

RACVIAC CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION NEWSLETTER

Issue 19

January - March 2008

AMBASSADORIAL MEETING AT RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION



On 4th March 2008 RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation organized the Ambassadorial meeting gathering the Ambassadors of all MAG countries accredited to the Republic of Croatia. Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ, Director of RACVIAC, presented RACVIAC's new mission as the Centre for Security Cooperation gradually imposing itself as a premier platform for fostering dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South Eastern Europe through partnership between the countries of the region and their international partners. He emphasized the importance of RACVIAC's role in materializing the principle of regional ownership, which until recently has been perceived only as a jargon, or rhetoric of our friends in Brussels, New York or Washington. Nowadays it stands unequivocally for a greater level of innovative approach and partnerships accompanied by direct material and financial participation of the countries of the region. Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ expressed his deep appreciation for the support, which has been provided by the Associate member countries to RACVIAC's wide scope of activities. Director of RACVIAC stressed that initial concept of the Centre has become too narrow nowadays. In that regard, he highlighted the

importance of the current transformation process of RACVIAC and presented the first draft of a new structure of RACVIAC, which is to be discussed at the 19th MAG Meeting in Chisinau in Moldova on the 10th April this year.

The meeting has gathered a significant number of the Ambassadors and Military Attaches of RACVIAC member countries as well as high representatives of the host country Mr. Davor ČUTIĆ, Deputy Head of International Defense Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Defense and Mr. Pjer ŠIMUNOVIĆ, Assistant Minister for International Organizations and Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration with his respective associates.



DEFENSE PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING SEMINAR

In the period of the 14th - 17th January 2008, RACVIAC conducted its first seminar in 2008 in the field of Defense Planning, Programming and Budgeting (DPPB).

The purpose of this seminar was to discuss the principles of planning, programming and budgetary control over security related expenditures among the SEE countries, to identify ways to improve and harmonize DPPB processes in each country, as well as to encourage regional interoperability and cooperation.

This seminar was conducted in the partnership with NATO Joint Force Command Headquarters in Naples, the Office of Security Sector Reform and it was the first serious attempt to move it to a higher stage, as requested by the regional countries highlighting the meaningful necessity for the new changes.



Thirty-four participants took part in the seminar. These were representatives from: Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Netherlands, Romania, Serbia and the United States, representing the relevant representatives from the ministries as well as parliamentarians from respective committees of the countries concerned.

After the seminar, there was a strong mandate inherent in the participant's conclusions, which would contribute to RACVIAC's future "Needs Assessment". Generally speaking, RACVIAC was considered to be the appropriate organization to initiate, develop and execute seminars like DPPB one. A strong need for building and improving administrative capacity in DPPB in the region was highlighted, since the information exchange has always played a crucial role in promoting regional cooperation and security.

RACVIAC should continue to successfully seek assistance and advice from organizations and institutions such as JFC Naples, NATO IS, NATO IMS, SHAPE, NATO School Oberammergau, the EU, Defense Resource Management Institute, as well as from relevant NATO - and EU countries.

Taking into account the amount of information that DPPB field covers, we received a recommendation to organize two activities per year - each as a combination of a seminar and a course, which should be executed alternating at RACVIAC and regional countries.

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

REGIONAL OWNERSHIP AND REGIONAL SECURITY SEMINAR

The Seminar on *Regional Ownership and Regional Security* was held in RACVIAC in the period of the 13th -14th February 2008. The seminar gathered participants with knowledge and experience in the field of regional ownership and regional security, representing relevant ministries, institutions, as well as parliamentary commissions directly involved in this subject. The seminar was conceived as a combination of lectures and workshops. The participants and lecturers were representatives from ten countries and three organizations as follows: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia, OSCE, Stability Pact, as well as students from the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb.

The aim of this seminar was to discuss the concept of regional ownership by defining key elements as well as highlighting rights and responsibilities of the countries in the region and evaluating advantages and challenges in enhancing regional security.

It covered the range of topics such as: The link between regional ownerships, Responsibilities and rights of countries, Parliamentary involvement, Contribution of international organizations and its effects on Euro-Atlantic environment, Regionalism versus internationalism. Both, seminar and workshop proved successful and the participants were provided with the opportunity to discuss topics and generate fresh ideas on regional ownership and regional security.

