




Special Groups Unit



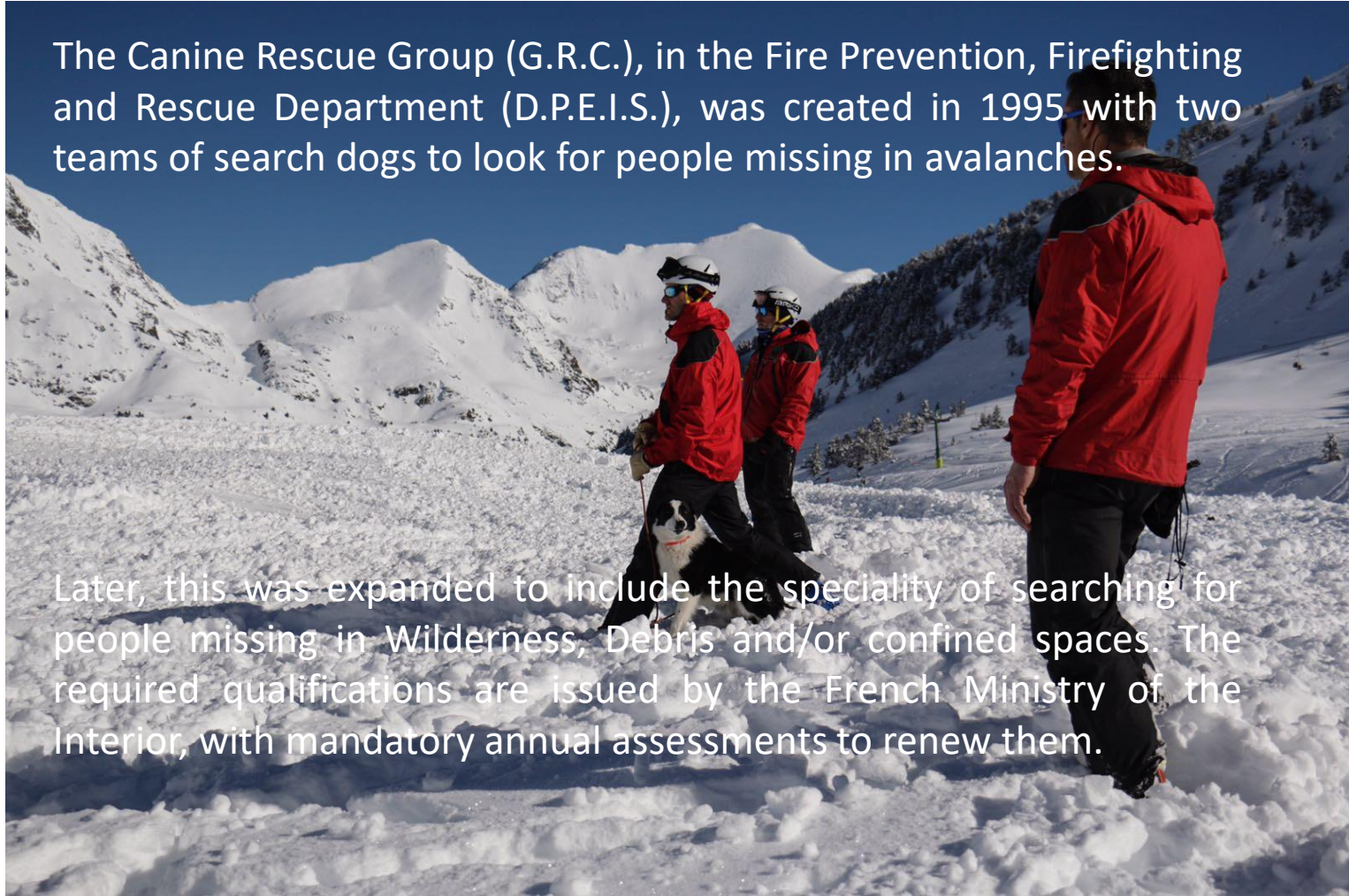

GRC
CANINE RESCUE GROUP

Special Groups Unit

BACKGROUND



The Canine Rescue Group (G.R.C.), in the Fire Prevention, Firefighting and Rescue Department (D.P.E.I.S.), was created in 1995 with two teams of search dogs to look for people missing in avalanches.



