



## **CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION**

### **Cooperative and Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar**

#### **Physical Security and Stockpile Management Workshop**

**18-20 February 2014, Rakitje, Croatia**

*Organised in cooperation with the Verification Centre of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence and Sport and the Bundeswehr Verification Centre.*

#### **Introduction**

The Physical Security and Stockpile Management Workshop is part of a traditional project activity carried out by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in cooperation with the Verification Centre of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence and Sport and the Bundeswehr Verification Centre.

The workshop focused on training executive managers to assess national stockpiles, operational procedures and infrastructure and provide ways for potential improvements to security and management, as well as to introduce best international practices in Physical Security and Stockpile Management.

The workshop objectives were:

- To train experts in executing their professional duties;
- To analyze main challenges in stockpile management and find ways for improvement;
- To specify necessary requirements for a possible course on SALW/CA matters in the second half of the year with the same participants;

- To increase participants' capabilities in organizing, planning and conducting PSSM workshops, courses;
- To raise awareness of a complex regional issue in its entirety and to enhance regional/national ownership;
- To evaluate the real needs of the countries in the region regarding PSSM;
- To strengthen the commitment of relevant political and military decision makers and experts.
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The workshop participants came from the following countries: Albania (3), Austria (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (4), Croatia (2), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* (2), Germany (1), Montenegro (2), Serbia (1). They were both senior and junior military officials and civilians dealing with ammunition and stockpile issues.



*Workshop participants*

The workshop was conducted with the assistance of seven (7) lecturers: Mr Eric Berman (SAS, Geneva); Dr Edward Harriman (Brook Lapping Productions Ltd, UK), Mr John Martin (OSCE, Sarajevo), Mr Blaž Mihelić (ITF, MoD SI), Col Richard Monsberger (MoD AT, Verification Centre), Mr Jasmin Porobić (UNDP, Sarajevo), Mr Thomas Taylor (MSIAC).



*First working day*

It was carried out as a combination of lectures and presentations followed by questions and answers, completed by national presentations and syndicate work, whose aim was to assess and compare the needs of the countries of the region. This workshop was designed with the goal to share expertise, opinions and lessons learned, to identify problems and find possible solutions, as well as to explore the way ahead. The workshop also provided a favourable environment and atmosphere for valuable and focused discussions.

### **Execution**

The workshop began on 19 February 2014 with the welcome address of the Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Branimir Mandić, which was followed by the opening remarks given by the Head of the Verification Centre of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence and Sport, Col Richard Monsberger, which were followed by the opening remarks of LtCol Kerstin Bekaan (Bundeswehr Verification Centre, Germany).



*Opening remarks of the representative of the Bundeswehr Verification Centre, LtCol Kerstin Bekaan*

Finally, as part of the first panel, the floor was given to Mr John Martin as the first presenter. Col Richard Monsberger together with Mr Blaž Mihelić, was an excellent moderator of the two-day event.

During the first working day (Wednesday, 19 February) the following topics were presented:

- *PSSM in BiH: OSCE perspectives, successes and future challenges* by Mr John Martin, Deputy Director, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Department of Security Co-operation (DSC).

Mr Martin gave a brief overview of the PSSM issues, the OSCE perspectives in BA, and BA's SALW strategy, emphasizing that 40,000 surplus SALW are now in the hands of the AF BA and that an estimated 750,000 SALW are in private hands. AF BA has 12 ammunition and 4 weapon storage sites – which is too much for a country and army of such size – and these sites do not meet the requirements of the international safety and security standards, Martin stressed. He also noted that the objectives are 1. to improve the legal framework and the SALW legislation implementation; 2. to reduce the illegal SALW presence; 3. To put the management into the right hands; 4. international and regional cooperation, including NGOs. Mr Martin also emphasized the importance of the need for the coordination of efforts (OSCE, UNDP, EUFOR, etc.).

- *Unplanned Explosions at Munitions Sites (UEMS): understanding and countering the threat* by Mr Eric Berman, Managing Director, Small Arms Survey, Geneva, Switzerland.

