



## **CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION**

### **Cooperative and Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar**

#### **Physical Security and Stockpile Management Seminar**

**16-19 May 2016, Rakitje, Republic of  
Croatia**

*Supported by the Federal Ministry of  
Defence and Sport of Austria*

#### **Introduction**

The Physical Security and Stockpile Management Seminar is part of a traditional project activity carried out by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation that is supported by the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sport of Austria.

Following the workshops of the last couple of years, where the main goal was to evaluate the real needs of the countries in the region regarding PSSM, this year the main objectives were:

- to envisage how to improve the efficiency of work on PSSM-related issues within the national authorities, ministries and agencies;
- to give an overview of the assistance provided and cooperation coordinated by or involving international organisations;
- among others, to search for further tools to improve the work in the field of capacity building.

The Seminar participants came from the following countries: Republic of Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Republic of Croatia (3), the Former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia\* (2), Russia (1), Republic of Serbia (2) and Republic of Slovenia (3). The activity also included the participants from different agencies and organizations dealing with PSSM issues, such as the MoD SI (1), OSCE Mission to BA (1), Small Arms Survey (1), UNDP SEESAC (1), and The HALO Trust (1).



*Seminar Group photo*

The Seminar was conducted with the assistance of the expert and moderator Mr Blaž Mihelić (MoD SI/SAF).

#### **Execution**

The Seminar began on 17 May 2016 with the Welcome address of the Programme Manager in RACVIAC CSE Pillar, Colonel Muharrem Gülcan, followed by the Opening remarks given by the leading expert and the representative of the MoD of Slovenia, Mr Blaž Mihelić.

---

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



*Opening remarks by Col Muharrem Gülcan, Programme Manager, RACVIAC CSE Pillar*

During the first working day (Tuesday, 17 May) the following topics were presented:

- *Sustainable Stockpiles: Small Arms Survey's work with respect to PSSM capacities and capabilities in South-Eastern Europe* by Ms Jovana Carapic, Associate Researcher, Small Arms Survey. The lecture delivered by the SAS representative was followed by presentations by the participants from the following countries: AL, BA, HR, ME, MK, RS and SI, describing the present situation regarding PSSM in their countries.
- *Challenges in the field of SALW/CA in BA* by Colonel (ret.) Gerhard Faustmann, Arms Control Project Officer, Politico-Military Unit, OSCE Mission to BA. According to Col Faustmann the field of PSSM BA is in a more difficult situation than in any other country in the region. At the same time, he expressed his wish to hear more about “strategy” from the participants representing different nations.
- *SEESAC's work in improving PSSM capacities and capabilities in the region* by Mr Iztok Bojović, Project Coordinator, UNDP SEESAC. Mr Bojović gave an overview of the history of SEESAC, providing an update on its plans and what its future could look like.
- *PSSM - Security Principles and Systems, Standards, example of poor and*

*best practice* by Mr Blaž Mihelić, Advisor, MoD/SAF, Republic of Slovenia. Mr Mihelić in his presentation showed many examples, in the form of case studies, of ammunition storages, methods and sites. Looking back in history he gave a detailed account of the story of a storage site in the Trieste



*Mr Blaž Mihelić, advisor, MoD of Slovenia*

The second day of the Seminar was devoted to The HALO Trust's presentation and detailed work on evaluation by the participants, lecturers and RACVIAC staff.

- *An overview of HALO's experience in PSSM* by Mr Nicholas Bray, Global Technical Officer, The HALO Trust (UK). Mr Bray, who works as a global technical officer at The HALO Trust worldwide, emphasized the organization's global presence, underlining that in the region it has been present only in Kosovo\*. Stressing

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence. (In accordance with

the importance of The HALO Trust's holistic approach to PSSM he mentioned the problem of fundraising that can be seen in the fact that they literally have to go to regions to which the donors direct them and that that's why The HALO Trust's largest program can be found in the Ivory Coast. Mr Bray expressed the importance of the firearms safety education as well.

### Proposals made by the participants

- **Providing**
  - a) Less time for national presentations
  - b) Translation from ENG to LL for better understanding
- **Creating**
  - a) A regional ammunition database (the recent one is outdated)
  - b) Creating a SOP to test chemical stability
- **Providing lectures** about
  - a) Pyrotechnic safety
  - b) Chemical stability of propellant
  - c) The life-cycle management of ammo

### Conclusion

Thanks to careful preparation on the part of the activity team, a great number of high-level lecturers took part in this Seminar. Their professionalism and experience, as well as their presentations, were highly appreciated by all participants.

According to the evaluations made by the participants the Seminar was successful, very interesting and well organized. Most of the participants were members of national authorities dealing with ammunition and stockpile issues in their countries and they considered it valuable for their future work.



*Seminar participants*

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

This event proved to be a good example of a topic that was very well chosen by RACVIAC, resulting in a highly successful and popular Seminar. RACVIAC and, especially, CSE Pillar, hope that the continued popularity of this successful event, and Austria's financial support, will go on, in order to promote with all of the means possible the issue of the right management of ammunition and weapons.

*Compiled by: Mr Pál Bódogh-Szabó  
Activity Coordinator  
RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation*