His Excellency Pellumb QAZIMI, Albanian Ambassador in Zagreb gave interesting presentation on the *Regional Security ownership* which he concluded by saying that the regional security ownership can be realized by: having a clear vision; setting the clear goals for the EU and NATO integration; recognizing responsibilities; exercising responsibilities; having acknowledges; proceeding through lessons learned; using expertise; moving through programmes; taking the lead; following the results and products.



His Excellency Alessandro PIGNATTI MORANO di CUSTOZA, Italian Ambassador in Zagreb gave a presentation on *Regional co-operation in the context of the European Integration* summarizing the importance of fostering the regional cooperation among SEE countries which are to become NATO and EU members and concluded that the concept of regional ownership would give a new impetus to regional co-operation by focusing on the agreed priorities in SEE countries. The following lectures were also given in this seminar: *Towards a Regionally Owned Co-operation Framework in South Eastern Europe* by Zoran KEKOVIC, PhD, Republic of Serbia, University of Belgrade; *Priorities for regional co-operation* by Col Kenan DAUTOVIC, Ministry of Defense of B&H, Partnership for Peace and NATO Adviser; *Advantages and challenges to enhance regional security* by Col Hamza VISCA, Head of International Cooperation Cell, J5 Joint Staff AF, B&H; *The role of RCC in facilitating regional co-operation in the perspective of European Integration* by Ms. Talia BOATI, Stability Pact; *Parliamentary involvement and responsibilities in the process of the Regional Ownership* by Mr. ZELJKO GRUBESIC, Expert Advisor, Joint Committee for Defense and Security, B&H. Following a two-day seminar and workshop event in RACVIAC, all the participants agreed upon the need for establishing a common approach in the area

of regional ownership and regional security. Therefore, they proposed to have more common initiatives in the future. SEE region lacks a kind of Regional Security Strategy at intergovernmental level, which would ultimately lead to establishing Regional Security System/Culture. No matter whether it would be a Treaty, Declaration, Charter with Protocols or Memorandum of Understanding, it would serve as a political platform. SEECR/RCC could serve as a good operational kick out.

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

7th WORKSHOP ON TRANSITION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

The 7th Workshop was held from 25th to 28th February 2008 and it was divided into two organizational parts – separate events. The first part was resident, executed on 26th February at RACVIAC facilities in Rakitje. The second part of the Workshop was the study field trip to Regional Transition Support Centre in Osijek on 26th and 27th February, fully organized and executed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of the Republic of Croatia. Workshop included total of 37 participants from 10 different countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Moldavia, Montenegro, Norway, United States of America, and Serbia) and various governmental and non-governmental organizations.



The activity content was developed in cooperation with the Croatian SPECTRA Programme staff, primarily having in mind the described specific objective for this event – the provision of real life military personnel transition program examples in the form of success stories, including specific SPECTRA program features.

Continued on page 4

One of the specific principles introduced to the existing modalities for the RACVIAC defence conversion activities in the field of military personnel transition, was the in-country approach. Its ultimate agenda is to support the regional ownership build up, and as a contribution to this important vision, Working Group 1 (WG1) already managed to have two of its events executed outside of its Headquarters (HQ) in Croatia. First of them was in Dures, Albania in June 2007, and the second one occurred in November 2007 in Belgrade, Serbia. WG1 truly believes that the applied in-country approach equally enhances the regional diplomatic dimension of RACVIAC, and enables direct exchange of experience, which has been delivered on site and primarily by the host country.

At this moment we can talk about the certain tradition being established due to the fact that this approach is becoming widely accepted among WG1 members. The latest example is Croatia, which expressed the readiness to more actively participate in WG1 activities in 2008, and accepted the host role for the first WG1 Workshop in 2008.

In the case of the 7th WG1 Workshop, the specific objective was the requested display of the real life examples of the successful individual transition stories. By its definition, the success in the individual transition is the fully established second career. This primarily means successful participation in the labour market or in other words, personal employment or self-employment in the desired field of work.

