



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION
Cooperative Security Environment Pillar

VIENNA DOCUMENT 1999
FORMATION/UNIT
COMMANDERS' COURSE
CSE-06-C

03-08 April 2011, Hungary

Hosted by the Republic of Hungary

Introduction

In accordance with the RACVIAC 2011 programme, the Cooperative Security Environment Pillar (CSE) organized and carried out the “Vienna Document 1999 Formation/Unit Commanders Course” in the period of 03 – 08 April 2011.



Group photo in Kecskemét

The Course was carried out on the territory of the Republic of Hungary in two parts. The theoretical part was held at the Hungarian HDF Central Training Base (CTB) in Szentendre, and the practical part at the Airbase in Kecskemét. The working language of the Course was English.

The purpose of this course was to provide Formation/Unit Commanders with an overview of the VD '99 and to give a

comprehensive theoretical analysis and guidance for practical implementation of activities. It was organized in the spirit and the letter of the VD '99, focusing on the duties and responsibilities of Formation/Unit Commanders engaged in the implementation of the aforementioned document, thus demonstrating the real spirit of the confidence- and security-building measures. The course objectives were:

- To overview the specified elements of the VD '99, highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules and procedures of its implementation;
- To provide participants with information about the current status of the Document (and the “VD '99 +”) and the implementation of the inspections and evaluation visits according to the VD '99;
- To train Formation/Unit Commanders in the subjects related to the planning and conducting of such activities based on the best practices;
- To deepen contacts between representatives of the national armed forces engaged in the accomplishment of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures;
- To provide the participants, especially during the practical part of the course, with an opportunity to exercise an inspection and a visit to a military unit, thus showing representatives of the SEE region ways of working that in the future should constitute a platform for cooperation on the national, regional and international level.

Participation

Twenty-two participants from nine countries participated in the Course, namely from Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (2), Greece (1), Hungary (8), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^(*) (2), Montenegro (2), Serbia (1), Slovenia (2).



In the classroom

Lecturers represented the national arms control agencies and verification centres of Austria (1), Germany (1), Hungary (1), Serbia (1), the Mission of Hungary to the OSCE (1) the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (1), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1) and the Ministry of Defence of Hungary (1).

On the margins of the course director of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, ambassador Nikola Todorčevski met with Mr Peter Siklosi, Deputy State secretary for Defence policy and Planning and discussed issues of cooperation between Hungary and the Centre.

Overview of the Course

This Course, organised for the third time in Hungary, was designed for military personnel of Southeast European region. The four-day Course provided the participants with the opportunity to meet their colleagues from the SEE region, as

^(*) Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

well as to meet representatives/experts from OCSE countries, organizations and agencies, all dealing with the execution of the VD '99 and/or other arms control regimes.

During the theoretical part lecturers delivered presentations on the following topics:

- RACVIAC and future of arms control in the SEE region;
- Hungarian Foreign and Security Policy;
- Challenges and Priorities of the Hungarian Defence Policy;
- OSCE and the Hungarian Mission to OSCE;
- Background of CSBMs in Europe and their Contribution to the International Stability and Peace;
- Challenges of VD '99 & VD+ (Hungarian approach);
- VD'99 Contents, Main Parts of the Document, Basic Definitions;
- Information Exchange Provisions and Notification Formats;
- Risk Reduction;
- Prior Notification & Observation of Certain Military Activities;
- Annual Calendars, Constraining Provisions, Regional Measures;
- Inspection and Evaluation Visit;
- National Experience on the Implementation of the VD'99: Inspection and Evaluation Visit;
- Local Escort and Logistic Support of an Inspection or Visit;
- Safety Measures and Regulations During Inspection and Evaluation Visit.

During the practical part of the Course, the participants carried out a training evaluation visit together with the Defense Threat Agency (DTRA), USA at the Kecskemet Airbase. The programme of the training evaluation visit included:

- Air Base Commander's Presentation;
- Tour of the Airbase facilities;
- Static display of major weapon and equipment systems.

Conclusion

Majority of the participants had intimate knowledge on the VD '99 and/or other arms control regimes and CSBMs, but there were newcomers amongst them as well. All of them were satisfied with the topics chosen and were impressed by the high level of knowledge of the lecturers.



Static display

Both, the theoretical and the practical parts of the Course were well-organized thanks to professionalism and preparedness of the Hungarian hosts, as well as to close

cooperation between RACVIAC and the Hungarian Ministry of Defence.

This Course provided participants with the opportunity to gain both theoretical and practical knowledge of the Vienna Document 1999, to exercise an evaluation visit, thus adding a special value to the Course.

According to the participants' assessments, the Course proved to be successful and well organized. They stated that this Course was valuable for their future work and agreed on the necessity of conducting such courses in the future aimed at contributing to the CSBMs in the region.

Financing and hosting this Course, one of the major activities of the RACVIAC programme, the Republic of Hungary as associate member of RACVIAC demonstrated its commitment and continuous support to our organization and the security of the SEE region.

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