



ICAR

CONGRÉS

ANDORRA

18-21/10/2017

Soldeu

# CONFERENCE HANDBOOK

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# WELCOME

Joan Carles Recasens Cabiscol,  
*Director of the Fire Prevention and Extinction and Rescue Department*



First, I would like to extend a warm welcome on behalf of all the “bombers” – the fire and rescue service of the Principality of Andorra – to this latest edition of Cisa-Ikar, in the town of Soldeu.

For all of us, especially the Mountain Rescue Group (GRM), it is a pleasure and honour to host the International Committee for Alpine Rescue (ICAR) and organise this 2017 Congress.

The original force was created on 21 April 1961, when the General Council of Andorra appointed the first Head of the Fire and Rescue Service, with the task of recruiting personnel and acquiring the equipment needed to set up the force. As you can see, ours is a relatively young force, when compared with the mountain rescue teams of some of the countries attending this congress, professionals who have extensive experience of mountain rescues and whom we regard as our precursors.

Right from the start, our small group of Andorran professionals has been committed to mountain rescues, having lived together all our lives in these tiny valleys, flanked by steep, jagged mountains and well-acquainted with this rugged terrain, wild as it still is.

Many years later, in 1981, more personnel were taken on, specifically, 14 young firemen joined the existing 14 so, by the following year, the Fire and Rescue Service of Andorra was 28-strong, with 8 vehicles.

From 1993, the force underwent the most important restructuring to date. Various units were created to further professionalise the team, and the GRM was set up.

This is because Andorra is essentially a mountainous country, with a long tradition of practising outdoor sports both in summer and winter. The major seasonal influxes of foreigners and tourists do not know our terrain but want to experience our landscapes through the wide range of sports on offer, such as snow sports, trekking, climbing, hunting or fishing, and mountain trips in general, and enjoy our nature, which can sometimes turn cruel and dangerous.

Therefore, it is now paramount that the members of the mountain rescue group, the GRM, are professionalised. It is in our interest and our duty to continue to develop our training in this speciality, listening and learning from great professionals who will undoubtedly share wisdom, new techniques and experiences, and will be here with us over the next few days.

Finally, I would add that the organisation of this 2017 congress has been a great challenge for us, a challenge to guarantee at least the same high technical level achieved in previous editions. The aim of this congress is to present, discuss and share any developments in the previous year, which could be incorporated at some point into mountain rescues. We have therefore aimed to produce a programme that includes topics which will clearly be of great interest and, of course, presented by the most experienced experts in the field.

Thanking you in advance for your participation in this ICAR-2017 Congress, which will certainly enrich us all.

Franz Stämpfli,  
*Responsible of Mountain Rescue Group*



In the name of the ICAR Executive Board I would like to welcome you in Soldeu Andorra. I'm looking forward meeting you during our annual convention and leading through our Assembly of Delegates.

For the first time in its 69-year-history, the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR) is coming to Andorra for its annual congress, hosted by the Bombers d'Andorra / Grup de Rescat de Muntanya (DEPEIS-GRM). We are very happy to be your guests in Andorra.

Our last congress took place in Borovets Bulgaria. We keep the warm welcome of the Bulgarian Red Cross deep in our memories. Thanks again to our Bulgarian friends.

The work in the ICAR Executive Board is very positive and the members have great experience and are highly professional. Our mission says: ICAR provides a platform for mountain rescue and related organizations to disseminate knowledge with the prime goal of improving mountain rescue services and their safety. It's a worldwide organization that respects its members and promotes international cooperation.

Our number of members is steadily increasing. This is the success of the good work, which is done in our bodies, especially in the technical commissions. A big thank you goes to our Commission Presidents, our Executive Board and our office.

Like every year, the pre-conference workshop day offers interesting topics. The presidents of the different commissions have prepared a perfect program. I hope that you can participate, give your thoughts and bring in your inputs at the different posts or in the various sessions.

Honor where honor is due: The preparation and the organization of this event required a lot of efforts and the whole team in Andorra deserves our great respect. Thank you Joan Carles Recasens Cabiscol for your much appreciated initiative to make this event here possible.

Thank you all for the big work and I'm very pleased to meet you here.

# TERRESTRIAL RESCUE COMMISSION

Gebhard Barbisch,  
*President of the Terrestrial Rescue Commission*



Dear Members of the Terrestrial Rescue Commission, dear Friends of ICAR and dear much appreciated Exhibitors!

This year the convention will be organized by the Bombers d'Andorra / Grup de Rescat de Muntanya. I am sure, that they do everything for a perfect environment for our convention. As every year, intensive cooperation and the willingness to work together will be the basis for a successful meeting in Soldeu.

This year's practical session is organized and supervised by our commission. The main theme is „Big Wall Rescue“. When we arrive there, all the stations we need will be prepared and interesting practical demonstrations including medical topics will be ready for us. Thanks to all members which prepare demonstrations for us.

For our congress meetings we will have good mix of topics. We will also have some joint meetings with other commission to interact with them and for a mutual understanding of our challenges.

I am sure, it will be very interesting for all of us, when our friends present us their way of solving this problem.

It is very important for all of us, to learn each from another. To have a look with respect about what others did and what happened during their rescue operations. Don't let us do our errors twice!

