On 15 August 1961, two days after the blockade of the city of Berlin, by an installation, the GDR at that time called the "Anti-Fascist Protective Wall", Conrad Schumann, a member of the armed forces of the GDR (NVA) crossed the recently installed barbed wire fence towards the Western part of the city. He did so by an impressive leap – a scene, which pretty much looked pre-arranged for the waiting journalists.

"Welcome to the West," bystanders shouted. But Schumann, a simple NCO, was ill-prepared for the adulation. All he asked for when he arrived at the West Berlin debriefing center was a sandwich. He said simply that he had been angered by the spectacle of a fleeing East German child being dragged back from the West, and did not want to "live enclosed".

A fit of desperation or an act of heroism: history books rarely distinguish between the two. "My nerves were at breaking point," he remembered. "I was very afraid. I took off, jumped, and into the car ... in three, four seconds it was all over."

A photographer mingling with onlookers on the western side of Bernauer Strasse captured the "Leap of Freedom", and a Cold War pin-up was born. Suddenly Schumann was a hero of the Free World, and in his homeland a despicable traitor. Some 2,100 East German soldiers and policemen were to follow his example.

Like Conrad Schumann, many of the border guards recognized the inhumanity of the border regime while serving duty. Fleeing to the West often seemed to be the only way to escape the pressure to fire their weapon at the people trying to escape to the West. Despite the many counter and surveillance measures taken, many members of the border troops attempted to escape before the Wall fell.

So, finally, the message behind the picture is that it never was about Conrad Schumann, the soldier with the invisible face, but about the act. It was the human spirit that soared above that barbed wire, and Schumann was merely an unlucky man who accidentally got into the picture.
Support military and civilian leaders in the region in developing their defense establishments and security strategies.

Promote critical thinking … Examine fundamental causes of relevant security challenges and the most effective means to address or counter them.

Remain responsive to Policy and geographic CCMD requirements for programming to address emergent priority issues.

Security challenges and hybrid threats along Europe’s Eastern Flank

Address comprehensive security challenges … emanating from fragile, failing and failed states

Stabilize the Western Balkans

Work towards gender mainstreaming of the security sector

Policy Guidance for the Department of Defense (DoD)
Regional Centers for Security Studies memo (November 7, 2016)

DEU FMoD Guidance
FMoD Political Director, 18 Oct 2018
SRS 20-03 Course Goal

Course Participants will be enabled to

- analyze current and evolving security crises
- understand their impact on regional security
- consider the gender dimensions of conflict / conflict management
- identify patterns of conflict management
- practice conflict management, especially, negotiations techniques
SRS 20 - 03 Concept

Field Study Trip
Validation/ Reality Check for SRS Lessons Learned

SRS Modules

Exercise NORMAT
MOLDOVA

Tool Box

INTERNATIONAL ACTOR
OSCE

INTERNATIONAL ACTOR
AU

INTERNATIONAL ACTOR
EU

INTERNATIONAL ACTOR
UN

CASE STUDY II
UKRAINE

CASE STUDY I
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

CASE STUDY III
SYRIA

CASE STUDY IV
MALI

Building Blocks

Security
(National Security)

Regional Security
Local Conflicts

Human Security/
Gender Reflections

Role of Diplomacy/
Crises Management
Regional Focus

Post „Dayton Peace Accord“
Breakup of the FRY
Re-Nationalization

„Protracted Conflict“
• Minsk II Agreement
• EU Association
• Annexation of Crimea

MDA / PMR
5+2 Talks
Conflict Management?

Ethnic Conflict
• Failing State
• Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation
• UN and EU Mission

Post „Arab Spring“
• No Regime Change
• Failing State?
• Diplomatic Efforts

Western Balkans

Eastern Flank

Southern Flank

Seminar on Regional Security
Matthias Lüttenberg
Federal Chancellery
Head of Division
Bilateral Relations with the States of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

„We are currently monitoring the developments in Ukraine and in Moldova very intensively and with great interest.“

(M. Lüttenberg, Berlin, 15 November 2019)
SRS 20 - 03 Core Staff

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Enjoy the Course

George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies
Seminar on Regional Security 19-08
A Comprehensive, Analysis, and Common Understanding on Current Security Crises
Garmisch - Partenkirchen, Germany  24 April 2019 - 17 May 2019