



# RACVIAC Newsletter

REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE CENTRE

Issue 15

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## High-level meetings on future of RACVIAC

During the last MAG Meeting, it was decided to establish a Working group (WG) in order to identify short and long term measures to strengthen RACVIAC's status as a regionally owned institution and to explore the financial, organizational and staffing implications of RACVIAC's broadened mandate. In that regard, Croatia, as the Chair of this WG, led by Assistant Minister Mr Pjer Šimunović, held two meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> February and 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> March) in RACVIAC premises. High level participants from all MAG countries, countries with observer status and representatives of NATO and Stability Pact (SP) participated at the meetings. The MAG countries, including all the countries in the region, during



these two meetings, agreed and are ready to reform RACVIAC. After a very fruitful discussion following conclusions were reached:

Upgrading present RACVIAC status is needed to reflect new realities: reform of SP, strengthening of Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), taking into consideration status of countries aspiring to become members of EU and NATO. Regional ownership with added interest from outside the region implies at least two, with the possibility of stretching to three groups of member countries: core group (SEECF members), associate members (countries taking interest in the region) and partners (involved as much as that involvement is desired, with possibility to become members). Membership aims to be voluntary with all SEE countries being eligible but not obliged to be members. In forming a forum for security dialogue RACVIAC should keep close connections through active dialogue with NATO and EU. There is a need to further explore and develop the framework of relation

between RCC and RACVIAC. The main area of activities would be harmonized with priority activities of NATO PfP and EU European Security and Defence Policy. Anyhow, Arms Control, Security Sector Reform and Defence Conversion will remain part of RACVIAC's activities. Strong relationships and close cooperation with EU and NATO is one of RACVIAC's priorities. Formalising relationship with NATO, thus becoming a Regional PfP Centre. RACVIAC also has to explore the possibility of signing Memorandum of Understanding with EU. Establishing a Program Advisory Board (PAB) is one of the options in facilitating the work of RACVIAC primarily with the task to avoid any duplication, but also to promote RACVIAC and to lobby for its programmes and financial aspects. PAB would not have power to make decisions but would serve to provide suggestions and advice to MAG. Structure of PAB would be composed of representatives of EU and NATO and other relevant organisations and prominent individuals. Regarding the update of the name RACVIAC, the suggestion to the MAG would be to keep the name as a brand and just modify it by adding 'Centre for Security Cooperation'.

On the issue of RACVIAC staffing, countries from the region would provide seconded personnel to RACVIAC as well as Director and the Deputy Director. The associate members from outside SEE may also nominate experts for secondment and will contribute to RACVIAC's programme funding. Third countries and international organisations would have a possibility to provide experts for specific projects. As the last topic participants discussed RACVIAC financing. It was proposed to consider RCC financial WG proposal as relevant to RACVIAC. Core budget would represent a control package providing secure, stable and regular financial contributions and would thus become responsibility of member countries. The size of contribution should not entitle donors to decide on the programme without consensus. Associate members would have a possibility to fund certain projects.

These proposals will be presented for further elaboration and the approval at the next MAG Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April in Sofia, Bulgaria.

### Address of Ambassador Wolfgang Petrisch, permanent Representative of Austria to the UN at Security Sector Reform seminar

The Seminar on "Security Sector Reform: things done and things to do" has been held in RACVIAC on 23 – 24 January 2007. The aim of this seminar was to emphasize the importance of the SSR process in the light of the increasing power and responsibilities gained by the institutions involved in, giving a particular attention to progresses made by the regional countries on implementation of SSR.

Amb. PETRISCH gave a speech on the second day on the importance of international society in the field of SSR, as follows:



"Let me – at the outset – say, how much I appreciate the invitation by Major General Stergios PAPOTIS to address the SSR-Seminar here in Zagreb. I would like to thank him and his able team!

I hope to be able to give you some insight from a civilian's vantage point as to how the "sub-systems" security apparatus on one hand and justice and home affairs on the other interact and how and in what way the international community "intervened". My own practical experience has taught me, that sometimes the mere and simple exchange of information between established international and regional organizations on the one hand and the States on the other may already be of significant help to the many competent experts and policy makers of those states. RACVIAC is in this way a prime example. Talking as a civilian, I am, of course, referring to security system management as an issue of both "governance" and government. All the new states of the Western Balkans have significant structural similarities – challenges caused by the "delayed transition". Consequently, post-conflict peace building is basically about the three components contained in the

acronym DDR–Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of the armed forces including paramilitary units and ad-hoc "special forces". There, such specialized agencies as DCAF, also associated with RACVIAC, have played – and still do – a relevant role.

