

standards also divided the basic training program into three levels; each level taking approximately twenty to twenty-five working days to complete. A level is only completed by a dog and handler when they consistently meet the stated objectives of the course standard.

The basic training program involves five working "profiles" for both the dog and handler. These profiles are made up of *obedience*, *agility* (which is an extension of obedience), *tracking*, *searching* and *criminal apprehension*. The handler is also graded against set standards in twenty-eight knowledge subjects over the training period. Topics range from animal care to the presentation of evidence in court. During the last two weeks of training the new handler prepares for the field work that will follow. This phase, which incorporates specific case scenarios, involves gathering evidence and preparing necessary police reports, as well as case and court presentations.

A team's first field placement is usually to "E" Division (British Columbia), in a section where they have the benefit of working under the supervision of an experienced handler. As a point of interest, notes Insp. Fream, "E" Division employs forty-three of the seventy-eight field teams, and is the only province that employs a full-time Police Dog Services supervisor.

### Validations

As mentioned earlier, validations for field teams are conducted every year. This is a test of each team's credentials to ensure their qualifications continue to meet the basics identified by the course training standard. Validations are conducted in the field — at Canadian Forces Base Debert, N.S., for the Atlantic divisions; at the Innisfail training centre for the prairie divisions and the Yukon; and at Canadian Forces Station Kamloops, B.C., for teams in

"E" Division. Validations for teams working in explosives detection are held at a major international airport.

### Types of Courses

In any given year, the training centre at Innisfail conducts various types of courses. For example, the 1985 syllabus includes: training in avalanche search and rescue; initial dog handler training for new handlers and new dogs; dog handler retraining, during which experienced handlers train new dogs; as well as validations for field dog handlers. In addition, the centre runs a two-week "potential dog handler" training course, in which applicants for the Police Dog Services are evaluated. In 1984 twenty-four courses and validations were offered. Twenty courses and validations are scheduled for 1985.

### Training Philosophy

Insp. Fream emphasizes that the key to success in training depends on a dog's acceptance of his intended handler. This is referred to as the development of a bond between them. It is toward this end that an attempt is made to pair a dog and handler prior to the outset of training.

Dogs, like humans, have individual personalities and temperaments. "This factor alone creates an ongoing challenge for the trainer who assists the handler in training the dog," says the inspector. "The handler must learn to 'read' his dog. This is essential for the team's success in the field."

The Force's dog training method uses appropriate correction and positive reinforcement. Explains Insp. Fream:

"The actual training of the dog is done by repetition, eventually resulting in the desired response. When the dog makes the proper response, he is verbally and physically rewarded: verbal compli-