



## INTERALLIED CONFEDERATION OF RESERVE OFFICERS (CIOR)

### ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2014-JULY 2015

#### 1. CIOR COMMITMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS.

At the 2014 CIOR/CIOMR/NRFC Summer Congress, held in Fulda, Germany (August 2014), the presidency of Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) was taken over by Bulgaria. **Since its foundation in 1948, CIOR has made considerable achievements:**

- A successful cooperation and Synergy with the Military Committee of NATO and the National Reserve Forces Committee of the Alliance (NRFC) in terms of competent advice and assistance on reserve issues;
- A competent and intense work of CIOR committees in training and educating reservists for participation in missions of the Alliance;
- Organizing symposia , workshops and seminars with NRFC and other bodies of the Alliance, producing deliverables, contributing to the readiness of the reserves;
- Outreach to other nations, willing to cooperate with and to join CIOR.

**Being in a very dynamic environment, CIOR is witnessing new geo-political realities in Europe and in the World such as:**

- **The crisis in Ukraine;**
- **The frozen conflicts** in the Black sea area;
- **The ISIS expansion** and the threats in the Middle East and North Africa;
- The emerging new threats such as **cyber-attacks** and **hybrid warfare**.

**Taking into consideration all this, the President of CIOR has elaborated a White paper (adopted by CIOR Council on February 19 2015 and presented to NRFC), proposing adequate solutions to face the new realities:**



- To upgrade the achievements such as education, training, employers support, crisis management etc. by adapting them to the new realities;
- To use the existing tools of CIOR (the committees and working groups) to organize workshops , symposia so that we produce deliverables, which will be useful for our stakeholders;
- To establish new committees and assigning new tasks to existing ones. We could think of committees on Cyber Security, Strategic Communication, and a task-oriented committee on topics like Energy Security, Female and Senior Leadership. Giving new orientation to Partnership for Peace and Outreach committee (PfP&O) to grant assistance to new member nations and partner nations to develop and upgrade their reserves.
- To initiate contacts with the Confederation of reserve Non-Commissioned Officers (CISOR) for exchange of information because some of our members are associations of both of reserve officers and reserve NCOs.

1.1. **The traditional cooperation and synergy** between CIOR and NRFC is continuing in:

- a) During the CIOR/NRFC joint Symposium last summer on ***Crisis Management***, a study of three countries (Spain, France, and Germany) provided excellent ideas on how their Armed Forces extract the best from their reserve components in response to emergencies.

Other key findings of the Symposium:

- What is needed is not only additional people, but additional capabilities. Two sets of issues were identified: availability and quick identification of required skill sets;
  - Integration of Forces is essential. Sustaining an adequate level of funding and exercises is especially important to maintain a credible Reserve Force;
  - To avoid an increasing gap between Active Duty forces and Reservists , a common personnel management, policies and training standards should be established;
  - The role of institutions and associations (among them CIOR and affiliated associations) is to increase their understanding and take over some responsibility by offering training programs and facilitating the overall readiness.
- b) The president of CIOR and the chairman of NRFC have delivered lectures to the Senior Officers course at the NATO School at Oberammergau;
- c) The CIOR president has briefed the NRFC and the NRFC chairman has briefed the CIOR during their sessions at the 2015 Winter Meeting held at NATO HQ and the in-between meetings of CIOR (Sofia, Bulgaria), they carry out routine discussions, appear at each other's meetings, and maintain the ongoing dialogue between CIOR and NRFC.



1.2. Despite of the fact that the NRFC will be holding their Summer Meeting 2015 prior to CIOR/CIOMR Summer Congress – both leaders will attend each other,s venue-retaining cohesion.