We need to acknowledge that the reform of the security system in SEE is no one-way-street; it is an exercise clearly in our common European interest. And I must add a self-evident but important caveat: each country's and region's historical, political and security situation is unique and we should not aspire to create "one fits all" templates for post-conflict societies. I will conclude by emphasizing three rather broad parameters against which, in my view, the success of any security sector reform needs to be measured: first, public or state responsibility, second, sustainability: how will a successful SSR help promote economic and social security, and development? And third: International peace building efforts must aim at sustainable solutions in order to free capacities and assets both of the United Nations system and regional organisations to tackle the manifold security challenges of an ever increasing number of weak and failing states –one of the main challenges of our time.

To conclude: I am convinced that a close and professional partnership between the armed forces of the region, their European and transatlantic partners, is an essential precondition for our common success."

*Full report can be read on: [www.racviac.org/programme/S-1](http://www.racviac.org/programme/S-1)*

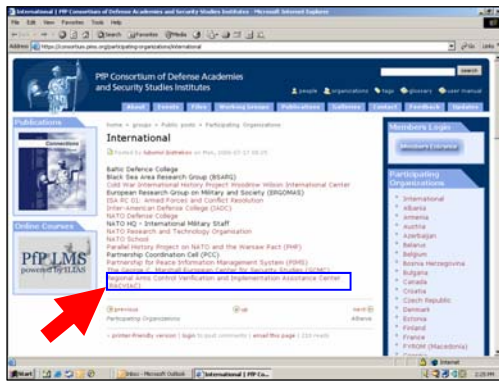
### RACVIAC – a member of PfP Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Study Institutes

Cooperating closely with Defense Universities and Security Study Institutes participating in the PfP Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Study Institutes (PfP-C) will bolster RACVIAC's ambitions to be shaping up well as a "Regional Security Policy Center" or a "Security Study Institute".

On 02 MAR, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas MERGEL (German Army), Chief Planning & Liaison Officer, Western European Countries & International Organizations, discussed with Mr. Bigo, Manager of Operations Staff, PfP-C, the value of RACVIAC becoming a PfP-C participating organization as a member or an affiliate (e.g. the Croatian Institute for International Relations - IMO - is a PfP-C participating organization).

*Continued on page 3*

Mr. Bigo was very supportive to the idea RACVIAC seeks to cooperate with the PFP-C Study Group on Regional Stability in South-East Europe (RSSEE-SG) and the Working Group on Security Sector Reform (SSR-WG). Furthermore, Mr. Bigo pointed to the next PFP-C Annual Conference (13-14 June, Zagreb) and suggested participation. Thus all necessary actions will be taken to cooperate closely with both the RSSEE-SG and the SSR-WG. Since a few weeks RACVIAC has been successfully registered as a PFP-C participating organization. It goes without saying RACVIAC will not only participate in the above-mentioned PFP-C Annual Conference but also offered to support the event with at least a presentation by the Director or a senior representative.



answers. 41 participants represented not only NATO countries, but also PFP countries and other countries (e.g. Mediterranean Dialog). Lecturers represented NATO School, NATO International Staff, SHAPE, OSCE, German Bundeswehr Verification Center (BwVC), United Kingdom Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG), and United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). Besides a comprehensive orientation on a variety of arms control aspects the course provided an excellent platform for establishing and maintaining valuable contacts with arms control key personnel and subject matter lecturers as well as for becoming familiar with representatives from many countries being supported by RACVIAC. Beyond this the course provided an outstanding opportunity to improve English language skills in the matter of arms control.

### Seminar “Cooperation against Terrorism”

RACVIAC Seminar on Cooperation against Terrorism took place from 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2007 in Zagreb/Croatia. The aim of the seminar was to highlight the importance and necessity of cooperation against terrorism (in the field of border security/control and illicit trafficking of weapons) among countries. The seminar objectives were the following:

- To highlight the increased awareness of the world before and after 9/11
- To emphasize the importance of border security/management for better secure environment
- To clarify the link between illegal trafficking of weapons/drugs and terrorism
- To explain the positive progress of region in the field of SALW to fight against terrorism

The following lectures were given:  
*Keynote Speaker.* “Global challenges after 9/11 terrorists attack.”

