

### Education and awareness

The UKRFA provides opportunities for reservists to attend a variety of educational events at home and abroad which help improve knowledge of international affairs and alliance defence policy. These include:-

#### UKRFA Seminar

Every year in November or December, the UKRFA invites high profile speakers to address current issues affecting reserve forces. The seminar is open to all ranks and debate is encouraged.

#### CIOR Seminar

This residential seminar in February is held in conjunction with the CIOR mid-winter meeting in Germany. The focus is on current issues affecting NATO.

*"The UKRFA is the only forum for reservists from all three services to come together from time to time, exchange ideas and compete. It therefore gives 'added value' to training at a low cost to units."*

Brigadier The Duke of Westminster KG OBETD DL

#### CIOR Annual Symposium

A two day symposium open to all reservists on a topic of current military significance is held during the CIOR Summer Congress. Workshops allow further development of the theme.

### International representation



CIOR – The Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers  
CIOR was formed in 1948 to foster cooperation between Allied reserve forces and now has an important role supporting the contribution reserve forces make to the Alliance's defence effort. Every Alliance country is now represented in the organisation and the MOD recognises UKRFA as the official representative in CIOR.

CIOR meets every February at NATO HQ for a mid-winter meeting and every summer for its congress in a different NATO country, the main purpose of

which is to share best practice and information. Topics where civilian experience can best benefit defence policy are debated and include: mobilisation issues, exchange training, officer development, public information, legal matters affecting

*"UKRFA international activities improve the confidence and the training of young reserves and are retention positive."*

Colonel Rex Stephenson, Director of Operations



reservists and civil military cooperation.

The UKRFA also supports CIOR's annual Language Academy which offers English and French language training to reserve officers from Partnership for Peace countries. The UKRFA sponsors students and offers UK reservists with a training background the chance to teach at the Academy.



CIOMR – Interallied Confederation of Medical Reserve Officers

CIOMR holds its meetings concurrently with its sister organisation CIOR. It brings together alliance reserve medical officers to discuss clinical and administrative aspects of operational medical support.

### National representation

The UKRFA is structured both nationally and regionally. At the national level UKRFA is managed through a council located in Holderness House, London, supported by a small Secretariat. At the local level, 13 Regional Chairmen, use the facilities of the Reserve Forces and Cadets Associations to disseminate to unit representatives UKRFA activities. An AGM is held every spring, usually in April, to direct the Association's affairs.

The UKRFA NCO's Committee represents NCOs and other rank members of the UKRFA and provides an international link to AESOR, the association for other reserve ranks in NATO. All reserve units are encouraged to send NCO representatives (Sergeant upwards) to the quarterly meetings to learn more about UKRFA activities and opportunities.

### To find out more...

#### Annual programme

An annual UKRFA Programme of events is sent to both unit and individual members and is posted on the UKRFA website in January. Anyone wishing to participate in international events needs to write through their unit representatives to the UKRFA Secretariat.

#### Support

UKRFA activities have strong support of senior commanders. Funding procedures for overseas competitions are outlined in the comprehensive guide 'How to get your team to Europe.' and for the TA in an annual Land Routine Order. The Secretariat can allocate limited funds for your unit travel and support costs.

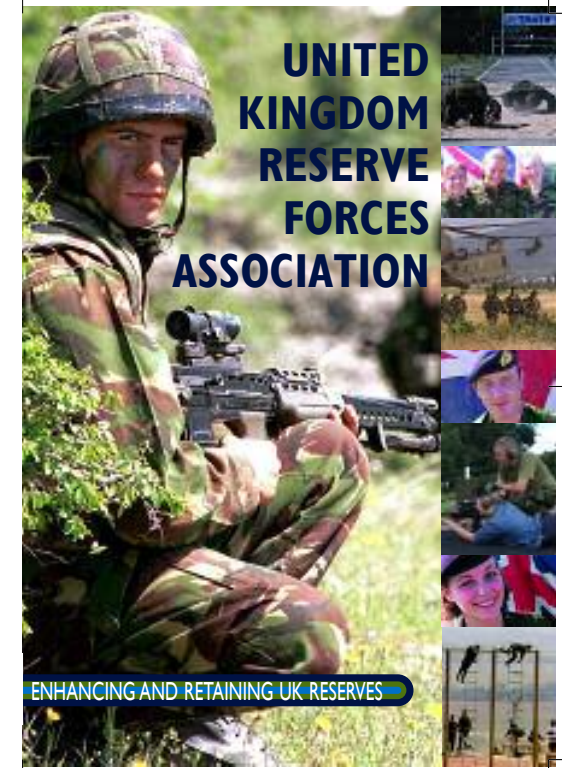
#### Membership

Corporate Membership provides membership for all reserve units, whereas Individual Membership is open to both serving and retired reservists and provides enhanced benefits. Full membership details, benefits and fees are shown on the website or through the Membership Secretary. UKRFA needs your support. So write now for membership forms.

