



**Internationale Kommission für Alpines Rettungswesen IKAR
Commission Internationale du Sauvetage Alpin CISA
International Commission for Alpine Rescue ICAR**

Reports by the Presidents 2007

(Agenda 4 of the Assembly of Delegates)

1 Report by ICAR President Toni Grab

1.1 Recommendations

In 2007, the working out of the recommendations for organization, requirements specification for mountain rescuers and their training was the center. It is clear to me that we (ICAR) have to try and keep the lead with these recommendations. I want to thank everyone who helped with their input. The executive committee understands that these basic recommendations will have to be updated and adapted to new situations. Therefore, they will be a constant agenda item at the annual assembly of delegates.

1.2 Visit of the Search and Rescue Dogs Specialists' Meeting in Leogang

I visited this special meeting from June 7 through 9. I noticed that they were doing great work. It would overwhelm the annual congress if the mountain rescuers with dogs held a meeting concurrently.

I support their request. They want that (a) each member organization takes along its search and rescue dog specialist to the annual congress, (b) these specialist will get half a day within the congress at their disposal, and (c) every 2 years they shall have the possibility of holding their own practical meeting.

1.3 Opening of the Tirolean Mountain Rescue Training Center

In July, I visited the opening of the above-mentioned training center in Jamtal. I congratulate Tirol to make this great infrastructure available to the mountain rescue.

1.4 Executive Committee Activity

The ICAR executive committee met in February and September. I am taking the liberty here to say that we are a team that works very well together. I thank my colleagues from the executive committee for the good cooperation.

Together with Felix Meier, treasurer, and Gebhard Barbisch, webmaster, I also cover for the secretary. We intend to attack the problem of "Secretary" again, especially since the amount of work has meanwhile reached a respectable size.

2 Report Avalanche Rescue by Commission President Hans-Jürg Etter

2.1 Activities during the Year

We worked, in part, in 3 work groups.
Leader of the groups and their topics were:
- D. Atkins and M. Genswein, Dictionary
- C. Israelson, Avalanche Prevention

- J. Schweizer, Search Strip Width.

All 3 work groups reached important interim goals (see minutes of the avalanche commission)

In Leogang a dog handler meeting was held (06/07 – 06/10/2007).

The practical work on location, and new starting points for the training and the area control during and after the search with dogs using GPS, were very interesting and educational. There are separate minutes of the meeting.

The organizers were Reinhard Gruber, Michael Höflinger, and Axel Budde.

The avalanche accident data collection continues to be compiled. The data collection in general is welcome and is actively supported (expansion of the data collection and rapid exchange of information).

The annual overview of the avalanche accident occurrences 2005/2006 (appended) as well as 2006/2007 will be available on the ICAR website as soon as possible. They are available to everyone with reference to the source (mandatory).

Another work topic was the preparation and holding of the extraordinary practical meeting on Mount Corvatsch (10/17/2007).

2.2 Practical Meeting of 10/17/2007 on Mount Corvatsch

The following instructors and manufacturers were available for post work:

Topics for the practical meeting Avalanche Rescue Commission

Name or Company	Responsible	Topic
Winter Workshop		
	Manuel Genswein and Group leaders	Short repetition of the most important points in each search phase and basic methods multiple buried persons with different device technologies
	Same	Micro search strip and microbox in demanding buried person scenarios
	Same	Beacon range and search strip width in practice
	Same	The V-shaped "conveyer belt" for fast and careful digging out
	Dieter Stopper and Bruce Edgerly	The Three Circle Method; reliable multiple burial searching
		15 minutes break with drinks on location after 3 posts
Winter, Devices		
Ortovox	Frank Kroell	Comparison Analog digital signal separation
Pieps	Markus Eck	Safety products applied in practice
Schweiz	Juerg Weber	Triage criteria beacon search
Schweiz	Yan Berchten	Demonstration device Snowpulse
Recco	Dale Atkins	Recco in combination with beacon
Girsberger Elektronik	Willi Zurkirch	Beacon search with the avalanche dog

Approximately 45 members took part in the practical meeting. The training opportunity was very much appreciated.

