



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Cooperative Security Environment Pillar

Open Skies Treaty Orientation – Aerial Observation Course

29 June – 10 July 2009

*In cooperation with the Federal Republic
of Germany, the Republic of Serbia and
Bulgaria*

(Sponsored by France)

I. INTRODUCTION

According to RACVIAC programme for 2009, the Cooperative Security Environment Pillar (CSE) organized and executed the Open Skies Treaty Orientation – Aerial Observation Course (T-06-C) during the period of **29th June – 10th July 2009**. The course was carried out in English language and it comprised lectures/presentations and a practical phase, executed in Croatia and on the territory of Republic of Serbia (**RACVIAC / Raketje, and at the 204th Airbase Batajnica, in Serbia**). The Course was designed for military representatives of the countries of Southeast European (SEE) region.



Course Participants

Since 2002 RACVIAC has been organizing Courses on Treaty on Open Skies (OST) based on explicitly expressed need of SEE countries. The Course has become one of the most distinctive RACVIAC products, in which the synergy of several institutions comes into play.

The two-week Course provided the participants with the opportunity to meet their colleagues from the SEE region as well as with the representatives/experts coming from different countries and agencies engaged in the execution of the Open Skies Treaty (OST) and/or other arms control regimes for years.

Director of RACVIAC, H.E. Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić, opened the Course. In his welcome address he expressed sincere gratitude to France for their generous financial contribution to the course; to the Republic of Serbia, for offering necessary assistance in co-organizing the practical part on its territory; to Bulgaria, for offering Airplane for aerial observation mission; and to the representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany, for their country's ongoing support to RACVIAC initiatives.

II. PROGRAM/METHODOLOGY

This course was designed as a combination of theoretical (lectures/presentations) and practical activities. The course working language was English.

Location: at RACVIAC/Raketje, and at the Airbase Batajnica/ Republic of Serbia for the practical phase.

The purpose of this course was to train personnel from SEE countries in planning, organizing and executing an Aerial Observation Mission based on the provisions of the Treaty on Open Skies, thus increasing the administrative capacity in security cooperation field.

a) Course Objectives were:

- To overview specific elements of the OST, 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 OST;
- To deepen contacts between representatives of national organizations, agencies engaged in the accomplishment of arms control and/or security- and confidence-building measures;
- To set the example of security cooperation on national, regional and international level.

b) Participation

Seven participants from seven different countries participated in the Course, namely from: Albania (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (1), Moldova (1), Montenegro (1), Republic of Serbia (1) and Slovenia (1). Most of the participants, representing Air Forces and Verification Centres, had only little or no knowledge with regard to the provisions of the Open Skies Treaty. The ratio between the newcomers and the experienced participants was 30%: 70%.

RACVIAC hosted altogether six lecturers from Croatia, Germany and Hungary.

The practical part was executed on the territory of the Republic of Serbia with the assistance and support provided by the German and Serbian Verification Centres and Meteorological Forecast Institution.

Altogether 13 participants, representing 9 countries, attended this Training Course.

c) Overview of the Course

RACVIAC conducted a successful and a well-organised Training Course in Croatia and the Republic of Serbia on the above-mentioned topic with regard to relevant paragraphs of the OST. During the course of the event fruitful cooperation was established between RACVIAC and the Serbian authorities.

The two-week Course provided the participants with the opportunity to meet with their colleagues from the SEE region as well as to meet representatives/experts from organisations and agencies, all dealing with the execution of the OST and/or other arms control regimes.

Altogether six lecturers and 8 instructors (during the practical phase at the 204th Airbase Batajnica) provided assistance and support in the execution of the activity.

The 1st phase (29 June – 05 July) was conducted as a combination of presentations, lectures and a practical work on a mission plan for the accomplishment of the flight. The presentations on the related topics are listed hereunder:



Mr. Robert Barić from Croatia

1. Historical background of Arms Control

* Turkey recognized the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name



LtCol Klaus Kobe from Germany

1. *The Treaty on Open Skies (I. II.)*
2. *OS platforms and sensor suits*



Msgt Michael Laufs from Germany

1. *Film processing, duplication, access to information*



Captain Jörg Stocklassa from Germany

1. *Mission planning (basic information and considerations)*



Captain Vlado Pavlinec from Croatia

1. *OSCE Decisions, Chairman statements*
2. *Mission Plan Negotiation, Mission Report (OSF 15, OSF 14)*
3. *Preparation of receiving an OS mission*



LtCol Gábor Szűcs from Hungary

1. *OS Notifications, Formats*
2. *Certification, pre-flight inspection, demo flight.*
3. *Mission rundown I. II. (Possible timetable of an active mission)*
4. *Preparation of receiving an OS mission (Formats, logistics, OSCC Dec. 1.)*

The invited lecturers covered all the topics efficiently and presented a comprehensive overview of the relevant parts of the Treaty. However, ***there was only a very short discussion*** (“questions and answers”) session after the presentations. At the end of each day there was a “plenary section” aimed at clarifying the issues that occurred.

During the practical phase the participants were divided into two teams and practiced the preparation of a “Mission Plan” for the accomplishment of a real observation flight under the supervision of the lecturers.



Mission planning

The 2nd phase (05 - 10 July) was a preparation for a real mission of the OST at the 204th Airbase Batajnica in the Republic of Serbia with the following elements pertaining to the Treaty:

- POE procedure
- Pre-flight Inspection
- Mission Plan Negotiation (background activities)
- Preparation for the Flight (in flight duties)
- OSF 14 analyzing

The participants were prepared to practice their duties both, as members of the Observation Team and Escort Team on a real Aerial Observation Flight Mission, but unfortunately the demo flight was cancelled due to technical problems.

This course provided participants with an excellent opportunity to “play the role of Observation Team”, the one very similarly to the real events.

III. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the experts’ and participants’ assessments provided at the end of the event, the Course proved successful. Majority of participants, coming from air forces, national arms control agencies or verification centres already had some/basic knowledge about the OST and/or other arms control regimes and CSBMs. It must be underlined that all the participants were attracted by the topics and they were highly motivated during the course.

Issues to be highlighted:

- The invited lecturers covered the relevant theoretical part of the OST. Their professionalism and experience were highly appreciated by the participants. Most of the presentations raised high interest.
- The participants were satisfied with the topics chosen and with the Course in general. They suggested holding similar courses in the future, as well as including some syndicate work and an even more detailed theoretical part.
- Although the demo flight had to be cancelled, the practical phase of the Course was well-organized thanks to the close cooperation between RACVIAC and Serbian Verification Centre.
- It was recommended to follow the current procedures in organizing and arranging both the theoretical and practical phase in the future Courses.

Compiled by: LtCol Kalman Nemeth, Course Director,
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