource policies, including demobilization and retraining, in the 5 Western Balkan Countries. Other representatives came from the following organisations and bodies: BICC, Stability Pact, IOM, OSCE and NATO.

WORKSHOP ON "THE IMPACT OF DISASTER ON THE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE (SEE) – REGIONAL EFFORTS"

The Workshop on "The Impact of Disasters on the Security Environment in South Eastern Europe (SEE) – Regional Efforts" with an emphasis on Information Management" was conducted from 3 to 6 May 2004. It was organized in cooperation with the Stability Pact, and in particular by the Executive Secretary of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention in SEE (SP/DPPI).

The aim of the workshop was to provide an open forum for discussions regarding Disaster Management, to set the stages in using information management tools and to close them up to users on national, regional and international level. 17 participants took part from AL, AT, BA, HR, MK, RO, S&M, and SI. Expert input was provided by high-level lecturers from: DPPI/SP for SEE, Austrian MOD/NBC Defence school, European Emergency Number Association (EENA), Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA), Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief of Slovenia, Croatian Ministry of Defence and Turkish General Staff.



WORKING TABLE III MEETING OF THE STABILITY PACT

The last Working Table III Meeting of the Stability Pact took place in Portoroz on 7 June and Brigadier General PUCHER represented RACVIAC. During this meeting the Director, highlighted the results of the 9th Multinational Advisory Group of RACVIAC Meeting in Ankara (19-22 April, 2004). He also commented in particular on the seminar on Military-Political Security Issues and the Possibilities for Regional Co-operation in SEE, which took place on 24-27 May 2004, and in which the Defence Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro attended.

Following on from the Ministers' visit to RACVIAC, and their statements that one of the biggest challenges facing them was the lack of knowledge of staff members at all levels, the Director emphasized the need to develop expertise at the parliamentary level, better education of staff and a general change of mind-set.

The Director emphasized the importance of education and training for staff in the administration in SEE. He suggested to checking the feasibility of establishing an interim co-ordinating body regarding training and education of personnel in SEE. The goal should be the development of a network between already existing institutions and develop coherent training curricula.

The Director expressed his assessment that the improvement of the political and security situation in most parts of SEE might justify a gradual shift in RACVIAC's activities towards a possible "Centre for Regional Cooperation". The centre should deal with a wider range of security sector reform issues, including arms control. With the political and security situation in SEE having significantly changed over the last couple of years, the time seems to be ripe now to discuss a new basis for the future role of RACVIAC.

SEMINAR ON "MILITARY-POLITICAL SECURITY ISSUES AND POSSIBILITIES FOR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN SEE"

The above Seminar took place in RACVIAC, Rakitje, from 24-27 May 2004.

The objectives of the seminar were to:

- Evaluate the security processes and the military-political environment in SEE.
- Assess major military-political challenges within

- Highlight the deficiencies of military –political issues and discuss necessary measures that could be taken as well as ways for effective regional co-operation.

- Identify possibilities for cooperation and implementation at the bilateral and regional level.



22 participants attended from BA, BG, HR, MK, MD, RO, S&M and SI. The participants were a mixture of Senior ministry staff, Members of Parliament involved in or serving on Defence Committees, as well as journalists dealing with security issues. In addition, it was also our pleasure to host Ambassador Janez PREMOŽE, the Chairman of Working Table III of the Stability Pact.

PEOPLE IN RACVIAC

Hellos:

Mr Robert NIELEN

RACVIAC welcomes Mr Robert NIELEN from Germany, who joined RACVIAC on 4 August as the new Chief of Admin & Finance Cell.

Major Barbara BENČIĆ

Major Barbara BENČIĆ joined RACVIAC as a Planning & Liaison Officer in the P&L Cell. She has a University degree in Psychology and comes from the Human Resources Dept of the Croatian General Staff.

Colonel Ibrahim ARSLAN

Colonel Ibrahim ARSLAN from Turkey, joined RACVIAC in July as the Chief of D&C Div. Before joining us, he worked as a section chief in the Disarmament and International Security Affairs Department of the Turkish General Staff in Ankara.

PEOPLE IN RACVIAC**Goodbyes:****Colonel Serdar EKIZOGLU (TR) - Chief Dialogue & Co-operation Division****Lt Colonel Nikolay VELICHKOV (BG) - Course Director (Training & Verification Division)****Lt Colonel Giulio BIOT (IT) - Seminar Director (Dialogue & Co-operation Division)****Mr Jurgen VOLZ (DE) - Chief Administration & Finance Cell****Forthcoming Events****Dual Use/Export Control (In co-op with SIPRI)****11 - 15 October**

Main Goals: - Examine export control requirements, legal and administrative and implementation issues in SEE

Target Audience: • Officials from SEE, EU, US, experts from export control co-operation regimes, industry representatives

Disaster Management (In co-op with DPPI and UNDP)**26 - 28 October**

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

The 2nd Year of the Implementation of the Stability Pact Plan on SALW**2 - 5 November**

Main Goals: - Evaluation of 2 year implementation of the SP Plan, in correlation with OSCE's Document on SALW

Target Audience: • National Focal Points, International Organisations, Civil Society, high level Officials

Orientation Course on CFE / Adapted CFE**9 -11 November**

Main Goals: - To inform interested countries on the CFE Treaty / Adapted CFE

Target Audience: • Personnel involved in arms control matters

Training week for parliamentary staff experts from SEE (In co-op with DCAF)**22 - 26 November**

Main Goals: - Training Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff on selected topics regarding Security Sector Reform

Target Audience: • Parliamentary Staff

English Course / Arms Control Terminology**29 November-10 December**

Main Goals: - To increase English language skills, especially in conversation about arms control issues and arms control terminology

Target Audience: • MOD, MFA, MOI, GS -Personnel with a basic knowledge of English

Information on Arms Control Regimes**13 - 17 December**

Main Goals: - To inform on arms control agreements already joined and other relevant arms control treaties for SEE

Target Audience: • Personnel from War Colleges; responsible Parliamentarians and from interested institutions

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