

## **Foreword – 22<sup>nd</sup> CIOR Seminar**

The Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (Confédération Interalliée des Officiers de Réserve) – CIOR – is an organization that coordinates and integrates issues of reserves forces of its member nations. It represents the interests of over 1.3 million reservists across 33 participating nations within and beyond NATO, making it the world's largest reserve officer organization. It forges links between reservists and NATO military authorities, encourages relationships among Reserve officers from participating countries, and ensures that reservists' duties, rights, training and mobilization are uniform while respecting their differences and national traditions. Since the inception of NATO's Partnership for Peace program (PfP), CIOR encourages the creation of reserve officers' organizations in PfP countries.

There are 33 nations in CIOR: 25 member nations – Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and the U.S.A.; 7 Associate Member nations –Austria, Finland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of South Africa, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland. Moldova is an observer nation.

### ***History of CIOR***

Belgium, France and the Netherlands founded CIOR in November 1948 with Canada, Luxembourg, the UK and the USA as observers. CIOR predates NATO, established in April 1949 in Washington, D.C. The Interallied Confederation of Medical Reserve Officers (CIOMR), closely linked with CIOR, was founded in 1947. CIOR expanded over the years to the current 33 members, and more growth is possible.

### ***The CIOR Mission and Relationships with NATO***

In 1976 the NATO Military Committee chartered CIOR in MC 248, later revised in 1982 and 1998 as MC 248/1. It formalized relationships with NATO and set CIOR's mission to concentrate on reserve forces in the framework of NATO Defense Policy, Partnership for Peace, young reserve officer seminars and workshops, humanitarian aid missions, employer support for reservists, family support, mobilization and demobilization issues, peacekeeping, and peacemaking missions, and public information on reserve issues. CIOR has a close relationship with medical reservists of CIOMR, the National Reserve Forces Committee (NRFC), composed of national officials responsible for the reserves, SHAPE and NATO itself. The presidency rotates on a two-year cycle, and The Netherlands has the presidency until 2010.

### ***CIOR Operations***

CIOR meets twice a year. The summer congress is held annually in a different member nation. The 2011 Congress will be in Warsaw, Poland, and details are available on the CIOR Congress webpage at <http://www.cior.net> and <http://www.cior2011.pl>

The CIOR Winter Meeting is held at NATO Headquarters, Brussels in February.

The ***CIOR Language Academy*** is a major program, originally conceived by the CIOR Partnership for Peace Committee to enhance interoperability among all NATO and PfP countries by providing English and French language instruction for the nations of Eastern Europe. It has extraordinary significance and success in the service of CIOR and NATO, which includes CIOR

language courses in its own Partnership Work Program. Information about the CIOR Language Academy is accessible at the CIOR web page.

### ***The Twenty Second Annual CIOR Winter Seminar***

Immediately prior to the Winter Meeting at NATO Headquarters, CIOR conducts an annual geopolitical seminar to examine an issue of critical importance to NATO and its member countries. The topics of recent years examined NATO's requirement for change and its current missions in the Balkans. In 1998 the seminar addressed "NATO's Renewal, from its Formation in 1949 to its Transformation in 1999." In 1999 we evaluated "The NATO-Russian Relationship", and outlined its contribution to the goals of global stability. These two seminars led to 2000 seminar that examined the Balkan crises and their impact on the long-term stability of Eastern Europe. In 2001 the seminar addressed the developing changes in the trans-Atlantic partnership and the new relations between NATO, the U.S.A. and the EU. In 2002, the seminar examined the "War Against Terrorism" and in 2003, we examined "NATO in the Post 11 September World". In 2004 the topic was "NATO's Role in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – New Challenges and the Need for Transformation". The 2005 topic was "NATO, the European Union and the Global War on Terrorism No Go? – Routine? – New Beginning?" The 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> seminars, 2006 and 2007 were a sequence, in which Part 1 was "An Evaluation of World Stability – Is there A Conflict of Cultures?", followed by An Evaluation of World Stability – Part 2, World Conflict and Violent Extremism". The seminar 2008, "NATO in a Chaotic World - Challenges in All Directions", the 19<sup>th</sup> examined many widely diverse challenges facing NATO, the European Union and democratic states in several parts of the world. In 2009 the seminar celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NATO with an evaluation of NATO's past, present and future. **The topic in 2010 was "An Evaluation of NATO's Readjustments and Transformation".**

CIOR has conducted the seminar in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation since 1992, and benefits the widest possible CIOR audience. Members of the CIOR Council, CIOR Committees and CIOMR are invited to participate. It is vital for NATO's reserve forces to be well-informed about the great issues of the political and military developments for their own benefit, and to relay these concepts to their national institutions and to the general public in which they work. The reservist is a unique instrument of military and NATO public diplomacy as a member of both military and civilian societies. Therefore CIOR publishes a seminar report for distribution in CIOR and to the general public.

The present Seminar Committee members are LT Christian Kaufhold, Secretary, (Germany), LTC Jacques Devèze (France), LT Ana Belen Sanchez-Prieto (Spain), LT Christoph Bühler, (Switzerland) and LtCol André Kok (Netherlands).

CIOR acknowledges with gratitude the [Konrad Adenauer Foundation](#) for its support of this seminar for two decades.

CIOR has an Internet home page for further information at: <http://www.cior.net/>

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