Later, this was expanded to include the speciality of searching for people missing in Wilderness, Debris and/or confined spaces. The required qualifications are issued by the French Ministry of the Interior, with mandatory annual assessments to renew them.



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GRC SPECIALITIES

The minimum required qualifications are:



AVALANCHES



ANENA
(National Association for
Snow & Avalanche Research)



**DEBRIS
WILDERNESS/
CONFINED SPACES**



ECASC
(School of Civil Security
Application)



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GRC SPECIALITIES



AVALANCHES



**AVALANCHE
DOG HANDLER**

**RUINS /
LARGE AREAS/
CONFINED SPACES**



CYN1

TRACKING



CYN2



CYN3



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AVALANCHE DOG HANDLER

Requirements and training:

- ✓ Dog: **male** aged 1 - 4.
- ✓ Pre-training: Periodical training sessions with the instructor.
 - ✓ It is recommended that pre-training is carried out during the winter before the course.
 - ✓ Monitoring by the instructor over the rest of the pre-training period.
 - ✓ Periodical GRC training.
- ✓ Training: 2-week course in the French Alps.
 - ✓ Includes 3 eliminatory assessments:
 - ✓ Getting around the mountain on mountain skis with operational equipment.
 - ✓ Timed DVA search.
 - ✓ Own work with dog.
 - ✓ Final assessment and diploma

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AVALANCHE DOG HANDLER

Mission:

- Handles and guides the dog to search for people buried by avalanches.
- Undergoes periodical GRC training.
- Undergoes 5 mandatory assessments each winter to be operative.
- Is on the operational list drawn up by the ANENA area instructor with the person in charge of the GRC.
- In winter, must be on call several weeks.
- Carries out a physical test in winter consisting of a positive elevation on mountain skis with a weight and time limit.



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GRC SPECIALITIES



AVALANCHES



**AVALANCHE
DOG HANDLER**

**DEBRIS/
WILDERNESS/
CONFINED SPACES**



CYN1

TRACKING



CYN2



CYN3

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CYN1 – DOG HANDLER

Requirements and training:

- ✓ Male dog, preferably 10 – 14 weeks old.
- ✓ Pre-training:
 - ✓ Continuous training between the ages of 2 - 18 months.
 - ✓ 26 hours' theoretical and practical assessment. (Module C 8-24 months).
 - ✓ Work plan under guidance of instructor for 6 months.
- ✓ Training:
 - ✓ 40 hours' theoretical and practical training.
 - ✓ Continuous training over at least 6 months.
 - ✓ Final assessment in people buried in ruins and missing in large areas to obtain certificate.



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CYN1 – DOG HANDLER

Mission:

- Carries out periodical GRC training.
- Integrated into a canine unit.
- Handles and guides the dog to search for people buried in ruins and people missing in large areas **under the orders of a head of unit (Cyn2/Cyn3)**.
- Carries out the mandatory annual assessments to be operative.
- Carries out a physical test consisting of a positive elevation in the mountains with a weight and time limit.
- The Cyn1 acts as Dog Handler for one or more dogs.



