



ROMANIAN RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION – STRONG, ACTIVE, RESPONSIBLE

Coordinated by Vasile Băețelu
and Virgil Bălăceanu



One of the most recent books published by the Military Publishing House, “The Romanian Reserve Officers Association – strong, active, responsible”, describes the domestic and international activity of one of the most important national military associations for reservists in Romania, which has a special and unique status – founded for Romania’s accession into the Confederation Interallied of Reserve Officers (CIOR) for NATO member and partner states. As stated in the cited book, the Romanian Reserve Officers Association (AORR), as a CIOR permanent member since 2004, is the only military

associative structure that works with the Ministry of National Defence to develop Reserve Forces and train young volunteer reservists through courses, exercises and the practical activities organised by CIOR. As a result, it was necessary for such a particularly active association among the military community to have its own documentary book with an operational-scientific approach to the issue of the Romanian Armed Forces reserve, in the context of growing concern of the Member States resilience of the Alliance and the European Union facing all 360° risks and threats.

Both the coordinators of the book, respectively Brigadier General (rtr.) Vasile Băețelu and Lieutenant General (rtr.) Virgil Bălăceanu, and the authors of the main book chapters are members of the Board of Directors and AORR branches, having in-depth experience and full involvement in associative activities at domestic and international levels, as well as inside civil society. As a result, in addition to its historical-documentary character (historical landmarks or the Centenary



of the Romanian Great Union), the book also includes deep scientific analysis on the Romanian Armed Forces' Reserve, AORR policy in the field of military volunteering, mobilisation and volunteering, the need to achieve a national military mobility strategy and supporting the national defence industry. In the social domain, the book presents the concerns and actions undertaken by AORR in the Forum of associative structures framework, collaboration with convergent associative structures, involvement in solving reservists' social issues, protection of military reserve personnel's health and their promotion, and collaboration with the Ministry of National Defence, Parliamentary committees and public authorities to modernise the defence legislative framework. Internationally, the paper describes the active involvement of the association in CIOR and in bilateral international relations, as well as joint activities with German reservists. The paper also contains several annexes on the AORR 2025 Strategy, the AORR and CIOR's Constitution and By Law, the members of the Association and the main branches in Romanian counties.

In addition to the social aspects of support for reserve military personnel, which are regularly addressed by all associative structures established in the field of defence and security, the book highlights the two major strategic objectives of AORR – the development of Reserve Forces to support the active ones in defending the country against any aggressor and achieving resilience at national level, as well as participating in the education and training of reservists, including young volunteer reservists, through the training activities provided by CIOR. Regarding the development of national Reserve Forces to complement the active ones in the multidimensional operational space, the book comprises four chapters that present a brief analysis of the current state of the Romanian Armed Forces' reserve, and scientifically argue the need for a new vision and increased responsibility of decision on the formation of a strong, trained and effective Reserve Force in national and collective defence. The respective chapters also contain the open letter, sent by the AORR management to all national authorities with attributions in the field of defence, through which it presents the need of the Romanian Armed Forces to have a high-performance Reserve Force, systematically trained and synergistically integrated within active ones. A special role in these chapters belongs to the volunteer reservists and the complicated process of recruiting, selecting, training and retaining them in the military. Nor the approval of the amendments to Law no. 270/2015 on the Statute of the voluntary reservist did not contribute to the removal of all negative aspects and gaps of the normative provisions for attracting and incorporating young people among this operational reserve corp.

Another important aspect refers to the presentation of the Pilot Programme for pre-military training of young people in high schools and universities, being developed based on the provisions of Law no. 446/2006 on the preparation of the population for defence, with subsequent amendments and completions proposed by



the “Gemina” 4th Divisional HQ, in collaboration with Cluj-Napoca local authorities and educational institutions. We must not forget the aspect of military mobility, a requirement addressed to all Member States by NATO and the EU, for establishing unrestricted movement and transport of Allied forces throughout Europe, in the event of activation of Article 5 of the Washington Treaty or Article 42 (7) of the EU Treaty. In this context, AORR is presented as the promoter of a National Strategy for military mobility through inter-institutional civil-military cooperation.

In recent years, AORR has been the catalyst for the establishment of a Forum of associative structures in the field of defence and security, which currently includes 55 associations, clubs, federations, leagues and unions from the Defence, Public Order and National Security System (SAOPSN), signatories of the 2016 protocol. The book also presents the Partnership protocols concluded by AORR with various convergent associative structures in Romania, including civilian and military educational institutions, such as: “Carol I” National Defence University, “Ferdinand I” Military Technical Academy, the Professional Military League, the Association for Military Traditions, Military Section of the “Iustinian Teculescu” Transylvanian Association for Romanian Literature and Culture of the Romanian People (ASTRA), the Christian Cultural Association, “La noi, la români” Cultural Association, the Institutional Arbitration Association, General Union of Romanian Industrialists (UGIR), the Social Democratic Party and the National Liberal Party.

The 496-page volume contains a lot of data and information, which makes it not very easy to read, but at the same time, it constantly challenges the reader to pass through the mind filter the details presented and to synthesise the most interesting and current ones. However, once the reader is absorbed by the reading, the book can no longer be set aside, both the attached photographs and documents contributing to a better understanding, as well as the bibliography used by authors. Therefore, we recommend this book to all those who study the defence and security policy and to anyone interested in associative structures in the military field, the development of Reserve Forces complementary and in support of the active ones, the training of reservists at national level, as well as the internal and international activities carried out by AORR within CIOR.

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