



1st Special Response Group

Anytime
Anywhere

Training Rescue Teams in Turkey

ORDOS, a Turkish rescue team, contacted 1SRG in early 2000 to determine if we could develop a training course that would provide them with intensive instruction in a variety of areas relating to wilderness search and rescue.

In March of 2001, six 1SRG members presented a nine day course covering search management, swiftwater rescue, cave rescue, canine medical care, canine wilderness area search, and tracking. An intense mock search, overseen by 1SRG but run by the students, wrapped up the training and tied the theory and practical exercises together in a realistic event.



The material was presented in an intense survey format and care was taken to ensure that the students understood that this class was designed to introduce them to the various elements and did not constitute a formal certification course in any of the areas.

We found the students to be incredibly enthusiastic. They were engaged in the course materials and their questions and discussion often pushed the classes past midnight. Extensive preliminary planning had enabled us to target the topics they were most interested in at the level they needed, maximizing the value of the classes.

The mock search scenario was the highlight of the course. It required combining different skills that the students had just learned in a challenging 24-hour situation. The student teams carried the search off well with some guidance from instructors.



Subsequently, one of the 1SRG instructors, Laura Rathe, and her husband returned to Turkey for two weeks to work with a canine handler student. Ersel had shown true commitment to developing Turkish wilderness canine search capabilities during the initial training. Laura donated one of her trained SAR canines to ORDOS and Ersel and worked with them for two weeks to ensure that they could work together as a team. They also participated as observers in a local search.

This event was very well received by ORDOS, the handler, and Turkish and American media.

24 hours per day · 365 days per year · Anywhere in the world
Search and rescue · Disaster response · Training

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