

ATG(A) JSATFA DIVING HANDOUT

1. To save you a potential headache later on during the planning phase of your expedition, you are advised to read this handout early.

Regulations

2. Of the nine Adventurous Training activities, sub aqua diving has the most policies and regulations involved with it. This is mainly because you are 'diving at work' (being paid to dive) when you are away on exped. The main diving document needed for your exped will be [BRd 2806\(5\)](#). Annexes 2E and 2F (to [BRd 2806\(5\)](#)) has further useful planning information, which you must read. Your Expedition Sub Aqua Diving Supervisor (ESADS) will use this throughout the diving programme. Please make early contact with your ESADS as they will be able to help in terms of the dive programme, training requirements, in depth [risk assessment](#) etc.

3. As part of these regulations, the training agency qualifications issued on expeditions will be [British Sub Aqua Club \(BSAC\)](#)¹ ones, [BRd 2806\(5\)](#) expands on this. All members of the expedition receiving/giving training are to be [BSAC members](#)².

Destination

4. Your expedition destination will be driven by your aim, planning time available³, group abilities and your funds available⁴. Some remote locations and more technical diving plans, may need you to present a high risk and remote briefing to a group of diving SMEs. If you think yours might fit this criteria, please get advice on it early (see useful diving contacts below).

5. **Ascension Island.** Be familiar with the [RAFS-AA Exped Brief](#) as this has tasks for you to complete that are only mentioned in this document. **If you fail to do this you will not deploy.**

6. **Gibraltar.**

a. The [Gibraltar Recompression Chamber and Diving Policy](#) and the [Gibraltar Exped Letter](#) contain rules specific to this location such as the mandatory purchase of DAN insurance.

b. Please be aware of the limited facilities available to expeditions in Gibraltar. You may need to take chefs and pay for Mess Hands too (both at a ratio of 1:20); Please be conversant with the ['Accommodation Booking Requirements, Charges and Clearance for Exercising Troops' DIN](#) early on in your planning stage. All visits will be formally sponsored by [GIB-HQBF-SAJ3PAT](#) too, so early communications will be critical.

Exped composition

7. **Participants.**

a. Everyone on your expedition and anyone who you allow to dive with you must be on your JSATFA. Your aim needs to cater for their qualifications.

b. If your expedition requires teaching unqualified divers, you will need one instructor and a rescue diver⁵ to two students. You do not need a rescue diver for a qualified diver's training.

¹ BSAC is the National Governing Body for sub-aqua diving in the UK.

² The military has negotiated a discounted 3-month membership with BSAC for expeditions. Use the application form [here](#).

³ This is different for each country, which can be as long as 12-months. The clearance timeframe is highlighted on the JSATFA when you enter your expedition location.

⁴ Funding sources can be found in [AGAI V1 Ch 11](#).

⁵ BSAC Sports Diver or above.



c. Individuals with other agency diving qualifications (such as PADI, SSI or service qualified military divers) can attend the expedition as divers but if they are to receive training, they must be BSAC members and cross their qualifications over to BSAC (Annex 1D to [BRd 2806\(5\)](#) shows the cross over levels).

8. **ESADS.** You cannot deploy on a diving exped without one of these. For the ESADS to dive, you will need either another ESADS, a BSADS⁶, or a BSAC Advanced Diver to deputise. For larger expeds, you may need several ESADS⁷. If you are struggling to get an ESADS, [you can advertise for one with OIC JSSADC](#).

9. **Diving.** [BRd 2806\(5\)](#) goes into great detail about how your diving programme should go, please liaise with your ESADS on this. Three important points are as follows:

a. **Diving below 40m.** