



Young Reserve Officers' Workshop

The Young Reserve Officers' Workshop (YROW) is a week-long programme run by the NATO-recognised Inter-Allied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR). It represents a rare, thoroughly worthwhile and enjoyable opportunity to travel abroad, meet like-minded fellow Young Officers from other NATO countries, CIOR Associate and PfP nations, and exchange views on wide-ranging and important defence-related issues.

The UKRFA sends up to a dozen students to YROW each summer following a selection weekend in the spring and a study day based around the theme of the workshop, which varies each year but previously has been focused on subjects including employer support and the reintegration of reservists following mobilisation. The YROW programme is demanding but academically stimulating and consists of debates, visits and attendance at the CIOR Summer Symposium.

YROW is an excellent opportunity for junior officer development and good preparation for multi-national operations as participants engage with officers from other countries in a safe environment and gain an understanding of how allied forces operate. The workshop also helps young officers develop and improve their written and oral communications skills as participants produce briefing notes and present their ideas to the CIOR President at the end of the week. YROW enables senior officers to see what really matters to young reserve officers.

Any reserve officers or officer cadets aged 30 and under and of Lieutenant (RNR), Captain (RMR/TA) or Flight Lieutenant (RAuxAF) or below, who would like to attend YROW 2009 in Sofia, Bulgaria, should visit www.ukrfa.org for more information. A selection weekend will take place at RTMC Chilwell from 6-8 March 2009. Prior to the workshop, on 11 July 2009, a study day on the theme 'Recruiting and Retention' will take place at Holderness House in London.



"I found it to be an incredibly useful week on a number of levels. I now have an insight into the functioning, successes and issues facing many other nations' reserve and regular forces. I have met new people from around the world, making contacts that will be useful to my civilian as well as my military career, and have made new international friendships. The lessons of the employer support theme will be reported back to my unit."

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