

52. ICAR – Delegates' Assembly in Dorf Tirol (I) 2000

Minutes of the Terrestrial Rescue Commission

1. Opening and Participants

1.1 Opening and Minutes of Chamonix (F)

On September 09th 2000 at 15.00 hours the chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all participants cordially. Translations in English and French were performed by the participants. No objections to the minutes of Chamonix (F) were stated.

1.2 Participants

48 mountain rescue specialists (Annex 1) from the following 17 ICAR countries participated:

Andorra, Austria, Canada, Croatia, France, England, Germany, Liechtenstein, Poland, Romania, South Tirol, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Czechia, U.S.A.

The following companies showed mountain rescue equipment:

Mammut, Ortovox, Tyromont, Immoos

2. Internet, report on www.ikar-cisa.org since October 99 (G. Barbisch, webmaster)

Received papers were published immediately in the website on decision of the commissions chairmen.

Here are some numbers of the statistic from 01.01.until 31.08. 2000:

- number of calls	86.132
- number of visitors	5.637
- downloaded protocols and reports:	346

For a website mainly interesting for specialists this is a remarkable success.

The statistic of the Terrestrial Rescue Commission is continually updated and published as soon new numbers of the members arrive. Therefore these numbers are always actual. Again during the time mentioned above, questions regarding memberships were received and forwarded. Special questions were answered or passed on to the commission members involved.

3. Reports of the participants (accidants and rescues)

3.1 Report of a rescue mission during a military exercise of Recon-units from Slovakia, Czechia, Poland, France and Austria in the Lower Tatry (SK) from 22nd 05 until 23rd 05. 2000. (Milan Sekelsky)

On 23rd 05. 2000 at 01.25 hours the Mountain Rescue Unit of Lower Tatry South received a distress call from the police in Brezno. In the area of Krupova-Saddle a group of approximately 30 soldiers were stuck because of bad weather conditions and one member of the Polish Army was unconscious.

At 02.40 hours 8 Mountain Rescuemen started the mission. Around 05.00 they met the administrator of the Stefanik-Cabin, who transported the Polish soldier together with a helper. The victim was hypothermic and unconscious. The group separated because there were still three other Polish soldiers missing. One rescuer followed a track at Krupova-Saddle. The other two men followed a track leading to Siroka-Valley. At 06.00 they found a bivouak with three soldiers. One was dead and the other two exhausted and hypothermic. They told them of two French soldiers descending down Siroka-Valley. Both were picked up at 09.00 and taken to the Mountain Rescue Station in Jasna, together with a Slovakian Soldier. The dead soldier was transported in a poncho and later also taken to Jasna. In the meantime the rescue party with the Polish soldier reached the Stefanik-Cabin. There they started a slow rewarming procedure. Because of bad weather conditions a helicopter from Poprad was not available. So the patient was transported down by akja and at 09.00 taken to Bresno hospital by ambulance car. This was the end of the rescue operation.

Severe conditions during the rescue: darkness, dense fog, wind up to 100 km/h, 20 cm new snow.

A report of the Mountain Rescue Low Tatry classified this international military exercise totally unprepared and badly organized. The participants had no mountain experience. Two commanding officers of the Slovakian Army are still accused.

3.2 Two reports from PGHM in Chamonix (Captain Blaise Agresti)

3.2.1 In a border area near Italy 10 tourists were involved in a mountain accident. One person had a heart attack. Helicopters from France and Italy were requested and coordination problems arose when three helicopters arrived together at the accident site.

B. Jelk remarked on a similar situation in Switzerland last summer when two helicopters collided during landing on a soccerfield and 8 people died. Therefore it is essential to coordinate flights and frequencies if numerous aircrafts are involved in a rescue operation. The chairman referred to a recommendation together with the Air Rescue Commission in Karpac to use the VHF-frequency 123.1 MHz (ICAR-Frequency) especially in border areas.

3.2.2 Problems may occur if a severe injured climber is exposed to objective mountain dangers and only one helper is available. How can he evacuate a person out of the danger zone without harming the patient? This is a question to all participants.

3.3 Flood Catastrophe in Gondo, Switzerland (Bruno Jelk)

In Oberwallis (CH) two catastrophes occurred in the last two years. One with snow and avalanches and last summer with floods and landslides.