#### Contact UKRFA



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### Why



Being a member of the United Kingdom Reserve Forces Association (UKRFA) opens the door to a wealth of opportunities for reserves in the 21st century.

The organisation provides a link between individual units and the international military community. Exchange training, educational opportunities and various military competitions help foster cooperation and understanding with armed forces, principally in NATO, and at the same time improve self-confidence, provide international experience and are retention positive. UKRFA is an association run by reservists for reservists. It is for all ranks, for the benefit of all three services.

and law of armed conflict. A place in the UK team requires high levels of fitness, military skill and commitment, with selection and training taking place over weekends in the months prior to the event.

*"Reservists with the energy and motivation to take up the opportunities presented by the UKRFA will find them varied, interesting and very rewarding."*  
Brigadier Michael Browne, President, UKRFA



This demanding competition which is open to both men and women is usually held in July or early August in a different NATO country each year.

#### NATO Military Skills and Shooting Competitions

UK reservists of all ranks can enter more than 25 military skills and shooting competitions every year in a number of European countries including Germany, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Italy, Estonia, Holland and Switzerland.

#### Equitation

If you are a competent rider then the UKRFA can provide you with some challenging and enjoyable competitions. The UKRFA sponsors the British entry in the annual Saumur Challenge, which tests British, French, Belgian and Dutch military horsemen and women in cross-country and show jumping. Teams of 4 experienced riders compete on horses provided by the host nation.

### Competitions at home

Three UKRFA International Competitions are held in the UK each year.

#### NCOs' International Military Skills Competition

This is normally held in early May with up to 40 teams competing in a variety of military skills and command tasks. UK teams must include a maximum of two ranks up to WO1 and two others but greater flexibility is permitted with foreign teams. Teams can be mixed male and female.

#### NATO Reserve Forces Shooting Competition

Usually held in May and based in Edinburgh, this competition began in 1980. Shooting, first aid, assault course and other skills' tests are included. Teams of three (to include one officer) are required.

#### International Skill at Arms Meeting (ISAM)

This takes place in late August or early September and is held at Pirbright, Surrey. Teams of three of any rank compete using a variety of weapons. Units are encouraged to run one range or stand, or to offer administrative support.

### International courses

Young reserve officers from all the volunteer reserve services are eligible to participate in several NATO programmes designed to develop their experience, knowledge and understanding of the Alliance.

#### The Young Reserve Officers Workshop (YROW)

YROW is held every year in conjunction with the Summer Congress of CIOR. It brings together young reserve officers from NATO and PIP countries to develop a common approach to a major issue affecting NATO's reserve forces. Issues considered have included how to improve employer support, NATO's links to eastern Europe and transatlantic relations.

*"Working alongside reserves from across NATO has been valuable experience and will be very useful for future joint operations."*

Lieutenant Stephanie Wiles, YROW participant



Competition for this popular workshop is keen and selection takes place over a weekend in February or March. YROW is an excellent opportunity for self-development in an international environment. A foreign language is desirable.

#### International Junior Officer Development Seminar (IJOLDS)

This one week course is designed to provide post commissioning training in an international environment to increase the professional and leadership potential of young reserve officers. Selection is run in conjunction with YROW.

*"The UKRFA provides unique opportunities for reservists of all three Services to train and compete together and, equally important, learn from each other."*

Air Vice-Marshal B H Newton CB CVO OBE



#### NATO Basic Course for Reserve Officers

This annual week long course is run at NATO headquarters in Brussels to brief Reserve Officers aged 35 and under on the latest developments affecting the political and military policy of the Alliance.

#### NATO School Reserve and Mobilisation Courses

This annual course at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany is aimed at officers involved in preparing reserve forces for active service.

#### SHAPE Public Information Officers Course

This course is run at Mons to prepare reserve officers with some previous experience in this field to work as public information officers in a NATO environment. Briefings are provided on NATO strategy, the Alliance command structure and public information procedures.

### Competitions abroad

#### The CIOR Military Competition

More than 180 reserve officers compete in this annual event which takes place during the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) summer congress.

*"Representing the UK and winning medals at the CIOR military competition is an honour. We train hard individually and as a team and taking part gives us the chance to travel to a different country each year."*

Lieutenant Tania Pitman, CIOR Competitor



Each nation fields up to six teams of three officers or officer cadets who compete across six skills: shooting; assault course; obstacle swimming; orienteering; first aid