Eliminating all errors and risk in rescue operations may not be realistic, as we would have to stop all our missions just to avoid any possible errors.

However, we should strive to extend the time between our errors. I wrote this last year and I must repeat it this year also.

So I am looking forward to meeting all of you again and I am sure, that we will have a congress with good presentations and many positive discussions and constructive interactions, so that we all can go home at the end with a full basket of new knowledge for the next search operation.

# AVALANCHE RESCUE COMMISSION

Dominique Létang, *Chief of the French avalanche association (ANENA)*  
*President of the ICAR Avalanche Rescue Commission*



Dear Members, Dear Friends,

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Andorra.

As you are aware of, this year is not an “avalanche year”, so I wish the best to the terrestrial commission in implementing a relevant practical day. I am not worried for that!

In our commission, we worked hard since the latest congress in Borovets. We organized a very good meeting, in Chamonix, last spring, gathering international experts of our avalanche working group : the aim is always the same: improve “the best practice in avalanche rescue”, which purpose is to obtain a worldwide standardization of strategies, technics and methods of avalanche SAR. We are moving forward regarding the

“Mountain Safety Knowledge Base”, as you know. In a near future, we hope that we will be able to provide several standardized avalanche tools. In this way, I have attended a couple of meetings during the year (Milan, Chamonix, Bern...) to evaluate – on behalf of the ICAR’s President - the willing of the others international mountain organizations. Currently, I can say that I feel a good involvement from them. The congress will allow presenting an update.

I would like to thank here all the working group members and M. Genswein, designated by me, as leader. They did - and they are doing - a very good job.

I wish all of you, the commission members, the organizers, the developers and the manufacturers, a really rich congress.

# AIR RESCUE COMMISSION

Patrick Fauchère,  
*President of the Air Rescue Commission*



WELCOME TO ANDORRA!

Dear members of the Air Rescue Commission, dear sponsors, exhibitors and manufacturers, dear guests and dear friends of the ICAR,

Together with DEPEIS-GRM Bombers d'Andorra / Grup de Rescat de Muntanya we are looking forward meeting you and sharing with you some time during our annual conference held this year in Soldeu.

Our challenges: trying to find common solutions to different operations, different types of helicopters but with one common goal: helping people in need and guaranteeing the safety of our rescuers.

Our main topic for 2017: Rescue from big wall. In collaboration, with all other commissions, all aspects of such operations will be presented and analyzed. The aim is to find, sound and save procedure to excavate and / or extricate the patient while the rescue personnel stays at all time in the safest position possible.

Our commission will also address some of the current issues that we are facing like basejumping, wing-suits, slack lines, etc.

The passion that livens up the rescuers, the devotion and desire to carry out rescues are what drives the members of ICAR.

Thank you all for your commitment, for your participation and I wish you a fruitful conference here in Soldeu.

Fidel Elsensohn, *President of the International Commission for Mountain Emergency Medicine (ICAR MEDCOM)*



Dear friends of ICAR!

ICAR MEDCOM is happy to gather in Andorra for its annual fall meeting and ICAR convention. An interesting program following the main theme of this convention "Rescue from Big Walls" will find us together with the terrestrial commission at the pre-conference workshop discussing the new findings on "suspension trauma". During our meeting we will start to work on new recommendations like "Management in Traumatic Shock", "Suspension Trauma" in which our friends at EURAC in Bolzano did a scientific study, "Ski patrollers and Mountain Rescuers psychosocial health – PTSD" and "Quality Indicators in Avalanche Rescue". Short communications on various topics will cover many different aspects of emergencies in the mountains. At the congress and the joint commission meeting on Saturday ICAR MEDCOM will present its new publications: "Canioning Guidelines", "Modular First Aid Kit for Alpinists, Mountain Guides and Alpinist Physicians" and "Suspension Trauma". Our friends from Italy will present the rescue operation in the Abruzzan Mountains at the Rigopiano Hotel. The hotel was destroyed by a huge avalanche after an earthquake causing a high number of fatalities. Base Jumping fatalities in Berne – statistics about "people falling from the sky" will complete the medical lectures.

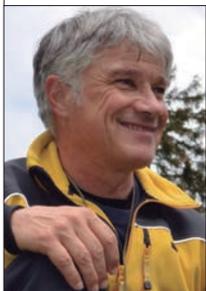
This year also sees an important change in ICAR MEDCOM. Dr. John Ellerton, currently President-Elect will take the lead of the commission. After 8 years as president and other 8 years as vice-president of our commission I will resign. It was a great time and I am very thankful for the friendship and spirit within our commission. With the support of Dr. John Ellerton and Dr. Ken Zafren as Vice-Presidents it was my effort to maintain the level of creative cooperation among our members. Since 2000, ICAR MEDCOM has established almost 40 recommendations and guidelines and all of them are published in peer-reviewed journals. This productive power was only possible by high team-spirit, engagement and compassion for science. Sharing own experience and curiosity in finding evidence for emergency medicine in the mountains is the key motivation for us. Representing this spirit, the "Mountain Emergency Medicine Book", written by numerous authors of our commission planned to be published in 2018 will be the benchmark in this field of medicine.

Thanks to the mountain rescuers of Andorra for organizing this meeting. Thanks to all friends in ICAR MEDCOM and in all other commissions for a long period of cooperation and the members of the ICAR Executive Board for their tolerance and support.

