



# Guideline for the organisation and evaluation IRO MRT

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## CHANGES

Date	Changes
17.09.2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validation and Recertification</li> </ul>
14.08.2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reclassification according to Module 5 (IRO Module System)</li> <li>• Validation</li> <li>• Dog leaders (former called group leaders) are not tested anymore at the MRT</li> <li>• The term INSARAG SD MRT is replaced by IRO MRT</li> <li>• Introducing of “shadow” Classifiers</li> <li>• Translators</li> </ul>

This guideline replaces the “Guideline for the arrangement and evaluation IRO SD MRT for USAR-Teams”

For simplicity only the masculine form of nouns will be used.

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## Introduction to the IRO MRT

- The IRO MRT is based on the work of a search dog team at an international USAR mission.
- The IRO MRT will be executed on a scenario basis, including but not limited to searches, human and veterinary first aid.
- Participants will be required to work under the INSARAG guidelines.
- The execution of the search effort, systematic work and indication will be scored according to a set evaluation system.
- The performance of the dog and dog handler as well as the harmonic team performance will be assessed.
- In order to pass the IRO MRT, search dog teams must indicate at least 70 % of the victims.
- A minimum of seven (7) searches of 20 minutes each shall be completed over a period of 2 days and shall include day searches and night searches.

### General information

- The IRO is the Host of the IRO MRT. The department of deployment is responsible for it and shall assign an NRO to the organization of the event. Any NRO may apply to organize an IRO MRT, provided that they have suitable test areas available.
- All IRO MRT can take place under international observation. This will foster the compliance with the INSARAG criteria.

### Requirements for the organization of an IRO MRT

- In order to hold an IRO MRT, there shall be a minimum of 10 dog handlers having successfully completed either the RH T-B test according to IPO-R test or in the case of members of an IEC certified USAR team, their national mission test.
- Should the number of 10 participating teams not be reached by the application deadline, the IRO MRT will be cancelled. Furthermore, in order to hold an IRO MRT with 2 main groups (4 day event), there shall be a minimum of 27 RH-T applicants. Should this number not be reached the IRO MRT will be reduced to 1 main group (2 day event) and shall have a minimum of 10 RH-T and a maximum of 18 RH-T. The organizing NRO can also suggest a date for the organization of the IRO MRT to the IRO office.
- The IRO MRT shall be planned by the assigned NRO in such a way as to include a weekend, (whether it is a 2 day or 4 day event). Diversions from this requirement shall be pre-approved by the department of deployment. Because search work will be assessed by day and by night, a shift work for the helpers will have to be planned, where applicable.

## Information for participants

### Requirements for participation

- For IRO NRO members: Must have passed the RH-T-B test according to IPO-R.
- For IEC certified USAR Team members: must have passed their national mission test.
- The dog must not be older than 8 years of age at its first IRO MRT participation.
- The dog handler has to own a valid passport (for a minimum of 6 months) and has to be vaccinated in accordance with the entry requirements of the organizing country. It is the responsibility of each participant to contact the local health departments for more information.
- Search work requires a certain level of physical ability in order to accomplish the assigned tasks in challenging terrain, for both the search dog and the dog handler.
- Suitable PE (Personal Equipment) and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment, helmet, mission jacket, mission pants, safety boots, gloves, lighting) are required.
- Each participant shall have the necessary accommodation equipment and provisions for his/her stay at the BoO.

### Participants at the IRO Reception and Departure Centre / RDC

- The IRO MRT begins with the arrival and registration of the participants at the IRO Reception and Departure Centre / RDC.
- The IRO RDC shall be strategically situated such as at an airport or other suitable location. The exact place of the IRO RDC shall be published in due time.
- All participants must proceed to the IRO RDC no later than the evening of the day before the designated assessment day,.
- An equipment check will be carried out for each participant by an IRO representative at the IRO RDC.
- Only participants with complete equipment will be allowed to proceed.
- Deficient equipment (personal safety clothes, provision or accommodation) can lead to disqualification of the participating team.
- An assigned veterinarian shall perform a health check of all participating dogs at the IRO RDC.
- Once duly registered at the IRO RDC and all formalities completed, the participants will be transported to the Base of Operation (BoO) through local means.
- The organizing NRO is responsible for the transport of the participants to the BoO.