*Presentation 1:* “Lessons learned from on going counter terrorism operations on global scale.”

*Presentation 2:* “General overview of the border security / border management situation in SEE.”

*Presentation 3:* “Negative consequences of illicit trafficking of weapons and drugs. Link between illegal trafficking and criminology / terrorism

*Presentation 4:* “Evaluation of development in

*Continued on page 4*

## RACVIAC at Arms Control Implementation Course



### Arms Control Implementation Orientation Course M5-62-A, 26 February - 2 March 2007

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas MERGEL (German Army), Chief Planning & Liaison Officer, Western European Countries & International Organizations attended the Arms Control Implementation Orientation Course at NATO School, Oberammergau, from 26 FEB to 02 MAR 2007. The above-mentioned course provided a broad overview of the conventional arms control agreements, implementation procedures, and a general orientation on arms control developments. Working groups and panel discussions followed basic lectures with questions and

the field of SALW in SEE in the last decade.”

*Presentation 5: “Terrorism and Media - Internet.”*

*Presentation 6: “The importance of cooperation among related actors (countries/ security providing actors) to fight against terrorism.”*

“NATO point of view in the field of international cooperation.

Seminar was concluded by producing the recommendation paper on *“How can we harmonize efforts of regional countries for a better regional approach to fight against terrorism?”* as follows:

The enemy is terrorism: premeditated politically motivated violence, perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents.

Terrorism recognizes no language, religion, nationality, region and ideology and it is an international phenomenon threatening the whole world.

Countries should not stay neutral in the field of fighting against terrorism, and should act with zero-tolerance attitude against all kinds of terrorism.

International measures, anti-terrorism conventions, protocols and resolutions adopted by the UN (particularly Resolution No. 1373) should be ratified and/or implemented by all the countries.

More efficient cooperation in the fight against terrorism is possible with the UN, other organizations and initiatives should support the UN in any sense.

In the context of collective security, countries should be ready to give support to the international level to common fight against terrorism.

In order to make a progress in the fight against terrorism in the long-term, the underlying reasons of terrorism should be determined and addressed in advance.

The most efficient way to defeat terrorism is a multinational and multilateral approach. Although military power is a significant and supportive tool in the fight against terrorism, some other tools such as intelligence, public diplomacy and cooperation with allies will become much more effective.

Each country should establish and maintain an efficient penal system in the fight against all kinds of terrorism taking into consideration UN resolutions.

*See full report and highlighted views of lecturers on [www.racviac.org/programme/S-2](http://www.racviac.org/programme/S-2)*

## Big change of personnel in RACVIAC



RACVIAC says a sad farewell to **LTC Frank ODENDAHL**, our former Chief Planning & Liaison Officer, Western European Countries & International Organizations, and the German National Representative at RACVIAC. He was with us for more than 3 years. We would like to thank Frank for all his work and friendship during his time in RACVIAC and wish him all the best at his new post at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

At the same time RACVIAC welcomes his successor, **LTC Thomas MERGEL**, who joined us 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007. Prior to this he served a four years tour of duty at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. LTC MERGEL is a graduate of the German Officer School, the German Federal Armed Forces Command and Staff Academy, and the United States Joint Forces Staff College of the National Defense University. He has a diploma in business management and administration from the University of the German Armed Forces. LTC MERGEL is married and has a son and a daughter. He lives in Zagreb, Croatia, and his family lives in Murnau, Germany.



RACVIAC new Chief Planning & Liaison Officer South East Europe is **LTC Wolfgang WECHSELBERGER**. He was born 18 September 1965 in Knittelfeld, Austria and has a Master degree in Geography/Cartography from the University of Vienna. His last post was at IMG - Institute for Military Geography, Communication and Information Systems Support Command in Vienna where he was Head of Section “Products”. He is married and has two sons. His interests include travelling through foreign countries, jogging and skiing.



RACVIAC also welcomes **LTC Grigore CHIRICA** who was born in Kantemir, Moldova, in 1969 and has more than 18 years of active military service.