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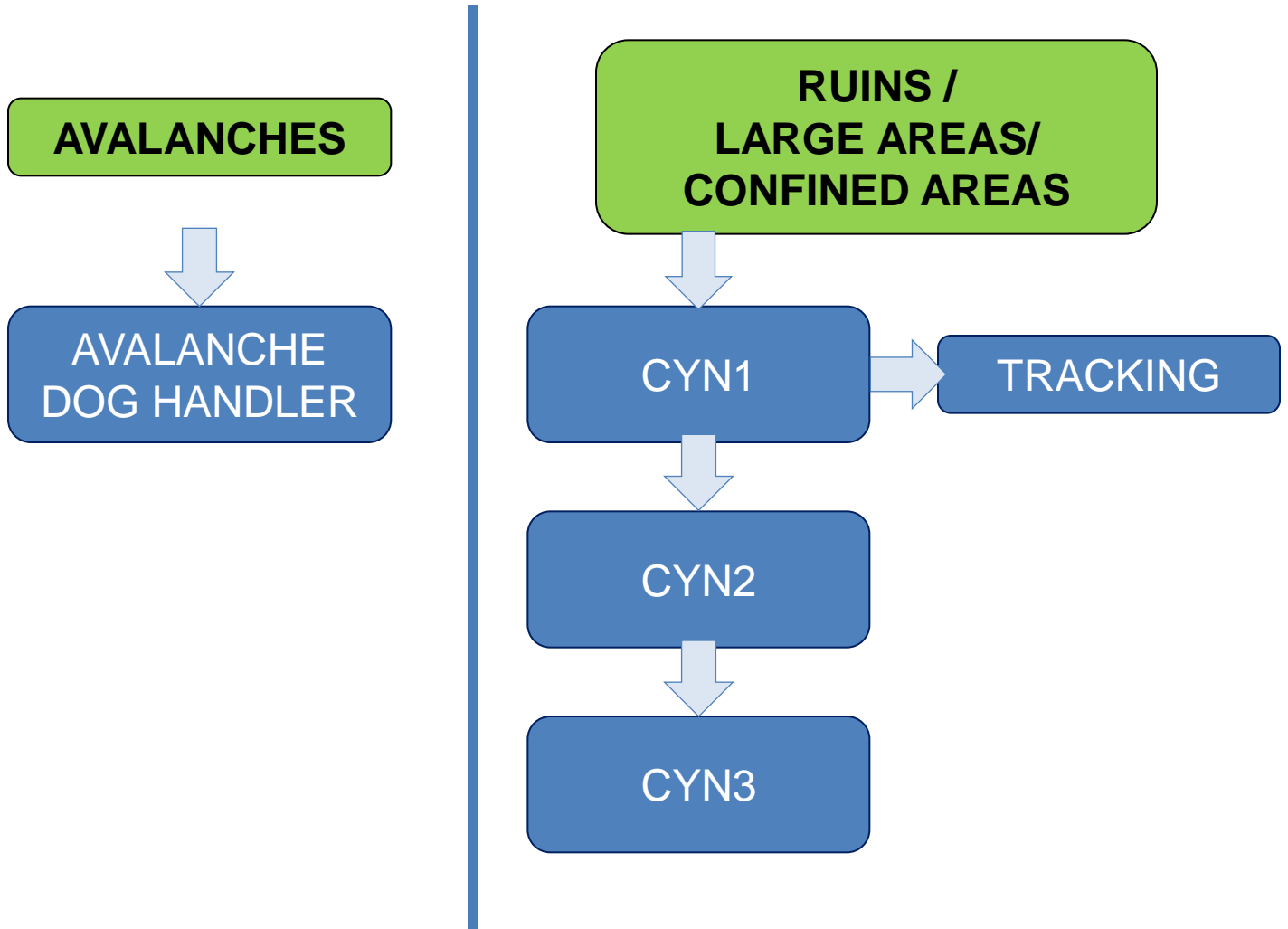
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GRC SPECIALITIES



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TRACKING

Requirements and training:

- ✓ Holds Cyn1.
- ✓ Pre-training:
 - ✓ 40 hours' theoretical and practical training.
 - ✓ Continuous training over at least 6 months.
- ✓ Training:
 - ✓ 40 hours' theoretical and practical training.
 - ✓ Final assessment and diploma.



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TRACKING

Mission:

- Carries out 2 special tracking training sessions per week.
- Integrated into a canine unit.
- Handles and guides the dog to search for missing persons in large areas **under the orders of a head of unit (Cyn2/Cyn3)**.
- Carries out 10 mandatory annual assessments to be operative.
- The Cyn1 acts as Dog Handler for one or more dogs.



