



**International IRO Mission Readiness Test
Tritolwekr, Austria
21 – 23 May 2004**

The IRO International Test of Mission Readiness serves to certify teams for IRO contingents following international disasters. Successful teams are issued Mission Readiness Certificates valid for a period of 2 years, upon which teams must re-qualify.

The 2004 Test of Mission Readiness was organised by the IRO and the Rescue Dog Brigade of the WLFV KHD in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Army – ABC Defense Academy and the Vienna State Fire Department Association –KHD and conducted from 21 – 23 May 2004 in the military training facility “Tritolwerk” near Vienna Neustadt.

Participants were responsible for their own accommodations- which necessitated tents - were not allowed to leave the testing area, and had to be completely self-sufficient for the duration of the test.

The practical work of the test involved searching for missing and buried victims who were placed in locations of varying difficulty. The spectrum of difficulty ranged from intact buildings to completely demolished rubble scenes. Participants were further required to complete a night orientation march as well as a rappelling exercise from the tower building.

Mission readiness was determined using professional, technical and health suitability factors. Six international judges with extensive professional and personal experience in training and missions were on hand to provide the professional evaluations and represented the countries A, CH, CZ, D and SLO. Two veterinary doctors thoroughly evaluated the health of the dogs before, during, and after the test.

There were a total of 10 groups from A, CZ, D, I, RO, SLO, SK with 35 dogs and 6 group commanders participating in the test, of which 12 dog teams and 2 group commanders were able to fulfil the demanding requirements for the Mission Readiness Certificate.