Ms Berman gave an insight into the activity of the SAS, a Geneva-based institution that provides analyses to governments and receives support primarily from governments. SAS benefits from its network with the UN and the civil society. He outlined the SAS projects, defining the threats to peace and security, such as the proliferation of small arms and ammunition, which undermines development, hampers peace and humanitarian operations, threatens civilian aviation, etc. The PSSM's role is to engage in preventive measures. As far as UEMS are concerned, Mr Berman highlighted that in 35 years more than 500 incidents happened, which shows what impact UEMS have on careers, clarifying that these incidents have career-shortening effects on decision makers.

- *Unplanned Explosions at Munitions Sites (UEMS) Lessons learned - Case studies* by Mr Blaž Mihelić, ITF Enhancing Human Security, Slovenia.

Mr Mihelić gave an overview of the statistics concerning UEMS, emphasizing that the number of exploded sites is larger than the number of UEMS. His presentation was illustrated by inserted videos of explosions of storage sites like the ones in Turkmenistan (Abadan: a long, days-lasting event), Uzbekistan (Kagan: aerial bombs), Russia (Pogachevo), Turkey (Afyonkarahisar: lots of planning mistakes), Cyprus (storage site too close to a power plant) and the worst of all, Congo (Brazzaville: in the middle of the city). Mr Mihelić mentioned also other accidents, like, f.e., the accident that occurred in Slovenia (Poganci, 1970: no reports), Croatia (Sesvete, 1990s: close to civilians), Serbia (Paracin: open stores). Finally, the audience could see pictures of a high-tech ammunition depot in France.

- *Introduction to the Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group (MSAG) and the Austrian/MoDS engagement in SALW projects* by Col Richard Monsberger, Head of Verification Centre, Federal Ministry of Defence and Sport, Austria.

Col Monsberger spoke about the SALW/CA international documents, pointing out the role of the MSAG, which founded in 2005 and has 15 member states. The MSAG is a group of like-minded states, and has no chair, nor a leader. Regarding the AT engagement in related programs he explained the general principles and the philosophy behind it, as a form of national/regional ownership, which is need-based and target-oriented in nature, and stated that it must be organized according to international standards and best practices. In connection to the AT MoD supported SALW/CA activities in 2013-14, the audience was updated about the PSSM awareness activity (RACVIAC – since 2008; Kenya – since 2012; Ghana – has not started yet) and the PSSM capacity building activity (Bosnia and Herzegovina – starting in 2011, a long term one; Moldova – starting in 2013 in collaboration with the OSCE).

The aforementioned lectures were followed by presentations by the participants from the following countries: AL, BA, HR, ME, MK, RS, describing the present situations regarding PSSM in their countries. AL is in possession of 2651 tons of surplus ammunition and according to Maj Arriku the political will and commitment, transparency, cooperation of the central and local governments and adherence to safety standards are necessary for the destruction of this ammunition. In BA, another 20 years are needed for the destruction of the surplus ammunition. HR had 68 ammunition storage sites in 1995, 16 in 2013 and according to the plans 4 of those will continue to exist. In 2006 ME had 10,767 tons of surplus ammunition and

62,702 tons of surplus small arms, while in 2013 they were in possession of 3,862 and 16,114 tons, respectively. In the recent period, MK hasn't experienced such problems. RS in 2006 had 32,000 tons of surplus ammunition and in 2014 ca. 7,000 tons. Since July 2011 they have only covered ammunition storage sites.



*Mr Eric Berman, Director, Small Arms Survey, Geneva*

The second day of the Workshop was devoted to three more presentations and discussions/syndicate work by the participants.

- *UEMS or Proliferation - Safety or Security of Storage Depots* by Mr Jasmin Porobić, UNDP Sarajevo Office.

Mr Porobić, who works as a human security program manager at the UNDP Sarajevo Office emphasized the contrast between UEMS and proliferation, safety and security. The UNDP – together with the OSCE and the government of BA – helps the MoD in ammunition management through training of senior officers. The general purpose is to prevent the UEMS. Until this day, he underlined, 11,000 tons of ammunition have been destroyed, including 400 bombs and 100 missile systems.