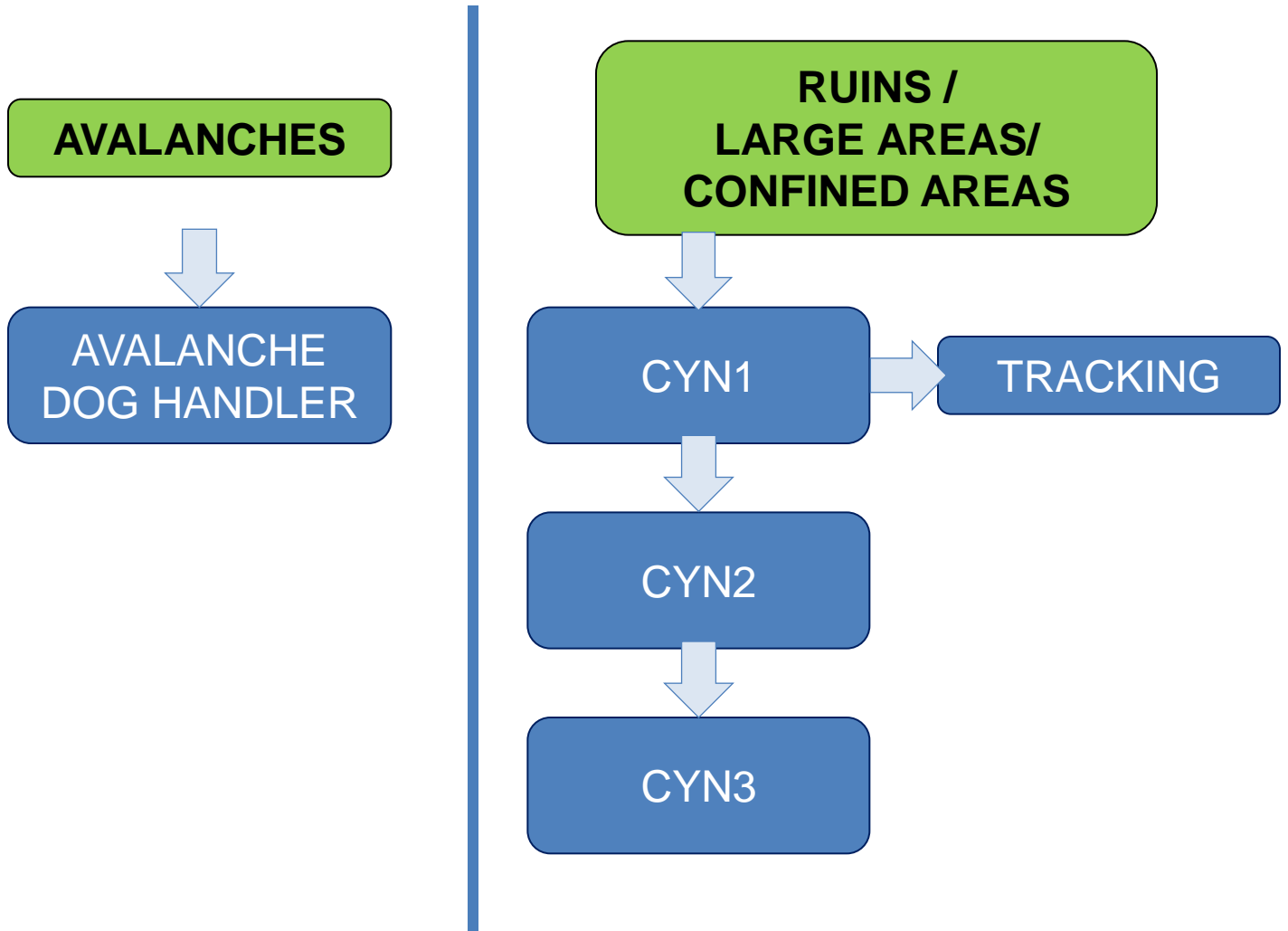
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GRC SPECIALITIES



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CYN2 – HEAD OF UNIT

Requirements and training:

- ✓ Cyn1 + For1
- ✓ Registered on the operational list for at least 3 years.
- ✓ Training:
 - ✓ 80 hours' theoretical and practical training. (2 weeks)
- ✓ An annual operational assessment.