*Continued on page 5*

From January 28, 2007 he is assigned in RACVIAC as a new WG III Officer of DC Cell. He graduated in electronics engineering from the Military Aviation School in Kaliningrad; Former Soviet Union (Russian Federation) in 1991 and is currently studying at the International Relation and Political Science Institute, Chisinau, Moldova. His professional military career was in a variety of domains including aviation engineering, professional development in the Military Personnel and Educational Management, participating in the OSCE Mission to Georgia and working in the MOD of Moldova.



It has been a genuine pleasure to have **Capt Maja HORVATIČ** for more than four years with us. She has been working as a Course Director in Training/Verification Division and was a very popular and well-liked member among our international staff. She left us in January to take a new post at a General staff of Slovenian Armed Forces.

**Capt Jože ČEBULAR** from Slovenia is from January 2007 RACVIAC's new Course Director in the Training & Verification Division. Before coming to RACVIAC he had worked as an Assistant for logistic in the General staff SAF, responsible for Movement & Transportation. His military career started in 1992 as a soldier; in 1993 he became a NCO and in 1997 finished officers' school. In 2004 successfully finished Commander staff School. In 1999 he have finished The Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transport. At the time being he is studying at the "Faculty for post-gradual Governmental and European studies". His hobbies are doing different kinds of sports. He is 36 years old, married with Tadeja. They have one son Urban.



After three full years RACVIAC says extremely sad goodbye to **Maj Marcella KRANJČEC**, our S3 officer. She came from Logistic Department (J4) of Croatian General Staff and is going on her next post to the Department for Defence policy in Croatian MoD. We take this opportunity to thank her for all her work and friendship during this time in RACVIAC and to wish her every success in the future.

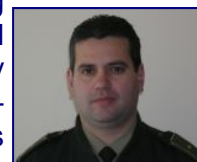
On 15<sup>th</sup> March this year RACVIAC welcomed **Capt Mira ŽUTIĆ** as a new S3 Officer from Croatia. Most of her military carrier she served

as an advisor in the bilateral Section in the Department for International Defense Cooperation in Croatian MOD. **Capt ŽUTIĆ** graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy, Philological Department and she has a diploma of French Joint Staff College (College interarmees de la defense). She speaks French, Italian and English. She is married and has a son Ivan and a daughter Ana Marija.



After two years of service **1st LT Erjon LEBELLO** left RACVIAC and went back to the Albanian Armed forces. While he was with us he was working as a Course Officer in Training and Verification Division. We will miss him greatly and wish him every success in the future.

RACVIAC welcomes **Maj Ermir ALIBALI**, our new Seminar Officer in D&C Division. He has 19 years of military service including the Military High School "SKENDERBEJ" and Military Academy in Tirana. He has a diploma in Educational Sciences from the University of the German Federal Armed Forces in Munich. During last 3 years Major ALIBALI gained his experience through working with Defence Attaches accredited in the Republic of Albania. He is 34 years old and married to Edra.



### RACVIAC at Arms Control Orientation Course

Taking into consideration the needs of the countries that are parties to the CFE, VD-99 and OST the Turkish PfP Training Center organized an Arms Control Orientation Course from 15 to 19 January 2007 in Ankara, Turkey. This course was conducted with the aim of providing an overview of the above-mentioned Arm Control Agreements implementation procedures and a general orientation on arms control developments. Within this perspective the Turkish PfP Training Center invited one officer from RACVIAC to give a lecture on "Vienna Document 99; Chapter IX, Compliance and Verification". Making a contribution to the success of the course and to increase RACVIAC visibility, LtCol Kalman NEMETH, Course director at the Training and Verification Division, was assigned to parti-

cipate on this course as a lecturer. He gave a presentation on VD-99 on the topic of "Inspections and Evaluation Visits" providing the participants (38 officers from 19 countries) with information about the current situation in the implementation of the above mentioned topic and presenting an overview of the Vienna Document 1999 highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules and procedures of the execution of that.

This course was a great benefit for LtCol Nemeth in his future job having a great experience not only in giving lecture but also in organizing similar RACVIAC activities in the near future.



### RACVIAC&OPCW joint course on Chemical Weapons Convention

According to the RACVIAC programme 2007 the Training & Verification Division organized and executed the Seminar C-02 from 05 to 09 February 2007.

The purpose of this seminar was to present to the participants the equipment that is used by OPCW inspectors and to focus on technical matters and practical training.

The Seminar was organized together with Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for the fourth time and it was a follow up of the last Seminar on CWC, which was held in RACVIAC in 2006. It was carried out in English language, consisting of presentations and practical training.

