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SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**



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Operations

AIR FORCE DIVING PROGRAM

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This instruction implements DoD Directive 5100.1, Functions of the Department of Defense and Its Major Components DoD Instruction 3224.04, *Single Manager Responsibility for Joint Service Military Diving Technology and Training (MDT&T)*, and AFD 10-35, *Battlefield Airmen*. This instruction establishes the Air Force Diving Program. It applies to Air National Guard and United States Air Force Reserve units or members. Lead MAJCOMs and Component MAJCOMs will send one copy of their printed supplement to HQ AF/A3O-AS; other organizations send one copy of each-supplement to the next higher headquarters functional OPR for review and coordination before publishing. Send recommended changes, additions, deletions, and any conflict or duplication of other reports on Air Force (AF) Form 847, **Recommendation for Change of Publication** to HQ AF/A3O-AS, 1480 Air Force Pentagon, Washington DC 20330-1480, or e-mail a3o.as.workflow@pentagon.af.mil.

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose. Establishes the Director of Operations, Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements (AF/A3O), as the Air Force (AF) proponent for AF diving matters and provides broad administrative, management and operational guidance for the AF diving program and subordinate command level diving programs to standardize dive qualification/requalification standards, increase mission effectiveness and safety, and ensure compliance with DoD activity reporting and incident reporting requirements.

1.1.1. The Secretary of the Navy, as the Department of Defense (DoD) Executive Manager for Joint Military Diving Technology and Training (MDT&T), has primary responsibility for developing dive procedures and equipment that are of common interest to the DoD. The basic guidance for dive operations is contained in SS521-AG-PRO-010, *United States (U.S.) Navy Diving Manual*, and Operational Navy Instruction (OPNAVINST) 3150.27B, *Navy Diving Program*.

1.1.2. AF approved deviations to the *U.S. Navy Diving Manual* and *Navy Diving Program* are contained in this instruction. Lead MAJCOM (L-MAJCOM) commanders have authority and responsibility for diving operations under their control to include the development of service-unique tactics, techniques, procedures, and equipment for subsurface diving that are not provided for elsewhere.

NOTE: For the purposes of this publication, the term Lead Major Command (L-MAJCOM) applies to Air Education and Training Command (AETC), Air Combat Command (ACC), Air National Guard (ANG), Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC), and Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC).

1.1.3. All AF diving operations will be conducted in accordance with (IAW) published procedures and utilizing equipment that has been approved IAW this AFI.

1.2. Scope. This Air Force Instruction (AFI) applies to all military-trained divers, active duty AF, AFRC, NGB, and USAF civilian personnel involved in the training, operational or administrative aspects of diving operations. This instruction does not address aircrew personnel who undergo emergency underwater egress training, personnel working in medical hyperbaric treatment facilities, firefighters conducting surface water rescue (not to include dive recovery) at water depths of less than 10 feet or off-duty recreational diving by Air Force military or civilian personnel.

NOTE: The Fire Emergency Services Program provides guidance for water rescue (not to include dive recovery or use of Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) conducted by firefighters at depth of less than 10 feet).

1.3. Definitions. For the purpose of this instruction, diving is defined as any underwater activity or operation in which personnel are subject to elevated ambient pressure and use of equipment such as SCUBA, including open circuit, semi-closed circuit, and closed circuit designs using any breathing medium. Additionally, diving includes undersea habitats, diver propulsion vehicles and their life support systems, diving simulators such as diver support systems for aviation escape trainers, diver tool systems whether pneumatically, electronically, hydraulically driven or

explosively actuated, and other diving life support or diving equipment not specified above. The following terms are defined as they relate to the Air Force diving program

1.3.1. System Certification. System certification is the procedure for independent technical review, survey, test, and approval to ensure material and procedural adequacy of diving equipment or systems to perform safely within specified operational limits.

1.3.2. Diving Equipment, Tools, and Accessories: Air Force divers will use only Authorized for Navy Use (ANU) equipment, tools, and accessories. The ANU designation is applied by the Navy Supervisor of Diving and Salvage (NAVSEA-000C3B) to selected commercially available diving equipment, tools and accessories, and hyperbaric system components, after they have undergone design safety reviews, test and evaluation, or both to ensure diver safety. AF diving units should forward equipment not on the ANU list to the Supervisor of Diving and Salvage (NAVSEA-000C3B) prior to use for an independent review of documentation. The ANU process addresses three basic categories of equipment.

1.3.2.1. Category I. Life support diving equipment (e.g. regulators, cylinders, manifolds, buoyancy compensators, compressors, etc).

1.3.2.2. Category II. Non-life support equipment that is potentially hazardous to the diver (e.g. explosively actuated tools, surface powered electrical tools, and hydraulic chain saws).

1.3.2.3. Category III. Non-life support accessory equipment that enhances mission accomplishment (e.g. wet/dry suit, mask, fin, snorkel, watch, cameras, hand tools)

1.3.3. Air Force Diver. Active duty and reserve component military members, and civilian employees of the Air Force who have successfully completed formal training at a Department of Defense operated diving school (approved by the Chief of Naval Education and Training) and who maintain qualification. For the purpose of this instruction, any U.S. Air Force personnel who have completed formal training at either a U.S. Navy or other Chief of Naval Education and Training-approved DoD-operated dive school, and who maintains qualifications for the equipment trained on, are considered to be "Qualified Air Force Divers".

1.3.4. Diving Supervisor. An individual who has graduated a formal DoD Dive Supervisor qualification course (approved by Chief of Naval Education and Training) and Air Force Combat Search and Rescue and Special Activities Division, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans, and Requirements (AF/A3O-AS)-approved L-MAJCOM Program of Instruction (POI) and is designated in writing by the commander. Diving supervisors should be selected based on knowledge, experience, level of training, and competence. There is no minimum rank requirement for diving supervisors.

1.3.5. Unit Diving Officer. Designated in writing by unit commander, the diving officer is responsible for the safe conduct of all diving operations within the unit. This individual must be thoroughly familiar with all unit diving techniques and have a detailed knowledge of all applicable regulations and is responsible for all operational, logistical, and administrative duties associated with the unit diving program. The Unit Diving Officer must be a qualified diver. A SNCO qualified as a Diving Supervisor may be assigned as the Unit Diving Officer if no diving officer is assigned to the unit.

1.3.6. L-MAJCOM Chief Diver. Principle diving subject matter expert responsible for diving standardization, evaluation, and diving-related activities to include logistics designated in writing by the Lead MAJCOM/A3 or equivalent. The L-MAJCOM Chief Diver must have a minimum

of 10 years operational diving experience, be a qualified Diving Supervisor, and hold a 9-skill level or higher in an operational diving career-field (1T2/1C2) or be civilian, military-certified Master Diver.

NOTE: USAF Divers do not normally meet the requirements of a military-certified “Master Diver”. If a military-certified Master Diver (government civilian or contractor) can be added to the staff, they will provide a valuable source of expertise particularly in terms of diving systems certification, maintenance, and logistics and interface with the Navy Diving program.

