Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, 01 October 2003. SEESAC has a responsibility within its mandate to advise on cross border control issues, the management of information and to provide support to projects relating to the control of SALW within the South Eastern Europe region.

At the recent 1st SECI Anti-Terrorism Task Force (SALW Group) Meeting in Ankara, Turkey during June 2003 participating nations requested specific training in weapons and firearms intelligence. In response to this request, SEESAC, the SECI Centre for Combating Trans-border Crime and the UK National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) cooperated on the development of a training package.

The inaugural Weapons and Firearms Intelligence training course was conducted at the SECI Centre from 22 - 25 September 2003. The course included training in deployable weapons intelligence units, the intelligence cycle (with emphasis on SALW), the Interpol Weapons and Explosives Tracing System (IWETS), a national intelligence model for SALW, a one day participatory exercise and the detection of concealed bulk ammunition and weapons. Instructors were provided from SEESAC, NCIS and an independent consultant. The SECI Centre was responsible for administration, whilst the course was funded by SEESAC and the US FBI.

Students from eleven countries in the region attended the course, representing national intelligence agencies, police criminal intelligence units and customs services. The post-course critique indicated that the course had proved extremely valuable to the students and they recommended that it should be repeated for more students during the next twelve months.
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