### **Participants at the Base of Operation**

- The transport of all participants from the IRO RDC to the BoO will be carried out with transport vehicles of the national organizer.
- Participants who drove to the IRO MRT in their own vehicles shall park at a designated parking lot near the IRO RDC.
- Participants will not be permitted to drive their own vehicles to the Base of Operations.
- The provision and BoO accommodation remains the sole responsibility of each participant
- Each participant will be assigned a site where to set up camp.
- Motor aggregates, such as generators, brought by individual participants shall be set up at a sufficient distance from the next tent (noise abatement).

### **Schedule for the participants**

- There shall be no set schedule for participants
- With the exception of the mandatory 4 hour resting period, all participants shall remain operational at all time and be ready within 15 minutes from the time they receive their work notification.

### **Veterinary Emergencies**

- The organizing NRO must set up a Veterinary Clinic on site, available for veterinary emergencies occurring during the IRO MRT. The organizing NRO shall submit the contact details of the IRO office to the clinic in order to coordinated the financial concerns directly through the IRO office.
- The IRO shall be responsible for the costs of dogs hospitalized to the clinic by the veterinarian on duty. All other costs for veterinary care remains the responsibility of the dog handler.
- Where a dog requires hospitalization, the Senior Classifier must be notified as soon as possible.
- A detailed accident report from the search dog handler and the Classifier of the work site, must be duly completed and has to be sent to the IRO office. Details such as the location where the accident took place, the time, first aid treatment received shall be included. A statement regarding the accident from the Senior Classifier shall also be included.

### **Departure of participants**

- The participants are responsible for their journey home.

## IRO MRT – testing area

- The MRT will be carried out in at least three different search areas.
- The size of each search area shall be 800 m<sup>2</sup> to 2000 m<sup>2</sup>.
- At least 2 work sites have to feature a height difference of at least 2 m within the search area.
- Possible search areas are:
  - Rubble complexes in civil- or emergency management centres: rubble consists of concrete structures, bricks, rocks, wood or any mixture. Dangerous components such as glass, sharp metal edges, crash sites etc. shall be removed where possible, or be secured
  - Concrete / Wood recycling complexes
  - Demolition sites – at least 90 % of the search area must be rubble complexes or demolition sites with rubble elements
  - **Important: Intact buildings without rubble structure are not accepted!**
- All respective work sites shall include a minimum of 6 hides.

## Victims

- The number of victims to be found shall not be disclosed.
- Victims should be in the hiding places for at least 15 minutes before the dog begins his search.
- Hidden victims shall not be seen by the dog handler nor the dog while searching
- A minimum of 4 victims shall be placed with at least 1.5 m of debris or other materials between the dog and the victims.
- The dog handler can end the work prematurely, if he believes that the entire area has been adequately searched.

## Distraction

- During the search distractions should occur in at least 2 locations.
- The dog should not be distracted during his work.
- The following distractions may be used:
  - Noise: I.E. industrial noises, chainsaw, air hammer, aggregate, generator or similar. Recordings of such noises can also be used.
  - Food, clothes, various types of garbage: These items shall not be reachable by the dog. However, they should be placed in such a way as to allow the Classifiers to clearly determine whether the dog is indicating the objects or a victim.
  - Persons lingering in the search area alone or in groups: The Senior Classifier, along with the Classifiers, shall decide prior to the beginning of the search, if the Lingering persons must vacate the rubble, should they be told to do so by the dog handler.

### **Tactical situation at the IRO MRT**

- At each work site, the dog handler receives a written general tactical situation prior to the beginning of the search work. This can also be in the form of a drawing or through an INSARAG Marking Box. It is to be noted that the INSARAG Marking Box will only be done in English as per INSARAG Guidelines.
- The dog handler may ask questions (in English or German) to the Classifier before deciding on a strategic mission plan. Those who do not speak either of these languages will be permitted to bring a translator.
- The dog handler must share his plan with the Classifiers and then execute the mission plan.
- The time needed to solve the tactical situation is part of the search time.

