



Annual report CIOR 2008

Events during the year in chronological order:

1. **Seminar** (Wesseling, DEU)
2. **MidWinterMeeting (MWM)** (Brussels, BEL)
3. **InBetweenMeeting (IBM)** CAN4 (Ottawa, CAN)
4. **Young Reserve Officers Seminar (YROS)** (Sofia, BGR)
5. **Summercongress** (Istanbul, TUR)
 - Symposium (see annex for report)
 - Military Competition
 - YROW
 - Media Workshop
 - Transfer Presidency CAN-NLD
6. **CIOR Language Academy (CLA)** 2008 (Istanbul, TUR)
7. **Partnership for Peace Seminar (Pfp)** (Luzern, CHE)
8. **InBetweenMeeting (IBM)** NLD1 (The Hague, NLD)

1. The subject of the 2008 **Seminar** was "NATO in a chaotic World". As usual the seminar was fully booked with 70 participants. Topics included: Africa, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Turkey, Israel, Iran, Russia, India and South Asia. These subjects were presented by high level speakers, among them an Ambassador, a Minister and several generals.
2. Immediately following the Seminar, the **MWM** took place as usual in NATO HQ in Brussels with some 250 participants. The CIOR Council, all committees and all working groups had their own meetings to prepare future activities and to finalize reports. Plenary sessions opened and closed the MWM.
3. The **IBM** in Ottawa was attended by all committee-chairpersons, a number of VP's and the incoming NLD Presidency team. This meeting was held to coordinate activities in the Summercongress and to prepare the transfer of the CIOR Presidency.
4. The **YROS** in Bulgaria almost did not take place. There was a lack of participation and only at the very last moment enough registrations had been received to let the event take place. There were 25 participants from 10 nations, but a lack of participants from the host nation.



5. The biggest yearly CIOR event is the **Summercongress**, this year in beautiful Istanbul in Turkey. Apart from plenary opening and closing sessions, a number of parallel activities took place:
 - Symposium. Theme: Enabling NATO Operations through effective Employer Support. This was the focal point of Summercongress as all 3 organisations (NRFC, CIOMR and CIOR) do participate in the symposium. Coordination and organisation this year was done by the CIOR DEFSEC Committee. (See annex for report)
 - Military Competition. 48 teams (of 3 competitors each) from 16 nations competed in 5 disciplines over 3 days. Overall winner was a team from France.
 - **YROW**. Theme: Employer Support and its effect on Junior Officers and those they lead. 44 participants from 12 nations.
 - Media Workshop. Organised by CAN Presidency and CIOR PA Committee. Participation by editors of military magazines.
 - Transfer Presidency CAN-NLD. At the end of the congress the CIOR Presidency was handed over from Canada to the Netherlands for a 2-year period. Transfer was a bit hampered as a month before the Summercongress the Dutch president-elect had to withdraw for serious personal reasons. A new president could be found within the Dutch association, but he was unable to attend the Summercongress due to prior business-engagements.
 - Also the **CIOR Council** (comprising all member nations represented by the Vice-Presidents) and the committees had their own meetings during this congress.
 - A large number of committees saw their leadership changed at the end of the congress, usually because the chairpersons had completed their term of 2 years.

6. Immediately following the Summercongress the CLA took place. Using the lodgings which the competitors just had vacated, a record number of 90 students followed courses in either French or English at different levels.

7. The **PfP seminar** held in Luzern was organized by the Swiss Officers Association (SOG) in cooperation with the CIOR PfP-Committee. President CIOR attended this event.

8. The first **IBM** of the Dutch Presidency was attended by 35 guests. The president had individual talks with all chairpersons to ensure The VP's that attended discussed strategic issues. Other issues covered were planning the MWM (February 2009, Brussels, BEL) and the Summercongress (August 2009, Sofia, BUL).



Achievements

- Successful Winter Seminar, giving participating reserve-officers an overview of geopolitical issues and vital defence and security issues, thereby giving them a better insight in NATO-policies.
- Successful Symposium (see annex).
- Successful YRO-Workshop, giving young reserve officers the chance to work and discuss in a safe multinational environment, which is a unique training opportunity for future deployment in a NATO-environment.
- Successful Language Academy, giving reserve-officers the possibility to improve significantly their language skills, thereby readying them for future deployment in a NATO-environment.
- Successful Media Workshop, giving participants (editors of military-oriented magazines) an insight in CIOR, a chance to exchange best practices and a possibility to enlarge their network.
- Production of booklet "CIOR at a Glance", giving an overview of what CIOR is and how it is organised in the different committees.
- The overarching concept of the "Relevance of CIOR" has been taken over from the Canadian Presidency and continues in the current Presidency.

Challenges for the Future

- Financial situation still healthy, but deteriorating. Please note that the financial year is October 07-September 08. Sponsorship by NATO and US-EUCOM (for PfP-related activities) not forthcoming.
- No briefing to NATO MC in 2008.
- Discussion on Statutes and By-Laws, Membership of Nations.
- Organizing the YRO-Seminar
- Execution of themes of NLD CIOR Presidency
 - Recruitment of Reserves (2009)
 - Deployment of Reserves (2010)