

CIOR Diamond Anniversary honors brilliant accomplishments over 60 years

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The Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) honors its “diamond anniversary” by reflecting on 60 years of building, shaping, and maturing the professional enhancement of reserve officers to promote the best reserve policy development internationally.

The original concept of creating an organization specifically designed to address reserve issues at an international level became a reality in 1948. The founders knew that this was an opportunity that would take years of nurturing and refining to achieve the span of influence and effectiveness now being realized.

“The 60th Anniversary of CIOR gives us cause to reflect on the breadth and direction of the organization,” said CIOR President Captain Carman McNary (Canadian Navy). After honoring “the people who came before us and to recognize those accomplishments, we will continue maturing the organization ... by assessing and planning for the future.”

Other CIOR leaders agree, including those represented in newer NATO countries. “This is one of the most important times for us to plan for the future of all reservists in NATO countries, especially before our summer meeting,” said Brig. Gen. Ryszard Zuchowski, CIOR Polish Vice President.

Highlighting the importance of defining future direction, McNary discussed reading an article in the 50th Anniversary book by the then-CIOR president, which outlined future CIOR endeavors and programs. “It was amazing to see the accuracy in the predictions identified in the roadmap looking ahead for 10 years. I would like to see us continuing to grow into a truly non governmental organization with greater links to the operational structure with programs like the language academy.”

McNary also envisions CIOR continuing to integrate the NCO corps into the professional growth opportunities which will also enable CIOR to capitalize on their experience and expertise.

“I would like to come back in 10 years and see a whole bunch of flags and ranks sitting at the table that I don’t see now,” he said.

Others emphasize the changing global landscape and concerns reservists face. “CIOR focuses on different issues compared to 20 years ago,” said Brig. Gen. Grigorious Kostaras, CIOR’s Greek Vice President. “We address more contemporary issues to adjust to societal needs. Some of the greatest growth opportunities were represented and realized during the fall of the Berlin Wall. In 1984, there were only about 10 countries that interacted and shared common experiences,” said Kostaras.

Now 24 years later, over 34 countries are represented, with more nations actively pursuing association with CIOR.

In addition to the formal representation, the leadership and knowledge base of CIOR has been consulted to help several countries create and build new reserve forces or expand existing ones. The CIOR president has traveled to several countries over the last couple of years to continue to position CIOR as the “pre-eminent advisor on reserve issues for all countries with robust reserve structures and continue the outward look to find and bring other countries to the table,” said McNary.

Some of the reasons for CIOR’s success and growth are the spirit of solidarity and sharing that the committees and delegates embrace. A key component is the “discipline of the organization without the need

CIOR Vision, Mission for Future

Vision

CIOR is the premier forum for international reserve issues directing its resources to the professional enhancement of reservist capabilities and communicating these capabilities to all stakeholders.

Mission

The CIOR will foster the professional development of Reserve Officers, promote sharing of best practices in policy development for Reservists, and be a voice to stakeholders for all Reservists on issues of common interest.

for ordering or commanding by any one country,” said Kostaras. “Each country is respected for their contribution and participation, which fosters a collaborative environment.”

Maj. Gen. Evan Hultman (US), a past CIOR president with 26 years experience with the international organization, emphasized that CIOR values contributions from all participating countries and strives for equal participation and representation for all countries without regard to the size of the military force. “This is essential to ensuring each country recognizes their significance to CIOR,” said Hultman.

Some members have seen an evolution toward more emphasis on product over the years. “It [CIOR] used to be more focused on social aspects and building relationships between countries,” said Lt. Col. Volker Jungk, a member of a former German Presidency. “Now, we increasingly emphasize work in our committees in producing products that are of value to NATO.”

Another key point in the growth of CIOR occurred when it started mirroring NATO’s “Partnership for Peace Program” in 1994, stated Hultman. “CIOR adopted that as their main program and since then, membership has increased in both NATO and CIOR.”

The personal interactions provided by CIOR contribute greatly to altering perceptions about other cultures and nationalities. “Historically, the members of CIOR bond together to exchange military experience and educational matters” to expand each country’s understanding and effectiveness in communicating and operating in a joint environment, explained Kostaras.

Like a diamond, “with the polishing of CIOR over the years, we continue to become more brilliant and useful,” said Lt. Col. Rudolf Van Rossem, the secretary on the CIOR Defense Attitudes and Security Issues Committee. “Both CIOR and NATO are changing to fit the new challenges. This is a rewarding exchange of ideas in an international environment, valuable to peace and understanding while strengthening relations individually and nationally.”