



An RCMP field team searching for drugs aboard a commercial aircraft.

illicit spirits. This requirement is determined by the work area in which the dog is placed.

In the RCMP, narcotics or explosives training is included in the sixteen-week basic training course. Seventy-one of the Force's seventy-eight teams are referred to as general-duty teams and are drug-trained.¹⁹ The remaining seven teams received the same basic training as the others. However, instead of being trained in drugs, they were trained to scent explosives. "These teams can be considered spe-

cialists," says Insp. Fream, "as they have been trained to search for nitroglycerine-based explosives, such as T.N.T., R.D.X., P.E.T.N., ammonium nitrate and methalized aluminum-based explosives; as well as black powder."

In drug and explosives training, the substances are introduced after the 25th training day. The scent is first introduced by itself. Next, the scent is hidden where it can be easily found. As training continues the "hide" is made progressively more complex until the objectives of this training phase are consistently met.²⁰

been trained in explosives detection. By 1982 seven explosives detection teams were posted across Canada, mainly at airports. See Samuel G. Chapman, "The Law on a Leash in Canada," *RCMP Quarterly* Vol. 49 #2, Spring 1984, p. 15.

their dogs to detect marijuana, hashish, cocaine and heroin. In 1984 the Police Service Dog Section recorded 1,315 drug calls. Of this total, 1,082 calls were worked, with a Force-wide success rate of 34.8%.

19. Insp. Fream notes that while some police agencies train dogs to detect one particular drug, the Force trains

20. Information obtained in correspondence with Insp. Fream on April 22, 1985.