Course Objectives were:

- To provide the participants with information about the Chemical weapons agents and their effects.
- To provide the participants with information about the protective equipment and the detection devices, which are used by OPCW, and their use.
- To present the basic function of a Contamination Control Station (CCS).

- To give to the participants the opportunity for practical training to all the above-mentioned items.

Seventeen participants attended the Course from Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Bulgaria (1), Croatia (4), Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* (2), Germany (1), Hungary (1), Moldova (1), Montenegro (1), Serbia (2) and Slovenia (1).

The seminar was conducted with the assistance of three lecturers from OPCW: Mr. Henry Arvidsson, Mr. Jaromir Jiricek and Mr. Dennis Griffin.

RACVIAC, in cooperation with OPCW, conducted the Seminar for CWC for the first time with a practical phase included in the program. Mr. Muhammad A Kazi, from OPCW, started the 1<sup>st</sup> day with the opening remarks and a short overview of provisions of article X. Mr. Arvidsson presented the Chemical Weapons Agents types and effects, as well as the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Finally, Mr. Jiricek presented the Hazard Prediction Software and the Contamination Control Station.



During the 2<sup>nd</sup> day Mr. Griffin presented the Detection Equipment and explained its use. Participants had practical training on the use of PPE.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> day the participants, divided to 2 sub teams, had practical training in Detection & Reconnaissance and Decontamination (personal, equipment and casualty) procedures.

The 4<sup>th</sup> day included a scenario-based exercise with practical response to different scenarios: team preparation, planning, equipment preparation, reconnaissance, evacuation, decontamination, transportation of casualties and first aid to casualties. The participants, divided in 2 sub teams, conducted this exercise in an open area, into the Barracks.

The Course was proved to be successful. Several participants were NBC officers or members of the verification centres in their countries.

Issues to be highlighted:

- The cooperation between RACVIAC and OPCW ensured the presence of high-level instructors. Their professionalism and experience were highly appreciated by the participants.

*Continued on page 7*

- Most of the participants were interested and highly motivated during the Seminar and they expressed their satisfaction for the topics chosen.
- The practical phase of the seminar was well-organised thanks to the support of OPCW and the Croatian authorities that provided all the necessary equipment. For the future possible seminars it is recommended to include practical phase in a more realistic scenario if possible.

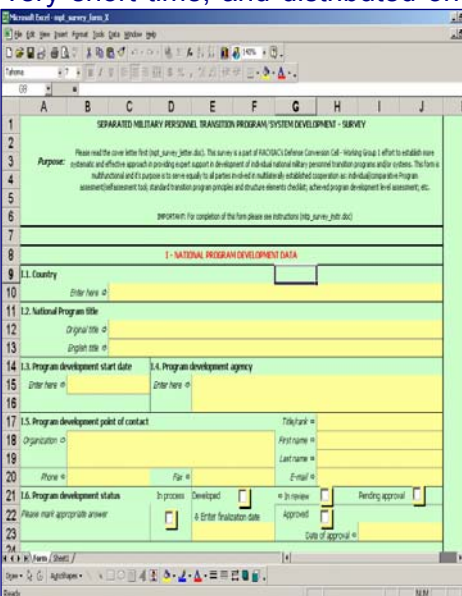
*\*Turkey recognizes Republic of Macedonia with it's constitutional name*

## RACVIAC Defense Conversion Cell introduces new activities

RACVIAC Defense Conversion Cell has entered the new program year with two new activities named "Military Personnel Transition Program/System Survey" and "Defense Conversion Press Clipping". By doing this, we have been trying to enrich the scope of RACVIAC defense conversion support to our member countries, not just being limited to regular program events, but improving our research and information exchange capacities, introducing new tools and concepts.

### *Military personnel transition program/system survey*

"Military Personnel Transition Program/System Development Survey Form" was developed by WG1 staff in a very short time, and distributed on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2006. Its primary function is establishment of applicable knowledge base, and thus more systematic and effective expert support to development or improvement of individual national development or improvement of individual national military personnel transition programs and/or systems (also known as retraining and resettlement programs). As a multifunctional data-collecting tool, it provides us with highly spe-



cific information required for identification of the best practice, or possible shortfalls in probably the most sophisticated field of defense conversion. In the same time, individual member countries are in a position to independently review their own military personnel transition program/system establishment, and submit up to date assistance requirement toward RACVIAC. We truly believe that this activity starts more transparent process of experience exchange on regional level, leading toward the joint ownership over the standard model of separated military personnel transition system, already outlined by the survey questions. Applied concept is not limited just to omnipresent approach of temporary support to redundant military personnel, but includes the latest context of defense reforms in the region, primarily all-volunteer force establishment, offering possible directions for future developments. Survey form has been published on our web site in PDF format and is thus available publicly.

