



RACVIAC Newsletter

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Czech Republic, Denmark and Sweden - new members of RACVIAC

Thirty-nine representatives from nineteen RACVIAC member countries participated in the **15th biannual MAG meeting** held from 4th to 6th October of this year in RACVIAC, located in the Croatian military barracks "Vitez Damir Martić" in Rakitje, near Zagreb.

Meeting participants also included representatives of countries with observer status in RACVIAC (Canada, the Slovak Republic, Spain and Sweden) as well as Stability Pact representatives Mr. Peter VERBEEK, Director of Working Table III, and Mr. Jiri KALASNIKOV. Representatives of the new state of Montenegro attended the meeting for the first time.

Topics discussed at the meeting included personnel and financial issues, the future of RACVIAC and, in particular, RACVIAC's mandate for work on Defence Conversion, which was extended for another year. As a result of that prolongation, chairpersons for the Defence Conversion Working Groups were selected. The chairing of Working Group 1 (on retraining and resettlement of military personnel) was transferred from Croatia to Albania and Serbia (joint chairing). Working Group 2 (on conversion of former military bases and facilities) will be chaired for the next year by Romania, and Working Group 3 (on restructuring redundant military industries by downsizing or converting to civilian use) will be chaired by Brig. Gen. Stergios PAPOTIS in the absence of country nominations for the chair. Croatia was asked to use its position at the head of the SEECP this term to promote the role and importance of RACVIAC in the field of Defence Conversion for the countries in the region.

Another topic discussed was the joining of new nations to RACVIAC, after which the Kingdom of Denmark, the Czech Republic and the Kingdom of Sweden were unanimously accepted as new full members of RACVIAC. As a result, RACVIAC's membership has risen to 23 countries, while the Slovak Republic has been added to RACVIAC's observer countries.

In his biannual report on RACVIAC's work, Brig. Gen. Stergios PAPOTIS, Director of RACVIAC, emphasized the increased cooperation with



the EU and NATO as well as the possible future inclusion of RACVIAC's activities in NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme for PfP member countries. This would provide the PfP countries better access to RACVIAC's activities, without burdening RACVIAC's budget. He also informed MAG countries about the establishment of good cooperative relations with political studies faculties in the region, the CESS, the SEEC and the MARRI Center. RACVIAC is likewise in the process of becoming a member of the "Balkan Communication Network" between strategic and research centres of SEE.

The MAG countries then took under consideration the 2007 draft program of RACVIAC activities, underlining that the program is subject to change according to the wishes of the countries and RACVIAC's budget.

After presentation of the Draft Budget 2007, MAG took note of this Budget, but still did not approve it. It was stated that the Budget must reflect the real situation of the pledges from countries.

Afterwards, RACVIAC's legal status was discussed and the MAG countries decided to form a Working Group composed of MFA representatives and legal experts, chaired by Croatia. Over the coming months, the committee will submit a solution for the legal problems encountered by certain countries in extending their support to RACVIAC.

During the MAG meeting, Mr. Yordan BOZHILOV, Director of the International Cooperation Directorate of Bulgaria's Ministry of Defense, was elected MAG Chairperson for the next one-year term.

Open Skies-Lessons Learned/ Requirements Course

The C-7 "Open Skies-Lessons Learned/Requirements Course" was carried out between 4-13 July 2006 in accordance with the RACVIAC Programme for 2006.

The Course was conducted in two phases: Theoretical phase (1st week) in Rakitje (Croatia) and Practical phase (2nd week) in Serbia (Batajnica Airbase).

During the practical phase an observation flight was performed over the territory of Serbia. The aim of this course was to train personnel from SEE countries and provide 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.