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CYN2 – HEAD OF UNIT

Mission:

- Handles and guides the dog to search for people buried in avalanches, ruins or missing in large areas.
- In charge of coordinating and commanding the search tasks of the canine units.
- May advise the person in charge of operations relating to dog searches.
- In charge of training the dog handlers (Cyn1).
- The Cyn2 acts as Dog Handler for one or more dogs.
- **Under the commands of a Cyn3 and/or the operational command.**



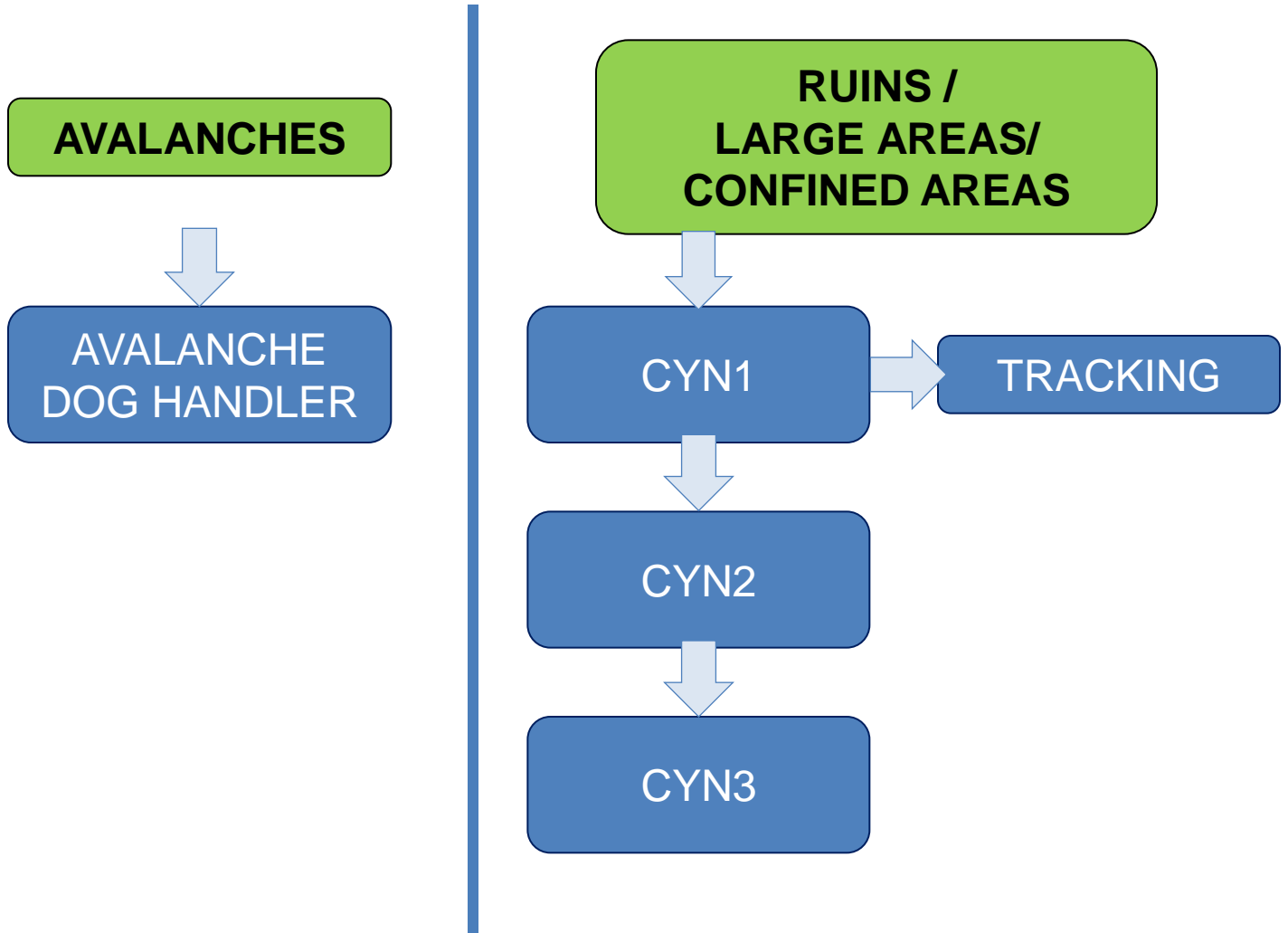
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GRC SPECIALITIES