1.3.7. L-MAJCOM Diving Officer. A field grade officer, or equivalent, designated in writing by the MAJCOM/A3 or equivalent to oversee the MAJCOM Diving Program. The L-MAJCOM Diving Officer is responsible for all programmatic aspects of L-MAJCOM Diving Program. L-MAJCOM Diving Officer must be a qualified diver.

1.3.8. Medical Personnel. Diving Medical Officers and Diving Medical Technicians/Special Operations Technician are given special training in hyperbaric medicine and in diving. They participate in diving operations when the presence of diving medical personnel is indicated IAW the *U.S. Navy Diving Manual*.

1.3.8.1. Diving Medical Officer (DMO). A physician trained specifically in diving medicine and physiology. The DMO shall be a graduate of the Diving Medical Officer course taught at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) or the nine-week diving medicine course taught at the NDSTC. Graduates of the diving medicine course are considered to have the same privileges as graduates of the Diving Medical Officer course, with the exception that they are not granted the privilege of modifying treatment protocols. They may assist and advise treatment and care of diving casualties but may not modify recompression procedures.

NOTE: USAF Flight Surgeons and Physicians do not normally meet the requirements of a Diving Medical Officer. Units should coordinate with the Navy for DMO support when required.

1.3.8.2. Diving Medical Technician (DMT)/ Special Operations Technician (SOT). A DMT/SOT is a graduate from the Navy DMT or Special Operations SOT course where they receive specialized training in hyperbaric and diving medicine. A DMT/SOT is required for all closed-circuit dive operations. Military members must hold a military diver qualification before attending Navy DMT course.

1.4. Policy. Only properly qualified USAF divers using approved and/or certified equipment systems and procedures will conduct Air Force diving.

1.4.1. Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation (RDT&E). All dive equipment RDT&E must be requested by L-MAJCOM through Supervisor of Diving NAVSEA/OOC3 for coordination with Naval Experimental Dive Unit (NEDU) and ANU processes.

1.4.2. Diving with Joint or Foreign Units. Divers will observe strict compliance with all established DoD diving policies and tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP) and this instruction when training or conducting operations with other Services or foreign forces. USAF divers will only use ANU approved, certified equipment, and systems.

1.4.2.1. When conducting training or operations with foreign forces OCONUS, divers may use partner nation procedures if they do not conflict with DoD diving policies and TTP or this AFI.

1.4.2.2. If a foreign unit has equipment that is not on the ANU approved for use list, an L-MAJCOM/A3 approved waiver is required to use those specific items. If waiver is approved, the

USAF senior diver participating in diving evolutions shall ensure that no undue safety hazards exist before allowing the participation of USAF personnel in diving operations.

1.5. Waiver Authority and Exceptions to Policy. L-MAJCOM commanders have authority and responsibility for diving operations under their control. L-MAJCOMs will coordinate waivers of system certifications, safety, and operational procedures, personnel qualifications (except physical standards), and materials related to USAF diving IAW OPNAVINST 3150.27B. For waivers to exceed operational limits or deviate from established procedures during contingencies waiver authority is the L-MAJCOM/A3, Air Component/A3, or the Special Operations Component/J3 (or their designated representatives) as applicable. For exercises and training, waiver authority will be retained at the L-MAJCOM/A3 or their designated representative except where specifically identified in this instruction. Procedures, checklists, and record traffic published at L-MAJCOM level and on record with HQ AF/A3O-AS constitute authorization to deviate from standard guidance in paragraph 1.2. Deviations occurring during operational mission execution (to include contingencies) will be reported to the MAJCOM/Dive Program Manager (DPM) within 24 hours or as soon as feasible.

1.5.1. Physical standard waivers will be submitted IAW AFI 48-123 Vol 3, *Medical Examinations and Standards Volume 3-Flying and Special Operational Duty*.

1.5.2. Operational or procedural waiver requests must substantiate the urgent or unusual circumstances that justify their approval and will include the following:

1.5.2.1. Procedure or item to be deviated from.

1.5.2.2. Specific unit and by-name individuals requiring the waiver.

1.5.2.3. Inclusive dates of the waiver period.

1.5.2.4. Specific location the waiver is to be granted for.

1.5.2.5. Circumstances that necessitate the requirement for the waiver.

1.5.2.6. Impact of the denial of the waiver.

Chapter 2

AIR FORCE DIVING PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES AND MANAGEMENT

2.1. USAF Diving Program Management and Responsibilities. The Secretary of the Air Force responsibilities under DoDI 3224.4 are executed through the Director of Operations, Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements, (USAF/A3O). USAF/A3O executes diving policy through the USAF/A3O-AS. USAF/A3O-AS acts as the USAF subject matter expert and coordinates all diving policy matters and waivers for USAF/A3O.

2.2. HQ USAF/A3O-AS will:

- 2.2.1. Provide O-6 level representative and subject matter expert(s) to Military Diving Technology and Training (MDT&T) Program Board IAW DoDI 3224.04.
- 2.2.2. Designate military or civilian representatives to represent the AF as members of the Military Technical Acceptance Board (MTAB) and/or Technical Training Acceptance Board (TTAB) IAW DoDI 3224.4.
- 2.2.3. Execute the Air Force Diving Program by appointing an Air Force Diving Program Manager. The Air Force Diving Program Manager will be an Air Force Diver and should hold open and closed circuit qualifications and meet all qualification requirements of an Air Force L-MAJCOM Chief Diver.
- 2.2.4. Provide Air Force Diving Program guidance.
- 2.2.5. Be the final authority on all requests for waiver of system certification, safety and operational procedures, personnel qualifications (except physical standards), and materials related to USAF diving.
- 2.2.6. Provide consolidated reports to the Naval Safety Center regarding Air Force diving statistics, and periodic safety surveys of MAJCOMs with diving systems.
- 2.2.7. In coordination with L-MAJCOMs and USAF/SG, develop and promulgate individual physical standard requirements for divers.
- 2.2.8. In coordination with L-MAJCOMs establish qualification and re-qualification criteria and administrative procedures for documentation in training records and diving logs for Air Force diving personnel.
- 2.2.9. Advise AF/A3O on all Air Force diving operational matters.
- 2.2.10. Brief/coordinate with Headquarters Air Force directorates and other officials or organizations on diving operations, equipment and training matters.
- 2.2.11. Monitor L-MAJCOM dive training programs.
- 2.2.12. Assist AETC in formulating, implementing, and evaluating formal training programs for Air Force diving personnel.
- 2.2.13. Convene and chair DPM Executive Committee meeting annually (or more frequently when required by AF/A3O). The Executive Committee discusses and reviews L-MAJCOM

diving program efforts. The DPM Executive Committee membership consists of L-MAJCOM DPM and Career Field Managers from 1C2, 1T2, and 13D AFSC.

2.2.14. Participate in or send a representative to other joint and sister service diving program conferences, as needed.

2.2.15. Review all reported diving incidents and accidents. Recommend/direct coordinated changes to training and procedures, where appropriate.

2.2.16. Assist AETC/A2/3, in the allocation of formal diving program training quotas.

2.2.17. Maintain USAF master listing (for messages, e-mails, FAX numbers, etc.) of all DPM and disseminate information periodically to promote communication.

2.3. AF/SE (Chief of Safety) will: Through the Air Force Safety Center, Ground Safety Division:

2.3.1. Upon request, provide statistical data analysis on all diving related mishaps or events.

2.3.2. Upon request, provide technical assistance to diving related investigation boards and other safety matters.

2.3.3. Coordinate with sister service safety offices as appropriate.

2.3.4. Incorporate one or more divers into any safety investigation involving diving operations.

2.3.5. Through management of the Air Force Safety Automated System (AFSAS) ensure USAF and/or MAJCOM DPM are provided an opportunity to submit comments on safety investigation reports.

2.4. HQ USAF/SG (Surgeon General) will: Through the Air Force Medical Operations Agency:

2.4.1. Designate an Air Force physician to provide recommendations on medical requirements and qualifications for divers.

2.4.2. Coordinate and review all diving mishap reports before forwarding to Air Force Safety Center.

2.5. HQ AETC/A2/3 through HQ AETC/A3T (Technical Training Division) will:

2.5.1. Oversee the formal training aspects of the Diving Program.

2.5.2. Manage USAF quota policy for all DoD diver courses and other formal training as required.

2.5.3. Provide oversight of USAF instructor requirements at DoD formal diving schools.

2.6. Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) will:

2.6.1. Designate a single EEHS

(SPO) to serve as the Air Force lead for acquisition, certification, and coordinating ANU designation for all Air Force-unique diving life support systems and equipment not currently listed in the ANU. Air Force-unique diving related equipment should be forwarded for testing and evaluation at NEDU for addition to the ANU diving equipment list. AFMC SPO acquires standard diving systems for USAF dive operations.

2.6.2. Provide an item manager for all diving and diving related equipment items utilized by MAJCOMs.

2.6.3. Coordinate operational test and evaluation of standard diving equipment as required.

2.6.4. SPO will designate a program manager to serve as the technical authority for Air Force diving and coordinate acquisition, operation, and maintenance of diver life support equipment and diving tools and equipment.

2.6.5. Coordinate with Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to procure maritime and diving related products through the Prime Vendor Program as required.

2.7. Air Force Career Field Manager (AFCFM): All 1T2, 1C2, and 13D must maintain diving qualification to maintain AFSC. Career field Managers will update AFI 36-2108 / 36-2105 and AFSC specific Career Field Education and Training Plan (CFETP) with requirements for conducting dive operations and supporting education and training plans. Coordinate these updates through AF/A3O-AS for standardization and program oversight.

2.8. L-MAJCOM Diving Program Management and Responsibilities.

2.8.1. Each L-MAJCOM will send a memorandum of appointment from L-MAJCOM/A3 or equivalent to HQ USAF/A3O-AS appointing a Chief Diver and Dive Officer. Either the L-MAJCOM Chief Diver or Dive Officer can serve as the L-MAJCOM DPM. Dive Program Managers will:

2.8.1.1. Establish command-specific diving programs according to operational need, through supplements, applicable Instructions, and Joint References.

2.8.1.2. Publish L-MAJCOM policy and guidance for gained Component (C)-MAJCOM, DRU, and FOA diving programs. Coordinate requirements for gained C-MAJCOMs and manage diving systems and equipment. Monitor L-MAJCOM gained C-MAJCOM, DRU, and FOA dive training programs.

2.8.1.3. Coordinate (as required) with Air Staff/MAJCOM functional area managers to establish directives, procedures, and requirements consistent with the MAJCOM mission to evaluate training programs and capability of assigned or attached divers to perform their assigned duties.

2.8.1.4. Participate in DPM Executive Committee and send a representative to other joint and sister service diving program conferences, as needed.

2.8.1.5. Attend Air Force, joint agency, industry group meetings, boards, task forces, committees, and conferences that deal with developing, modifying, or researching operational diving matters.

2.8.1.6. Coordinate with C-MAJCOM functional area managers and training POCs for formal training requirements, and as required, submit class quota requests for initial and upgrade training.

2.8.1.7. Maintain copies of diving Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Program/Syllabus of Instruction (POI/SOI) developed by activities under their purview.

2.8.1.8. Establish the frequency and standards for program evaluations and Staff Assistance Visits. In coordination with MAJCOM functional area managers, conduct evaluations during staff assistance visits, or as needed.

- 2.8.1.9. Compile a comprehensive master list of items used by MAJCOM divers.
- 2.8.1.10. Identify operational requirements and prepare Mission Needs Statements and Operational Requirements Documents as required, and participate in the MAJCOM Mission Area Plans process.
- 2.8.1.11. Process requests for waiver of system certification, safety and operational procedures, personnel qualifications (except physical standards), and materials related to USAF diving.
- 2.8.1.12. Provide units with dive program/safety evaluation checklists, prior to unit dive program inspections
- 2.8.1.13. Document deviation from inter-service references and this instruction and review annually. Every three years review roles and missions requiring exception from standard procedures and equipment, and submit to AF/A3O-AS on an AF Form 847 for inclusion in this instruction. Include:
 - 2.8.1.13.1. Roles and missions requiring exceptions to policy.
 - 2.8.1.13.2. Procedural guidance used by assigned personnel during such operations, to include checklists.
 - 2.8.1.13.3. Training/upgrade/documentation requirements and lesson plans to be used to train personnel in such operations.
 - 2.8.1.13.4. Currency criteria and refresher training specifications for inclusion in to Duty Air Force Specialty Code (DAFSC) specific instructions.
- 2.8.1.14. Participate in dive incident investigations as required.
- 2.8.1.15. Review all dive incident reports and accidents ensuring all required follow-up actions are accomplished. Manage safety recommendations IAW AFI 91-204, *Safety Investigations and Reports*, using the AFSAS (<https://afsas.kirtland.af.mil>). Forward reports of completed action to AF/A3O-AS to ensure cross-tell of lessons learned.
- 2.8.1.16. Review and archive all operational dive mission reports, forward copies to AF/A3O-AS.
- 2.8.1.17. Ensure accurate and timely submission by subordinate units of electronic Dive Log Reports using the Navy Dive/Jump Reporting System (DJRS) to Commander, Naval Safety Center, Attn: (C-37), 375 A Street, Norfolk, VA 23511-4399 within 10 days of each dive via web, e-mail, or diskette.
- 2.8.18. Provide consolidated command Smooth Logs to the AF/A3O-AS regarding Air Force diving statistics, and periodic safety surveys of MAJCOMs with diving systems.
- 2.8.19. Review and validate the L-MAJCOM Dive Program annually.
- 2.8.20. Coordinate with Navy Safety Center to schedule biennial safety center dive locker inspections. Forward results to Air Force Safety Center, Ground Safety Division and AF/A3O-AS.

2.9. Diving Unit or Activity Commander will:

- 2.9.1 Appoint a unit Diving Officer to oversee all unit diving related areas. L-MAJCOM DPM will disseminate safety information, tactics and procedures through the unit Diving Officer.