Fourteen participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Moldova, Serbia and Slovenia attended the Course. The participants, representing Ministries of Defence, Verification Centres and National Air Traffic Authorities mostly had no or little knowledge concerning the provisions of the Treaty on Open Skies. Experienced participants and newcomers were represented in a proportion of 20% and 80%, respectively. RACVIAC hosted four lecturers from the Verification Centres of Germany and Romania. The practical part was executed using an Observation Aircraft from Romania with a team of nine members. The 1st phase (4-7 July) was a combination of presentations, lectures and the practical work of a mission plan for the accomplishment of the flight. The 2nd phase (10-13 July) was performed as a real Open Skies mission over the territory of Serbia with all elements pertaining to the Treaty. The film that was made during the observation flight was processed in a lab and participants had the opportunity to view the whole film processing.

During the practical phase, participants showed exceptional professionalism performing their mission and demonstrated remarkable cooperation, by which they approached the standards of a real inspection. The invited lecturers covered the theoretical and practical part of the Course in an appropriate way. The preparation of the Observed Side and the work of the local escorts was at a high level of organization and contributed positively to the success of the Course. The execution of the whole Training Activity

proved to be satisfactory and very well organized in support of achieving our goal.

The course was organized and performed in close cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of Serbia. As a result, it proved good training and preparation for the fulfilment of their obligations as full Treaty members in the near future. The countries in the South Eastern European region are interested in taking part in Aerial Observation Courses. They appreciated the efforts of RACVIAC in organizing and performing such activities.

** Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.*



Third WG1 Meeting on Retraining and Resettlement of Military Personnel

The third WG1 meeting on the Transition of Military Personnel took place at RACVIAC, Zagreb, from 18 – 20 September 2006. The main topics of the meeting were:

- cooperation between the Ministries of Defence and other relevant Ministries within the countries of the region regarding transition of military personnel;
- current labour market reform activities in the region;
- project development.

Ms. Zorica KOJČIN from Serbia's Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy and LtC Miroslav MITROVIĆ from its Ministry of Defence started off the first topic by delivering an excellent presentation, "Institutional Cooperation on the Realisation of the PRISMA Program," which outlined coordination activities within the Republic of Serbia in support of its military personnel resettlement program, PRISMA. Their presentation served as a point of departure for the other countries to relate their experiences in the same issue

area and generated many points of comparison. Mr. Franz GUNDACKER of the International Labour Organization's Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe introduced the topic of current labour market reform activities with his presentation "Can Labour Market Reform Boost Jobs? Impressions from South Eastern Europe." His broad overview covered a variety of relevant issues, including the need for employment services to work with job-seekers but also, less obviously, with employers. He emphasized the importance of a national employment service operating as the linchpin in a network of social partners working together and using a dialogue approach. Mr. Gundacker provided some concrete examples of effective employment support activities from inside and outside the region. The country representatives then followed up with their own experiences and engaged in fruitful discussion about, for example, the role of regular, standardized, national labour force surveys.

The second day of the WG1 meeting was dedicated to practical training in development of project documents destined for donors. Ms. Karin DELIN from Devenio AB (a Swedish consultancy) delivered the presentation "Project Development – Principles for Designing Relevant, Feasible and Sustainable Projects" that was considered particularly useful according to participant feedback. She then guided the country representatives through a workshop where participants applied project development principles to critique and improve their real-life military transition-related projects. Ms. Delin will also be providing ongoing support to WG1 members in preparing project documents for donors.

The main aims of this third WG1 meeting, primarily the exchange of expertise and lessons-learned, were achieved. Country updates by the participants, the presentation by the Serbian representatives on PRISMA, and the presentation from the ILO representative all underlined the necessity of cooperation between ministries in military personnel transition, one of the main agenda topics. Likewise the meeting met its objective of delivering very practical training on how to develop effective project plans for donors. It is notable that this meeting demonstrated the Working Group is increasingly going beyond its information-exchange role and moving into more practical activities where the expertise gained is applied to real-world activities of the country representatives, in this case project development. This meeting demonstrated that WG1 remains an effective tool



for the participants, who will continue to use it as a forum for exchange about and support of the progress made by regional countries.

