



Centre for Security Cooperation Cooperative Security Environment Pillar

Dayton Article IV Course **8-12 June 2015**



Group photo, 1st day

Introduction

The Dayton Article IV Course was held from 8 to 12 June 2015 in accordance with the RACVIAC 2015 Programme. The Course was organized with the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany. The theoretical part was held in RACVIAC while the practical part was held in the Republic of Serbia, in the 'Boško Palkovljević –Pinki' Barracks in Sremska Mitrovica. It was carried out in the "local" language. Simultaneous translation into English was provided for the participants who don't know the "local" language.

The purpose of this Course was to instruct participants on how to

successfully perform their duties as inspectors and/or escorts pursuant to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control and to establish a common understanding of the Agreement in order to foster mutual trust, confidence and transparency during the performance of inspections.

The Course objectives were:

- To inform and educate the participants about the General Framework Agreement for Peace In Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Accords), with a particular focus on the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, Protocol on Inspection.
- To train the participants in the roles of inspectors and escorts in the framework

of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control.

- To inform participants on new developments since the Agreement was transferred to regional ownership.

The Course was attended by twenty-four participants and lecturers from five countries and one organization, namely Republic of Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5), Republic of Croatia (5), the Federal Republic of Germany (3), Montenegro (4), Republic of Serbia (3) and OSCE (2). They represented relevant Ministries and Agencies, as well as regional Verification Centres involved in the Arms Control Regime of Dayton Article IV.



Opening session

The Course was opened by the Director of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, Ambassador Branimir Mandić and representatives of the signatory countries of the Dayton Article IV Agreement. The Course was conducted with the assistance of five lecturers, coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Republic of Croatia (1), Montenegro (1), Republic of Serbia (1) and the Federal Republic of Germany (1).

The Course lasted 4 days and it consisted of a theoretical (first three days) and a practical (one day) part, with a debriefing at the end of the practical part. The practical part included a training inspection on a declared site in the Republic of Serbia, in the barracks “Boško Palkovljević –Pinkı” in Sremska Mitrovica, which enabled the participants, divided into two teams, to

practice performing the roles of inspectors, escorts and ‘OSCE guest observers’.

The Execution

The welcome address by Ambassador Branimir Mandić, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation marked the opening of the Course. The welcome address was followed by the speeches given by the representatives of the signatory countries: Mr Momir Brajić, Head of Department for NATO and PfP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BA; Mr Kristijan Beljan, Head of Department for defence policy, Ministry of defence of the Republic of Croatia and Col Dražen Božović, Head of the Verification Center of Montenegro. They gave national views on the Agreement and the path each country took in the process. They stressed out the success the parties made through all of these years, with a final transfer to the regional ownership that occurred last year. Mr Mathew Geertsen, Head of the FSC Support Section, OSCE addressed the participants as well. The FSC Support Section will take over the responsibilities of the closed Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE CiO for Article IV .



Course attendees

The participants were presented with the following topics:

- Presentation on the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Accords) and a detailed analysis of Article IV of the Agreement, Protocols on Reduction and Inspection as well as the POET.

- Preparation of a training inspection on a declared site and practical advice about inspection and/or escort duties.

During the practical part, the participants were divided into two teams. Each team conducted a training inspection - one acting in the role of an inspection team and the other in the role of an escort team. The teams carried out the following procedures:

- Preparation of the inspection
- Execution of the inspection
- Debriefing - evaluation of the inspection - lessons learned

The realization of the practical part was made possible thanks to the generous help of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia with whom RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation has always had very good cooperation.

The Course was closed with the remarks made by the Commander of the inspected unit and RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Branimir Mandić, who delivered certificates to all participants and lecturers.



The practical part of the Course in the Boško Palkovljević –Pinkii” barracks

Conclusion

According to the assessments made by the participants, the Course proved to be a successful, very interesting and well organized event. The participants expressed their satisfaction with the topics chosen and considered the Course overall to be valuable

for their future work. They all agreed on the necessity of conducting such courses in the future as well with the aim to contribute to the security and confidence building measures in the region.

The lecturers covered the theoretical part of the Agreement in an excellent way. Their professionalism and experience were highly appreciated by the participants.

During the practical part, the participants showed exceptional professionalism in conducting missions both as inspectors and escorts, thus demonstrating a spirit of cooperation and meeting the standards of a real Inspection. The experienced lecturers expressed very positive comments concerning the progress the participants made during the Course. During the next course, as discussed with the experts, the intention is to intensify the practical component of the Course. The participants will be introduced to the theoretical basis through the lectures, but they will be more encouraged to practice the inspection part in order to set out any possible difficulties that they may meet during the inspections in their future careers.

The practical part of the 2015 Course was well organized, much owing to the excellent preparation with regard to the declared site and close cooperation between RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia.

As has been announced, henceforward, each year, the practical part of the Course will be conducted in another signatory state.

In 2016 the intention is to organize the course in Montenegro, in the second half of March.

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