Cheers

# DOG-HANDLERS SUB-COMMISSION

Marcel Meier,  
*President of the Dog-Handlers Sub-Commission*



Dear members of the Dog-Handlers Sub-Commission, dear delegates and friends!  
Do you know that the dog belongs to the nose animals and that he has one of the most excellent sense smells or even he is breathing 300 times in a minute?  
Although we are living in a very technological and busy world, the rescue dog is and will be also in the future an indispensable element by searching a missed person.  
At the pre-conference workshop on Wednesday

members of all delegations are invited to see how the Andorran dog-handlers are working with their dogs. During the congress the main topic in our Sub-Commission will be: Education from young and certificated dogs!  
I am convinced that it will be very interesting and fruitful for us all, while enjoying great presentations and having a lot of constructive conversations.  
Happy and much delighted to see and meet you all at this congress in Andorra.

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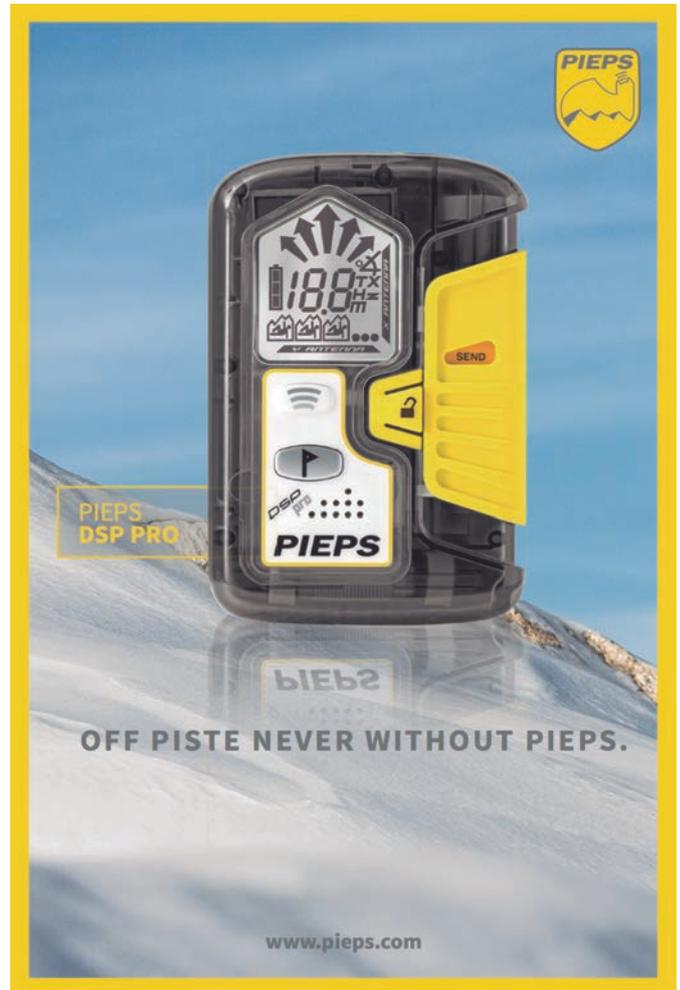
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# MOUNTAIN RESCUE SERVICE IN ANDORRA



The Fire Brigade of Andorra performs mountain rescues since it was created. The significant increase in the number of rescues, specialization and the diversity of situations motivated, in 1984, the creation of a "specialty" within the Fire Department: the mountain rescue.

Since then, the group has continued to evolve, both in terms of human resources, as well as the training of personnel, material, missions and action protocols. Since November 2002, the GRM of the Corps of Firemen of Andorra only assumes the task of mountain rescue, which it shared alternately weekly with the Police Corps.



Mountain rescue teams are guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The first intervention team is made up of 2 rescuers (possibly 3) that have a 4 x 4 vehicle to transport the material, a snowmobile with sled / bunk and the possibility of using the helicopter.

Specific rescue training takes place in France, lasts for 4 years and there are 10 courses running between 7 days and 21 days.





The protocol of action of the group is very defined and structured. First of all, a call is received from 118 or 112 and firefighters communicate the incidence to the two mountain rescue workers that are permanently in the power station. With the help of the receivers of the call, they evaluate their content, find out what has happened, what is the accident or the whereabouts of the person that needs help. At this moment the modus operandi of the action is started and the exit is decided. Once the GRM staff arrives, they are responsible for the security of the area, an assessment is made, work is done to avoid an accident overload and mobilize and remove the victim from the site. Likewise, the medical team is in charge of the medication that the person may need and, if necessary, the joint transfer to the hospital would be carried out.



The emergence of mobile applications such as Alpify or WhatsApp have played a key role in the development of the rescue activity and, above all, in the results obtained. This facilitates the search and finds the right path to the affected person if, for example, he is disoriented. Being accurately localized allows the person to issue the GRM to decide with some reliability, depending on the gravity, if they travel by land - by vehicle or on foot - or, on the other hand, they must make the rescue with a helicopter.

Within the training program, the GRM has monthly and other special practices that deal with avalanches where the rescue teams and the protocol are organized, with the management and the complicated logistics that this entails. In addition, the mountain group does every three months a helicopter recycling, every six months, one of physicist and technician and mandatory maneuvers.



# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## Tuesday, October 17th

TIME	TER	AVA	AIR	MED	DOG
14.00 - 19.30	Registration				
19.00 - 19.30	Briefing for the Pre-Conference Workshop				
20.00 - 22.00	Dinner				

## Wednesday, October 18th

TIME	TER	AVA	AIR	MED	DOG
06.30 - 08.00	Breakfast				
08.00 - 19.00	Registration				
08.15 - 18.00	Pre-Conference Workshop (Lead: Terrestrial Rescue, Lunch outside in the Field)				
19.00 - 19.30	Opening of the Conference				
19.30 - 22.00	Dinner				
20.00 - 23.00	Gathering at the local Pub				

## Thursday, October 19th (morning)

TIME	TER	AVA	AIR	MED	DOG
06.30 - 08.00	Breakfast				
08.00 - 08.30	AoD - TERCOM	Welcome, President's report, Summary 16/17	Welcome, information, presentation of new members	Welcome, Outline of the meetings program, Minutes of the 2016 spring meeting, Presidents report, financial report	Dog-Handlers Meeting
08.30 - 09.00		Exceptional Avalanches and Rescues	Incident / Accident review (all members)		
09.00 - 09.30			Incident / Accident review USA (Charley Shimanski)		
09.30 - 10.00		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Papers in preparation: Management traumatic shock, structure and proposal (P. Paal)	Coffee Break
10.00 - 10.30	Coffee Break	Buried Subject outside of visual Boundaries (TOPR)	Accident EC145 Tarbes (E. Chavanne)	Coffee Break	Dog-Handlers Meeting
10.30 - 11.00	TER-REC0001 - Using Connector/Carabiner in Mountain Rescue Organizations	Summary of MSKB (Dominique Létang)	EC145 hoist max. 90 m (Emmanuel Chavanne)	Papers in preparation: Suspension Trauma (Hermann Brugger), Skipatrollers and Mountain Rescuers psychosocial health PTSD (Marie Nordgren)	
11.00 - 11.30	TER-REC0004 - Rope Connections for Rope Extensions		Wingsuit hazards for helicopter (E. Chavanne)		
11.30 - 12.00	Big Wall Rescue Mont Thor Baffin Island (Marc Ledwige, Parcs Canada)		Accident in Austria (Michael Schweiger)		
12.00 - 14.00	Lunch				

**Thursday, October 19th (afternoon)**

TIME	TER	AVA	AIR	MED	DOG
14.00 - 14.30	Base jumping experiences from Norway (D. Halvorsen)	UIAA SafeCom, Probes and Shovels Standard	Base jumping experiences from Norway (D. Halvorsen)	Papers in preparation: International Avalanche and Trauma Registry (M. Brodmann), Quality Indicators in Avalanche Rescue (A. Kottmann), Mountain Medicine Database (N. Hölzl)	Dog-Handlers Meeting
14.30 - 15.00	Methods of rescue from big walls with big helicopters (O. Staurset/F. Moller /F. Jomaas 330SQ/NARG)	Mountain Guides Incidents in Slovakia (Marek Buskupic)	Methods of rescue from big walls with big helicopters (O. Staurset/F. Moller /F. Jomaas 330SQ/NARG)		
15.00 - 15.30	TER-REC0005 - Redundancy for lowering or raising people with fibre ropes	ICAR AVA Prevention, Internal Session	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	AIRCOM Prevention Session	Papers in preparation: International Avalanche and trauma registry (M. Brodmann)	Dog-Handlers Meeting
16.00 - 16.30	Rappelling systems with Cancon Strecher on Big Walls in Canyons (E. Rizotti CNSAS)	Rappelling systems with Cancon Strecher on Big Walls in Canyons (E. Rizotti CNSAS)	AIRCOM Internal Session	Quality Indicators in Avalanche Rescue (Kottmann) Mountain Medicine Data base (N. Hölzl)	
16.30 - 17.00	Big Wall Caves, Systems for Rappelling and Recovering on very Big Caves (E. Rizotti CNSAS)	Big Wall Caves, Systems for Rappelling and Recovering on very Big Caves (E. Rizotti CNSAS)	Norwegian Air Force Base, New Helicopters (F. Jomaas 330SQ)		
17.00 - 17.30	Rappelling Techniques on Big Walls (Ennio Rizotti CNSAS)	Rappelling Techniques on Big Walls (Ennio Rizotti CNSAS)	Norway Air Ambulance System Update (Dan Halvorsen)	Short communications: Snow Density Study (Strapazzon)	
18.00 - 19.00	ICAR Executive Board Meeting				
19.00 - 22.00	Dinner				
20.00 - 23.00	Gathering at the local Pub				



# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**Friday, October 20th**

TIME	TER	AVA	AIR	MED	DOG
06.30 - 08.00	Breakfast				
08.00 - 08.30	Rotor versus Rock - Main Rotor Strike during HEC Mission (Matt Müller KCPS)	Pinpointing after a Search with Electronic Search Means: Field testing and optimized technique (Martin Gurdet ÖBRD)	Rotor versus Rock - Main Rotor Strike during HEC Mission (Matt Müller KCPS)	Short communications: Avalanche CPR and Potassium Cutoff level in avalanche victims (H. Brugger), Monte Carlo Simulation (M. Genswein), Cause of death in avalanche fatalities in Colorado, a 20 year review (A. Sheets MD, MRA Colorado), Emergency ultrasound in alpine setting: a new diagnostic opportunity, the CNSAS-SIMEU project (A. Orlandini), The Use of a Moodle VLE as a Teaching Platform of Mountain Rescue Teams (M. Green)	Real Training, Topic: Education with Young and Certificated Dogs
08.30 - 09.00	Rescue on Horcados Rojos - 300 m wall - Picos de Europa (Bomberos de Cantabria)		Rescue on Horcados Rojos - 300 m wall - Picos de Europa (Bomberos de Cantabria)		
09.00 - 09.30	Backcountry Zero: Rock Safety and Self Rescue Skills (Stephanie Thomas TCSAR)		AIRCOM Internal Session		
09.30 - 10.00	Coffee Break	Coffee Break			
10.00 - 10.30	Rescue Operation Hochferner Northface (M. Hofer BRD-AVS)	Avalanche Risk Perception (Margalef Aina)	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
10.30 - 11.00	Anti-Rotations Systems for Helicopter Winch Recovery (Ennio Rizotti CNSAS)	Backcountry Zero's influence on Avalanche Education (Stephanie Thomas TCSAR)	Anti-Rotations Systems for Helicopter Winch Recovery (Ennio Rizotti CNSAS)	Discussion on the proposal of a Diploma course for instructors for the DiMM MEM Book FORTHCOMING EVENTS: ISMM World Congress 2018 Nepal (H. Brugger)	Real Training, Topic: Education with Young and Certificated Dogs
11.00 - 11.30	UAvSAR in the Rigopiano Hotel Accident (AINEVA)	UAvSAR in the Rigopiano Hotel Accident (AINEVA)	UAvSAR in the Rigopiano Hotel Accident (AINEVA)		
11.30 - 12.00					
12.00 - 14.00	Lunch				
14.00 - 14.30	The odour of the human breath can drive avalanche search and rescue dogs to discover a buried victim under the snow (S. Diverio GDF)	The odour of the human breath can drive avalanche search and rescue dogs to discover a buried victim under the snow (S. Diverio GDF)	Rope Test by Airwork Heliseilerei (Pat Fauchère)	2018 ICAR MEDCOM Spring Meeting Tromsø Norway, 2018 ICAR MEDCOM Fall Meeting and GA Chamonix France ELECTIONS: Election of President-elect to President of ICAR MEDCOM John Ellerton CLOSING:	The odour of the human breath can drive avalanche search and rescue dogs to discover a buried victim under the snow (S. Diverio GDF)
14.30 - 15.00	TERCOM Prevention, Internal discussion	Summary Work Group Best Practice (ANENA)	REC Review		Search Dogs Prevention Session
15.00 - 15.30	Helicopter Support for Big Wall Rescue (Charley Shimanski)		Helicopter Support for Big Wall Rescue (Charley Shimanski)		
15.30 - 16.00	Very Long Line Technique for Basejumper Rescue (KWRO)		Very Long Line Technique for Basejumper Rescue (KWRO)		
16.30 - 23.00	Local Event (incl. Dinner)				

