

## INFORMATION ASSURANCE CHALLENGES

A two-day seminar on *Information Assurance* was held in December 2000 in the “Ribaritzha” Hotel located in the picturesque resort with the same name in North-Central Balkan mountains. The seminar was organized by the Defense Planning Directorate, in cooperation with the Institute for Advanced Defense Research, in fulfillment of decisions taken during the interagency meeting held in November 2000 at the “G. S. Rakovski” Defense College in Sofia. Its main objectives were to provide information on advanced commercially available technological solutions and to facilitate discussion among specialists working in various fields related to information assurance.

The program of the seminar included presentations of corporate solutions in the area of information security as follows:

1. Corporate policy for information assurance – Microsoft, IBM, Hewlett Packard, Oracle;
2. Comprehensive security solutions – Cisco Systems, ACT Sofia, Computer Associates, LIREX BG, S&T;
3. Solutions for communications security – CRYPTO AG;
4. Anti-virus protection and support – Infoguard, National Laboratory of Computer Virology;
5. Specific technological solutions for information security – Electron Progress, BETA.

The seminar was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Defense (Defense Planning Directorate, Institute for Advanced Defense Research, Military Information Service, Legislative Directorate, J6, Military Counterintelligence, Administrative and Information Support Directorate), Ministry of Interior (Communications Protection Service, Institute for Computer Technologies, National Security Service), Ministry of Transportation and Communications, the National Laboratory of Computer Virology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, scientists from the Sofia University.

The participants discussed a draft “Concept for assuring information for security and defense,” as well as legislative, organizational and technological issues related to information protection requirements for NATO integration.