



**REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE
CENTRE
(RACVIAC)**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO 10th SP WT III MEETING

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. After 4 years of its existence, RACVIAC is a well-established institution in SEE. It focuses, in essence, on the organization of seminars and courses in a rather broad spectrum of issues with visible impacts – RACVIAC has hosted over 2400 participants from 30 countries in 75 activities up to now. It provides a platform for dialogue, exchange of views, promoting co-operation and is a respected institution not only for arms control (AC) training. RACVIAC is successful and its contribution for SEE countries is appreciated.

2. The first phase of RACVIAC was characterized by an enthusiastic and successful build-up, focussing on regional AC training mainly. In parallel aspects for promotion of dialogue and co-operation amongst SEE states were touched. Germany ensured full financial funding and Croatia provided the essential infrastructure. Participants in RACVIAC's activities were mainly military personnel; co-operation with other institutions was limited at the beginning. Around the beginning of 2003, it was commonly felt among MAG countries that RACVIAC has successfully trained personnel in aspects of implementation of AC.

3. The second phase of RACVIAC is characterized by a refocus of its activities, emphasising military-politico issues. Lessons learned, dialogue and awareness rising in a broader spectrum of security sector reform (Demobilization & Retraining, SALW, Disaster Management, Border Management, CWC, Dual Use & Export Control). AC training has been maintained (DAYTON Art IV, Vienna Document 99, Open Skies, CFE, English AC Terminology). The scope of participants has increasingly included members of ministries outside the MOD (MFA, MOI, Ministry of Education), from the civil society as well as parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, and NGOs. The funding changed to multilateral contributions, which now also includes contributions from some SEE states (S&M, TR, GR, MK, IT). The number of activities has increased and co-operation with other institutions, working in the same fields, (DCAF, SEESAC, SIPRI, NATO, OPCW, SEDM, UNDP, DPPI, OSCE), has been expanded significantly.

PRESENT SITUATION

4. After the 8th MAG Meeting and the adoption of the RACVIAC Medium Term Strategy, RACVIAC has gradually incorporated the following activities into its annual programmes:

- Reform of armed forces (democratic control of armed forces, code of conduct, downsizing & retraining)
- Confidence and security building measures (orientation course for site commanders)
- Selected border management (co-operation with DCAF, Police Forum Meeting of the Chiefs of Anti-Drugs units, OCHRID border process Meeting)
- SALW (co-operation with SEESAC, 2 years of implementation of SALW SP Plan)

- Export control of dual-use equipment (co-operation with SIPRI)
- Disaster Management (in co-operation with DPPI, SEDM, UNDP, NATO, civil-military co-operation, protection of critical infrastructure)

5. Regarding co-operation, RACVIAC has signed 2 MoUs (with SEESAC and DCAF), has started a strong co-operation with SIPRI and OPCW, and hosted 2 meetings with other major relevant organizations dealing with similar issues in the region with the aim of finding out where increased co-operation and support between our organisations could take place in the future, thus avoiding duplication of effort and therefore maximising our resources.

6. RACVIAC activities continue to be well accepted and fully booked by participants from the region, and we have hosted a number of high ranking visitors, including the Ministers of Defence of S&M and BA.

7. TR has acceded to the agreement, and MD has become a full member of the MAG and intends to send a member of permanent Staff, who will be sponsored by NL. In addition, the US will rejoin the MAG as an Observer nation.

8. Problems regarding the budget for the current year has been solved by additional contributions from DE, thus enabling us to carry out the full programme of activities planned in 2004. At the 10th MAG Meeting, the programme for 2005 was adopted, and copies of this programme are available.

ACTIVITIES

10. Since June this year, RACVIAC has executed a further 10 activities:

- In the field of AC: An Open Skies Course with a real flying mission focused on BA; An Orientation Course for Site Commanders (BA, HR, S&M) with the opportunity for first time to discuss their obligations during different inspections and visits; a Dayton IV Inspection and Escort course with the practical phase in BA, an orientation course on CFE and the Adapted CFE.
- Regarding Military-political issues: Demobilization and retraining working group in co-operation with DCAF; a SALW awareness support pack workshop; Evaluation of the 2nd year of implementation of the SP's SALW Plan; a Seminar on Contemporary Leadership in the Armed Forces; for the first time RACVIAC held a Seminar on Dual use/export control in co-operation with SIPRI; a Disaster Management Workshop focused on protection of critical infrastructure in co-operation with DPPI and NATO

GAPS

11. There are however, some areas of concern at present:

- The input from SEE states regarding programme, RACVIAC's further development and the overall interest in RACVIAC's activities may be assessed as decreasing.
- The originally demand-driven approach became questionable.
- RACVIAC's impact regarding concrete solutions of pressing problems in SEE has been mainly indirectly, with the exception of significant success in specific AC issues. RACVIAC therefore has in general terms a predominantly complementary function still.

- Many other organisations and institutions are working in similar fields as RACVIAC. Its unique AC profile in SEE of the first phase got blurred and has not yet been replaced by a new clear identity.
- The required Budget for 2005 is not entirely ensured.
- There remains some incompatibility of the planning processes with partner organizations.
- RACVIAC is not able to provide expertise in analyzing the real needs of SEE countries.

PERSONNEL

12. The biggest challenge for the near future will be the availability of an appropriate number of permanent staff with sufficient expertise. SEE states are faced with the task to employ significant numbers of their personnel in the framework of PfP, NATO, and EU and in connection with international operations.

13. Some MAG countries are no longer sending staff members such as BG, FR and GB. This trend might continue. Posts remain vacant for long periods, and some posts are still unfilled, even after a year. Filling of vacant positions is still characterized by improvisation rather than by long term planning.

14. Increasing difficulties exist regarding recruitment of personnel that can cope with RACVIAC's new focus and more military-politico direction. MAG countries should try to include, increasingly, personnel from outside of the arms control and even the military community. The more demanding our programme becomes, the more relevant expertise of staff members will become. Regional ownership has to be carried by regional responsibility.

15. The legal situation is not solved for all member states, affecting the legal status of personnel serving on the permanent staff.

16. The experience of participants from the countries of the region sometimes does not correspond to the required level of knowledge (English knowledge and professional expertise). We also have increasing difficulty to find qualified lecturers.

FUTURE

17. Until the end of this year RACVIAC will organize three additional activities:
- A Training week for parliamentarian staff experts from SEE in co-operation with DCAF focused on Defence Budgeting and relation with Media,
 - An English AC Terminology course with support from countries from the region and UK,
 - A Seminar providing Information on AC regimes focused at parliamentarians, journalists and civil society.

18. In 2005 RACVIAC, will continue with AC issues as well as with the widened scope of Politico-Military issues and refocused target audience (Parliamentarians, politicians, decision makers, journalists, civil society, NGOs). In the programme for next year, RACVIAC plans

to execute 20 activities in the field of politico-military issues and security dialogue, AC and Disaster Management (see attached draft programme 2005).

19. RACVIAC will try to establish better links to organizations who have expertise in analysis of security sector reform, and who could advise us on the real needs and the priorities of the SEE countries (SP, NATO, SEDM, UNDP, DPPI, OSCE, EU, SIPRI, OPCW, CPC).

20. To achieve this goal, RACVIAC will on the other hand strengthen and re-establish contacts with high ranking officials of SEE countries. Regarding this we need the help of the Stability Pact, as well as for a stable financing of RACVIAC for the future.