

TRAINING*

Innisfail Staff and Facilities

The training centre at Innisfail, Alberta, employs six regular members of the RCMP and four public servants. The members include the officer in charge, a senior NCO, and four trainers. Three public servants are employed as kennel staff and one as kennel clerk.

The Innisfail facilities, which cover eighteen land acres, include two kennel buildings with outdoor runs, administrative offices, lecture rooms, and an indoor kennel facility for up to twenty-six dogs. The outdoor training area is divided into various exercise fields. One field contains a variety of jumps and obstacles used for obedience and agility training. Tracking and searching exercises are conducted in the surrounding rural and urban areas. Teams in training are exposed to mountains, dense bush, open fields and parkland within a fifty-mile radius of the training centre.²⁶



O.I.C. POLICE DOG SERVICES Insp. John H. Fream's career in the Force spans 33 years. He has served in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Trainers and Trainees

All Police Dog Services trainers are former dog handlers, with many years' experience. This is only one of the requirements, observes Insp. Fream. "The trainer must also possess strong interpersonal skills and have proven ability as an instructor." The trainer's

objective is to mold dog and handler into an efficient working team.

RCMP members interested in becoming dog handlers must make their initial approach through the Staffing & Personnel Branch. Applicants must have a minimum of four years' police experience and possess a valid first-aid certificate. They must also have successfully completed map and compass training. Selected applicants first attend the "potential dog handler" course. If the objectives of this course are met, they become eligible to enter the program and take the dog handler training course. The number of courses offered in any given year is dictated by Force requirements.

* Information in the training segment of this article was obtained in correspondence with Insp. J. H. Fream, unless otherwise indicated.

26. Royal Canadian Mounted Police, *Police Dog Service*. RCMP: Public Relations Branch, 1980, p. 3. See also Samuel G. Chapman, "The Law on a Leash in Canada," *RCMP Quarterly* Vol. 49 #1, Winter 1984, p. 25.