**Saturday, October 21st**

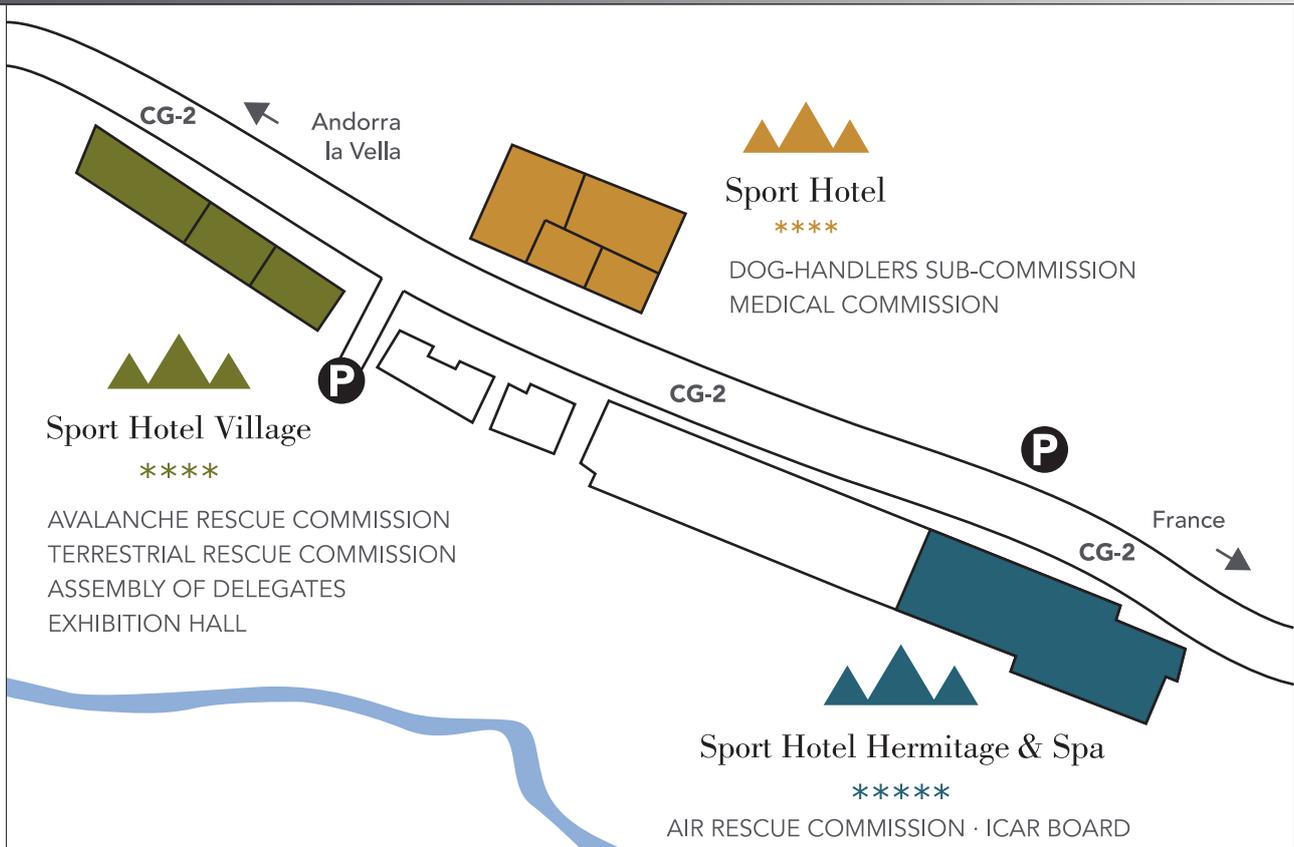
TIME	TER	AVA	AIR	MED	DOG
06.30 - 08.00	Breakfast				
08.00 - 08.30	Rescue Technics from Big Walls (Theo Maurer ARS)				
08.30 - 09.00	TERCOM - new Recommendations				
09.00 - 09.30	The Rigopiano Disaster (M. Milani, Gianluca Facchetti)				
09.30 - 10.00	Canyoning Guidelines (I. Soteras)				
10.00 - 10.30	Coffee Break				
10.30 - 11.00	First Aid Kit (O. Reisten)				
11.00 - 11.30	Suspension Trauma (EURAC)				
11.30 - 12.00	Mountain First Aid (GSM)				
12.00 - 14.00	Lunch				
13.00 - 14.00	ICAR Executive Board Meeting (optional)				
14.00 - 14.30	BASE Jumping fatalities in Berne, Statistics about People falling from the Sky (Schön)				
14.30 - 15.30	Triage Strategies, a concept for optimizing avalanche rescue strategies (Reiweger/Paal/Schweizer/Genswein)				
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee Break				
16.00 - 18.00	69th ICAR Assembly of Delegates				
19.30 - 23.00	Gala Dinner				

**Sunday, October 22nd**

TIME	TER	AVA	AIR	MED	DOG
06.30 - 08.00	Breakfast				
06.30 - 11.00	Check-out, Departure				



# HOTEL HALLS MAP



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# EXHIBITORS

1. ROCKSNAKE



2. MOUNTAIN RESCUE



3. SCHILLER



4. TEXBOR



5. TYROMONT



6. BCA



7. PEAKZERO



8. AEROSIZE



9. ARS



10-11. VICTORINOX



12. MONTURA



13. KONG



14. MAMMUT



15. BELL HELICOPTERS



16. EXPOSURE LIGHTS



17. PMI



18. A&H



19. PETZL



20. LIFESEEKER



21. PIEPS



22. TAS



23. ORTOVOX



24. ARVA



25. ARC'TERYX



26. VAKUFORM



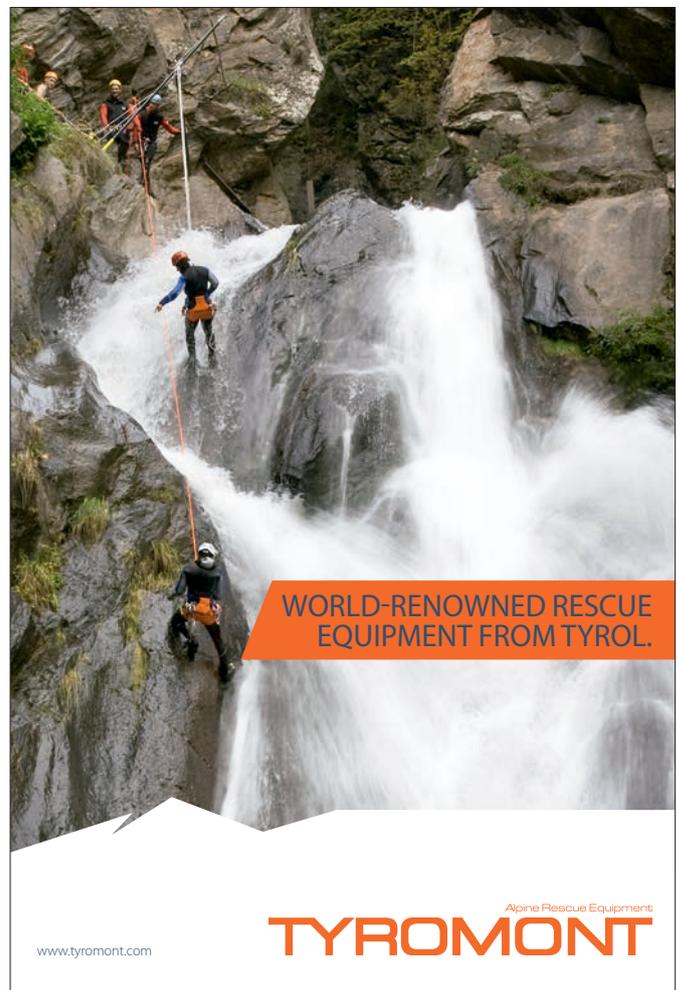
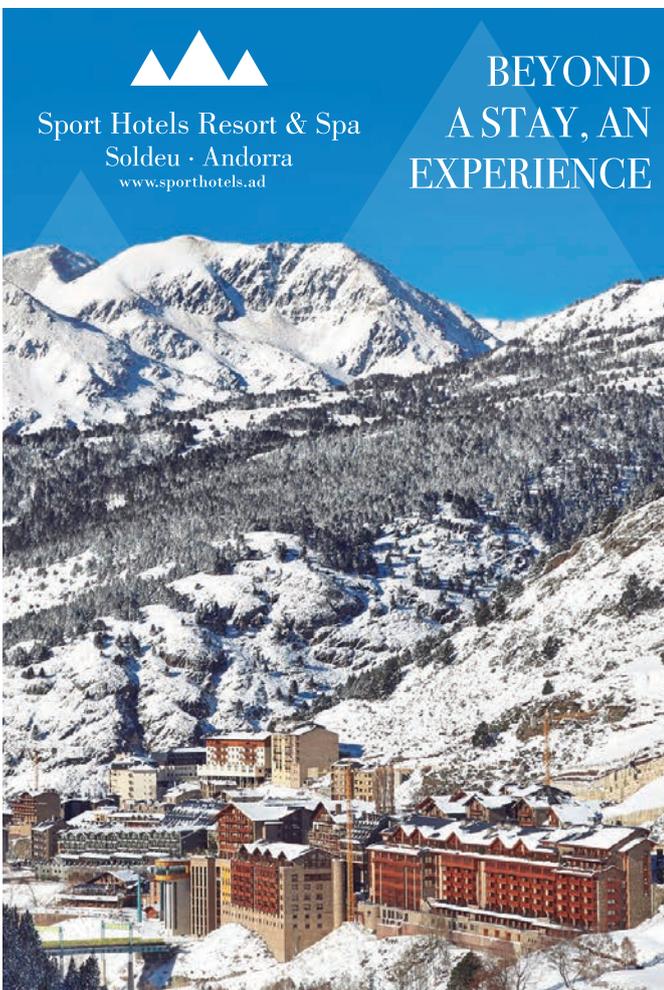
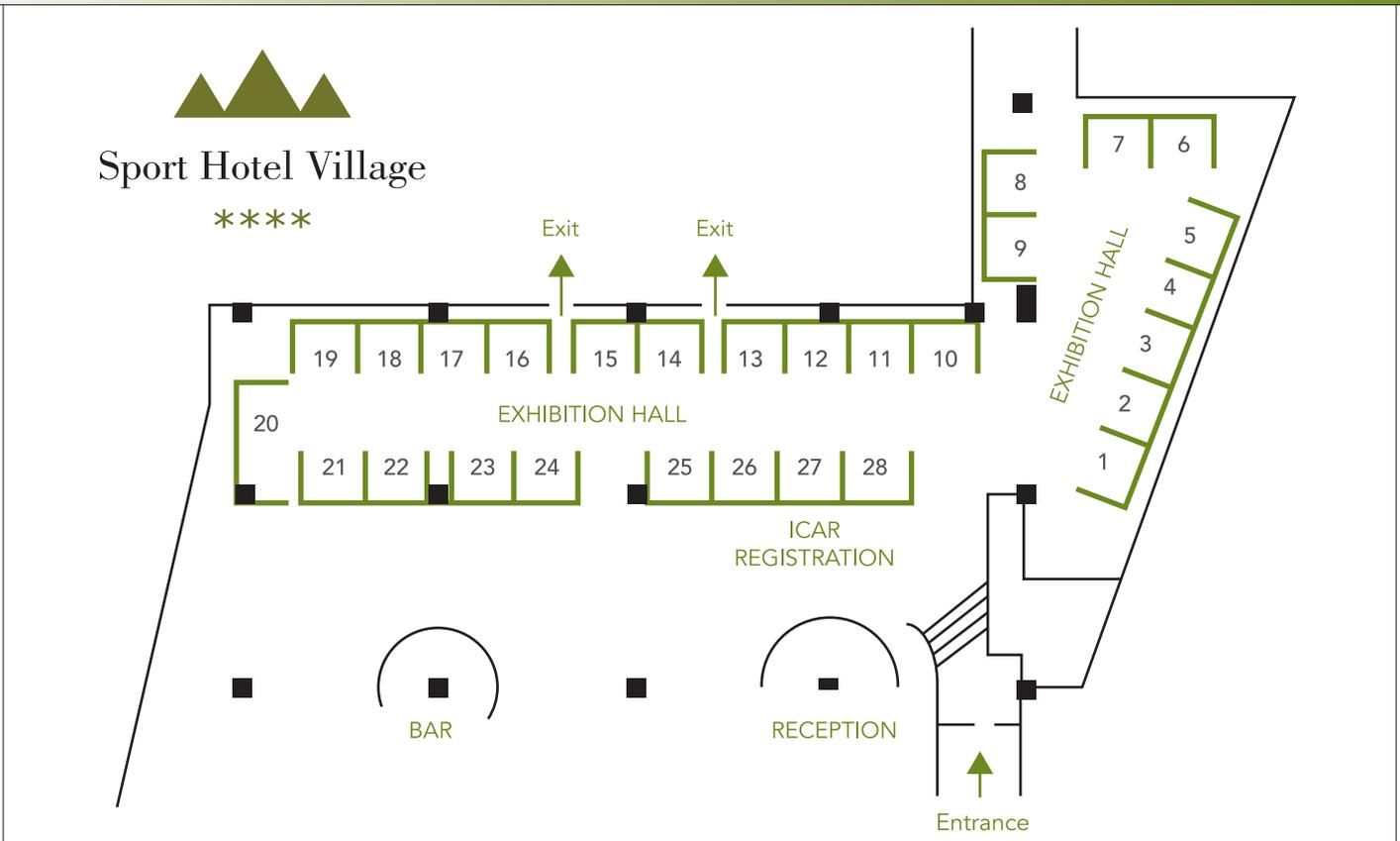
27. SEPURA