2.3 At the Congress, the following interesting topics, among other ones, were presented:

- National standards for the organized avalanche rescue in Norway
- Strategy and V-form shovel technique
- Decision making and risk abatement in avalanche rescue
- New avalanche beacons and their compatibility with each other as well with older models – there is the request by some manufacturers to "ban" older models as soon as possible. This topic has to be discussed. The opinion of the members is not yet available but will be asked for next year.
- New ABS system
- Increasing problem of mud slides; combination mud slide/avalanche rescue.

As mentioned, the list is far from being complete (see combined ICAR program of the Terrestrial and Avalanche Commissions).

As president of the Avalanche Commission I would like to thank the work group leaders, the organizers of the avalanche dog meeting, the trainers and manufacturers, and the speakers for their active collaboration and support.

2.4 Future

- It is the widespread wish that when there is new insight regarding training and/or devices a practical work meeting will be held; if it should be held during or before the congress has not yet been decided.
- In 2008, the Terrestrial Commission will be holding a 1-day practical meeting and the members of the avalanche commission are invited to participate.
- In the future we will pay more attention to the topics regarding the emphasis of the congress will be taken into consideration. In addition, timely delivered abstracts are going to be a must.
- The commission presidents and their deputies will form a subcommittee for the assessment and selection of the presentations on the basis of the received abstracts.

2.5 Emphasis Topics of the Avalanche Rescue Commission 2008

- Prevention
- Risk management of rescue in the mountains, especially winter rescue.

Vicepresident:
Dale Atkins

President:
Hans-Jürg Etter

3. Report Terrestrial Rescue by Commission President Bruno Jelk

3.1 Activities during the Year

During the year, several organizations in other countries have exchanged experience and even held courses.

KWRO held a course in Zermatt with 4 participants from Slovakia and 2 helicopter pilots from Pakistan. Mountain rescue Austria had participants in one of their courses from Cyprus, Russia, and South Korea. PGHM Chamonix and the Slovenian mountain rescue were also active in this regard.

Surely, other organizations exchanged experiences with other organizations, unfortunately ICAR does not know about them. These courses and training should be recorded since the work is attributable to ICAR and shows ICAR's success.

3.2. Practical Meeting of 10/17/2007 on Mount Corvatsch

The practical meeting was a great success. Sixty-four people from 31 organizations participated. Lots of new techniques and devices were demonstrated at 8 posts.

- Mountain Rescue Austria; Bipod in cliffs
- Mountain Rescue Bavaria; Dynema ropes in rappelling
- Albert Wenk; static and Dynema ropes (tensile strength testing)
- CNSAS; Monopod in cliffs
- Petzl; tensile strength testing with ice screws and hour glasses
- Mountain Rescue Austria; Tripod for crevasses
- TSL; stretcher Franco Garda
- Hilti; tensile strength and problems with resin anchor and bolt hanger

This meeting also showed that in the future we will have to deal with new materials like Dynema ropes and others. These ropes cannot be knotted and they can only be used with the appropriate devices going with it. Mixing it with regular brake devices can be dangerous.

Therefore, operation leaders are challenged during an operation not to utilize devices that are not compatible.

The interest and wish of all organizations of the Terrestrial Commission is to hold a practical meeting annually. This was also confirmed by a survey form.

3.3 Congress Contents Terrestrial Rescue

A lot of interesting presentations were presented. We have to be careful not to turn into an advertising event.

Our goal was training and requirements specifications for mountain rescuers.

Unfortunately, only a few presentations were in regards to the emphasis.

Please see the minutes on the internet regarding the presentations presented.

3.4. Future

For the next year, Integration of the mountain rescue in disaster organizations will be our emphasis. I hope that organizations that are already integrated will present their operations plan.

With an eye on the organization of the 2008 Congress, we would like to make note to only program presentations for which a timely abstract was submitted. We want and need to know what contents will be presented. That will also make the translation work easier.