2.9.2. Forward memorandum of appointment of unit Diving Officer to L-MAJCOM DPM.

2.9.3. Implement higher headquarters policies and procedures.

2.9.4. Ensure unit dive program, training, and currency are IAW AFSC requirements and L-MAJCOM directives.

2.9.5. Ensure all written guidance (i.e. instructions, regulations, manuals, technical orders) pertaining to diving operations is maintained.

2.9.6. Ensure unit level Diving Supervisor is trained and certified.

2.9.7. Implement dive related Operational Risk Management program.

2.9.8. Forward operational dive mission reports through chain of command to L-MAJCOM DPM NLT seven days post mission completion.

2.10. Divers will:

2.10.1. Monitor their diving qualifications to ensure proper record entries in Navy Safety Centers, Dive/Jump Reporting System, personal diving logs, OJT records, and Aviation Resource Management System (ARMS) or other MAJCOM or AFSC specific formats.

2.10.2. Perform diving only when a current AF Form 1042, *Medical Recommendation for Flying or Special Operational Duty* is on file at host base flight management office. Grounding from flight or jump duties applies to dive duties unless specifically identified by flight surgeon in writing on an AF Form 1042.

Chapter 3 ADMINISTRATION

3.1. General. This instruction provides guidelines for compliance with legislative and executive directives. All aspects of diving training and qualification must be accurately administered to assure the legality, safety, and effectiveness of dive operations.

3.2. Dive Duty Authorization. All units with a diving mission will provide their L-MAJCOM with a copy of their MAJCOM/FOA approved Designed Operational Capability (DOC) Statement or equivalent validating their military dive mission

3.2.1. Diving qualification and dive status are awarded based on mission/DAFSC requirement and will not be used as part of an incentive or recognition program. The following authorities may enter or withdraw divers from dive status:

3.2.1.1. AF/A3O-AS for management of the AF diving program.

3.2.1.2. Commanders of Air Force units that conduct approved diving activities validated by L-MAJCOM IAW this AFI.

3.3. Diving Position Validation. Do not assign members to diving duty unless the member designated requires active dive status and is assigned to an L-MAJCOM approved diving activity or holds DAFSC 1C2, 1T2, or 13D. Forward requests for new dive duty positions with diving duty justification through L-MAJCOM channels to a3o.as.workflow@pentagon.af.mil . USAF/A3O-AS will coordinate validated L-MAJCOM requirements with respective functional area managers for final review and authorization.

3.4. Funding for Diving Requirements. The Air Force budgets funds as a result of validation of dive requirements. The number of dive positions authorized determines the incentive pay allocation. HQ USAF/A3O-AS, through SAF/FMBO, is responsible for developing the dive pay budget. Only qualified members on diving duty orders (assigned to dive inherent DAFSC or MAJCOM-validated position numbers), requiring frequent and regular dives, are entitled to Diving Duty Pay (DDP). DDP requirements are prescribed in DoD FMR 7000.14-R, *Department of Defense Financial Management Regulations (FMR)*, Chapter 11, Special Pay – Diving Duty, Vol 7A *Military Pay Policy and Procedures - Active Duty and Reserve Pay*. Unit commanders are responsible for validating requirements and ensuring they are IAW DoD and Air Force guidance.

3.5. Preparing Diving Duty Orders. USAF personnel will be placed on Diving Duty Orders before engaging in diving operations (initial AETC training and re-qualification training). Unit Commander's Support Staff will submit a memorandum for Diving Duty Orders to the host base Finance Office along with a DD Form 114, *Military Pay Order*. Commanders must recertify eligibility for diving duty this includes: verification of medical clearance, (AFI 48-123, Volume 3, see Marine Diving Duty section) and verification that member is current and qualified and holds DAFSC 1T2, 1C2, or 13D or is assigned to a position number approved and on file with the L-MAJCOM Diving Program Manager. By 1 Oct of each calendar year L-MAJCOMs will provide AF A3O-AS with a list of all active Air Force Divers outside DAFSC 1T2, 1C2, and 13D, their position numbers, and PAS code for budgeting and program oversight management.

3.6. Dive Duty Re-qualification. Divers who are disqualified for non-permanent reasons may be re-qualified when their impediment to diving is removed.

3.7. Removal from Dive Duty. When a member is no longer assigned to position that requires active diving due to PCS, PCA or other circumstances the unit commander will submit a DD Form 114, *Military Pay Order*, to stop diving duty incentive pay and remove the individual from diving duty. Commanders will not remove members assigned to DAFSC 1T2, 1C2, or 13D from diving duty when they are moving from one assignment to another assignment within their career field.

3.8. Dive Qualification Badges.

3.8.1. USAF members are authorized to wear the diving badge when awarded, IAW AFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*.

3.8.2. Personnel attending foreign dive schools or who are awarded foreign diver qualification badges are not authorized to wear these badges IAW AFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel* and are not qualified as Air Force Divers, unless they also meet all the requirements set forth in paragraph 1.3.3 of this AFI.

Chapter 4

DIVING QUALIFICATION TRAINING & CURRENCY REQUIREMENTS

4.1. General Training Requirements. Air Force training dives are those conducted under the supervision of qualified military divers using only equipment approved or certified IAW this instruction. Dives conducted during off duty hours (i.e., recreational dives using personal dive equipment) do not satisfy military dive requirements for foundational or continuation training.

4.1.1. Only current and qualified USAF divers will be allowed to use Air Force diving equipment for dive activities. All diving will be in strict compliance with NAVSEA 0910-LP-106-0957, *U.S. Navy Diving Manual* and this AFI.

4.1.2. Upon graduation from a DoD approved diving course, divers are authorized to use those types of systems on which they have been qualified (i.e., SCUBA, LAR-V)

4.1.3. Air Force civil service personnel are governed by the provisions of the U.S. Navy Diving Program, yet they must also comply with the US Government Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) diving standards, delineated in 29 CFR Part 1910 Subpart T; SUBJ: Commercial Diving Operations. U.S. Air Force civilian divers are identified as permanent Air Force employees who have been formally trained at an approved U.S. Navy diving school as a SCUBA diver, Second Class Diver, or First Class Diver. Commercial divers contracted by the Air Force who are not permanent government employees are not subject to these provisions. Civil service personnel who have successfully completed training at an approved diving school may conduct USAF diving. Civilian divers must be graduates of a formal course IAW paragraph 2.4. of this instruction. Civilian divers will possess the same qualifications as those required for their military counterparts and must meet the same physical requirements as outlined in AFI 48-123, Volume 3, (see Marine Diving Duty section). Commercial contractor diving conducted by the Air Force in support of training and operations will be conducted in accordance with the accepted commercial safe diving practices and will be clearly stated on all purchase orders and statements of work. Contractor use of USAF or Department of Defense diving personnel, USAF supplied diving equipment, breathing air or other diving services during contracted activities is prohibited.

4.1.4. Physical Standards for Air Force divers are established in AFI 48-123, Volume 3, (see Marine Diving Duty section). All USAF divers (including civil service personnel) must receive annual flight/diving physicals to remain qualified. Divers are also subject to specific performance standards required by Joint, MAJCOM, and unit guidance.

