



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Cooperative Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar

“Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) – Orientation Course”

26-31 March 2023

Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia

Introduction

The “Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) – Orientation Course” was held on 26-31 March 2023 in Novi Sad, Hotel Leopold (theoretical part) and in the Barracks “Boško Palkovljević Pinki”, Sremska Mitrovica (practical part), Republic of Serbia. It was organized with the financial support of the Republic of Austria and Republic of Croatia and was executed in the official languages of the Parties to the Agreement. During both the theoretical and practical part simultaneous translation into English was provided. The Course was conducted with the assistance of five lecturers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Federal Republic of Germany, Montenegro and Republic of Serbia. In addition to the lecturers, five speakers from the signatory countries and OSCE supported the Course.

The purpose of this Course was to instruct participants 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 and confidence as well as transparency in the course of inspections. The objectives of the Course were:

- To inform and educate the participants on the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BA (Dayton Peace Accords), with a particular focus on the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control

- To train the participants in the role of inspectors and escorts within the framework of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control.

The Course was attended by 36 participants, lecturers, speakers and RACVIAC staff. The participants came from Albania (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Croatia (2), DTRA (1), Germany (1), Greece (1), Hungary (1), Italy (1), Montenegro (5), Netherlands (1), North Macedonia (1), Serbia (4), Slovenia (1), South Korea (1), and RACVIAC (6). It lasted four days and consisted of a theoretical and a practical part.

Execution

The first working day of the Course started on Monday, 27 March 2023 with the Opening remarks by Major General (ret.) Jeronim Bazo. In his Opening speech RACVIAC Director emphasized that the Dayton Article IV Course makes a significant contribution to regional stability, transparency and trust and attracts participants not only from the SEE region but the entire world as well. “Last year we had a chance to present at the OSCE not only our Organization but this Course as well as one of our most successful and long-lasting projects. We are proud that we have conducted 26 Dayton Article IV Orientation Courses and trained more than 550 military officers over the last 23 years. Having participants from South Korea, the Netherlands, Italy, USA, Hungary and

Slovenia with us here today proves the importance of this Agreement, not only when it comes to its successful practical application but experience and good practice sharing as well“ stressed MG Bazo. RACVIAC Director thanked the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia for the support it has provided in the organization of the practical phase of the Course and the Republic of Austria and Republic of Croatia for their contribution. He wished all participants successful work in the spirit of trust and cooperation.



*Welcome address by Major General (ret.)
Jeronim Bazo, Director of RACVIAC*

This was followed by speeches given by the representatives of the signatory countries and OSCE, i.e., Mr Momir Brajić, Head of Department for NATO and PfP in the MoD of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Miloš Jončić, Minister Counsellor, MFA of the Republic of Serbia, Mr Miloš Nikolić, Director of the Directorate for the OSCE and the Council of Europe, MFA Montenegro, Ms Svjetlana Šimičić, Head of Arms Control Division in the Croatian Verification Centre, MoD of Republic of Croatia, and Mr Shawn DeCaluwe, Head of FSC Support Section, Conflict Prevention Section in the OSCE.

The representatives of the signatory countries provided the preconditions for the Agreement, views and political background concerning the history and development of the Agreement and the phases of its implementation in the process of confidence and security building measures in the region. Although some challenges were faced in the process, the Agreement is still in use thanks to the clear political commitment of all sides. In addition, this “panel” finished with some Lessons

Learned and possible way forward and sharing of experience.

Mr Shawn DeCaluwe also addressed the participants in regards to the role of the OSCE when it comes to the implementation of the Agreement. He presented the work of the OSCE, both in general in ensuring stability and confidence building and in regards to its role in the Article IV implementation process. He stressed the importance of transparency and dialogue to prevent any kind of conflict while touching on the differences between Dayton and other instruments in building confidence and security. He also informed the participants about the structure, mandate and activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC).

The next topic concerned the Annual Exchange of Information and was covered by LTC Holger Sasse from the Bundeswehr Verification Center (BwVC). He introduced the participants to the command organization and personnel of the armed forces, objects of inspection, declared sites, location of armaments, changes in organizational structures and all formats of notifications.

The first day of the Course ended with Protocol on Reduction, Protocol on Existing Types (POET).

The second day started with the Protocols on Inspection covering sections one to five of the Agreement. Protocols on Inspection – sections one to three explained all issues regarding the basic definitions, general obligations, pre-inspection requirements, practical examples based on the experience of a lecturer while the Protocol on Inspection-Sections four to five gave info about notification of intent to inspect, preparation of an inspection, timeline planning and procedures at the point of entry/exit.



Group Photo

The event continued with Protocol on Inspection-Sections six to ten by a lecturer with integration of OSCE guest observers during the Inspections. Through the Protocol on Inspection - Sections six to seven participants were afforded explanations on all activities about the Conduct of an inspection and how to develop the Inspection Report. At the end of the second day the participants were divided into two groups as inspection and escort teams. The day was finalized with the preparation for the training inspection.

On the third working day the first part of the practical part was executed. A training inspection was carried out by the participants supported by lecturers on the premises of the “Boško Palkovljević Pinki” Barracks in Sremska Mitrovica. During the training inspection the whole process of inspection (preparation, execution and debriefing) was demonstrated and practiced. The participants were able to take part in, observe and ask questions at all points of the training. The Inspection Report and Debriefing was carried out by participants under the supervision of lecturers.



Demonstration inspection in the “Boško Palkovljević Pinki” Barracks – Sremska Mitrovica

The last day of practical work was held in the same barracks as the day before albeit in changed roles. All participants went through the same process as on the previous day.

On the second day of the practical part and the last day of the Course, after the training inspection, including the inspection report and debriefing, MG Slaven Zdilar, RACVIAC Deputy Director, closed the „Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) – Orientation Course“ and handed out the certificates to the participants who praised the content and outcome of the Course, and made constructive suggestions for the future. MG Zdilar expressed hope that the Course has had added value in terms of gaining more knowledge, getting to know each other and building an even bigger and stronger expert community in this field. He also pointed out the significance of having so many participants from the countries that are not signatories of the Dayton Agreement and from outside the region.

Conclusion

Participants as well as lecturers were highly motivated during the whole Course thus contributing to its conspicuous success. RACVIAC is pleased that we have succeeded once again in inviting highly professional lecturers who were ready to share their expertise, lessons learned and views, and assisting our participants in achieving the maximum goals. Their knowledge and extensive experience contribute to maintaining the high reputation of this Course.

**Compiled by Ms Glorija Ivković, Business and MAG Secretary,
RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation**