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RHEINLAND-PFALZ POLIZEI TRAIN WORKING DOGS ALONGSIDE AMERICAN MILITARY POLICE

By **Christine June**

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MIESAU, Germany -- When the Rheinland-Pfalz Polizei asked if eight of their working dog teams could do their regional monthly explosives detection training here, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Adams, the 230th Military Police Company Miesau kennel master, jumped at the opportunity.

“The more people you are training with, the more tools you have in your kit,” said Adams, a certification authority for U.S. Army Europe kennels whose unit supports law enforcement and force protection missions for the U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern.

The Polizei teams from Kaiserslautern, Mainz, Ludwigshafen and Pirmasens that trained here March 14 apparently had the same idea.



CHRISTINE JUNE

Polizeihauptmeister Thomas Beck from the Polizeipraesidium (police headquarters) Ludwigshafen and his patrol detector dog Fee, a 4-year-old Belgian Malinois, conduct a search during explosives-detection training eight working dog teams from the Rheinland-Pfalz Polizei conducted with their American counterparts of the 230th Military at Miesau Army Depot, Germany, March 14.

“We wanted to see how they train and work their dogs, exchange experience, and learn from each other,” said Polizeioberkommissar Thorsten Quarti from the Polizeipraesidium (police headquarters) Westpfalz in Kaiserslautern, who requested the training.

Quarti said this was not the first time that the Rheinland-Pfalz Polizei have conducted training on an American installation, but he guessed that the last time would have been in the early 1990s.

Using American training aids, the Polizei teams conducted training searches for more than four hours at two Miesau warehouses.

“We liked the huge training facility and space,” said Quarti. “It was very good to train in the whole big warehouses because it gave us a lot of opportunities to practice.”

“It was interesting to see how our dogs respond to their (American) explosives they use for training, because it is different than ours,” said Quarti, who added that the Polizei use European military and commercial materials.

The American kits contain about nine different types of explosive materials, said Adams.

American dog teams also conducted searches to demonstrate their explosives detection techniques for their host nation counterparts.

“They definitely enjoyed watching our guys work because it’s a bit different than the way they do it, but the same,” Adams explained. “The end result of finding the explosives is the same.”

Adams said he plans to send his dog teams to train with the Rheinland-Pfalz Polizei in the future.

“These guys are world-class trainers and handlers, so even though we have a solid program and one of the best in the world, it never hurts to know what other people are doing,” said Adams.

Besides conducting training, the Polizei dog handlers also got to tour the Miesau kennel, which is the largest U.S. Army kennel in Europe.

The facility can house nearly 50 patrol narcotics and explosives detection dogs, and includes an administrative building and 41-by-41-meter training area for dog teams to practice their skills.



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