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CYN3 – TECHNICAL ADVISER

Requirements and training:

- ✓ Cyn2 + For2
- ✓ Registered on the operational list.
- ✓ Training:
 - ✓ 40 hours' theoretical and practical training. (1 week)
- ✓ Operational assessment every 5 years.



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CYN3 – TECHNICAL ADVISER

Mission:

- In charge of coordinating and commanding the search tasks of the canine units.
- In charge of organising the training of dog teams (Cyn1) and heads of unit (Cyn2).
- Collaborates with the Person in charge of the GRC in various tasks.
- The Cyn3 may act as Dog Handler for one or more dogs.
- **Adviser to the person in charge of operations relating to dog searches.**

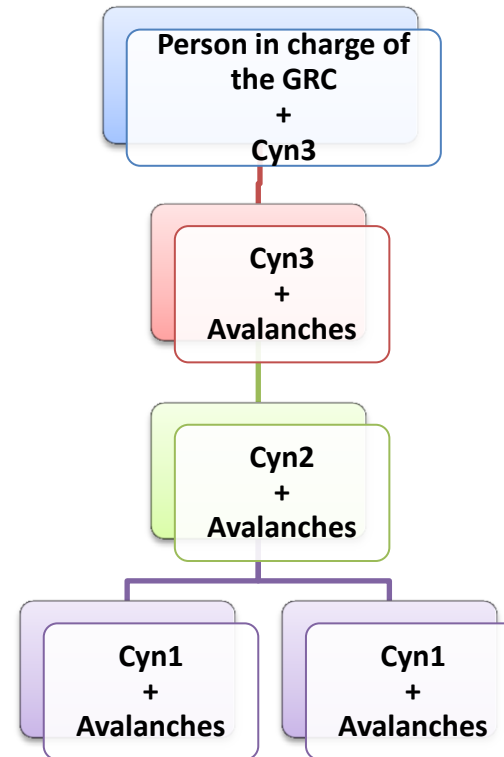


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CURRENT ORGANISATIONAL CHART OF THE GRC