### *Defense Conversion Press Clipping*

This activity has been initiated in January 2007, as a media scan of specific subjects considering "Defense Reform and Defense Conversion in South East Europe". Its purpose is to timely provide our WG members and observers with information being presented in regional media. Our media scan activity includes written media in following countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Future press clipping activities (if decided) could include Albania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania. Press clipping delivery is done weekly, and all articles are delivered chronologically with corresponding Meta data, including summaries in native language, and in large part with scanned images of original articles. Additionally, RACVIAC PR Cell has developed internal capacities for translation of selected article summaries to English language. We are providing this service for over 40 users included in DCC joint efforts. To this moment we have distributed over 200 articles and produced over 70 translations. We consider this service as significant contribution to our information exchange capacity and media visibility of our field of interest. In this way, our member countries are in better position to assess their media presence, receive relevant feedback considering their local efforts, to identify possible sources of misinformation, and to improve their information activities (public relations).



# RACVIAC Programme 2007

## - forthcoming events -



<b>16<sup>th</sup> MAG Meeting and Budgetary Meeting (M-1)</b>	<b>16 - 20 April</b>
<i>Main Goals:</i> • Biannual MAG Conference	
<i>Target Audience:</i> - Representatives of all MAG countries, observer countries, countries interested in work of RACVIAC, NGOs and GOs	
<b>EU Code of conduct on Arms Control Exports (S-4) - in coop. with German EU Presidency</b>	<b>02 - 04 May</b>
<i>Main Goals:</i> • To inform about the application of EU code of conduct on Arms Export in Western Balkans.	
<i>Target Audience:</i> - Senior Level representatives from MFA, MOD and MOI, border police, Custom officers .	
<b>Friendship Meeting of University Students (S-5) - in coop. with Italy</b>	<b>21 - 25 May</b>
<i>Main Goals:</i> • To discuss with the new generation about the future Europe and security challenges	
<i>Target Audience:</i> - Professors and students from Political science Universities	
<b>Dayton Article IV (C-4)- 1<sup>st</sup> week in RACVIAC, 2<sup>nd</sup> week in Serbia</b>	<b>28 May - 08 June</b>
<i>Main Goals:</i> • To prepare individuals to perform duties as inspectors and/or escorts regarding Dayton Agreement, Article IV, establish a common approach to the Agreement	
<i>Target Audience:</i> - Military personnel dealing with Dayton Art. IV	
<b>WG1 Meeting (2) – on retraining and resettlement of military personnel (WS-4)</b>	<b>03 - 06 June</b>
<i>Main Goals:</i> • Transition of military personnel - the main topics (goals) will be decided at the previous meeting according to the current countries situations and needs.	
<i>Target Audience:</i> - Permanent WG1 members, other MAG countries and organizations	
<b>Euro-Atlantic security integration, ESDP (S-6) - in coop. with Croatia and Austria</b>	<b>10 - 15 June</b>
<i>Main Goals:</i> • To discuss and evaluate projects on stability and security	
<i>Target Audience:</i> - Parliamentarians, Staff from MOI, MFA, MOD	
<b>WG2 Meeting on Base Conversion (WS-5)</b>	<b>18 - 21 June</b>
<i>Main Goals:</i> • The main topics (goals) will be decided at the previous meeting according to the current countries situations and needs.	
<i>Target Audience:</i> - Permanent WG2 members and organizations	
<b>OS Treaty– Aerial Observation Course (C-5) -1<sup>st</sup> week in RACVIAC, 2<sup>nd</sup> week in B&amp;H</b>	<b>26 June - 06 July</b>
<i>Main Goals:</i> • To provide the respective personnel from SEE countries with proper theoretical and practical training in planning, organizing and executing an Aerial Observation mission based on the provisions of the Treaty on Open Skies	
<i>Target Audience:</i> - Air Force personnel which will be involved in Open Skies missions	