



St. John Rescue Corps - Malta

A voluntary organisation under the auspices of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem

EU Exchange of Experts

Field Report

Host Organisation:

THW Ortsverband Konstanz, Landesverband Baden-Württemberg, Konstanz

Point of Contact:

Wolfgang Rüdiger

Date of exchange:

11th – 17th June 2014

Ref:

Ex. 264 MT > DE

Experts:

St. John Rescue Corps - Malta

Christopher Borg Cardona (Team Leader)

Edward Midolo

Ivan Azzopardi

Josef Borg

Michael Muscat

Stefan Cirillo

Robert Attard

Bryan Wubbels

Roberto Caruana Gauci

Joseph Sammut

Organisations participating in exchange:

THW Konstanz

DLRG Konstanz

Malteser Konstanz

SARUV Rankweil Austria

THW Singen

River Police Konstanz

Konstanz Fire Brigade

Fire Brigade Training School Austria

Objective of exchange:

To gain expertise, knowledge, and best practices employed by host organisation in the field of water rescue, securing collapsed buildings and high angle rescue.

Day 1- Wednesday 11th June 2014

Arrival

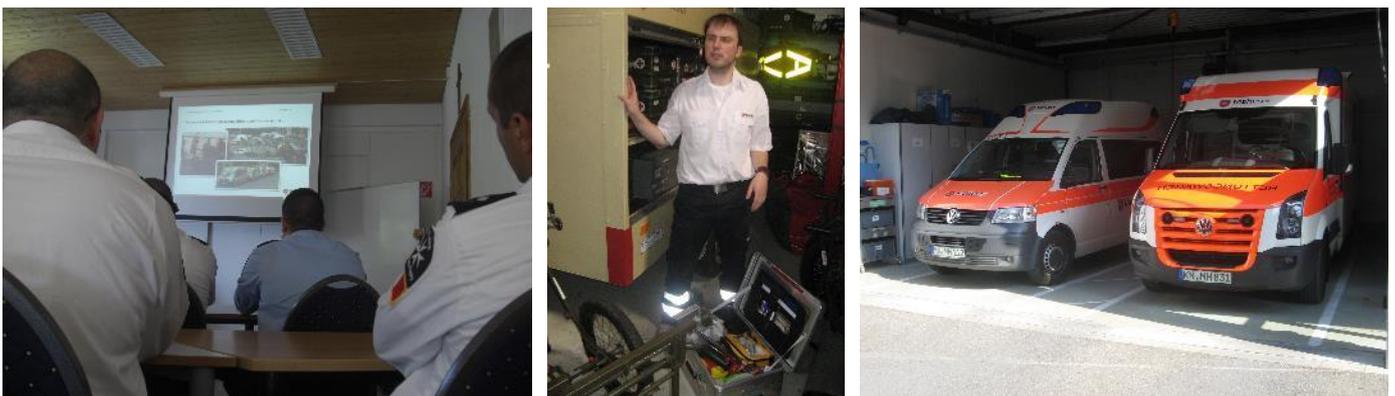
On arrival at our camp base Wolfgang Rüdiger briefed the Maltese contingent on the accommodation and program of the week's events.

Sebastian Breetsch gave a presentation on the operations and structure of the THW Konstanz Chapter.

Day 2- Thursday 12th June 2014

Visit at Malteser Konstanz

Visit to Malteser where a presentation by Evelyne Braun about their services and capabilities was carried out followed by a walk through to view their equipment.



