



**RACVIAC - Centre for
Security Cooperation**



**Ministry of Defence
Republic of Serbia**



Danish Defense Command

Aeronautical Search And Rescue

23 - 25 May 2011

IRC-08-CF

EXTERNAL REPORT

Background

Search and rescue (SAR) is the search for and provision of aid to people who are in distress or imminent danger. The general field of search and rescue includes many specialty sub-fields, mostly based upon terrain considerations. These include mountain rescue; ground search and rescue, including the use of search and rescue dogs; urban search and rescue in cities; combat search and rescue on a battlefield and air-sea rescue over water. Search and rescue services, especially aeronautical ones, are organized to respond to persons apparently in distress and in need of help. Nowadays, in order to ensure successful aeronautical search and rescue operations, close coordination and cooperation among countries has become mandatory for each country.

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, the Danish Defense Command and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia have recognized the importance of aeronautical SAR as one of the security issues that should be further discussed and explored for the benefit of the region.

Acknowledgements

RACVIAC owes a debt of gratitude to the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia for hosting a RACVIAC activity for the first time and to the Kingdom of Denmark for both their organizational efforts and financial contribution, which made this Conference possible.

Conference co-organizers, venue, duration and participation

The Conference was planned, organized and executed as a joint event by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia. The event was

held in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia (RS) from 23 to 25 May 2011. It was organized as a three-day event, two of which were working days. The Seminar gathered a total of 59 participants from SEE countries.



Group foto

Conference Agenda

The Conference agenda comprised lectures, national presentations and exchanges of views and experiences on common priorities and challenges, followed by open discussions.

Mr. Zoran Jeftić, State Secretary in the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia, delivered the Welcome Address on 23 May, which officially marked the opening of the working part of the Conference. After having welcomed the participants and wished them fruitful work and a pleasant stay, Mr. Jeftić used the opportunity to say that it was a matter of exceptional honor for his Ministry to be one of the co-organizers of the SAR Conference, which once again confirmed the readiness of the Region to utilize the regional cooperation and dialogue as the best way to achieve lasting stability and prosperity.

On behalf of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, participants were welcomed by Colonel Željko Ceganec, Deputy Director. Col. Ceganec emphasized that the subject matter of Search and Rescue was growing in importance in the light of recent major natural disasters and accidents and the size of human losses resulting there from, thus making close coordination and cooperation among countries indispensable if not mandatory. He expressed his hope that this event would encourage further development of regional cooperation in Search and Rescue issues and outline possible courses of action to follow, while also proving beneficial and valuable in terms of providing the participants with a deeper insight into the current situation in the field of SAR.



From left to right: Mr. Zoran Jeftić, Mr. Igor Jovičić, Ambassador Ms. Mette Kjuel Nielsen and Col. Željko Ceganec

The event proceeded with a presentation by Mr. Dušan Lovre from the Civil Aviation Directorate (CAD), RS. His presentation comprised an overview of the SAR system and the related legislation and documents. More specifically, he addressed the following issues:

- Basic elements of search and rescue and rescue services: legal framework, responsible authority, available resources, communication facilities and a workforce skilled in coordination and operational functions,
- Defining a search and rescue region,
- Involvement of other search and rescue units for assistance in a SAR action,
- Defining equipment for implementation of a SAR action.



The next speaker was Maj Ove Urup-Madsen from the Tactical Air Command Denmark (TACDEN). Besides presenting the Danish SAR Service, Mr. Urup-Madsen provided further information on the definition of SAR, its objectives and organization, Rescue Council of the National Rescue Secretariat, International regulations, SAR Agreements, SAR Alerting System and SAR Agencies.

Following Maj Urup-Madsen's presentation, the floor was open for questions and answers, which gave the audience an opportunity to engage in lively discussions.

As part of the first working day, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia organized a visit to the Air Force Museum in Belgrade. The curator of the Museum made a comprehensive presentation of the exhibits, from historical weapons arsenals and aircraft to air force as a whole and historical excerpts on its development. The visit sparked particular interest among the participants and made a strong impression on them.



Air Museum Visit

At the beginning of the second working day, the host nation organized a visit to the military Airport Batajnica, where the Air Force Brigade personnel executed a presentation of SAR Service equipment and capabilities. During the visit, the participants had an opportunity to observe a compelling SAR exercise involving two helicopters type GAZELA and one MI-8. The exercise demonstrated the Air Force Brigade's ability to successfully execute a SAR mission, which left the participants positively impressed.



The Agenda resumed with a presentation by Mr. Sefik Muhić, PhD, from the Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) on the topic: Crisis management and SAR System: A platform for risk assessment and preparedness planning at different levels.



Working session

Subsequently, the event proceeded with countries' presentations on national search and rescue systems in AL, BA, HR, MK, SI and RS. Different national delegations presented overviews on the organization, structure and capabilities of SAR systems in their respective countries.

Following the national presentations, the floor was taken by Colonel Predrag Bandić, Air Brigade Commander (RS), whose Case study provided the audience with a concrete example of a search and rescue action. Col. Bandić used a traffic accident occurred in one of the neighboring countries as an example of a disastrous event in which it was necessary to use aeronautical search and rescue means in order to help and transfer the injured. Col. Bandić concluded that, in order to have effective and timely rescue operations and to simplify the procedures, it was necessary to ensure:

- a common approach
- official diplomatic clearance for declared SAR aircraft
- common technical agreement.

The last speaker at the Conference was Maj Ove Urup-Madsen, Tactical Air Command Denmark (TACDEN). His presentation was dedicated to the procedures of coordination/cooperation among countries in the field of SAR from the Danish point of view, and possibilities for its simplification/administrative acceleration. Mr. Urup-Madsen highlighted the following necessities:

- Cross border dimension,
- Setting high standards,
- Emergency management: Preparedness-Response-Recovery-Mitigation,

- Ensuring a safe and efficient response in the best interest of the individual in need,
- International regulation: 1. Know your neighbors; 2. Call for help early, 3. Coordination; 4. Regular exercise and 5. Exchange SAR handbooks,
- Optimizing SAR and testing national systems,
- Effective and timely exchange of information,
- Minimizing the time framework - diplomatic clearance.

After Maj Urup-Madsen's address, the floor was open for panel discussions on possibilities for establishing a SAR service network in SEE and enhancing cooperation among SAR services in the use of capacities in a crisis situation.

Conclusions

The Conference brought together national representatives from the region with knowledge and experience in supporting the SAR capacity-building in SEE countries.

The purpose of the Conference, encouraging further development of regional cooperation and preparing the ground for additional improvements in the field of Search and Rescue within the SEE region, was successfully achieved and the Agenda objectives were fully accomplished.

It is recommended to the regional SAR cooperation initiative should be further promoted in the time to come. Within the framework of this initiative, the following areas of interest were proposed for further discussion:

- Developing and establishing an aeronautical search and rescue functional network in SEE,
- Enhancing mutual assistance among search and rescue services and optimizing the use of search and rescue resources in case of disasters with a view to meeting the challenges,
- Simplifying the procedures for requesting mutual assistance among countries in aeronautical search and rescue,
- Drafting the text of a technical agreement, potentially implemented in a regional SAR plan or bilaterally between States.

Compiled by: Mr Milan Janicijevic (MK); IRC Pillar