### **Evaluation of the search work**

- The IRO MRT will adopt an evaluation system developed by REDOG and shared by several organizations such as REDOG (CH), AFDRU (A) and the IRO. The assessment will be carried out using a checklist and a standardized evaluation chart. All evaluation sheets from every work site for a given team will be compiled according to the evaluation chart into an overall assessment to arrive at the final score.
- Regardless of the final score achieved, at least 70 % of the victims must be found in order to pass the IRO MRT.
- The final evaluation shall state “passed” or “not passed”. In borderline cases, the Senior Classifier, after deliberating with the Classifiers, will decide, if the team passes the IRO MRT.
- False indications will be evaluated separately in relation to the total number of victims.
- Participants can request a copy of their evaluation sheet within 3 weeks from the IRO MRT.

### **Evaluation of the minor subjects**

- The subjects First Aid Human, First Aid Dog, roping exercise with the dog and INSARAG basic knowledge will be tested by experts theoretically and practically. The participants may use the INSARAG guidelines.
- At least 50 % of the minor subjects must be passed. Where a participant fails to pass 50 % of these tests as required, all minor subjects must be taken in the next year.
- The roping exercise must be as realistic as possible, working from in height, with a short search of no more than 5 minutes. A crane can not be used.
- The teams’ physical conditions will be tested in a 10 km march held before a search or between searches. The hike may also occur at night.

## IRO MRT test administration

- The test administration consists of:
  - Senior Classifier
  - IRO Office
  - On-site Facilitators
  - Classifiers
  - Organizing NRO

Where the decision of the Classifiers gives rise to a dispute, the Senior Classifier has the final say.

The test administration has the following tasks:

### 1. Senior Classifier

- The IRO spokesperson for the department of deployment or one of his representatives shall be the Chief Classifier. With the help of the IRO office and the organizing NRO, the Senior Classifier is responsible for the overall organization of the IRO MRT.
- He ensures, in coordination with the IRO office, that all participants meet the requirements for participation in the IRO MRT.
- He assigns, in coordination with the on-site Facilitators the search areas and hides.
- He elects Classifiers chosen from the official IRO Classifiers list and the experts for minor subjects.
- He assigns each classifier to the different search areas.
- He creates the general tactical situation.
- He decides of the forms and locations of each distraction to be used.
- He may order that a demonstration by a mission ready search dog be carried out prior to the first search.
- He ensures that the evaluation is done in accordance to the IRO and the INSARAG guidelines.
- Where a dog is found to be physically unfit by the Veterinarian on duty, either prior to or during the test, or where a dog exhibits aggression behaviours towards a victim or any other individual, the Senior Classifier is responsible for the decision to disqualify the particular team from this test. He may reach the decision on his own or after deliberation with the other Classifiers.
- Where in a particular case, Classifiers are of divergent opinions, the Chief Classifier shall act as an arbitrator and is responsible for the final decision, after hearing both sides.
- The Senior Classifier organizes and conducts the Classifiers meetings.
- He reviews all evaluations and makes the final decision in regard to the successful IRO MRT status of each team.

## **2. IRO Office**

- The IRO Office ensures that the test dates are correctly registered and that they are forwarded in time to the department of deployment and the organizing NRO.
- It is responsible for announcing the IRO MRT event, in coordination with the department of deployment.
- It receives the applications for registration to the IRO MRT and establishes the participation list.
- It enters all data pertaining to the participants into the evaluation system and establishes the necessary evaluation sheets and certificates for the test administration.
- During the MRT, it ensures that all results from the evaluation sheets are duly entered into the evaluation system.
- It is responsible to update the mission list in a timely fashion after each IRO MRT.
- It is responsible to adequately staff the MRT – RDC and to regulate all administrative tasks.

