



INTERALLIED CONFEDERATION OF RESERVE OFFICERS (CIOR)

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2015-JULY 2016

1. CIOR ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.

During the period July 2015 – June 2016 the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers CIOR had numerous activities and realized the projects, following its battle rhythm:

1.1. CIOR CIMEX 15, Sofia, Bulgaria

For the fourth year, the CIOR CIMIC Committee has organized a CIMEX (CIMIC exercise) prior to the 2015 CIOR/CIOMR Summer Congress, held in Sofia last August.

The overriding activities of CIMEX are: “to encourage liaison, networking and information sharing, and promote best practice within the international CIOR CIMIC community, in order to better understand our international partners and work more effectively together”.

The topic of CIMEX 15 was Upstream Prevention (Phase 0) and had the objective to: “achieve a common understanding of what Upstream Prevention is, why we should invest in it, and how do we do it”.

The desktop exercise was based on a crisis scenario from a NATO CIMIC exercise. Syndicates had to consider three questions: First: identify the root cause of the situation, giving consideration to a number of factors including political, economy, culture & religion, crime, employment, education, gender & children etc. Second: what could have been done to avoid the current situation. Third: identify the stake holders who could have been involved and what their contribution could have been.

The desktop exercise was facilitated by the CIMIC Centre of Excellence (CCOE) and an independent professional with experience in running CIMIC exercises for military headquarters.

CIMEX was successful in that it exposed participants to the root cause analysis of crises, in order to better understand the value of Upstream Prevention. Addressing the issue before it has had the chance to progress, saves lives and it is more cost effective for governments.

The CIMIC Committee continues to see CIMEX as a cost effective way of getting international Reserve CIMIC organizations together to explore areas of developing common interest. The Committee has been working on developing the idea of having CIMEX certified as a formal training



event, in order that participants can have their attendance certified and documented in their personal career files.

1.2. The CIOR Symposium was organized and carried out with the support of NATO Defense College (Rome), NATO CIMIC COE. The discussion was about “Readiness”, especially after the Wales Summit that brought to light the concept of the Readiness Action Plan, a package of measures intended to reassure Allies and partners by beefing up their forces and adapting them to face new forms of threat. Seen as a fundamental realignment of the NATO force structure, it is above all a political measure, which provides a renewed “reassurance policy” and sends out a reminder that NATO could and would provide help and assistance if one of its member states were to come under attack. The notion of “reassurance” focuses on the principles of collective defense, with the Alliance taking all necessary steps to reassure its member states which feel at risk. In its definition, the RAP *“provides a coherent and comprehensive package of necessary measures to respond to the changes in the security environment on NATO’s borders and further afield that are of concern to Allies. It responds to the challenges posed by Russia and their strategic implications. It also responds to the risks and threats emanating from our southern neighborhood, the Middle East and North Africa. The Plan strengthens NATO’s collective defense. It also strengthens our crisis management capability. The Plan will contribute to ensuring that NATO remains a strong, ready, robust, and responsive Alliance capable of meeting current and future challenges from wherever they may arise.”*¹

What it does mean is that not only the organization – NATO *per se* – has to be ready, but all individual member states and within them, their Armed Forces, their soldiers, airmen and sailors, but also their reservists and their population. When asked about the key points that justify our readiness, Lt-Gen Nicholson (LANDCOM) usually stresses out three points that perfectly sum up the debates that were discussed at the Symposium:

- **Strength matters:** It is not just a question of percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and how much we continue to spend on defense, but also the pure fact that NATO’s militaries still align over 1.2 million soldiers, not including the reservists, that can and would have a decisive impact if need be.

¹ NATO, *Wales Summit Declaration*, 5 September 2014, paragraph 5.



- **Speed matters:** when a crisis occurs, and in order to give time and additional options to political stakeholders, a rapid mobilization and demonstration of the capacities and capabilities of our armed forces can prevent the descent into chaos as well as prevent/deter further degradation of a situation.
- **Readiness enables speed:** to be effective, you need to be trained and educated at every level, as individuals and in everyone's position. This goes through the number of exercises that have been carried out throughout the Allied countries during the past years. Last year's high-visibility exercise, *Trident Juncture* 2015 that aims at gathering up to 30,000 soldiers, **including the NRF**, in an exercise spread over three countries (Italy, Spain and Portugal) – one of the largest live exercises since the end of the Cold War.

