



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION
Cooperative Security Environment Pillar

VIENNA DOCUMENT 1999
ORIENTATION COURSE
T-05-C

**“Visit to Air Bases, Visit to Military
Facilities or Formations and
Demonstration of New Type of Weapon
System”**

Hungary 25-28 May 2009

**Hosted by the Republic of Hungary,
supported by the Federal Republic of
Germany**

Introduction

In accordance with the RACVIAC 2009 programme, the Cooperative Security Environment Pillar (CSE) organized and carried out “Vienna Document 1999 Orientation Course” T-05-C in the period of 25th – 28th May 2009.



Course participants

The Course was executed on the territory of the Republic of Hungary in two parts, the theoretical part in Budapest, and the practical part in Kecskemét (“Visit to an Air

Base”) and Szentendre (“Visit to a Military Facility or Formation & Demonstration of a New Type of Weapon”). The working language of the Course was English.

The purpose of this course was to provide the participants with a theoretical overview of the Vienna Document 1999 (VD '99), giving a comprehensive analysis on both theoretical and practical level of its implementation. It was organized in the spirit of the VD '99.

The course objectives were as follows:

- To overview the specific elements of the VD '99 highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules and procedures of its execution;
- To provide the participants with information on the current situation in the implementation of the “Visit to an Air Base, Visit to a Military Facility or Formation” and “Demonstration of New Type of Weapon System” of VD '99;
- To focus on the duties and responsibilities of the personnel to be engaged in the implementation of the aforementioned arms control document, thus demonstrating the real spirit of the confidence- and security-building measures
- To train the participants employed as visitors/evaluators or escort team members, in the subjects related to the planning and conducting such activities on the basis of the best practices;
- To deepen contacts between representatives of national organizations and agencies engaged in the accomplishment of arms control and/or

security- and confidence-building measures;

- To provide the participants with an opportunity to exercise or “observe” the real events during the practical part of the course, thus showing areas and ways on how to work in the future through this form of co-operation on national, regional and international level.

This course was designed as a combination of theoretical (lectures/presentations) and practical activities planned to be carried out in Hungary (Budapest, Kecskemét and Szentendre).

Eighteen participants from six MAG countries participated at the Course, namely from Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Croatia (3), The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^(*) (3), Moldavia (3), and Slovenia (3).

Lecturers were invited from Austria (1), Germany (1) and Hungary (1). The three lecturers took part at the theoretical phase of the Course by delivering presentations on their topics. Another 6 assistants (Escort Team members) supported the Course activities during the practical part.

The Execution of the Course

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



Learning the Document

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

- «History – Background of CSBMs in Europe and their Contribution to the International Stability and Peace»
- « VD '99: Contents, Main Components, Structure and Basic Definitions, Connection between the Chapters»
- «VD '99: Detailed analysis of the VD '99»
- “VD '99: Chapter IV, Contacts” focusing on “Visit to an Air Base”, “Visit to a Military Facility or Formation & Demonstration of a New Type of Weapon”.
- “VD '99: Chapter IV, Contacts” The Hungarian Experience and Lessons Learned. Planning and Organising Visit to an Airbase and Military facility.

During the practical part of the Course, the participants were involved in the real activities (“Visit to Air Base” and “Visit to a Military Facility or Formation” & “Demonstration of New Type of Weapon”) demonstrating the spirit of the VD '99.

In accordance with the official Hungarian Programme the activities were as follows:

- Welcome of the National Representatives of the OSCE Countries;

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



*Welcome Address given by Mr. József Bali
State Secretary for Defence Policy HU MoD*

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs Presentation;
- Ministry of Defence Presentation;
- Election for the Spokesperson;
- Air Base Commander's Presentation
- Air Base Visit



The Gripen Hangar



Static display

- Evaluation of the Air Base Visit
- Military Formation Commander's Presentation
- Visit to Military Facility or Formation and Demonstration of a New Type of Weapon System



Visit to Training Area



Static Display of New Type of Weapon

- Evaluation of Visit to Military Facility or Formation

Conclusion

A majority of the participants, arriving from national arms control agencies or verification centres, had intimate knowledge on the VD '99 and/or other arms control regimes and CSBMs, but there were also few part-time inspectors and "new arrivals" amongst them. All of them were satisfied with the topics chosen and with the Course itself.

The practical part of the Course was well-organized thanks to professionalism and preparedness of Hungarian experts, as well as to the good and close cooperation between RACVIAC and the Hungarian Ministry of Defence and Verification Department of the HDF OC.

This Course provided participants with the opportunity to exercise the real events and real life situations as members of the Visitor Team during the practical part of the Course, thus adding a special value to the Course.

The program was quite busy, especially the practical part (in Kecskemét: “Visit to an Air Base” and in Szentendre: “Visit to a Military Facility or Formation & Demonstration of New Type of Weapon”). The participants were interested and highly motivated during the Course. They were impressed by the professionalism of the

Hungarian experts organizing the practical part of the Course. All of the participants showed strong interest to improve their knowledge of the Document.

It must be emphasized that all the participants were attracted by the topics and highly motivated during the Course. According to the participants` assessments, the course proved to be successful and extremely well organized. They stated that this Course was valuable for their future work. At the end of the Course, all of the participants agreed on the necessity of conducting such courses in the future aimed at contributing to the CSBMs in the region.

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