The meeting closed with preliminary suggestions for topics for the next meeting (28 Jan.-02 Feb. 2007), including training on lobbying and a lecture from a regional expert on transition of military personnel recommended by the US advisor from the MoD in Macedonia. There was commitment to continue the good progress made to this point by WG1.

Participants at the meeting were permanent members of the Working Group 1 on Retraining and Resettlement of Military Personnel, including representatives from Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Moldova, Romania and Serbia, as well as representatives from international organizations NATO, SP, IOM in Croatia, SEEC and representatives of other MAG countries (Norway).

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RACVIAC & CESS joint seminar on "Democratic Control of Armed Forces"

The RACVIAC/CESS Seminar and training programme on Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) took place from 27th to 29th of June 2006 in Zagreb, Croatia.

The aim of the seminar and training programme was to familiarize the participants with the concept and practice of Democratic Control of the Armed Forces, underlining the distinct roles of the executive and legislative branches of government, civil society organizations and media. At the same time the aim was to help and encourage participants facing problems of corruption in real life, to find ways

to promote transparency and accountability as safeguards against the abuse of state power.

The seminar tried to emphasize the following:

- Assessment of conditions and mechanisms for effective parliamentary oversight;
- Assessment of the potential and actual value of the OSCE Code of Conduct;
- Evaluation of the way democratic countries oversee defence spending.

The training programme objectives were:

- To understand and learn to apply the basic principles of good governance in the defence sector of SEE countries;
- To experience in a practical exercise the parliamentary oversight of military affairs in a young democracy;
- To discuss and if possible establish an agenda for further training programmes on security sector reform in SEE.

The seminar and training programme was designed especially for parliamentary staff, civilian officials working in the field of defence, intelligence, military and law enforcement officers and NGO representatives. Other participants were academics and journalists, staff officers working on these issues at a high level, as well as personnel from different ministries, intelligence services, research centres and universities.

The programme and all the administrative details were prepared and planned by RACVIAC in cooperation with CESS staff and in accord with the seminar outline. The seminar consisted of a combination of lectures followed by question and answer sessions that encouraged the participants to dialogue on aspects relative to the Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

The training programme focused on transparency and accountability in the defence sectors of democratic countries. Participants were expected to participate in group discussions and engage in a role-play exercise. The participants found this an informative and interesting seminar and training programme and the knowledge gained will be of use in dealing with issues that face decision makers in the SEE region.

The following lectures were given:

Keynote Speaker: Parliamentarians' responsibilities, possibilities and challenges for DCAF – by Theodora FUIOR

Presentation 1: The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security – by Maj Alexander WILLING

Presentation 2: The defence budget process -

by David GREENWOOD

Lectures given by CESS for the training programme were:

1. Training session on good practice in transparency and accountability (trainer: Sami FALTAS)
2. Training exercises
3. Analysis of the Role-play (game controllers: Bauke SNOEP and Sami FALTAS)
4. Training session on parliamentary oversight (trainers: Oksana SHULYAR and Sami FALTAS)
5. Training session on fundamental rights and freedoms of military personnel (trainer: Bauke SNOEP)

Conclusions from the seminar on Democratic Control of Armed Forces were the following:

- DCAF does not cover only Armed Forces but also includes all components of the security sector;
- Democratic control of security forces or civil-military relations differs from country to country. It should depend on the needs of the countries;
- DCAF by state parliament requires necessary expertise in support of the parliamentary tasks;
- Without good Governance and Reform of the Security Sector there will be no peace, no rule of law, no democracy, no investment, no development and no human security;



- Political parties should have enough interest in DCAF. Parliamentary committees should include representatives from different parties. Transparency is important;
- States must provide appropriate legal and administrative procedures to protect the rights of all forces personnel;
- The domestic use of armed forces must remain subject to the rule of law;

- The control of the security budget is the strongest DCAF tool. The Government should be convinced of the real needs of security institutions;
- Mutual trust between security authorities and political authorities is essential and should be strengthened;
- Efficient collaboration between military and civil servants inside of the security institutions is essential. Key areas of Defence Management are policy, planning and financing and are best addressed by mixed teams of civilian and military people;
- Armed Forces should have professional autonomy within the principles of Democracy;
- Civilian staff in security institutions should receive specialized training in the security sector field;
- Successful DCAF requires a change in the mindset of people. The state should provide transparency and accountability and encourage co-operation between the governmental authorities and civil society in the field of DCAF.
- The network of NGOs and civilian specialists in Defence Policy should be improved.