Avalanche dog handler
+
In training Cyn1

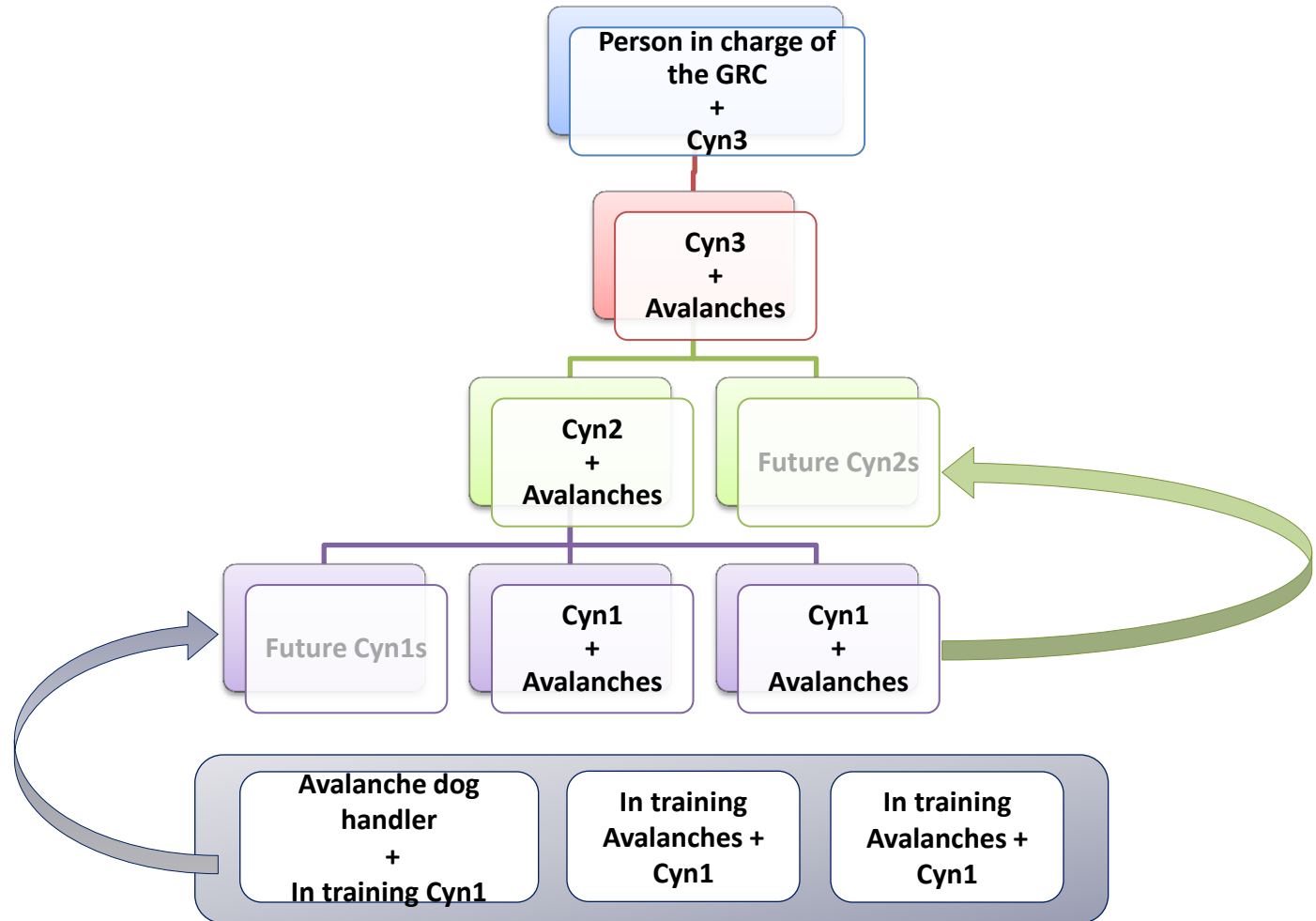
In training
Avalanches +
Cyn1

In training
Avalanches +
Cyn1



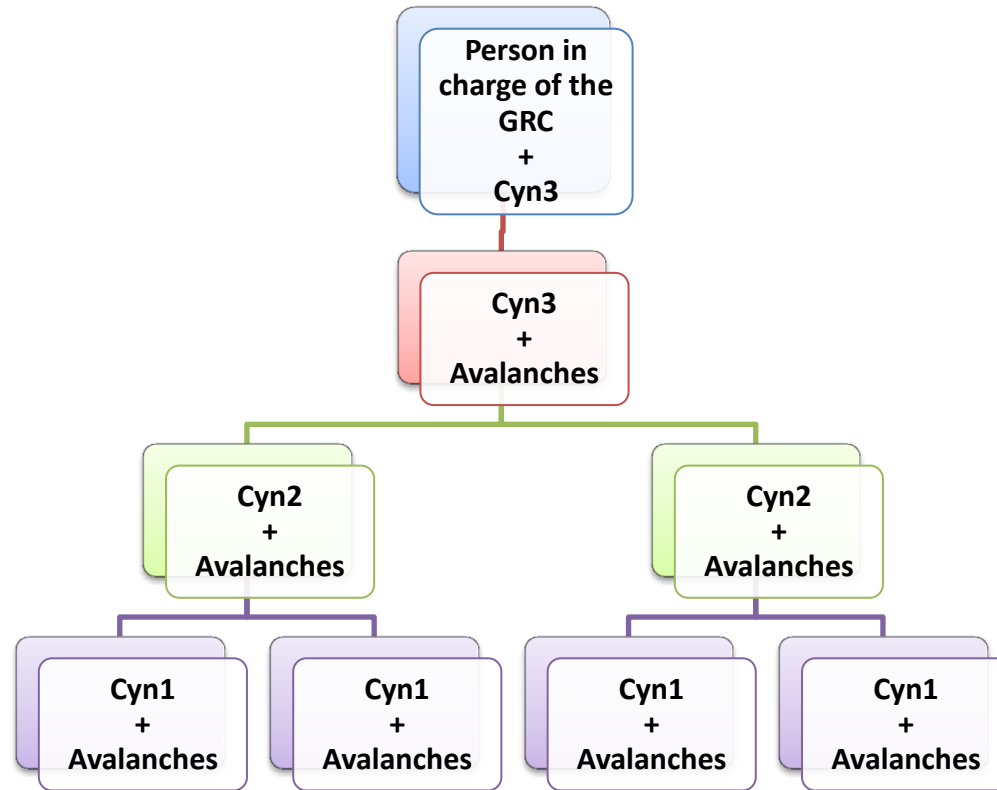
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DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GRC ORGANISATIONAL CHART



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FUTURE ORGANISATIONAL CHART OF THE GRC



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DOG HANDLERS' OBLIGATIONS

To handle the dog to search for people buried in avalanches, ruins and/or missing in large areas (tracking and/or large area method)

- 30 annual GRC training sessions.
- Pass periodical dog team assessments to remain operative.
 - 5 winter avalanche dog handler assessments.
 - 5 summer avalanche dog handler assessments.
 - 1 large areas operational retraining.
 - 1 ruins operational retraining.
- 2 helicopter practices with winch (summer/winter).
- 2 handler physical assessments (summer/winter).



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DOG HANDLERS' OBLIGATIONS



- Dog training.
- Acting as role-model to the other GRC dogs.
- Looking after the dog's feeding and hygiene.
- Keeping both the handler and dog fit.
- Maintaining the hygiene and comfort standards of the kennels.
- Looking after the dog's health.

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CYN2, CYN3 IN THE SERVICE



- To define the search sectors.
- To find out the identity, description, age, etc. of the missing person (search information file).
- To find out about the geography of the area to be explored and any risk areas.
- To ensure means of communication between dog teams and the command.
- To decide on the technical method to use (detection or tracking).
- To define the equipment and rest area of the dog teams.
- **To advise the person in charge of operations about dog searches.**

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE GRC

- Manages the material and human resources.
- Prepares the GRC budget (Training and Operations).
- Plans the GRC practical and theoretical training and assessments.
- Prepares the operational list of dog handlers.
- **Is in charge of coordinating and commanding the search tasks of the canine units.**
- The Head of the GRC may handle one or more dogs.
- **Advises the person in charge of operations about dog searches.**



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GRC MANOEUVRES AND SIMULATIONS



DPEIS Special Groups Units:

- 2 yearly simulations of avalanche searches with **GRM, GSM & SS.**
- 2 large area searches with **GRM, GSM & SS.**
- 2 ruins simulations with **GRE.**

Abroad:

- **USAR** manoeuvres with **GRE** in France
- Manoeuvres with Valencian fire services. Spain.
- Manoeuvres with Osca fire services. Spain.

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