In addition, workshop had the task to emphasize the importance of regional approach due to specific regional aspects of economy, culture, history, availability of resources, mentality and transition support availability itself. These were the starting points for the creation of the corresponding workshop agenda, which has been done in cooperation with the Croatian MoD, which provided special programme in accordance with the requested criteria.

This Workshop was planned, organized and executed as the joint event between RACVIAC and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia. The resident part of the event was executed in Rakitje while study field trip was held in Osijek County region. Respectively, Croatian MoD and RACVIAC shared corresponding organizational responsibilities.

The 7th WG1 Workshop confirmed that this new in-country approach has been recognized and accepted by all members without exceptions. Considering this fact, all WG1 events for the

2008 are designed to support this approach. The WG1 chairman and Bulgarian representative Mr. Peter PASHOV, PhD, announced that the 8th meeting would be hosted by Bulgaria. In that way, RACVIAC officially received confirmation that 8th WG1 Workshop will be organized in Sofia.

In this way, WG1 efforts for this year will benefit even more from the practical examples, and this time from Bulgaria, which has been known as the country with the longest experience in the field of military personnel transition.

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

RACVIAC AT INAUGURAL MEETING OF REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL IN SOFIA



On 27th of February 2008, RACVIAC Director Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ and Chief Planning Officer SEE Lieutenant Colonel Wolfgang WECHSELBERGER participated in the 14th and final Regional Table meeting of the Stability Pact and Inaugural Meeting of its successor organization, the Regional Co-operation Council.

The historical event took place in Sofia. This meeting marked the final step in the transformation of the Stability Pact into the new regionally owned cooperation framework, the Regional Co-operation Council (RCC).

The Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the RCC was adopted as part of the meeting, which marked the formal handover from the Stability Pact for SEE to the Regional Co-operation Council. The participants noted that ever since 1999 the Stability Pact has been significantly contributing to the stabilization of SEE through its activities.

From March on, the Regional Co-operation Council will play a key role in consolidating achievements of the Stability Pact to date and in making further progress in different areas of co-operation. It will also continue to provide a platform for supporting further Euro-Atlantic integration of South Eastern Europe. The Table stressed that the RCC will build upon the legacy of the Stability Pact. The RCC will play a crucial role in consolidating achievements to date and in supporting South East European countries in advancing progress in different areas of co-operation. Participants underlined that the RCC will continue on the path of the Stability Pact and will focus on promoting and supporting regional co-operation in South Eastern Europe, and on sustaining European integration of the region. During the meeting RACVIAC was mentioned many times and Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ and Lieutenant Colonel WECHSELBERGER held many useful meetings with the participants from various countries and organizations. They presented RACVIAC's plans for the future and tried to attract financial and other relevant support.

RACVIAC INVITED TO SEECF DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING



Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ received an invitation from Bulgaria, SEECF Chairman in Office, to present RACVIAC at the De-

fence Ministers Meeting in Sofia on the 11th of March. The Director of RACVIAC followed this invitation, accompanied by Colonel Ömer Faruk BAŞTÜRK and Lieutenant Colonel Thomas MERGEL. On this occasion RACVIAC delegation used the opportunity to highlight RACVIAC's transformation process. In a fifteen minutes presentation Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ provided detailed information on all relevant issues, in particular the characteristics of the new orientation of the Centre by drawing an analogy: "RACVIAC is the aircraft carrier in the region, ready for anyone with similar objectives to land and take off reaching out towards all destination in the SEE region."

He also underlined that RACVIAC is at the ready to support the Regional Co-operation Council (RCC), which has just finished taking shape, and

drew a spotlight on the fact that RACVIAC, as a regional Centre for Security Cooperation, is actually materializing the principle of regional ownership.



The eleven Defence Ministers and Assistant Ministers at present almost unanimously stressed the important role of RACVIAC in their individual statements. At the conclusion of the Ministerial Meeting, the high representatives issued the Joint Statement dedicating the whole paragraph 12 to RACVIAC. The message mounted in a mandate for the Director that the Ministers expect "the Centre's leadership to actively work for the timely formulation of a new, adequate structure and optimised activities and expenditures plan".