## **3. On-site Facilitators**

- Two (2) to three (3) days prior to the event, the On-site Facilitators will prepare the work sites, in coordination with the organizing NRO.
- They are responsible to ensure that the size of each search area is between 800 m<sup>2</sup> and 2000 m<sup>2</sup>.
- They are responsible to ensure that at least 2 work sites feature a height difference of at least 2 m.
- They are responsible to ensure that at least 2 search areas comply with an average difficult rubble situation typically encountered in missions.
- They prepare for each work site, an individual situation description in form of a written scenario, a drawing with the most vital information or with the help of an INSARAG Marking Box for every work site.
- They are responsible to ensure that all hides are exchanged in adequate time.
- They act as support to the Classifiers.

## **4. Classifiers**

- With the Senior Classifier, Classifiers are the evaluation team.
- One half of an evaluation team consists of IRO-judges and mission experienced leadership personalities (Team leader, dog leaders, practice leaders, USAR Team members).
- Classifiers should be chosen from as many NROs as possible, in order to represent the widest range of experiences worldwide.
- Every Classifier must participate in the Classifier training the year he is designated as a Classifier for an IRO MRT.
- In order to form further Classifiers, „Shadow Classifier“ may attend the IRO MRT. They are Classifiers in training and shall only attend the IRO MRT as a shadow to the Classifiers. They shall not participate in the evaluation of the participants. A maximum of four (4) „Shadow Classifiers“ shall be allowed to attend an IRO MRT.
- 2 trained Classifiers of the IRO / AFDRU / REDOG shall assess the work of search dog teams at each work site.

- Classifiers shall complete a Classifier sheet for each team and each search.
- Reasons must be given for all grades below 3.
- All classifiers must attend the classifiers meeting.

## 5. Organizing NRO

- The Organizing NRO is responsible for establishing the event schedule in accordance with the organizational requirements to hold an IRO MRT. This schedule may be adjusted to the local circumstances and conditions upon discussion with the spokesperson of deployment. The adapted schedule must be submitted for approval to the IRO Office. The organizational schedule must include a 5 minutes slot after each search to allow Classifiers to provide feedback to each participant.
- It is responsible to ensure that the IRO Office receives in due time all necessary information.
- It is responsible to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is available.
- It shall ensure the presence of a Veterinarian and Emergency Medical Service at the MRT testing area for the complete duration of the MRT.
- When relevant, it must provides an instructor from the local Mountain Rescue Services, to ensure compliance with the national regulations.
- It must provide adequate work sites, appropriate areas for a BoO and RDC / OSOCC setting.
- It must ensure that the evaluation will be in accordance with the IRO and INSARAG guidelines.
- In coordination with the IRO Office, the Organizing NRO is responsible for the accommodation of all Members of the test administration.
- It provides a sufficient number of hiding persons.
- It is responsible for providing transportation and all meals, at and away from the work sites for Members of the test administration.

### MRT test results

- Only those participants with a positive evaluation will receive the designation “Mission Ready” in the form of a Certificate.
- After each IRO MRT the department of deployment will conduct a general analysis to recommend improvements. These recommendations will be communicated to the NROs.

### Validation and Recertification

- The certification “Mission Ready” is valid for two (2) years. Participation in the IRO MRT by a certified team within these two years shall have no consequences concerning the IRO allocation of funds from sponsor’s donations.
- Once a mission ready search dog reaches his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, the team must undergo Recertification every year.
- Reclassification events will be held in conjunction with the IRO Office as per the Reclassification standards available in the IRO Module System (Module 5).

## Assignment of tasks at the IRO MRT

- The scenario for the IRO MRT is generally a recent strong earthquake resulting in a lot of destroyed buildings.
- The search mission at the IRO MRT is to find as many survivors as possible at different work sites of various sizes and difficulty levels within 20 minutes for each site.
- The task of search dog handlers is to guide and direct the search dog in order to solve the presented tactical situation within these 20 minutes.
- The search dog handler must demonstrate team work with his search dog. He has to read him, support him, as well as motivate him and must communicate the information he gathered after each search to the Classifiers.
- At the IRO MRT the search dog handler has to demonstrate, that he can act in a tactically correct fashion in, on or at the work site.
- The search dog handler shall not be limited in his action during the IRO MRT other than by dangers. If a dangerous situation was to prohibit the dog handler from entering the work site, it is the responsibility of the dog handler to recognize the situation and adjust his tactical plan.

