



International Bodyguard & Security Services Association

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Report on the 4th International Championship of Snipers 10 – 12 April 2002, Zlin/Czech Republic

“We do not take lives we protect them”

Snipers from all over the world met at the 4th International Championship of Snipers organised by IBSSA Czech Republic and its mother company GRADDO holding in co-operation with the Police Academy of the CR and URNA CR. From the structures of the International Bodyguard and Security Services Association (IBSSA) the personal protection of the Championship was accepted by the Executive President – Dr. George POPPER and the Vice-President – Dr. Marko NICOVIC. The international protection over the Championship was taken over by the twice ex-minister of the British Parliament and the British MP Tony Baldry.

Action films created positive as well as negative image of a sniper. At the present time, snipers are an inherent part of the special unit teams URNA, VEGA, SEK, GSC, OMEGA and ALFA. In compliance with the film image, we usually imagine a sniper to be a nerveless professional with a modern gun who can decide about results of many demanding safety and security events. This idea is not far from the reality. Snipers are those who save human lives in extreme situations.

More than one hundred elite snipers from Israel, Germany, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, the USA, Belorussia, the Ukraine, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia met on 9th April 2002 in the evening in the beautiful natural multi-functional complex of the company GRADDO, a.s. - Graddoland in Jasenná u Zlína, Czech Republic, to festively start at the initial social event with attractive culture programme as guests of the holding GRADDO the 4th International Championship of Snipers. The competition was held at the local police shooting range between 10th – 12th April 2002.

„It is a different principle than in rifle competitions. Different targets are used for shooting. Ballistics, camouflage and surveillance can significantly affect the results. The first shot decides. During the Championship, each participant will have maximally 2 shots per each target. There is a time limit set for shooting,“ stated Karel Kratochvíl, the main referee of the competition and the shooting instructor of the Police Academy.

The conditions of the competition – the target types, contents, time course of individual shooting tasks and the method of their evaluation – were very close to the conditions of a real event as experienced by elite snipers. The snipers participated in 11 disciplines of the Championship. Most of them included shooting to targets. There was also a competition in camouflage and surveillance. The first position in the competition of teams and individuals from the year 2001 was defended by snipers from the fast intervention team of the CR.

The results of the Championship were announced during the final ceremony and the joint celebration on 11th April 2002. The order of individuals at the Championship was as follows:

1. Germany
2. Belorussia
3. Germany

Teams:

1. Czech republic
2. Germany
3. Germany

Dr. Alexander CACH, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the GRADDO holding, presented on behalf of the IBSSA Czech Republic valuable awards to the winners.

Special attention was paid to the Championship by Czech media. They appreciated that IBSSA CZ and the holding GRADDO closely co-operate with the Police of the CR within the scope of a long-term programme guaranteeing the continuing of criminality rate decrease in the Czech Republic. Media also paid attention to individual life destinies of snipers participating in the Championship:

The war in Vietnam affected Fernand Rondan, an excellent American sniper and war veteran, so much that even after many years the experiences wake him up from sleep. He does not want to speak about his experiences from the war. He has been trying – for a long time and in vain – to forget about them. „When I returned back home from the war I was suffocating at night as I was crying. Our experiences from that time can be understood only by a person who suffered from war himself“ said Rondan, who deeply appreciated the hospitality of the IBSSA CZ and GRADDO, a.s. Even though his memories of a volunteer are horrible he has never been sorry for his decision from the professional point of view: „I was a soldier and I served to my homeland. I took the whole matter as a professional,“ stated Rondan. In Vietnam he served with the 25th division, which is touched by the story of the world-known film Troop. „Many films have been filmed about the Vietnam War but I must say that the film Troop was probably the most similar to the real situation in the war – even though it is natural that it was not perfect“ added the veteran.

Members of elite teams exchanged their valuable experience and their friendship got stronger.

In numerous interviews they described the atmosphere of real interventions. They confirmed that they „have to work as a team and they must believe to each other. It is important for a colleague who protects you from the rear side manages the situation“. Snipers are present at any intervention. They usually work as observers. They work in extreme climatic conditions and they must be able to stay without any movement for a long time. Excellent psychical resistance and stability is a must. The sniper's law says: „To be alert all the time, to be cool-minded during an intervention even though it is not about human lives.“ It is not easy to get between the police elite. It is necessary to prove physical abilities and great universality. Snipers usually protect their identity.

„We are glad that the IBSSA CZ and the holding GRADDO created excellent conditions for this international confrontation of elite snipers so as it could be organised on high-quality level. It was an excellent opportunity for exchange of experience and monitoring of development of the snipers' equipment and development trends in the guns.“ That was confirmed to Dr. CACH, President of the IBSSA CZ and Chairman of the Board of Directors of GRADDO, a.s., by the special guest of the Championship – Chairman of Altage Europe A. Tille and Lt.-Col. Cestmír Šašek, from the Police Presidium of the CR and the main referee of the competition Col. Karel Kratochvíl from the Police Academy of the CR, on behalf of the co-organisers of the competition.