A thank you to the organizations who offered demonstrations. I hope that next year in Chamonix good techniques and methods will be presented once again.

President:	Vicepresident:
Jelk Bruno	Barbisch Gebhard

4. Report Medical Commission by Commission President Hermann Brugger

4.1 Composition and Publication of Recommendations

Paal P, Ellerton J, Sumann G, Demetz F, Mair P, Brugger H. **Basic Life Support Ventilation in Mountain Rescue.** High Altitude Medicine & Biology 2007; 8-2:147-154

Boyd J, Agazzi G, Svajda D, Morgan A, Ferrandis S. **Snakebite Injuries in Mountainous Terrain: Prevention and On-site Treatment.** Wild Environm Med 2007;18:190-202

Jacomet H, Zen Ruffinen G, Winterberger E, Syme D, Ledoux X, Jelk B. **The Use of Extrication Devices in Crevasse Accidents.** Wild Environm Med, submitted

Zuljan I, Agazzi G, Svajda D, Ellerton J, Boyd J. **Eye Problems in Mountain Rescue**

Sumann G, Zenruffinen G, Brugger H, Ellerton J, Paal P, Dahlberg T, Zafren K. **Fluid Management in Traumatic Shock – Practical Implications for Mountain Rescue**

Elsensohn F, Swangard M, Paal P, Ellerton J, Niederklapfer T. **Medical Training of First Responders in Mountain Rescue.** (co-operation with other ICAR commissions)

Tomazin I. **Statement on an 'Ideal' Air Rescue Service in Terms of Integration between the Services Involved** (co-operation with other ICAR commissions).

4.2. Spring Meeting in Patterdale, England

13 participants; formulation of recommendations, reform of the International Diploma Alpine Emergency Medicine; participation and presentations at the national congress in Ambleside.

4.3. World Congress in Aviemore, Scotland, 10/3 – 10/06/2007

Participation by 13 ICAR MEDCOM members; presentations by Hermann Brugger regarding alpine emergency medicine in Europe and North America, Günther Sumann regarding volume therapy; combined meetings with UIAA-MEDCOM and ISMM

4.4 Congress Contents Pontresina

Composition of recommendations, approval of reform of International Diploma Alpine Emergency Medicine, sales of the DVD Time is Life, European register hypothermia, short notifications G. Rammilmair, F. Barcellona, presentations in plenum.

4.5 Preview

Spring meeting in Lecco, Italy, 04/23 -04/27/08, international course alpine emergency medicine 2009 Nepal, 2010 Peru.

5. Report Air Rescue Commission by Commission President Gilbert Habringer

5.1 Congress Contents

Because of the international members and the associated long travel distances, there was no nonscheduled meeting in 2007.

The contents of the congress were extremely interesting. The emphasis was this time on technical problems and their solutions and prevention respectively.

The main topic was the tail rotor problem, loss of tail rotor effect, icing of the tail rotor.

Thanks to the active collaboration of all commission members, new insights were won and preventive measures discussed.

A big part was also the discussion of the problems when using rescue winches for rescuing wounded people.

Experts from two leading manufacturers were invited and held the relevant presentations.

When discussing flying accidents in the past year, we were pleased to find out that the numbers of accidents in rescue flying is declining. The measures imposed by the authorities as well as the operators should take hold.

5.2 Plans for the Future

For the next congress it was decided that the emphasis should be on the human problems in flying. Worldwide great effort is taken in order to get a grip on the still high percentage of human factors in flying accidents.

A series of lectures and reports regarding cockpit resource management (CRM) within the organizations themselves are planned.

This will be valuable for all participants because the problem is very similar worldwide, if not the same.

At the next congress in 2008, Patrick Fauchere will take over chairmanship of the commission. He was elected unanimously by acclamation as successor for the retiring president Gilbert Habringer.

A big thank you belongs to the team of Dominik Hunziker and the Alpine Rescue Switzerland for the organization. ICAR is successful when the organization is right, the congress participants present good contents, and the won insights are distributed at home.

With a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the 2007 congress.

Toni Grab, President