



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Cooperative and Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar

Vienna Document 2011

- Efforts to Revitalise Confidence and Security Building -
Verification and Compliance Course

**28 September - 02 October 2015,
Rakitje, Croatia**

Organised with the financial contribution of the Verification Centre of the Bundeswehr and with the support of the Republic of Slovenia.

Introduction

The Vienna Document 2011 - Efforts to Revitalise Confidence and Security Building - Verification and Compliance Course is a part of the traditional project activity carried out by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.



Col Muharrem Gülcan, Col (ret.) Drago Bitenc, Amb Branimir Mandic and Mr Christian Waegli

The aim of the course, which was organized with the financial contribution of the Bundeswehr Verification Centre of the Federal Republic of Germany and with the support of the Republic of Slovenia, is to introduce participants to the new content of

the Vienna Document 2011 in general, with a special focus on Article IX (Compliance and Verification), Inspection and Evaluation, giving a comprehensive, theoretical and practical analysis of the implementation of these activities. It was organized in the spirit of the Vienna Document 2011, focusing on constraints and obligations arising from the aforementioned parts of document.

The workshop participants (21) came from the following countries: Republic of Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Republic of Croatia (2), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (2), Montenegro (3), Republic of Serbia (3), the Republic of Slovenia (4) and Turkey (1). The participants were both senior and junior military personnel and civilians dealing with arms control or VD2011- related issues.



Course participants

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

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The workshop was conducted with the assistance of six (6) lecturers: Mr Christian Wägli (OSCE CPC), LtC Dragan Stojanović (MoD, RS), LtCol Dietmar Köppen (BWVC, DE), Maj László Borgula (HDF, Training and Doctrine Centre, HU), Maj Ersin Aktürk (Verification Centre, TR) and Col (ret.) Drago Bitenc, MSc (former head of Verification Centre, SI), with the actively working role of the latter as moderator of the course.



POE procedure in Rakitje

It was carried out as a combination of lectures and presentations followed by questions and answers, completed by syndicate work combined with a preliminary practical part in Rakitje and a practical work day in Maribor for evaluation. This course was designed with the aim of sharing expertise, opinions and lessons learned, identifying problems and teaching methods, as well correcting the possible mistakes. The course also provided a favourable environment and atmosphere for valuable and focused discussions.



Lecturers: LtCol Dragan Stojanovic, Maj László Borgula and Maj Ersin Aktürk

Execution

The course began on 29 September 2014 with the opening address of RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandić, who noted that RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation has been organizing Vienna Document courses for the countries of the South East European region since 2001. This year RACVIAC is able to respond again to the challenges of being the first in the region to plan and carry out the Vienna Document 2011 (VD'11) Compliance and Verification Course, reflecting the changes of the New Vienna Document 2011 adopted in December 2011.



Briefing in Maribor, HQ of 72nd Brigade

He added that the respected lecturers invited from the national arms control agencies, international organizations or verification centers, as well as the members of the academia of the federal republic of Germany, Hungary, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Slovenia, Republic of Turkey and the United States, who have a wide range of experiences in this field. Furthermore, he expressed special thanks to the Republic of Slovenia for being the host of the practical part of the course.



After arrival to the base in Maribor

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The course began with an introductory presentation by Mr Christian Wägli (OSCE CPC), with the title: “The OSCE politico-military dimension.” During the day the audience could listen to another lecture delivered by Maj László Borgula “*Vienna document information – Obligations/notifications.*”

According to the traditions, the second and third working days were consecrated to the preparation, and in this spirit was delivered the presentations from the presenters: LtCol Dietmar Köppen, Maj László Borgula, LtCol Dragan Stojanović, Col (ret.) Drago Bitenc and Maj Ersin Aktürk (“*VD2011 – a general overview; VD2011 – Chapter IX; Planning and preparing an escort mission; Project planning guidelines; Chapter X (Regional Measures) and national experience in the implementation of the Chapter X; Roles of members of Inspection/Evaluation team; Chapter III – Risk Reduction – Ukraine; National Experience in the implementation of the VD2011: Inspection and evaluation visit*”). The presentations were followed by syndicate work combined with a preliminary practical part in Rakitje, separating the participants into four subgroups.

On the last working day the participants have visited Maribor and conducted a practical exercise at the 72nd Brigade in Slovenia. The chief of staff of the brigade and his colleagues has shared comprehensive information with the participants – according to the instructions and in the spirit of the Treaty. The whole visit’s atmosphere was an extremely friendly one, together with the closing ceremony, with lunch, exchanging of gifts and certificates.



BrigGen Zdravko Jakop and the commander of the 72nd Brigade in Maribor

Conclusion

The lecturers professionalism and experience, as well as their presentations, were highly appreciated by the participants. According to the participants` evaluation, the course was successful, very interesting and well organized. Most of the participants were members of national authorities



Briefing at the 72nd Brigade. In the foreground BrigGen Zdravko Jakop, Amb Branimir Mandic, Mr Ivan Hostnik and Col (ret.) Drago Bitenc

Vienna Document 2011 Course

The participants were highly motivated during the course and they showed deep interest in the subject matter.

This event proved to be a good example of a strong cooperation between RACVIAC and the Verification Centre of the Bundeswehr respectively, and – last but not least here we

have to underline –, the very well working cooperation between RACVIAC staff and the colleagues at the Slovenian Armed Forces. RACVIAC, in cooperation with its partner of this successful event, will continue to promote the issue of the Vienna Document in particular, and arms control in general.

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