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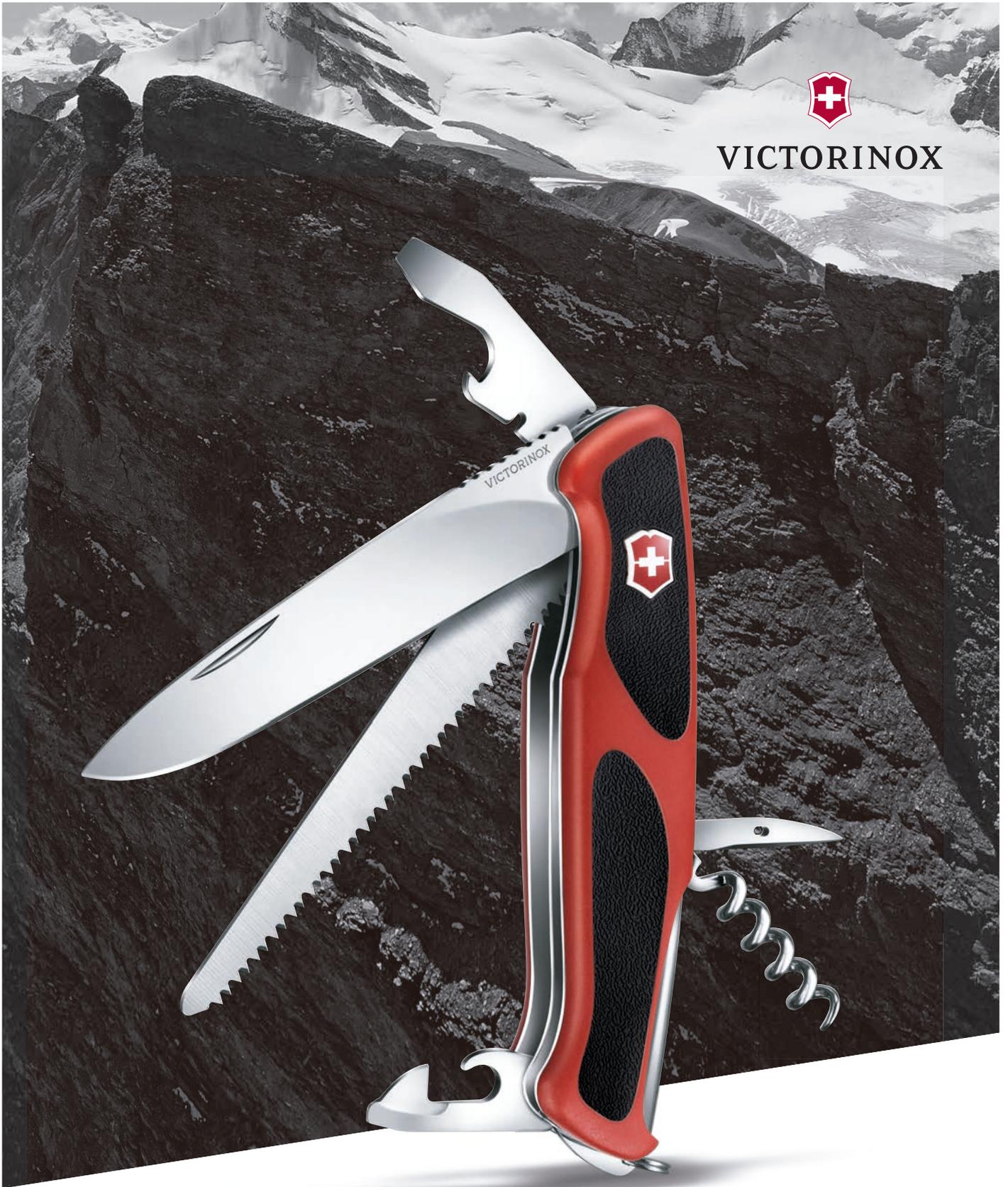


# EXHIBITION FLOOR PLAN





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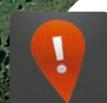


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