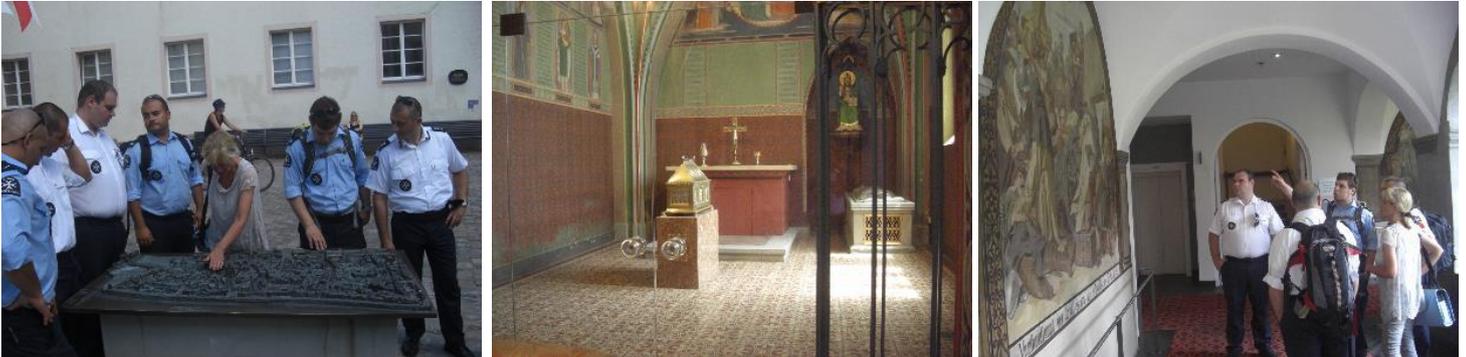
Visit at City Hall

Courtesy visit to the Mayor of Konstanz at the City Hall where Wolfgang Rüdiger introduced the SJRC Volunteers to the Mayor Claus-Dieter Hirt and the Chief of the Fire Department Dieter Quintus. The Mayor welcomed the SJRC Volunteers and gave an inside tour of the city and structure of the council, whilst Team Leader Chris Borg Cardona explained the setup and the important role that the SJRC has in Malta in supporting the Maltese Civil Protection Department. It has been discussed that future collaboration should be explored between Organisations from Konstanz and the SJRC.



Tour of Konstanz City

Later in the afternoon the SJRC Volunteers were taken for a walk around tour of the city by Anja Mack, visiting its various historical sites.



Day 3 – Friday 13th June 2014

Visit to Konstanz River Police

Visit to the River Police of Konstanz where the SJRC Volunteers viewed the diving quarters and toured the lake on the Police boat. During the tour Rolf Große explained how the police operate with other authorities and NGOs from different countries which borders are shared on the lake.



National exercise in Austria

The SJRC Volunteers travelled with the THW boats to Hard, Austria and were met by Wolfgang Brutscher of the Austria Fire Brigade Training School who took the volunteers to view a National Exercise between Army, Red Cross, Volunteer Mountain Rescue, Police and Fire Brigade. This exercise clearly showed how these different entities efficiently coordinate their resources to effectively accomplish their mission.

The Minister for the Internal Affairs of Austria together with high level representatives also attended this demo and Team Leader Christopher Borg Cardona was introduced to them, by the Chief of the Fire Brigade Hubert Vetter.



Visit to Rankweil Fire Station

After the exercise the SJRC Volunteers visited a Fire Station in Rankweil which is operated by volunteers. Markus Mayr the Deputy Commander of the station and other Austrian Volunteers gave a very good over view of how they operate and showed the various equipment they use. The Rankweil Volunteers are also members of SARUV and a discussion about their deployments and capabilities took place between the groups.



Day 4- Saturday 14th June 2014
High Angle Exercise

The SJRC Volunteers visited the main Fire Station in Konstanz where they met volunteers of the Fire Department that specialise in High Angle Rescue. Both teams performed different rescue scenarios working together and exchanged knowledge and practical expertise. Although both groups use different equipment and adopt different ways of working, they both follow the same principles and techniques and both groups learnt a lot from each other.



Collapsed building shoring exercise

Lange Manfred from THW Singen carried out a presentation regarding the shoring system being adopted during the exercise. Both teams trained together using specialised equipment which was different than the methods and equipment usually used by SJRC Volunteers. Training on how to use a crane to recover debris was also included. A journalist from Konstanz attended the exercise and interviewed participants. An article of the week's event was published in the local newspapers.



Social Event

Dined at a very good restaurant where special local cuisine was prepared for the St. John Rescue Corps members and Host.



Day 5 – Sunday 15th June

Exercise to set up a triage area

The Malteser of Konstanz performed a demo on how to setup a triage area and the use of casualty handling equipment. Members of the St. John Rescue Corps were given the opportunity to replicate the demo together with Malteser Volunteers.



Presentation of St. John Rescue Corps

The Team Leader of the St. John Rescue Corps gave a presentation of the history of the Corps, the setup of its various branches, its operations and future projects. Representatives of THW, Malteser and DLRG attended this presentation that was held at the Malteser Headquarters.



Day 6 – Sunday 16th June 2014 Visit Fire Brigade

A visit to the Fire Brigade of Konstanz, to view the setup of the control room, the incident command systems and all vehicles and equipment.



Diving with DLRG

Drift diving with the divers of DLRG together with divers of the St. John Rescue Corps in the River Rhein. Other SJRC Volunteers practiced boat handling techniques with DLRG boats. The SJRC Volunteers together with DLRG Volunteers exchanged information on techniques and experiences and discussed future collaboration between both organizations.



Day 7 – 17th June 2014
Summary and conclusion

A debrief of the week’s activities was held before departure to discuss the highlights and experiences learnt. What was mainly highlighted was the cooperation between the entities in Konstanz and the other international entities around the lake which is critical to have an effective rescue service. SJRC Volunteers gained more knowledge and also learnt new skills during this trip, which will certainly be utilized back home. Also the trip served to make new contacts with other international organizations and created more opportunities for future projects and partnerships.



SJRC Volunteers thanked Wolfgang Rüdiger and the THW Konstanz for hosting the group and for an exceptionally well organized experience, which was well beyond everyone’s expectations and also thanked all the other organizations that contributed to the success of this trip. The SJRC looks forward to reciprocate by possibly hosting a group of rescuers from Konstanz in the near future.

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