Amongst other speakers at the meeting Dr. Erhard BUSEK, Special Coordinator for the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe, and Mr. Jan TRUSZCZYNSKI, Deputy Director-General from DG Enlargement, as well as Mr. George KATSIRDAKIS, Head of Defence Cooperation, Defence Policy and Planning Division, NATO International Staff emphasized RACVIAC's crucial future role in promoting security cooperation in the region. Dr. BUSEK especially pointed out that "RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation - is the key Stability Pact mechanism in the area of Defence and Security within the region. It should play a key role in defining how the RCC and other international actors, especially NATO, can best assist each other in dealing with their common and respective priorities."

At a side meeting Ambassador Dr. Theodor H. WINKLER, Director of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) reassured the readiness of DCAF for an even closer cooperation in the years to come and issued an invitation to Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ to visit his Centre at the earliest convenience. The Director and his entourage evaluated the trip to Sofia as a great encouragement in the light of the 19th MAG Meeting in Moldova.

CHANGE OF PERSONNEL IN RACVIAC



RACVIAC says a farewell to **Colonel Dragan GOSTOVIĆ**, PhD, our former Chief Defense Conversion Cell, and the Serbian National Representative at RACVIAC. He spent three years with us. We would like to thank Dragan for all his work and friendship during his time at RACVIAC and wish him all the best at his new very important post in the Institute for Strategically Research, MoD in Belgrade, Serbia.



At the same time we are welcoming the new Chief of Defence Conversion Cell, **Colonel Miha-jlo MLADENOVIC**. He was born in 1961, and graduated from the Military Academy in Belgrade in 1984. He finished Staff Collage in 2002 and National Defence School in 2005. He completed all duties from Platoon Commander to the Chief of Staff in tank brigade. From 2002 to 2004 he was a Chief of Section and Chief of Department in General Staff. From October 2005 to June 2007 he was Acting Head of Department for International Military Cooperation. His last position in MoD of Serbia was a Deputy Head of Department.



After 4 years of service at RACVIAC as the Seminar Officer in Dialogue and Cooperation Division, the tour of duty for **Major Vinko BAGARIĆ** ended in January 2008. During his tour of duty in RACVIAC Maj BAGARIĆ fulfill his mission on highly professional level. It would be impossible to conduct numerous tasks and activities without his experienced, patient and friendly approach. So, Vinko RACVIAC appreciates all that you have done.



RACVIAC welcomes **Captain Dobrislav BILOŠ** as the new Seminar Officer in Dialog&Cooperation Division. He was born on 2 June 1969 and lives in Čapljina, B&H. He has served in military service for 17 years on different postings from tactical units, to Joined Staff AF B&H. He graduated from the Faculty of Kinesiology of the University of Zagreb. In 2004/05 he was in UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea serving as Military Observer, Team Leader and Operations Officer at HQ Asmara. His military education also includes IOC at

Croatian Military Academy, DLI San Antonio Texas US, IOBC US, UN Military Observer Course, Germany, PSOTC Staff course, Sarajevo B&H, Defense attaché course, Switzerland, Staff officer military terminology course, Hungary. His last posting was as an Officer for plans and orders in J5 JS AF B&H. Dobrislav is married to Valentina, and has 3 children.



Captain Nevenko VRANJEŠ, the Course Officer at Training and Verification Division and the Course Director for Open Skies Treaties Courses, carried out his tour of duty at end of January 2008, after almost 4 years in service at RACVIAC. It has been a great pleasure to work with him. Captain Nevenko VRANJEŠ fulfilled his mission most professionally. His enthusiasm and devotion to his duty in RACVIAC and his discipline have been beyond all appreciation. It was a great privilege and honor to serve with him. He was not only a good colleague, but also an excellent, compatible, helpful and courteous friend to all of us. We would like to thank Captain VRANJEŠ for his remarkable contribution in supporting RACVIAC. We will not forget him. RACVIAC wishes all the best to him and his family.



Captain Slobodan VUJOVIĆ, as the new Course Officer, was born on 4th May 1972 in Bileca, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He attended Military Academy in Belgrade from 1991 till 1995. After finishing Military Academy he continued his service in Army of the Republic of Srpska as a Platoon and Company Commander. Slobodan also served as a Deputy Commander in Infantry Reserve Officer School from 1998 till 2002. for Military Matters – Secretariat. Since September 2002 he was a member of the Standing Committee. In 2004 he continued his service at the Department for International Cooperation. His first duty at the Ministry of Defense was The Open Skies Treaty. In March 2007 he continued his service in Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of B&H as an Officer for Operation.



