



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Physical Security and Stockpile Management Course

*in cooperation with
the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sports of the Republic of Austria,
the Bundeswehr Verification Centre (BwVC) of the Federal Republic of Germany,
the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), USA and Switzerland*

**RACVIAC, the Republic of Croatia
05-09 November 2012**

1. INTRODUCTION

The safe storage and disposal of aging weapons and munitions is a serious concern to the region of South East Europe (SEE). The countries of the region and international organizations have addressed this issue several times, making sincere efforts to decrease the threat to people, property and the environment. Joining these efforts, and with a view to promoting the Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) of arms, ammunition and explosives in the SEE region, RACVIAC organized, in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sports of the Republic of Austria, the Bundeswehr Verification Centre (BwVC) of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), USA and Switzerland a PSSM Technical Level Course from 05 to 08 November 2012. This course was the third one focusing on the PSSM and sponsored by the Republic of Austria. The DTRA supported the activity by providing modules of the course agenda and participant handouts.



Course Photo

2. PROGRAMME/METHODOLOGY

The course lasted for four days. It was carried out in English and it comprised lectures/presentations and a visit to the National Laboratory of the Republic of Croatia.

2.1 Purpose and Objectives

The course was aimed at training technical personnel to handle national stockpiles, implementing operational procedures and exchanging ideas on potential improvements of security and management, as well as at introducing best international practices in Physical Security and Stockpile Management. This Technical Level Course was designed for personnel involved in the in-service surveillance of all types of conventional ammunition, particularly the employees of national laboratories.

The objectives were:

- To train experts in executing their professional duties;
- To provide profound experiences to technical personnel;
- To analyze main challenges in stockpile management;
- To exchange information and introduce national laboratory procedures.

2.2 Participation

Eighteen participants took part in the course, namely three from Albania, two from Bosnia and Herzegovina, four from Croatia, two from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, one from Serbia, three from Slovenia, one from ITF Enhancing Human Security and two representatives of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

There were three instructors from the DTRA (1), Germany (1) and Switzerland (1) with an excellent background and knowledge of the PSSM, ammunition surveillance and laboratory testing methods.



In the Classroom

2.3 Overview of the Course

The course was conducted as a combination of presentations, lectures and a tabletop exercise. The presentations covered a wide range of topics related to the PSSM: Risk Management, Internal Security, External Security, Arms Security, Emergency Planning and Response, Ammunition Basics, Net Explosive Weight Hazards, UN Hazard Classification, Ammunition Compatibility, Ammunition Paintings and Markings, Ammunition Storage, Ammunition Recognition, Ammunition Surveillance, Laboratory Testing Methods.

Besides the presentations covering the above-mentioned topics, the course provided an opportunity to exchange information on national experiences with ammunition surveillance and laboratory testing methods used in the SEE region. It also provided a platform to openly discuss accidents at ammunition depots and factories and to address challenges faced by the participating countries with respect to the aging ammunitions and explosives.



Visit to the Laboratory

3. SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants returned to their respective armed forces, international organizations and verification centres with increased expertise in the covered aspects of the PSSM and a capability to apply the gained knowledge in their current or future positions. Having been acquainted with the best international practices, they gained the ability to assess the status of national stockpiles and make recommendations for improvements, if necessary. Additionally, the exchange of information and visit to the laboratory of the Republic of Croatia allowed the SEE countries to get an insight into the laboratory testing methods used in the region and equally high-level standards can be set and applied.

The PSSM remains a challenge for the SEE region. RACVIAC and the course team believe that a continuous effort, especially in terms of providing appropriate education and training, can contribute to finding successful solutions to the challenges posed by stockpile security. Therefore, RACVIAC will, together with its partners, continue organizing this type of courses on a regular basis. The next course has been scheduled for November 2013.

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*Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.