4.2. Currency and Refresher Requirements.

4.2.1. All USAF divers will accomplish a minimum of two dives annually (per calendar year) to qualify for diving duty pay (i.e., 1 Jan to 31 Dec). Dives may be performed at any time during the currency period to include multiple dives on the same day. Additionally, Diving Supervisors will oversee one dive per annual period. Dives are based on mission profile or objectives, there are no minimum depth requirements to accomplish a successful dive. Training and currency documentation will include Command Smooth Diving Log (Diver Reporting System software; maintained by the Diving Unit for three years), Individual Dive Log, and Aviation Resource Management System (ARMS) or other MAJCOM or AFSC specific formats.

4.2.2. Unit commanders are responsible for validating Diving Duty Pay entitlement for all assigned divers.

4.2.3. All USAF divers will accomplish a diving procedures review annually. Document this review on an AF 1098, *Special Task Certification and Recurring Training* and maintain in individuals OJT record or equivalent. This review will include:

4.2.3.1. Buoyancy control, buddy breathing, and mask clearing procedures

4.2.3.2. Review of hand signals, and diver rescue procedures.

4.2.3.3. Review of use of unit specific equipment procedures (i.e.; communications, lift bags, dry suits, full face mask, camera...)

4.2.3.4. L-MAJCOMs, AFSC FAM, and unit commanders may establish additional currency requirements to suit mission needs. Currency requirements outlined in AFSC/L-MAJCOM specific instructions will be identified through an L-MAJCOM supplement to this AFI.

4.3. Diver Re-qualification

4.3.1. Diver Re-qualification requirements must be evaluated jointly by the unit diving officer and the senior diving supervisor based on the individuals past diving experience. Factors such as the total number of dives or advanced qualifications may be used as a guide for the level of re-qualification training needed.

4.3.2. If diving currency or qualification has lapsed for more than one year but less than three years, the diver must have commander approval, a current physical examination for diving duty IAW AFI 48-123 Vol 3, and perform four re-qualification dives. All dives shall be conducted in IAW *U.S. Navy Diving Manual*. Dives should be completed IAW Command Required Operational Capabilities and Projected Operational Environments (ROC/POE) or Mission Essential Task List (METL). The diver shall be considered qualified for the calendar year the re-qualification is accomplished based on a 1 Jan – 31 Dec unqualified period. All requalification dives will be documented IAW Attachment 3 of this instruction and placed in members OJT record or equivalent.

4.3.3. If diving qualification has lapsed for more than three years, the L-MAJCOM diving officer and L-MAJCOM chief diver must review the individuals diving qualifications and history to determine what training is required. As a minimum the diver must successfully accomplish the following academics (prior to and in addition to requirement outlined in paragraph 4.3.2.) under the direct supervision of a diving supervisor.

4.3.3.1. Diving physics

4.3.3.2. General diving procedures

4.3.3.3. Diving medicine

4.3.3.4. Recompression chamber operations review

NOTE: Contact AF Combat Dive Course, Panama City, FL for academic Plan of Instruction.

Chapter 5

RESTRICTIONS & PROCEDURES

5.1. Ascent to Altitude After Diving / Flying After Diving Air Force personnel must delay altitude chamber and aerial flight exposures for at least 24 hours following compressed air diving. This includes SCUBA diving, surface supplied diving, or hyperbaric chamber exposure. If the dive requires a decompression stop, 48 hours must elapse prior to aerial flight or altitude chamber exposure. The following are exceptions to this policy.

5.1.1. Aircrew members will not fly within 24 hours of compressed gas diving (including SCUBA/Helicopter Emergency Egress Deployment System (HEEDS) training, surface supplied diving, or hyperbaric (compression) chamber exposure and aircraft pressurization checks that exceed 10 minutes duration.

5.1.2. Pararescue, Combat Control, Combat Rescue Officers, and Special Tactics Officers will follow guidelines IAW *U.S. Navy Diving Manual* Volumes 2, Paragraph 9-14 and Table 9-6 on ascent to altitude and flying after diving restrictions. Flying is permitted immediately after 100 percent oxygen diving.

5.2. OSHA Restrictions for Civilian / Government Contract Divers. DoD Civilian Divers are governed by the provisions of the USAF/Navy Diving Programs, yet they must also comply with U.S. Government Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) diving standards, delineated in 29 CFR Part 1910 Subpart T; Subject: Commercial Diving Operations. Civilian Divers are identified as all permanent DoD employees who have formally trained at an approved DoD diving school as either a SCUBA diver, Second Class diver, or First Class diver. Commercial divers contracted by the AF who are not permanent government employees are not subject to these provisions. Most directives parallel requirements, or are similar enough not to be considered of substantive difference. Several requirements of OSHA do, however, exceed those delineated for U.S. AF divers and must be identified to ensure compliance by civilian divers to both standards. Therefore, the following restrictions, in addition to all other requirements addressed in this instruction, apply to civilian divers.

5.2.1. Civilian Diver SCUBA Diving (Air) Restriction

5.2.1.1. SCUBA diving shall not be conducted.

5.2.1.1.1. To depths deeper than 190 feet sea water (fsw).

5.2.1.1.2. To depths deeper than 130 fsw unless a recompression chamber is on station.

5.2.1.2. All SCUBA cylinder manifolds shall be equipped with a manual reserve (J valve), or an independent reserve cylinder gas supply with a separate regulator.

5.2.1.3. A SCUBA cylinder submersible pressure gauge shall be worn by each diver.

5.2.2. Civilian Diver Surface Supplied Air Diving Restrictions.

5.2.2.1. Surface Supplied air diving shall not be conducted to depths greater than 190 fsw.

5.2.2.2. Dives shall be limited to in-water decompression times of less than 120 minutes.

5.2.2.3. An emergency gas supply (come-home bottle) is required for any dive greater than 60 fsw planned decompression dives or for which direct access to the surface is not available.

5.2.3. Civilian Diver Mixed Gas Diving Restrictions. All mixed gas diving shall be limited to:

5.2.3.1. A maximum depth of 220 fsw.

5.2.3.2. Less than 120 minutes total in-water decompression time.

5.2.3.3. Having a recompression chamber on station.

5.3. Dive Profile Limitations. Divers will only use the dive tables contained in U.S. Navy Dive Manual.

5.3.1. Divers will not perform planned “decompression” dives except in cases of operational necessity after using ORM. Wing commander or equivalent written approval is required for planned decompression dives.

5.3.2. Divers may be required to dive in bodies of water at higher altitudes. Planning shall address the effects of the atmospheric pressures that may be much lower than those at sea level. Standard Air Decompression Tables are authorized for use at altitudes up to 1000 feet above sea level, without corrections, as long as the dive is shallower than 145 feet actual depth. Dives conducted between 1000 and 10,000 feet MSL, regardless of depth, must utilize equivalent depth altitude tables, and requires additional training documented in the individuals training folder.