## Evaluation at the IRO MRT

The IRO MRT adopted the evaluation system developed by REDOG and presently shared by REDOG (CH), AFDRU (A), Austrian Red Cross and the IRO. Accordingly, the assessment will be done by the Classifiers with the help of a checklist and a standardized evaluation system taking into consideration all searches of all sites for any given team. Each individual evaluation sheet from all work sites for each team will be entered in the evaluation system in order to obtain the final grade.

The evaluation system of the IRO MRT takes into consideration the following criteria:

- **General Evaluation (Team evaluation)**
  - Tactical situation, system work and guidance
  - Monitoring
  - Evaluation of the search work
  - Evaluation of the mobility
  - Evaluation of the independence
- **Alerting**
  - Alerting behaviour of the dog handler
  - Alerting behaviour of the dog

### Evaluation of the tactical situation, system work and directing

- The search dog handler must be able to assess the site through the gathering of all relevant information.
- The search tactic of the search dog handler for the structured and well-regulated search mission has to be a result from the tactical situation.
- The search dog handler has to establish a system work and search structure using the tactical situation.
- The search dog handler has to determine the course of motions of the search dog in, atop or at a search object.
- The system work requires an adequate orientation behaviour of the search dog handler at the assigned work site.
- The search dog handler has to sum up the mechanisms of his own assessment at the orientation behaviour:
  1. Assessment: What is the situation?
  2. Priorities: Where do I have to start?
  3. Tactics: How do I proceed?
  4. Safety: How do I proceed safely?
- The understanding of the overall situation – through the assessment of the search dog handler – is absolutely essential.
- The search dog handler has to monitor the system work of the search dog.
- The search dog handler shall conduct a thorough risk assessment of the site to ensure safety of the search dog.
- The search dog handler must be able to report all assessment information verbally and through mapping and other means in a complete and accurate manner.

### Evaluation of monitoring

- The search dog handler has to monitor the search dog constantly and has to maintain visual sight, if possible.
- A constant visual and acoustical team communication between the search dog handler and the search dog has to be maintained constantly.
- The search dog handler has to always overlook where his dog is and is therefore not limited in his freedom of movement, if the current safety situation allows it. If the search dog handler enters rubble areas, which were designated as danger zones at the tactical situation briefing, this will be evaluated as a major tactical mistake in the evaluation sheets.
- The access to the rubble is possible, if the current safety situation allows it. However, it's not allowed to enter rubble, which have not been searched by the search dog before. This will be evaluated by a tactical mistake in the evaluation sheets.
- The search dog handler has to decide in time, which lot the search dog has to search next.
- The search dog handler has to have extensive knowledge in search strategies, how an assigned search area can be split-up and how it can be searched, together with the dog, in a target-oriented manner.
- It is required from the search dog handler, that he can read the search dog using the signals and that he adjusts his own directability behaviour accordingly.

- The search dog handler has to grant the search dog the required freedom to work at the assigned work area on his own.

#### Evaluation of search work

- The search dog should search for the scent of the person (the will to find) persistently and intensively. A high value is set on this.
- Human scent, which arises from the depth or height, has to be clearly alerted by the search dog.
- The search dog handler will be evaluated during the search work on how he directs the search dog, how he adjusts the structure to the search effort of the search dog and how he corrects it, if necessary. Furthermore he will be evaluated on how he supports the joy of work of the search dog at the right time using motivating leadership communication.
- The spirited joy of work of the search dog has to be visible.
- The motivating co-work of the search dog handler has to be visible.
- The harmonic team effort has to be visible.

#### Evaluation of the mobility

- The search dog must demonstrate good agility and good balance in his movement while on the rubble, and must not avoid any materials or obstacles.
- The search dog must be able to enter dark areas while searching.
- The search dog handler and the search dog must be able to work at inconvenient search locations.
- The search dog handler has to take the leadership role in the search dog team.

#### Evaluation of the search dog independence

- The search dog shall be able to work independent and away from his handler without constant encouragements.
- The search dog handler has to let the search dog work at the assigned work area and has to monitor his work and correct it.
- The search dog shall demonstrate drive and independence in his search but must not leave the assigned work area nor move uncontrolled on the work site.

