

7th Mission Readiness Test of the „International Rescue Dog Organisation” in Žatec / Czech Republic:

More than half of the participating rescue-dogs teams accomplished positive results in this year's most challenging MRT of the „International Rescue Dog Organisation“ which took place in Žatec (Czech Republic) at the beginning of November. 20 out of 36 participating teams from 11 nations passed the test. Furthermore, 12 group-leaders underwent hard testing – 5 of them were successful.

At this test, the teams are being accommodated within a Camp so that they do not have any contact to the outside world once arrived and registered. They have to be self-sufficient, dog-handler and dog, and have to stay ready for taking mission at any time. Within 15 (!) minutes after alarm the teams have to be ready to march, nevertheless which time of day or night, regardless of the weather conditions. Furthermore, a night march with adjoining man-search takes place. And last but not least, a practical test about the INSARAG Marking Box has to be passed as well as for example roping with the dog fastened in a special gear from 10 meters height.

70% of the hidden („trapped“) victims have to be found. Next to the search-work of the dogs the work of the dog-handlers was especially evaluated again this year. Teams from France, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Germany, Switzerland, Slovakia, the Netherlands, Croatia, the UK and Hungary took part, out of which the teams of the UK, Switzerland and as well as the fire brigade Vienna (Austria) were the best.

Dr. Wolfgang Zörner, President of the „International Rescue Dog Organisation“: „It again was a very challenging Mission Readiness Test. And especially after the international mission in Sumatra we have again notified how enormously important it is to have teams from different nations search side by side at different work-sites“.

In spite of the selective testing for the mission readiness of the teams the number of candidates for this test is always higher than there can be taken due to organizational reasons. But once passed the test, the teams count to the best of the best!