In overall Oberwallis all roads and the train were affected and telephones and radios were out of order. Only the radio of the Mountain Rescue station Zermatt was still working. On Saturday (12.08.00) the last information of a huge landslide reached Zermatt by mobile phone. B. Jelk at once started with a helicopter to the Gondo area. For two days this was the last flight to Gondo because flight conditions were similar to flying in a waterfall. The rescuers evacuated in Gondo 164 still living inhabitants. For B. Jelk this was the the hardest rescue operation he ever encountered. Included in the 13 dead people were three of his colleagues. In 48 hours it rained 250 l water on one m². After two days the Army reached the village with heavy equipment. Radio connections were possible over helicopters only. Helpers came from Mountain

Rescue organizations, Civil Guard and the Military. Two military trucks and one Super Puma enabled organized work.

B. Jelk showed slides and a video of the catastrophe in Gondo which affected all listeners.

3.4 Avalanches in Vorarlberg (A) during winter 1999 (Gebhard Barbisch)

With a power point presentation G. Barbisch commented on the avalanches and the problems they created in Vorarlberg last Winter. Especially he referred on the organization of the helpers. The deployment of helicopters from Austria, Switzerland, Germany and the U.S. made it difficult for the local ÖBRD-helpers in organizing an effective air controlling management. They did a very good job. Especially their local area knowledge was decisive helpful. All together were 350 persons evacuated, 1.300 persons transported and 30 t material airlifted. The resort village Lech was supplied totally for one week by helicopters.

4. Report on GPS and GIS (Paul Horder)

(Global positioning system and Geographical information system)

This topic was already discussed at the 51. ICAR – DV in Sonthofen and there is also a short report on the ICAR-website.

Up to the last year we tried with GPS-datas to track the movements of rescuemen in mountains or difficult terrain. A. GPS-receiver was connected to a radio and the GPD-datas were transmitted to the RCC and plotted (snail trail).

Because of technical reasons we discontinued the project a year ago. Lately I saw in the internet a corresponding American device. Therefore I am asking the commission members if information of this device are available?

Franz Marx (ÖBRD) showed a leaflet of the GARMIN NavTalk II GSM (Appendix 2)

6. Rescue bags, qualified for air rescue operations

At our meeting in Chamonix last June several criterions were demanded. In Dorf Tirol Oskar Zorzi and Markus Hölzl demonstrated with a BK 117 C1+ two TYROMONT-Rescue-Bags who met the demands.

7. Rescue systems for chairlifts and gondolas

The following three systems were demonstrated at the Hafling Ski area by members of the South Tyrol Mountain Rescue.

- IMMOOS Rescue System Model B Chairlifts (Annex 3)
- IMMOOS Rescue System Model B Gondolas (Annex 4)
- TYROMONT Rescue System for Chairlifts and Gondolas

8. LVS – Specifications in Europe (Felix Meier)

Felix Meier gave a highly qualified report on laws, directives and standards of LVS-devices in the EC. Listener were the members of Terrestrial and Avalanche Commissions.

9. Election of the new Commission Chairman and Vice Chairman

The outgoing chairman thanked all the commission members who were working with him since 1992. Altogether 12 ICAR recommendations were issued. He especially thanked vice chairman Bruno Jelk. Brunos enormous daily mountain rescue experience always kept the commission on the right path. He also thanked webmaster Gebhard Barbisch whom he could motivate to start and arrange the ICAR internet. Looking back it was easy to manage the commission because the members

are the best mountain rescue men of the world. Then he proposed to elect Bruno Jelk as new chairman. The members voted Bruno unanimous. Also unanimous they voted Gebhard Barbisch for vice chairman. They both accepted the vote and were later on confirmed by the Delegates Assembly.

Marian Bielecki (POL) proposed the honorary ICAR-membership for the outgoing chairman. The members confirmed this proposal.

10. Miscellaneous

G. Daxner started a discussion on the future work of the commission. D. Skerbinek proposes:

- One commission meeting only; - One main topic; - News; - Results; - Meeting with other commissions;

Bruno Jelk
Commission Chairman

Gebhard Barbisch
Commission Vice Chairman

Dr. Götzfried, Karl Peter
Outgoing Chairman