#### Evaluation of the alert

- The outlet of scent of a living person has to be alerted in a convincing way through stalling, focused barking and appropriate digging.
- The search dog has to alert the outlet of human scent at the surface independently, flawlessly, spontaneously and without interference of the search dog handler.
- The way of alerting (barking) has to be clearly identified.
- The alerting behaviour must not be induced by the search dog handler.
- The search dog has to alert every hiding person using repeated barking, as well as focused stalling and / or appropriate scratching the rubble (digging).
- The search dog handler has to recognize the alert of the search dog and must signalize it to the evaluation team. Every alert has to be signalized by the dog handler.

- After the alert signal through the search dog handler, the search dog must stall at the alert area and must not (not even occasionally) run off.
- A lot of attention has to be given to the team work of the alerting behaviour between the search dog handler and the search dog).
- It is not a mistake for the search dog handler to allow his dog to work the area, after the dog begins to alert (barking), until he shows a definite digging behaviour or focused barking and then acknowledges the alert by a clear hand signal.
- The search dog handler has to behave correctly, where necessary support the search dog after the alerting – however, without motivating the actual alert behaviour – and read the alert of the search dog based on his behaviour.
- As soon as the search dog handler has signalled the alert to the Classifiers, he may commend and encourage the search dog, as well as strengthen the triggered alert.
- The search dog handler may reward the search dog at the alert site. However, it is the responsibility of the search dog handler to ensure that no reward food remains at the alert site.
- After the alert, the search dog handler must call the buried victim in a fashion such as: “Search and Rescue – can you hear me?” In order to motivate the victim to answer.
- All relevant information concerning the find must be reported to the rescue teams/Classifiers.

## **Requirements for the acceptance of a NRO IRO MRT**

Applications for the execution of a NRO IRO MRT is to be made to the department of deployment through the IRO Office.

The NRO IRO MRT has to conform to IRO guidelines for the IRO MRT.

Should the regulations of the IRO guidelines for the MRT not be followed, the MRT will not be accepted as an IRO MRT.

### **Planning and execution**

- The organizing NRO is in charge of the execution.
- All NRO IRO MRTs will be posted in the IRO annual calendar and must therefore be registered by 30<sup>th</sup> June of the year before as any official IRO event.
- The invitation for the MRT has to be sent by the organizing NRO to the IRO office. It must include the place and time of the event, as well as contact the official address, the application deadline and cost for the application fee.
- If the capacities allow it, also search dog teams from other NROs may also participate.
- The application fee must not be higher than € 50,-.
- The application deadline has to be scheduled 4 weeks prior to the event. Late applications may only be accepted, if they can be included in the schedule without any problem.
- The IRO MRT adopted evaluation system must be used.
- Immediately after the MRT a duly completed form signed by the IRO Representatives chosen from the IRO Classifier pool shall be sent to the IRO Office.

### **NRO Classifiers**

- The Classifiers must be chosen from the Classifier pool of the IRO / AFDRU / REDOG or from national associations, which are part of the FCI.
- The organizing NRO is in charge of the nomination, assignment and costs of the Classifiers.
- There is the possibility to nominate own accepted Classifiers/ judges or accepted Classifiers / judges from other NROs respectively associations, which belong to the FCI.

### **IRO Observers**

- The department of deployment of the IRO shall assign at least two (2) IRO Representatives, to supervise and ensure the correct execution of the NRO IRO MRT.
- The IRO Representatives shall be chosen from the IRO Classifier pool for international MRTs.
- The IRO shall cover the travel and accommodation expenses including breakfast, and the daily fees for the IRO Representatives, in accordance with the latest IRO expense reports regulations. The planning and execution will be overseen by the IRO Office in coordination with the chosen IRO Representatives.
- The organizing NRO is responsible for the on-site transport of the Representatives.
- After completion of the NRO IRO MRT the Representatives shall file a written report with the IRO spokesperson of deployment. The recognition of the NRO IRO MRT by the IRO will be contingent on this report.