(See Highlighted views of lectures and training exercise on: www.racviac.org/programme/S-4)

Security Sector Reform in SEE and the Role of RACVIAC

(Extract from the speech delivered by Brig. Gen. Stergios PAPO-TIS, Director of RACVIAC, at a Workshop in Budva, Montenegro, 6th of July 2006)

“What is the role that RACVIAC is playing in this context? In this regard, RACVIAC over the last years has been playing a significant role in the region working as a training centre, as a forum of discussion, exchange of ideas and experiences, organising many seminars, courses and workshops on different topics related to SSR, in cooperation with many international institutions and organizations.

Our participants include senior civil and military decision makers in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Interior, parliamentarians, as well as other military, academics, media and civil experts and NGOs.

Some of the topics that RACVIAC is involved in through its activities are:

- *Democratic Control of Armed Forces.* - RACVIAC is one of the main platforms of discussion on this issue. Recognizing the

important role of the OSCE Code of Conduct on political/military aspects of security by focusing on the provisions of the Code of Conduct for strengthening internal and regional stability in the SEE area. RACVIAC cooperates on this topic with DCAF, a Geneva institution.

- *Arms Control and Confidence and Security-Building Measures (CSBM)* - In this regard we organize courses, seminars, workshops, on areas such as small arms and light weapons (SALW) and border management and security, in order to train local experts, in cooperation with international partners (OSCE, NATO, Verification Centres of countries, institutions).
- Regarding SALW, we serve as a supporting institution for SEESAC. SEESAC, the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons based in Belgrade, a joint project of the Stability Pact and UNDP, is the lead actor in combating the threat of uncontrolled small arms and light weapons in the region. This issue is on the policy agenda of most EU member states as well as on the agenda of the European Union and a number of individual donor countries and institutions. A future task may be to advise and assist in the destruction of large quantities of redundant major weapons systems, ammunition and explosives. We also closely cooperate on this topic with SIPRI (Stockholm), SECI centre in Bucharest and the OSCE.
- As far as *Border Security*, as it is written in the European Security strategy paper “common threat assessments are the best basis for common actions” because of changes and the emergence of asymmetric and nonconventional threats in SEE. The countries are progressively moving toward securing their borders in line with EU standards. For the countries concerned, the process of handing over border control from military to civilian authorities is gaining momentum. To respond to this, RACVIAC is engaged to achieve a regional approach and regional strategies by enhancing coordination among the countries.
- *Defence Conversion* - one of the core elements of SSR is Defence Conversion (DC). RACVIAC is a key player in the region at present. DC is RACVIAC’s third mission and is fulfilled through its Defence Conversion Cell (DCC). The DCC is trying to grasp the

the problems and real needs of the region in order to find the best courses of action to make conversion a guided process.



RACVIAC visit on NATO Headquarters in Brussels

The Director of RACVIAC visited HQ NATO on the 13-th September 2006 accompanied by Mr. Jiri Kalashnikov from the SP and Mr. Efre Radev RACVIAC Consultant on DC. In course of the visit meetings took place with Dr. Reiner Weichhardt - Deputy Director DSED PASP Division, Mr. Frank Boland – Director Force planning DPP and Ms. Susan Pond PFP&CP PASP Division.

