



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Cooperative Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar

“Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) – Orientation Course” 17-22 March 2024 Budva, Montenegro

Introduction

The “Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV) – Orientation Course” was held on 17-22 March 2024 in Budva, Hotel “Avala” (theoretical part), the Barracks of the Air Force “Golubovac”-Podgorica as well as the 1st Infantry Battalion “Danilovgrad” (practical part), Montenegro. It was organized with the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany, 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 six lecturers and five speakers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federal Republic of Germany, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Croatia and OSCE. In addition to the lecturers, five speakers from the signatory countries 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 about 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 **53** participants, lecturers, speakers and RACVIAC staff. The participants came from the Republic of Albania (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5), Republic of Croatia (5), French Republic (2), Federal Republic of Germany (2), Italian Republic (1), Montenegro (6), OSCE (1), Republic of Serbia (5), North Macedonia (1), South Korea (1), BACA (3), the Kingdom of the Netherlands (1), DTRA/US (6), Kingdom of Spain (1), Hellenic Republic (1), Slovakia (1), and RACVIAC (10). It lasted four days and consisted of a theoretical and a practical part.

Execution



Welcome address by Col Ivan Mašulović – Head of Verification Center of MoD Montenegro

The Course was opened by Colonel Ivan Mašulović, MoD/Arms Control Inspector, Verification Center of Montenegro and H.E. Ambassador Constantin-Mihail Grigorie, Director of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation.

In his Welcome Speech Colonel Mašulović thanked all the participants for their attendance in this Course and participation. He thanked the Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Constantin-Mihail Grigorie, as well as the entire RACVIAC team, headed by Mr. Predrag Omrčen, for their great efforts and enthusiasm as well as dedication, which were jointly invested in order to successfully implement this activity.

Ambassador Constantin-Mihail Grigorie, RACVIAC Director, highlighted the current security challenges in our environment. Ambassador Grigorie stressed that the Agreement has been a very significant instrument of confidence and security building in the region as well as a means of reinforcing stability. As a result the Course, being one of the most important annual events of RACVIAC, also makes a significant contribution to regional stability, transparency and trust, he underlined. Ambassador Grigorie also thanked the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro for the support it has provided in the organization of the practical phase of the Course and the Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Austria and Republic of Croatia for their contribution.



Welcome address by Ambassador Constantin-Mihail Grigorie, 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, Ms Svjetlana Šimičić, Head of Arms Control Division in the Croatian Verification Centre, MoD of Republic of Croatia, Mr Miloš Nikolić, Director of the Directorate for the OSCE and Council of Europe, MFA of the Republic of Montenegro, and Mr Shawn DeCaluwe, Chief, FSC Support Unit/Conflict Prevention Centre OSCE.



Course participants

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, the “panel” finished with the 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. Mr DeCaluwe 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 Frank Gillisen 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 the Protocol on Reduction, Protocol on Existing Types (POET), presented by Col Radivoje Radović, Head of the Department for Military History and Tradition of Montenegro.

The second day started with the Protocols on Inspections 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.



CSE 2-24 Group Photo

The event continued with the 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 the lecturers on the premises of the Barracks “Golubovci” in Podgorica. 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. On the way back to Budva, MoD of Montenegro organized a cultural programme for the participants. They visited King Nikola’s Museum in Cetinje and were informed about the rich history of Montenegro.



Conduct of an inspection

The last day of practical work was planned to be carried out in the barracks of the 1st Infantry Battalion in Danilovgrad. As during the previous day, albeit in changed roles, all participants once again went through the same process.

The Course was closed by an evaluation and a brief Closing ceremony in the military barracks in Danilovgrad in which the participants were given certificates of successful completion of the Course. The certificates were distributed by Deputy Director of RACVIAC, RADM Predrag Stipanović. In his Closing Speech Deputy RADM Stipanović expressed pride that RACVIAC has conducted 28 Dayton Article IV Orientation Courses so far and trained more than 550 military officers over the last 24 years. In his speech he thanked the hosts, the representatives of the Arms Control Verification Center of the Ministry of

Defence of Montenegro, who made a huge effort and showed exceptional hospitality and professional attitude towards the participants of the Course.



Distribution of certificates by DDIR RADM Predrag Stipanović

He also pointed out the significance of having so many participants from the countries which are not signatories of the Dayton Agreement and outside the region.

Conclusion

Participants as well as lecturers were highly motivated during the entire Course thus contributing to its conspicuous success.

Compiled by Predrag Omrčen, AC, CSE Pillar
RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation

**RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR
SECURITY COOPERATION**
www.racviac.org