



Centre for Security Cooperation Cooperative Security Environment Pillar

Dayton Article IV Course

Zagreb, 16-20 June 2014

representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Ministries of Defense.

Introduction

Pursuant to RACVIAC 2014 Programme, on 16 May - 20 May 2014 the Cooperative Security Environment Pillar carried out the “Dayton Article IV” CSE-03-C Course. The Course was organized in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Office of the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV of the Dayton Peace Accords and with the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany. 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 designated 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.

On 17 May 2014 a parallel event, the Extraordinary SRCC Meeting of the Agreement on Sub-regional Arms Control, Article IV, Annex 1B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina started, which lasted for one day. The Meeting gathered both Heads of the Verification Centers from the signatory parties of the Agreement and



Course participants

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.

The Course was attended by twenty-seven participants from six countries and one organization, namely Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5), Croatia (6), former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (1), Montenegro (5), Serbia (2) and OSCE (5). They represented relevant Ministries and Agencies, as well as regional Verification

Centres involved in the Arms Control Regime of Dayton Article IV.



Participants attending a Course session



Opening session

The Course was opened by the Director of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, Ambassador Branimir Mandić and representatives of the four signatory countries of the Dayton Article IV Agreement. The Course was conducted with the assistance of six lecturers, coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Croatia (1), Montenegro (1), Serbia (1) and OSCE (2).

The Course lasted for 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 theoretical part comprised lectures about the history of the Dayton Peace Agreement with a focus on Protocol on Inspection. The practical part included a training inspection on a declared site in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the barracks “KOZARA” in Banja Luka which enabled the participants, divided into two teams, to practice performing the roles of inspectors, escorts and ‘OSCE guest observes’.

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 which were given by the representatives of the signatory countries. LtCol Vladimir RADMILOVIĆ from the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro and Ambassador Ms Branka LATINOVIĆ from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia gave a general overview of Article IV. Mr Momir BRAJIĆ from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina then gave a presentation on the National experience in the implementation of the Agreement. Lastly, LtCol Krešimir BOŠNJAK from the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia gave a presentation on the Transfer of the Agreement to regional ownership.



Meeting at the border, practical part

The theoretical phase included the following topics:

- Information about the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE CiO for Article IV, which was given by Major General Michele Torres, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV, Annex 1-B of the Dayton Peace Agreement

- Presentations on the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Accords) and 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 in the selected OOI (Objects of Inspection). The teams carried out the following procedures:

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

In order to keep the practical part as close to the 'real life inspection' as possible, the two teams performed a usual greeting at the border and were accompanied by the military police which permitted an undisturbed and easy execution of the exercise. This was made possible thanks to the generous help of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina 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, Major General Torres and RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Branimir Mandić.



Practical part in the barracks 'KOZARA'

Conclusion

According to the assessments made by the participants at its end, the Course proved to be a successful, very interesting and well organized event. They participants expressed their satisfaction with the topics chosen and considered the Course overall to be valuable for their future work. They all agreed about 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. The lecturers also acted as observers during the practical part in Banja Luka.

Participants' interest and motivation were very high, probably due to the fact that most of them had little or no experience in inspection procedures. During the practical part, participants showed exceptional professionalism in conducting missions both as inspectors and escorts, thus demonstrating a remarkable spirit of cooperation and meeting the standards of a real Inspection. The experienced observers expressed very positive comments about the participants' progress.

The practical part of the 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The importance of this Course for the region can also be seen in the participation of the official representatives of the signatory countries of Dayton Article IV. The significance is even greater in the present period when the Agreement is subject to a process of regional ownership.

Therefore, this Course has provided the necessary information and details on the current developments and the way ahead, thus keeping the interested parties updated on the current developments.

As has been announced, henceforward, each year, the practical part of the Course will be conducted in another signatory state which also attests good cooperation and transparency among the signatory parties, other countries in the region and RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation.

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