Once taken into consideration that those current threats call for a comprehensive understanding of the world in which we live in, reservists can offer their unique abilities to bridge the gap between militaries and civilians: they provide their unique insights, they fill ranks and strengthen our armed forces, and they instil within the whole society a feeling of awareness.

The second panel of the Symposium was on **Local Governance Capacity Building for Crisis Management and Community Preparedness**. The natural or industrial disasters, terrorist attacks etc. pose serious challenges to local governments. The objective of this panel was to discuss hands-on practices and challenges for crisis management at local level, seen by decision makers from Local Government, Military Authorities, and NATO. The NATO strategic concept (2010) underlines four key areas of work: planning and conduct of operations; training, education and exercising; cooperation with external actors and public messaging. **The reservists can almost be seen as key enablers to comprehensive approach, given their unique positioning and their familiarity with both military and civilian crisis management processes. Reservists are more than just a reinforcement that could be mobilized, through military channels. Reaching out to reservists, as individual civilians, opens a new field of actions for both local government and reservists. This process is best facilitated by the associations of reservists within CIOR.**



1.3. The Military Competition (MILCOMP) was carried out in Shumen, Bulgaria (Aug. 2015) at the facilities of the Artillery Faculty of the Bulgarian Military University. **More than 100 reservists** from more than **28 countries have displayed their combat skills** during the competition.

1.4. Immediately after the Sofia Summer Congress, **the CIOR Language Academy** organized and carried out in Lozen. Bulgaria's Red Cross (BRC) base hosted 45 reservists – teachers and students. People of different ages studied English and French, the official NATO and CIOR languages. **By using special criteria made by NATO – Test STANAG 6001** teachers divided students into groups depending of their level of language knowledge. The main goal of the course was to help the active reservists from the countries from East Europe to develop their language skills. The traditional school techniques were used here, as well as techniques like drawing and communicating in the studied language only, which motivates the reservists to study harder and to use the foreign language more in the everyday use with their colleagues and friends at the Academy. Teachers at the Academy are trained language professionals as they also need to have a vast amount of experience to become part of the Language Academy.

1.5. CIOR Winter Seminar – held in Bonn, Germany (January 2016) – the central theme of the Seminar was to understand the threat posed by ISIS and its implications for security both outside and within NATO. Topics covered by this Seminar were:

- Presentations providing background on ISIS
- Historical roots
- Cultural and sociological analyses
- Legal aspects
- The role of religion for ISIS
- Economical and financial analyses
- The role of Russia in Syria
- The ability of Western states to deal with religiously motivated conflict etc.
- Most likely scenarios in the short, medium and long run.



2. MAJOR CIOR EVENTS:

- The **2015 Summer Congress in Sofia, Bulgaria;**
- Council reconfirmed the decision the 2016-2018 CIOR Presidency to be assumed by the Czech Republic succeeding Bulgaria;
- Poland reconfirmed its readiness to assume the 2018-2020 CIOR Presidency
- The **2016 CIOR Winter meeting** held jointly with the NRFC at NATO HQ (Brussels, Belgium) with **Gen. Petr Pavel, Chairman of MC** as key note speaker; **Main results:**
 - Joint working session of CIOR Council with NRFC on Recruitment and Retention of Reservists. Very useful exchange of experience and information between the two organizations.
 - Discussion on the CIOR Draft-strategy “We know we care”;
 - Decision made the 2016 CIOR/CIOMR Summer Congress to be held in August in Madrid, Spain with the support of the Spanish MoD;
 - Germany launched its candidacy to assume CIOR Presidency in 2020;
 - Pending: Canada is considering the option to host the 2017 CIOR/CIOMR Summer Congress.
- The Spring In-between meeting of CIOR, April 2016 (Sofia, Bulgaria).

Main result: A profound and serious discussion on the feedback of the proposed in Brussels Draft-strategy. Approval of one of the options proposed, which will be submitted to vote during the Summer Congress.

3. UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **2016 CIOR Language Academy – Tallinn, Estonia (July);**
- **2016 CIMEX – Madrid, Spain (August);**
- **CIOR/CIOMR 2016 Summer Congress – Madrid, Spain (August);**



- **2016MLCOMP – Madrid, Spain (August);**
- **2016 CIOR Symposium on Resilience (a topic, coordinated with SACT)- Madrid, Spain (August);**
- **Takeover of 2016-2018 CIOR Presidency by the Czech Republic (August);**
- **CIOR Fall in-between meeting – Czech Republic (TBD).**



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