

**International Rescue Dog Organisation (IRO):
The toughest European Rescue Dog Mission Readiness Test
In the Tritolwerk in Lower Austria from 02. – 06.11.2010**



The world's best rescue dog teams have to pass an extremely demanding Mission Readiness Test at regular intervals in order to take part in international catastrophe deployments.

2 Groups, each containing 18 dog handlers from all over Europe, have been camping with their rescue dogs in front of the army training grounds "Tritol-Werk" situated near to the Wiener Neustadt since Tuesday evening (2nd November).

Great deployments are simulated absolutely realistically. After an alarm, the dog handlers have to stand ready with their dogs within minutes and wait for a search deployment. Night marches with baggage, night exercises as well as abseiling exercises are also part of the programme as well as first aid on dogs and humans and a theoretical part.

"At this most challenging test in the world", according to the President of the "International Rescue Dog Organisation", Dr. Wolfgang Zörner, this year 16 out of 36 teams from 8 nations have passed.

Nevertheless the IRO President appears to be satisfied with the results:

"One also has to bear in mind that all participants have already completed all preliminary stages and tests successfully, in order to be able to take part in such a test. Only the best dog handlers with the best dogs are present here".

Tests of these kind take place annually all over the world and they are carried out according to the strict guidelines of the INSARAG (International Search and Rescue Advisory Group), a UN organisation which coordinates international catastrophe deployments.

The „International Rescue Dog Organisation“ (IRO) was established in 1993 as the worldwide umbrella organisation for national rescue dog organisations with the aim to protect people's lives and maintain people's health by deploying the best trained dogs.

The IRO is a registered, non-profit organisation with an international executive board. The head office of the IRO is located in Salzburg (Austria). Members of the IRO are national rescue dog organisations. At present there are 94 member organisations in 36 countries of the world.