### 1.3. CIOR Committees Activities:

- The 2014 CIOR CIMIC Committee Exercise (CIMEX), Hammelburg, Germany (July 31-Aug.1).37 participants from 9 countries. Hosted by the German Infantry School. The framework for its delivery was provided by the UK Military Stabilization Support Group (MSSG) and members of CIOR CIMIC Committee. The CIMEX covered a number of topics including: Disaster Relief Operations and Gender related topics. A desktop exercise , based on Disaster relief operations, specifically Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) operations and IDP camp planning, considering the implication of mixed gender, children and ethnic groups. Key outcome of CIMEX 14 was the exposure and better understanding of Gender issues and the developing UNSCR 1325 (Women, Peace and Security).The objectives of CIMEX are to encourage liaison, networking and information sharing and promote the best practice within the international CIOR CIMIC community for better understanding our international partners and for a better interaction;
- the Military competition (MILCOMP), Hammelburg, Germany (Aug. 2014), which represent a real demonstration of the military skills of the reservists;
- The 2014 edition of the **Language academy** (August, Lozen, Bulgaria).Courses held in English and French language, certified as per STANAG and Certificat de L' Armee de Terre. Attended by 40 students from 13 countries. The CLA is an important tool for the integration of the reservists from the Ex-Warsaw Pact countries within the CIOR community;
- The CIOR Partnership for Peace and Outreach Committee workshop in Opatija, Croatia (Oct. 2014). Topic: The Reserve forces after 20 Years of Pfp. Attended by 40 reserve officers from 12 countries. Objective of the workshop: To show how other nations have organized their reserve systems and to point out the role of reserve officers in society. The workshop was aimed at assisting Croatian ROA how to overcome the problems that it faces with the new challenges related to the changes in the Croatian Armed Forces, which will require new skills from the reserve officers. Outcome: Sharing the practice in terms of reserve systems by France and Switzerland, the role of reservists in crisis management, CIMIC etc. The workshop had an important cohesive impact on the reservists from the more recent NATO nations and especially those, from South Eastern Europe, which is an evidence of the Open Door policy of the Alliance.
- The **CIOR Geopolitical Seminar** with Konrad Adenauer Foundation near Bonn, Germany (Feb.2015) gave precious information to our members on the Crisis in Ukraine and the influence of Russia on it.



- The **Young Reserve Officers Outreach Seminar** held in Prague, Czech Republic (April 2015). Topic: Cross Cultural Communication. 47 young reserve officers 9 from countries attended the seminar. The training was concentrated on introduction in culture, cross cultural communication principles, the use of interpreter, influence on culture and negotiation strategies. The instructors were seconded by the US Army Training and Doctrine Command, TRADOC Culture Center. Outcome: The students received more practical than theoretical knowledge, more relevant to the junior reserve and active duty officers and very useful when deployed on missions.

#### 1.4. Major CIOR events:

- a) The **2014 Summer Congress in Fulda, Germany**; Transition of CIOR Presidency from France to Bulgaria.
- b) The 2015 CIOR Winter meeting held jointly with the NRFC at NATO HQ (Brussels, Belgium) with **D-SECGEN Ambassador Alexander Vershbow** as key note speaker; **Main results:**
  - Council voted the Czech Republic to assume the 2016-2018 CIOR Presidency, succeeding Bulgaria of CIOR;
  - Adoption of CIOR White Paper
- c) The Spring In-between meeting of CIOR, April 2015 (Sofia, Bulgaria).

**Main result:** Decision made the 2015 CIOR/CIOMR Summer congress to take place in August in Sofia, hosted by the Bulgarian Presidency of CIOR with the support of the Bulgarian MoD.

#### 2. UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **CIOR/CIOMR 2015 Summer Congress – Sofia, Bulgaria (August);**
- **2015 CIMEX – Sofia, Bulgaria (August);**
- **2015 MLCOMP – Shumen, Bulgaria (August);**
- **2015 CIOR Symposium on Readiness of the Reserves- Sofia, Bulgaria (August);**
- **2015 CIOR Language Academy – Sofia, Bulgaria (August);**
- **2015 CIOR Partnership for Peace and Outreach Workshop - Stockholm, Sweden;**
- **CIOR Fall in-between meeting – Sofia, Bulgaria (November);**
- **CIOR Conference on the reserves (Sofia in November).**



**SUMMARY**

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