The Director and the accompanying staff informed NATO representatives on RACVIAC activities in DC for the past 7 months and the findings of the level of development of planned and implemented programs in the region. The need of assistance of each country in particular and the similarities of the region were analyzed underlining the efforts of RACVIAC staff to help build national and regional ownership and cooperation. The direct link between RACVIAC activities and other international bodies programs, NATO in particular, was pointed as well as the necessity of closer synergy with bilateral programs in the region concerning the DC domain. RACVIAC's clear role and niche for assisting NATO efforts in the region was revealed and underlined that in fact RACVIAC can be considered as a "tool of NATO" in the Defense Conversion issues. For further success of RACVIAC closer cooperation with NATO clear stated political support and further depth of the program integration is necessary.

In response NATO representatives stated that they fully support RACVIAC efforts and activities in the region and consider the

expanding role of the organization in DC as very positive and timely. NATO will give stronger support of RACVIAC DC practically integrating RACVIAC's working program into NATO's PfP program offering all PfP countries to benefit from RACVIAC's activities without further burdening RACVIAC budget. In reviewing RACVIAC's Working Program new additional fields for cooperation were identified and practical steps for cooperation were planned. NATO urged RACVIAC to establish closer contacts with other NATO institutions such as NATO School in Oberamargau, Clearing House for SEE and etc. It was suggested that RACVIAC can offer its excellent Conference and Seminar facilities to NATO different programs and activities – like NATO Expert Team on DC meetings, NATO School Mobile teams' workshops and etc. Positively was assessed the establishment of cooperation with NATO's program for education Clearing house and NATO Public Diplomacy Division.

NATO officials clearly stated that RACVIAC capabilities to assist countries in the region for DC capacity building, program and project development and day to day implementation will be of great and direct assistance to NATO efforts and Programs and NATO will give its full support in this respect. It was underlined that further synergy with Force planning will be more than positive and RACVIAC was urged to cooperate with Force Planning Division – it was agreed that representatives will be invited at DC WG meetings and RACVIAC representatives will be invited at SDR Planning and Program implementation working groups in different countries in the Region. Full support was stated to RACVIAC efforts of promoting regional cooperation and building regional ownership.

The visit to NATO HQ can be assessed as very positive. Full support of RACVIAC efforts in DC was received and practical steps for further expansion of cooperation with NATO were planned.

The revealed possibility to integrate RACVIAC's working program with NATO's PfP program will secure higher effectiveness of planned activities and further establishment of RACVIAC as a Regional Center of Excellence on issues of Defense Conversion and Arms Control as part of the build up of regional ownership.

*Director of RACVIAC
Brig Gen Stergios PAPTIS*

Heads of Verification Centres Meeting in RACVIAC

RACVIAC organized a “Meeting of the Heads of Verification Agencies” from 21 – 22 September 2006. The meeting was attended by more than 20 heads or appropriate representatives of verification agencies from RACVIAC member countries, observer countries and other interested parties, such as the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was the second such meeting organised by RACVIAC.

The participants received a presentation on RACVIAC and updates on its work from the Director and Heads of Divisions. One of the topics discussed during the meeting was the continuation of cooperation between RACVIAC and the verification agencies, particularly regarding RACVIAC’s 2007 programme.

Also, two representatives of the OSCE in Vienna, Mr. Anton MARLYNYUK and Major Jörn WIEDERHOLZ, delivered presentations, respectively, on “The Future of CSBM in the OSCE” and on “Arms Control in BiH and South East Europe: Dayton Peace Accords,” the latter focussing on Dayton Article IV. The meeting was organized under the auspices of VD99, Military Contacts.

RACVIAC at the 17th Annual Crans Montana Forum

Col. Rajko Dumančić, RACVIAC Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, attended the 17th Annual Crans Montana Forum in Monaco from June 22 - 25, 2006.



Major presentations given were:

- “Dialogue Between Civilizations”: Mr. Federico Mayor, Co-President, UN Alliance of Civil. Group;
- “Energy—A Key Challenge for Today’s World and Greater Europe”: Mr. Yves-Thibault de Silguy, Former European Commissioner;
- “Special Programme for Prosecutors”: Mrs.