- *Supporting the Munitions Safety Community; In-Service Surveillance Program; Training to NATO Standards* by Thomas Taylor, MSIAC NATO HQ, Brussels.

Mr Taylor first gave an overview of the MSIAC's- which is a NATO project office-activity and later on about the U.S. Army Ammunition Stockpile Reliability Program (ASRP). He informed the audience about the US Army In-service Surveillance Program. At the end of his presentation he suggested that RACVIAC should send a representative to the meetings of MSIAC or events organized by MSIAC and pay attention to MSIAC's website.

- *Some Western Perceptions of Physical Security and Stockpile Management in South-Eastern Europe* by Dr Edward Harriman, Director, Brook Lapping Productions Ltd, United Kingdom.

Dr Harriman, who as a film director and university professor was a unique lecturer and guest of the Workshop emphasized that the news are not correct in the strict sense of the word, that they are only dry facts. The documentaries are news stories, films about the context. The films are made for two types of audiences: 1. large, general, popular audiences, millions of spectators; 2. professionals and experts in the field. Next he underlined that the best world is a stable, democratic world. As far as productions themselves go, he said that they are realistic, frank, and cover virtually the entire context. The public is absolutely fascinated by weapons, science, technology, interested in explosions, demolition, etc. They are not interested in what their subjects say, rather how they say it, Dr Harriman pointed out. In the two video clips he showed during his presentation the participants of the workshop could watch parts from a documentary, capturing storage sites of the Russian nuclear subs, highly radioactive wrecks, in Novaja Zemlja and the Kola Peninsula (he named the latter a huge nuclear waste site).

Later on during the workshop the participants engaged in syndicate work, forming two groups, one including the participants from AL, BA, (MK participants had to leave earlier, due to the departure



time of their airplane) and another consisting of participants from HR, ME, RS.

*(Topics & Questions)*

How to calculate ammunition for storage? Ammunition accountability, destroying, demolition techniques? Ammunition identification? What kind of enhanced cooperation and coordination in regards to PSSM is possible? Look at the future! Future role of RACVIAC in PSSM?

*(Conclusions, Proposals)*

*1<sup>st</sup> group.* The suggestion is that the countries of the region must get acquainted with the translated manuals and relevant policies of NATO. Training and going to exercises, performed together with the countries in the region, is important, as well as to make an implementation plan. As far as risk management goes, it is necessary to envisage other countries' databases. As regards future cooperation, apart from training, in view of the surplus issues it seems to be good to have meetings (for J-4 Directors of the region) once a year – along A5 lines – and exchange information (f.e., AL has the industrial capacity for demolition but its legislation must start exploiting this capacity).

*2<sup>nd</sup> group.* This group cited as important the working together (HR has some capability, BA also, and so on) to minimize expenses. Regarding to risk (and inventory) management, the creation of a common identification system is important, along western standards. In addition: disposal methodology and technology with possibilities for regional cooperation (A5 initiative) in order to implement the best practices.

Also, it was agreed that a future event about PSSM, envisaged to be held in the next year, is to be organized according to the needs of region and based on the feedbacks

from the questionnaires to be submitted to the MAG POC's during summer.

**Conclusion**



*Lecturers of the workshop*

Thanks to the cooperation between RACVIAC, the Austrian MoD and the Bundeswehr, a great number of high-level lecturers took part in this workshop. Their professionalism and experience, as well as their presentations, were highly appreciated by all participants.

According to the participants' evaluations, the workshop was successful, very interesting and well organized. Most of the participants were members of national authorities dealing with ammunition and stockpile issues in their countries and they considered it valuable for their future work.

The participants were highly motivated during the workshop and they showed deep interest in the subject matter.

This event proved to be a good example of a strong cooperation among RACVIAC, the Verification Centres of MoD AT and the Bundeswehr, respectively. RACVIAC, in cooperation with its partners in this successful event, will continue to promote the issue of the right management of ammunition and weapons with all of the means at its disposal.

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\* *Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.*