WARNING: Altitudes above 10,000 feet can impose serious stress on the body resulting in significant medical problems while the acclimatization process takes place. Ascents to these altitudes must be slow to allow acclimatization to occur and prophylactic drugs may be required. These exposures should always be planned in consultation with a Diving Medical Officer. Commands conducting diving operations above 10,000 feet may obtain the appropriate decompression procedures from NAVSEA 00C. For any training dive above 10,000 ft MSL L-MAJCOM/A3 is the approval authority. Additional training and certification is required to be documented in the individuals training folder. Units performing altitude dives must follow Sea Level Equivalent Depth (fsw) tables from most current U.S. Navy Dive Manual.

5.3.3. Free Swimming Ascent (FSA) to include underwater de-rigging is considered emergency procedures and is not to be planned into a diving evolution. Approval in writing from L-MAJCOM/A3 is required prior to any FSA training and must meet the following conditions;

5.3.3.1. The sole purpose of the evolution is to train divers in FSA.

5.3.3.2. Properly trained instructors are on station and in control of the divers situation from air source to the surface and certified recompression chamber is on station and immediately available for use.

5.3.3.3. Diving Medical Officer is readily available to the recompression chamber within 5 minutes and a diving medical technician is present and can immediately check divers upon surfacing.

5.3.3.4. Exception: Divers may perform underwater de-rigging under the direct supervision of a diving supervisor provided it is part of the briefed dive training plan and they continue to breath off their SCUBA air source. In this case they will either continue to re-rig their equipment or ascend to the surface while breathing with SCUBA. Written approval is not required.

5.4. Corrective lenses. Personnel whose vision is cleared for diving duty do not require waivers for corrective lenses. Prescription mask lenses will be purchased at unit expense using the International Merchant Purchase Card (IMPAC) for those individuals who require prescription

lenses. All divers who desire to wear contact lenses while diving must be enrolled into the Air Force, Aircrew Contact Lens Program.

5.5. Nitrogen-Oxygen (NITROX) Diving Procedures

5.5.1. The use of NITROX is covered in the *US Navy Diving Manual, Vol 2 Air Diving Operations*, Chapter 10. NITROX diving is unique and uses increased levels of oxygen between 25-40% to significantly increase bottom time without decompressing and decrease decompression time compared to similar dives with standard air. NITROX may be used in all diving operations suitable for air.

5.5.2. NITROX operations must utilize Equivalent Air Depth Tables for the specific oxygen percentage used.

5.5.3. NITROX diving requires additional training; qualification will be documented in the individuals training folder.

5.5.4. NITROX Diving must be approved by L-MAJCOM DPM

5.6. Closed Circuit Diving Procedures. Closed circuit dive operations will only be performed by personnel specifically trained at a formal, Chief of Naval Education and Training approved DoD operated dive school. Refer to the *U.S. Navy Diving Manual, Volume 4, Closed Circuit and Semi-closed Circuit Diving Operations*.

5.6.1. Only units identified by their L-MAJCOM to AF/A3O-AS may maintain mission ready closed circuit diving equipment. Unit commanders may allow qualified personnel to participate in closed circuit operations sponsored by units that are authorized to maintain closed circuit equipment.

5.6.2. Closed circuit diving operations must be under the direct oversight of a current and qualified closed circuit diving supervisor, and a DMO or DMT must be present for all closed circuit operations.

5.7. AF Operational Deviations to U.S. Navy Diving Manual. Sub-surface swift water rescue / recovery and limited enclosed space diving are competencies required by AF Combat Rescue Officers and Pararescue Airmen. Rescue and Special Tactics unit commanders may waive the 1 knot current and limited enclosed space diving limitations established in the *U.S. Navy Diving Manual* following a thorough Operational Risk Management assessment for operational missions or specific tactical scenarios.

5.8. Ship/Boat Operations.

5.8.1. Personnel performing training dive operations using boats will comply with United States Coast Guard and applicable state requirements for flotation equipment, life vests, dive flags/markers and signal equipment.

5.8.2. A Personal Flotation Device (PFD) with marine whistle attached should be available for all personnel. All Air Force divers must use the minimum "Required Equipment for SCUBA Operations" listed in the *USN Dive Manual, Volume 2, Air Diving Operations*, para 7-2, except as follows. "Air Force divers must use octopus regulators and submersible pressure gauges on their primary air source during SCUBA operations. Unit commanders may waive the octopus requirement following a thorough Operational Risk Management assessment for operational

missions or specific tactical scenarios.” Exception: Octopus regulators and integrated submersible pressure gauges are not required for SCUBA jumps or on pony bottles.

5.9. Mishap and Event Reporting. Dive related events or mishaps must be reported through OPREP-3 or Safety channels within 24 hours or as soon as feasible. Investigations are second in priority only to medical care for injured personnel. The primary purpose of an investigation is to rapidly identify safety related factors that have bearing on the conduct of USAF parachute operations and to consider changes to administration, qualifications, standards, requirements, currency, training, and procedures, when appropriate. Mishap and incident reporting is a unit-level responsibility, and timely reporting of mishaps and incidents is essential. A mishap is defined as an unplanned occurrence, or series of occurrences, that result in damage or injury. Mishaps exceeding the minimum damage or injury thresholds in AFI 91-204, *Safety Investigations and Reports*, require safety reports. Major mishaps, especially those involving fatalities, may also require legal investigation and reporting per AFI 51-503, *Aerospace Accident Investigations*. An event is an unplanned occurrence, or series of occurrences, that does not meet mishap reporting criteria, but require safety investigations IAW AFI 91-204, *Safety Investigations and Reports*. On direction from the MAJCOM DPM, and in coordination with MAJCOM/Safety, diving equipment that may have contributed to an accident must be impounded, secured, un-tampered, and shipped by fastest traceable means to NEDU for analysis. The equipment will not be dismantled, cleaned, or altered in any way prior to shipment to NEDU.

5.10. Medical Support Procedures: Prior to conducting dive operations the diving supervisor will develop a plan to establish and maintain communication capability/medical evacuation plan with a hyperbaric facility and verify they are capable of treating dive casualties. In addition, it is the Diving Supervisor’s responsibility to ensure that every member of the diving team is familiar with recompression procedures, knows the location and contact procedures for recompression facility/Diving Medical Officer, and is current on Basic Life Support training.

5.10.1. An emergency medical transport plan must be arranged in advance of diving operations. A DMO or DMT as defined in this instruction is mandatory for all closed-circuit dive operations. Diagnosis and treatment of diving injuries covers disorders ranging from mild pain to life-threatening injuries a minimum, of a EMT-Basic under the medical control of a physician is required for all open circuit diving. This is due to the degree of medical expertise and special training necessary to carry out proper treatment of diving injuries, such as starting intravenous (IV) fluid lines and inserting chest tubes.

5.10.2. Use of the Emergency Evacuation Hyperbaric Stretcher (EEHS) for diving support, treatment, and transport of casualties requires specialized training and certification IAW AFI 48-112, *Hyperbaric Chamber Program*. Training and certification are the responsibility of the Hyperbaric Medicine Division, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM/FEH). Only personnel appropriately trained and certified by USAFSAM/FEH will operate the EEHS.