Carla del Ponte, ICTY;

- “Governmental Responsibility in the Management of New Epidemics”: Mr. William Dab, Professor, Conservatoire National des Arts, France.
- EU Policies and Strategies in Neighbouring Regions: Mrs. Dalia Grybauskaite, Member of the European Commission
- The Role of the Arab World in the Mediterranean World’s Construction: Mr. Boudjerra Soltani, Minister of State, Algeria

This yearly forum addresses major global issues. Montenegro was welcomed as a new state and the forum proved a useful opportunity for RACVIAC to establish high-level contact with its representatives and invite Montenegro to join Racviac.

VISITS OUTSIDE OF RACVIAC

- 05 - 07 July - **2nd Center for International Relations Workshop “Leading Changes in Regional Relations”**, Budva, Montenegro; *Director*
- 07 - 08 Sep. - **Informal Meeting about RACVIAC in NATO HQ –** Brussels, Belgium; *Director*
- 14 - 18 Sep. - **International Seminar –** Struga, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*; *Director (as speaker)*
- 19 - 21 Sep. - **Final Planning Conference - SEESIM 06 –** Bucharest, Romania; *Chief P&L SEE*
- 25 - 29 Sep. - **SALW Training Course –** Berne, Switzerland; *Chief P&L WE*
- 27 Sep. - **3rd TIEMS Workshop “Improvement of Disaster Management System—Local and Global Trends” –** Divulje, Croatia; *Director*

VISITS TO RACVIAC

- 02 Aug. - **Mr. Fernando Alonso**, the Spanish Deputy Head of Mission – Presentation of medal to RACVIAC Chief of Finance and Admin.
- 24 Aug. - **LtC Stelian Muresan**, Romanian Defense Attaché – Farewell visit and introduction of new Romanian Defense Attaché
- 24 Aug. - **Heads of Verification Centers**, representatives of various countries – 3rd HOV meeting hosted by RACVIAC

Programme 2006 - forthcoming events

Seminar on Education Programme of Military Schools/Institutions in SEE (S-6)		09 - 13 October
<i>Main Goals:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience sharing of military schools/institutions in SEE. 	
<i>Target Audience:</i>	- MOD Staff, School Commanders/Instructors.	
The Regional Approach in the Planning of Demining Programmes (C-9)		16 - 20 October
<i>Main Goals:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of experience and knowledge in the field of mine action in the region of SEE. 	
<i>Target Audience:</i>	- Representatives of National Authorities and NGOs of the countries of the region of SEE, dealing with this issue.	
Overview of Projects and Regional Cooperation on MBC (WS-7) - 2 days		23 - 27 October
<i>Main Goals:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of MBC project development in the region. Assess regional cooperation and inter-national institutions' involvement. Develop cross-border cooperation and project development. Outline benchmarks for 2007 activities. 	
<i>inter-</i>		
<i>develop-</i>		
High-Level Meeting on Military-political Issues in SEE "ESDP" (S-7)		06 - 10 November
<i>Main Goals:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss the elements of ESDP and to evaluate the current situation, to define cooperation in specific fields. 	
<i>Target Audience:</i>	- Parliamentarians/parliamentary staff; MOD, MFA, academics, media.	
English Arms Control Terminology (C-10)		13 - 24 November
<i>Main Goals:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the English conversational capability of officers/civilians dealing with arms control in the SEE region. 	
<i>con-</i>		
<i>Target Audience:</i>	- Civilian or military personnel dealing with arms control who already attended the basic English language grammar course, coming from MOD, MFA, MOI, GS.	
Media and Security Policy (S-8)		04 - 08 December
<i>Main Goals:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To inform about and discuss the role of media in increasing stability and security in SEE. 	
<i>Target Audience:</i>	- Staff from MODs, MFAs, parliamentarians, media.	
WG3 Meeting (2) - Restructuring Redundant Military Industries (WS-8)		11 - 15 December
<i>Main Goals:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main topics (goals) will have been decided at the previous meeting (18-21 Apr.) according- 	
<i>cord-</i>	ing to the current countries' situations and needs.	