

# TRAINING

## Symposiums and Workshops

### 9th International Rescue Dog Symposium

24 Apr – 27 Apr 2003

Prague, CZ

Title:           The Rescue Dog Today  
                  A look at what has been achieved – Future Demands

The organising body for the Symposium, Svaz zachrannych brigad kynologu, appointed Ms. D.I. Sabatova as Chief Symposium Organiser and had received 85 confirmations of participation from participants representing every continent except Africa. The following countries were represented: A, B, CH, CZ, D, FIN, I, IS, PL, RU, S, SK, AUS, KOR, TAI, USA

#### LECTURERS:

Althinsson	Jim	S
Choi	John K.H.	KO
Feltmann-Schroeder	Gudrun	D
Gies	Nicole	D
Gut Staff Sergeant.	Martin	CH
Haller	Helmut	D
Hanuska Major	Zdenek	CZ
Ho Dr.	Ben	US
Kus	Robert	SLO
Lanz	Otto	CH
Pernsteiner Major	Michael	A
Schüler	Peter	A
Wichmann	Ann	US
Zörner Dr.	Wolfgang	A

#### Topics:

Anniversary Speech on the History of the IRO

General Topic Lectures

The Rescue Dog in East Asia

The Development and Status of FEMA Catastrophe Dogs in the US

The New Organisation of Missions in Sweden

Disposition Requirements for Rescue Dogs as Police Dogs

IRO Disaster Missions – The IRO Mission Readiness Test

    The 1<sup>st</sup> IRO Operations Center

    The IRO Mission

The Mission following the Collapse of the World Trade Centers – Overview

    Risks for participating dogs

    Health Consequences for the dogs

The New Path to Rescue Dog Training

4 Pillars in the Basic Training of Search Dogs

## **Lecture Notes**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Rescue Dog Symposium was opened by the President of the IRO, Dr. Wolfgang Zörner following his anniversary speech on the 10 year history of the IRO and a welcoming by representatives of the Czech Department of the Interior and the organizing association, the SZBK.

In the first part of the event, participants were informed of the general topics of the lectures from speakers from A (Pernsteiner) , CZ (Hanuska) , D (Haller) , S (Althinsson) und SLO (Kus). There was a generally positive agreement in their comments, with a few country-specific exceptions.

Interesting insights into the position of rescue dogs overseas were presented by the lecturers from the USA (Wichmann) and Korea (Choi).

The fact that the disposition of rescue dogs and the ways of working with them can be viewed from many angles, and that the requirements can be quite different, was made clear by lecturers from D (Feltmann and Gies) and CH (Gut).

Both lectures regarding the rescue and recovery work at the World Trade Centers were extremely interesting. The aspect of the ensuing health of the dogs which participated was especially thought-provoking.

Quite a long time slot was devoted to the lecture regarding the IRO on Disaster Missions. The Test of Mission Readiness must be passed before participation in an IRO mission can even take place. The Mission Readiness Test was sketched out and designed to be very practically oriented.

The next step to a functioning mission is an optimally working and equipped Operations Center, from which international disaster missions can be coordinated. A PowerPoint presentation showed all currently available equipment. In conclusion, the Spokesperson for Deployment explained how he sees a mission of the IRO contingent.

There was an open session at the end of the symposium where participants could speak about any subject. This opportunity was used by a representative of the USA, who spoke about the search for corpses and also by a representative of Romania and Germany, both of whom shortly introduced their organisations. Following that, a video was shown on the training of rescue dogs for the Fire Department of Vienna.

To break up the theoretical session of the symposium, a disaster exercise on the grounds of an old factory was demonstrated on Friday afternoon. Members of the Czech rescue dog organisations demonstrated in teams of 3 how their dogs could locate and sound alert for 2 living victims and one corpse each in a destroyed factory setting. Rappelling down from a height of 15m (45ft) with a dog was also demonstrated as well as the recovery of victims by rappelling up with them.

## **Conclusions**

One of the fundamental conclusions of the symposium was that the NRO's primary area of responsible is the every day business of area searches for missing persons, and not primarily for international missions. One of the goals of the IRO for the future is to offer training in this area and to ensure that dogs teams the world over work on a solid basis with dependable dogs.

Location teams that are sent on international disaster missions must continue to be appropriately and specially trained in rubble search techniques. International regulations should require that all rescue dog teams that register for international missions be carefully tested on more than just a local level in order to clearly distance themselves from the "wildcat" teams. The IRO offers its International Mission Readiness Test for just such a purpose.

Authorities often don't react fast enough when disaster strikes. It is, however, especially important for rescue dog teams to arrive on scene as quickly as possible. Therefore the IRO will continue to function primarily as a location team when on mission – but is always open to joining a purely rescue-oriented team at the scene. Cooperation with the UN / OCCHA has to be a goal in order to make such combination teams possible at the scene of a disaster.