



IRO – Mission readiness test 2006 Frankfurt, Germany

The 4th IRO Mission readiness test took place from 2. – 5. of November 2006 in Frankfurt, Germany. A total number of 41 participants from 10 nations and 12 NROs had registered for the event. Participants were divided into two groups (First^t group from 2. – 3. November and the second group from 4. – 5. November 2006). Unfortunately the supervisor of the test, IRO spokesperson for deployment Mr. Otto Lanz from Switzerland, could not be at the test due to illness. So the supervision of the test was in the hands of Mr. Dušan Nečák, the second Vice President of the IRO. The technical administration was organised by Mr. Ruedi Gantenbein (CH).

The work at the nine different workplaces, the night march, the night search, the testing of INSARAG marking system and the alert exercises were evaluated by assessors from Austria, Netherland, Germany, Slovenia and Switzerland. Main criteria for a positive result was the number of hiding victims found and the positive overall assessment of the assessors. This year's performance of participants was a little inferior than last year. Nevertheless 17 dog handlers and 5 group leaders passed the Mission readiness test.

The workplaces were well chosen and – at first sight – maybe even a little too easy. Unfortunately at this IRO Mission readiness tests some dog handlers and group leaders did not bring the necessary level of professionalism needed for such a test. On the other hand some of the teams showed excellent work during the test. The colleagues from Switzerland and France have to be mentioned here.

For the first time there has been held a »Theory module« at an IRO Mission readiness test. Within this module Dr. Daniel Mühlemann (CH) informed the participants about the newly organised IRO SAR chain and its functioning.

From an organisational and technical point of view the IRO Mission readiness test 2006 was a great event. Some participants made the remark that they miss a final review and talk between assessors and participants. This review should help to identify strengths and weaknesses as well as room for improvement. With this measure more objectivity in rescue dog work can be reached in the future.

A list of all mission ready IRO dog handlers and group leaders is available as separate download.

Dušan Nečák
2. IRO Vice President

