

Geneva, February 24, 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Invitation to the 7th Workshop of the South East Europe Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction (RASR) Initiative.

It is our pleasure to invite you to attend **the 7th RASR Workshop**, which will be held from 12 to 15 May 2014 in the Hilton Hotel, Sofia, Bulgaria.

The Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction (RASR) initiative is a long-term, coordinated, regional approach to address the threats posed by excess, unstable, loosely secured or otherwise at-risk stockpiles of conventional weapons and munitions in South East Europe. RASR's ultimate goal is to contribute to regional security by working to prevent disastrous explosions and destabilizing diversions of stockpiled conventional weapons and ammunition.

The 7th RASR workshop will focus on **RASR countries' training curriculum in the field of Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM), i.e. needs, successes, and limitations of existing instruction, and its effectiveness.** This will be a technical-level meeting concentrating on training needs and experiences among RASR-participating states. The workshop is intended for senior MoD officials from the RASR-participating countries in charge of conventional weapons and ammunition logistics and PSSM training.

Nominated government representatives will be requested to give a brief presentation (20 minutes maximum) on their country's:

- remaining surplus ammunition stockpile and if/when they expect to process it;
- national logistics/ammunition schools and courses;
- PSSM training needs and successes;
- experience with foreign-supported training [answering questions: What has worked well (and why)? And what has worked less well (and why)?];
- evaluation of "train-the-trainer" approaches; and
- issues concerning retention and career advancement within the ranks for skilled staff.

Working language of the workshop is English, with interpretation provided in BCMS and Bulgarian only.



Please note that accommodation costs for a maximum of two government representatives from each RASR-participating country will be provided by the U.S. Government. Other participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses. The detailed agenda of the meeting and logistical information will be shared with you at a later stage on the RASR website.

Registration documents are available at the following address:

<http://www.rasrinitiative.org/workshop-7th.php>

The workshop will include a field visit to a Bulgarian ammunition depot on 14 May. In addition, participants will be given the opportunity to visit a private demilitarization plant on 15 May. Please note that this second visit is *optional*. In order to be able to finalise all the logistical aspects of your participation to the workshop, we would kindly request that you **send your registration forms as well as your Leahy Vetting forms by 01 April 2014 at the latest**, to the following email address:

natasa.ursic@itf-fund.si

We look forward to receiving confirmation of your participation in this workshop and hope to see you in Sofia.

Sincerely,



Eric G. Berman
Chair, RASR Initiative Steering Committee (2013-2014)
Managing Director
Small Arms Survey