5.10.2.1. All Air Force decompression sickness and arterial gas embolism cases must be promptly reported to USAFSAM/FEH at Wilford Hall Medical Control Center phone numbers (210) 292-5990, DSN 554-5990.

Chapter 6

DIVING EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS

6.1. General Logistics. The Battlefield Airmen SPO is the single AF item manager for all diving and maritime related supplies and equipment. The National Stock System does not list all diving and maritime related supplies and equipment. If local purchase of equipment is authorized; follow ANU guidance (www.supsalv.org, Diving, 00C3 ANU List) to purchase diving equipment through industry sources. The Battlefield Airmen SPO through the Prime Vendor Program coordinates contracts for the purchase of many maritime supply and equipment items.

6.2. Maintenance and Material Management (3M)/"Dive Locker." The use of the Navy's Ships Maintenance and Material Management (3M) equipment documentation program outlined in OPNAVINST 4790.4D/NAVSEA INST 4790.8B *Ships' Maintenance and Material Management (3-M) Manual*, ensures diving equipment functions safely and meets Navy diving equipment inspection and certification criteria. When maintenance and material management conflict between Air Force and Navy directives (i.e. breathing air sampling frequency), use the most restrictive. Dive Locker personnel are key advisors to the unit Diving Officer and Commander about unit dive program equipment readiness. Military personnel must be trained and certified before performing maintenance on any diving systems. Units may contract out Dive Locker support; however, Commanders must understand the Dive Locker Technical Support Statement of Work. If units contract diving maintenance through commercial dive vendors, ensure the contract stipulates all requirements necessary to meet standards established by the Navy Planned Maintenance System, USAF, and DOT. Commanders must ensure Diving Officers and/or Diving Supervisors are trained and certified to carry on basic equipment maintenance duties when deployed.

6.3. Divers' Breathing Gas.

6.3.1. Breathing Air. Follow most restrictive guidelines in *U.S. Navy Diving Manual* sections 4-3, 4-4 and T.O. 42B-1-22, *Quality Control of Compressed and Liquid Breathing Air*

6.3.2. Oxygen. Follow most restrictive guidelines in Navy Diving Manual sections 4-3, 4-4 and T.O. 42B6-1-1, *Quality Control of Aviator's Breathing Oxygen*

6.3.3 NITROX. Open-circuit SCUBA systems for NITROX are identical to open-circuit standard air SCUBA systems. However, logistics for mixing gases, DOT certification, and NITROX diving may require specialized equipment and training (see *U.S. Navy Diving Manual* for specific information).

6.3.3.1. NITROX cylinders must be identified with DOT NITROX markings, mixing or blending NITROX will only be done by certified individuals, and contract purchase of premixed NITROX must meet DOT purity standards.

6.4. Specialized Equipment Definitions:

6.4.1. Octopus Regulator: A standard SCUBA regulator with an additional second stage attached to allow two divers to breathe off the same air cylinder. The octopus second stage should be equipped with a 3/8 inch Low Pressure (LP) hose.

6.4.2. Contingency Cylinder: A standard air cylinder (usually 80 CU FT) equipped with an octopus regulator with or without a diving harness. Positioned on the dive platform, this cylinder

can be taken by the stand-by diver to entangled or trapped divers, or lowered below the dive platform for unplanned decompression stops.

6.4.3. Pony Bottle: A DOT approved SCUBA cylinder smaller than 50 CU FT capacity carried by a diver that provides a totally redundant breathing source in case of an out of air emergency. Pony bottles do not require an octopus regulator configuration. The Single Para-SCUBA Deployment System (SPUDS) and other similar systems are authorized for para-SCUBA deployments.

NOTE: Cylinders smaller than 15cu ft will not be utilized as a redundant breathing source due to the low air volume capacity.

6.4.4. Tank Holders and Brackets: Various systems installed on small craft to secure air cylinders in-place vertically, usually against the gunnels, and prevent rolling. Holders and brackets aid in keeping the work area clear and provide added safety during transit to the dive site regardless of the operation being supported.

6.4.5. Dry Suits and Full Face Mask. Dry suits and full-face mask are used to provide increased thermal and environmental protection; only ANU approved full-face masks are authorized. L-MAJCOMs are authorized to approve for purchase commercially available or standard stock dry suits and accessories to best meet their operational needs. In-unit user certification requires a familiarization dive in a controlled environment with documentation in the individuals OJT training folder or equivalent.

6.5. Information Collection, Records, and Forms.

6.5.1. Information Collections. No information collections are created by this publication.

6.5.2. Records. The program records created as a result of the processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with AFMAN 33-363, Management of Records, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at <https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af61a/afrims/afrims/>.

6.5.3. Forms (Adopted and Prescribed):

6.5.3.1. Adopted Forms.

DD Form 114, *Military Pay Order*

AF Form 1042, *Medical Recommendation for Flying or Special Operational Duty*

AF Form 1098, *Special Task Certification and Recurring Training*

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

DD Form 2554, *Diving Log*.

6.5.3.2. Prescribed Forms.

No forms are prescribed by this publication.

DANIEL

J. DARNELL, Lt Gen, USAF
DCS, Air, Space and Information Operations, Plans & Requirements

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION****References**

- AFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personnel Appearance of Air Force Personnel*, 2 Aug 2006
- AFI 11-403, *Aerospace Physiological Training Program*, 20 Feb 2001
- AFI 48-112, *Hyperbaric Chamber Program*, 1 May 1998
- AFI 48-123 Vol 3, *Medical Examinations and Standards Volume 3-Flying and Special Operational Duty*, 5 Jun 2006
- AFI 91-204, *Safety Investigations and Reports*, 24 September 2008
- AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 March 2008
- DoDI 3224.4, *Single Manager Responsibility for Joint Service Military Diving Technology and Training (MDT&T)*, 23 May 2008
- DoD FMR 7000.14-R, *Department of Defense Financial Management Regulations (FMR)*, Chapter 11, Special Pay – Diving Duty, Vol 7A *Military Pay Policy and Procedures - Active Duty and Reserve Pay*, Nov 2008
- NAVSEA, SS521-AG-PRO-010 / 0910-LP-106-0957, *US Navy Diving Manual, Revision 6, Volume 1-5*, 15 Apr 2008
- OPNAV 4790.4 series / NAVSEA INST 4790.8B *Ships' Maintenance and Material Management (3-M) Manual*, 13 Nov 2003
- OPNAVINST 3150.27B, *Navy Diving Program*, 17 Mar 2005
- T.O. 42B-1-22, *Quality Control of Compressed and Liquid Breathing Air*, 18 Apr 2008
- T.O. 42B6-1-1, *Quality Control of Aviator's Breathing Oxygen*, 30 Apr 2004

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AETC— Air Education and Training Command