RACVIAC would also like to take the opportunity to thank **Ms Eleonora MARTINIĆ** for her work at our institution and efforts shown during her duty here. She was posted in RACVIAC by the Croatian MoD and stayed with us for three months. We wish her all the best in her professional career.



RACVIAC is happy to welcome **Ms Petra BULJEVIĆ** who joined us in February this year as an English Language Translator/Interpreter. She obtained BA in English language and literature and Comparative literature from the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb in 2004. She has worked as a Business English Instructor for different Croatian companies such as Koncar Inc., Ergonomika Ltd., and Maxima Prof. Ltd. etc. She provided translator's services for those and many other companies as well. Ms BULJEVIĆ has also worked as a Certified Court Interpreter and has been cooperating successfully with the Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Croatia on the translations of the *Community acquis* in the field of banking, insurance, finance, environment, toxicology, food industry and other since 2005.

DIRECTOR'S VISIT TO REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ, the Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, paid an official working visit to the Republic of Moldova in the period of the 11th-13th February 2008 as a preliminary to the MAG meeting, taking place in Chisinau, Moldova from the 9th -11th April 2008. At the meeting in the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Vitalie VRABIE, the Minister of Defence, stressed the high importance of one year mandate presidency of the MAG, assumed by the Republic of Moldova in October 2007, as a proper way to promote Moldova as a regional partner state of Southeast Europe contributing to ensuring and strengthening the regional security. During this visit to Moldova, Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ and Col Ion SAVCIUC, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the National Army of Republic of Moldova and at the same time the MAG Chairperson, signed the Letters of Exchange, stating the administrative and logistic responsibilities necessary for the preparation of the 19th MAG meeting.

At the meeting in the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Moldova, Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ also met Brigadier General Ion COROPCEAN, the Chief of Staff of the National Army of Republic of Moldova, Lieutenant Colonel Valeriu MIJA, Chief of Strategic Planning Department (J5) of Major Staff of the National Army of Republic of Moldova, as

well as Defence Conversion experts from the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure of Republic of Moldova.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ met Mr. Valeriu OSTALEP, the Vice Minister who was accompanied by the First Secretary of the Regional Cooperation Directorate of Moldavian MFA EI, Ms Kristina MAHU.



RACVIAC AND GCSP SIGNED THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation is pleased to announce the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP).

Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and Ambassador Fred TANNER, Director of Geneva Centre for Security Policy signed the document at RACVIAC on 31st January 2008. Ambassador TANNER and Ambassador HADŽIMUSIĆ welcomed this greater cooperation between the two organizations. They are both looking forward to developing joint projects together.



Programme 2008 - forthcoming events (April - June)

19th MAG Meeting & Budgetary Meeting (M-1) <i>Coorganized with Moldova</i>	09 - 11 April
Firearms Control Initiatives in SEE (S-14) <i>In Cooperation with UNODC and SEESAC</i>	22 - 24 April
Counter Terrorism through Regional and International Security Cooperation (S-02) <i>In Cooperation with MoD Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	05 - 09 May
Dayton Article IV Course (C-04) <i>In Cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina (tbc)</i>	26 May - 06 June
Assessment of Current Regional Security Situation in SEE (S-05)	02 - 04 June
UN SC Resolution 1540 Workshop (S-13) <i>Organized by MFA Croatia with EAPC and RACVIAC</i>	05 - 06 June (tbc)
8th Workshop on Transition of Military Personnel (WS-3) <i>In Cooperation with MoD Bulgaria (tbc)</i>	08 - 10 June
8th Workshop on Military Base Conversion (WS-4)	11 - 13 June
OSCE Contribution to Regional Security in SEE (S-06) <i>In Cooperation with OSCE</i>	17 - 19 June
Vienna Document '99 Orientation Course (C-05)	30 June - 04 July



Centre for Security Cooperation

Stari Hrast 53, Rakitje, 10437 Bestovje, Croatia
E-mail: info@racviac.org - website: www.racviac.org