ACC— Air Combat Command

AFCFM—Air Force Career Field Manager

AFI—Air Force Instruction

AFRC—Air Force Reserve Command

AFSAS—Air Force Safety Automated System

AFSC—Air Force Specialty Code

AFSOC—Air Force Special Operations Command

ANG—Air National Guard

ANU—Approved for Navy Use

ARMS—Aviation Resource Management System

CFETP—Career Field Education and Training Plan

C-MAJCOM—Component Major Command

DAFSC—Duty Air Force Specialty Code

DJRS—Dive/Jump Reporting System

DLA—Defense Logistics Agency

DMO—Diving Medical Officer

DMT—Diving Medical Technician

DOC—Designed Operational Capability

DoD—Department of Defense

DPM—Diving program Manager

EEHS—Emergency Evacuation Hyperbaric Stretcher

FSA—Free Swimming Ascent

FSW—Feet Sea Water

HEEDS—Helicopter Emergency Egress Deployment System

L-MAJCOM—Lead Major Command

METL—Mission Essential Task List

MTAB—Military Technical Advisory Board

NEDU—Naval Experimental Dive Unit

NITROX—Nitrogen and Oxygen

OSHA—Occupational Safety and Health Administration

ORM—Operational Risk Management

IAW—In Accordance With

PFD—Personal Flotation Device

POE—Projected Operational Environments

POI/SOI—Program/Syllabus of Instruction

RDT&E—Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

ROC—Required Operational Capabilities

SCUBA—Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus

SOP—Standard Operating Procedures

SOT—Special Operations Technician

SPO—Special Program Office

TTAB—Technical Training Acceptance Board

TTP—Tactic, Technique, or Procedure

U.S. —United States

Terms

Diving— Any underwater activity or operations in which personnel are subject to elevated ambient pressure and use of equipment such as SCUBA, including open circuit, semi-closed circuit, and closed circuit designs using any breathing medium. Additionally, diving includes undersea habitats, diver propulsion vehicles and their life support systems, diving simulators such as diver support systems for aviation escape trainers, diver tool systems whether pneumatically, electronically, hydraulically driven or explosively actuated, and other diving life support or diving equipment not specified above.

System Certification— System certification is the procedure for independent technical review, survey, test, and approval to ensure material and procedural adequacy of diving equipment or systems to perform safely within specified operational limits.

Air Force Diver— Active duty and reserve component military members, and civilian employees of the Air Force who have successfully completed formal training at a Department of

Defense operated diving school (approved by the Chief of Naval Education and Training) and who maintain qualification. For the purpose of this instruction, any U.S. Air Force personnel who have completed formal training at either a U.S. Navy or other Chief of Naval Education and Training approved DoD operated dive school, and who maintains qualifications for the equipment trained on, are considered to be “Qualified Air Force Divers”.

Diving Supervisor— An individual who has graduated a formal DoD Dive Supervisor qualification course (approved by Chief of Naval Education and Training) or a Air Force Combat Search and Rescue and Special Activities Division, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans, and Requirements (AF/A3O-AS) approved L-MAJCOM Program of Instruction (POI) and is designated in writing by the commander. Diving supervisors should be selected based on knowledge, experience, level of training, and competence. There is no minimum rank requirement for diving supervisors.

Unit Diving Officer— Designated in writing by unit commander, the diving officer is responsible for the safe conduct of all diving operations within the unit. This individual must be thoroughly familiar with all unit diving techniques and have a detailed knowledge of all applicable regulations and is responsible for all operational, logistical, and administrative duties associated with the unit diving program. The Unit Diving Officer must be a qualified diver. A SNCO qualified as a Diving Supervisor may be assigned as the Unit Diving Officer if no diving officer is assigned to the unit.

L-MAJCOM Chief Diver— Principle diving subject matter expert responsible for diving standardization, evaluation, and diving related activities to include logistics designated in writing by the Lead MAJCOM/A3 or equivalent. The L-MAJCOM Chief Diver must have a minimum of 10 years operational diving experience, be a qualified Diving Supervisor, and hold a 9-skill level or higher in an operational diving career-field (1T2/1C2) or be civilian, military-certified Master Diver.

L-MAJCOM Diving Officer— A field grade officer, or equivalent, designated in writing by the MAJCOM/A3 or equivalent to oversee the MAJCOM Diving Program. The L-MAJCOM Diving Officer is responsible for all programmatic aspects of L-MAJCOM Diving Program. L-MAJCOM Diving Officer must be a qualified diver.

Diving Medical Officer (DMO) — A physician trained specifically in diving medicine and physiology. The DMO shall be a graduate of the Diving Medical Officer course taught at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) or the nine-week diving medicine course taught at the NDSTC. Graduates of the diving medicine course are considered to have the same privileges as graduates of the Diving Medical Officer course, with the exception that they are not granted the privilege of modifying treatment protocols. They may assist and advise treatment and care of diving casualties but may not modify recompression procedures.

Diving Medical Technician (DMT)/ Special Operations Technician (SOT) — A DMT/ SOT is a graduate from the Navy DMT or Special Operations SOT course where they receive specialized training in hyperbaric and diving medicine. A DMT/SOT is required for all closed-circuit dive operations. Military members must hold a military diver qualification before attending Navy DMT course

Attachment 2

SAMPLE MEMORANDUM FOR DIVING DUTY ORDERS

Figure A2.1. Sample Memorandum for Diving Duty Orders

9 February 2009

SPECIAL ORDER
M-00XX

SSgt Webber T. Mariner, 123-45-6789, AFSOC/A3H, Hurlburt Field, Florida, is required to perform SCUBA diving/activities in the normal conduct of his duties. He has completed and met all initial training and certification requirements and is authorized to perform diving tactical operations.

I

NEMO R. AQUARIOUS, Lt Col, USAF
Commander

(Note: This document is prepared by the commander's support staff and processed through the host base finance office with a DD Form 114, *Military Pay Order*, for action. Effective dates are normally from date arrived station, if fully qualified or, first pool dive for re-qualification, to end date, usually final out processing.)

Attachment 3

Diver Qualification/Requalification Charts

A3.1. Diver Qualifications and Requalification. Diving requalification will be recorded using this sample format and made a part of the member's OJT record.

Table A3.1. Diver Qualifications and Requalifications

DATE OF ENTRY	DIVER'S GRADE	LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION	DEPTH ALLOWED	DIVER'S COMMAND	INITIALS

A3.2. Instructions for Completing Diver Qualifications/ Requalifications Charts

A3.2.1. **Date of Entry:** Enter the date the service record entry was made.

A3.2.2. **Diver's Rank:** Enter the rank of the diver at the time of the requalification dives.

A3.2.3. **Level of Qualification:** Enter the level of qualification to which the diver is **requalifying**, not the level of dive completed. Example: If a diver requalified using SCUBA, record "SCUBA" in the block.

A3.2.4. **Depth Allowed:** Enter the depth to which the diver is **authorized** to dive, not the depth of the qualification dive. Example: If a diver requalified using SCUBA at a depth of 40 feet, record the depth qualified for a Compressed Air diver (i.e., 130 feet).

A3.2.5. **Diver's Command:** Enter the command where the diver is assigned.

A3.2.6. **Initial:** The individual making the record entry should initial in this block.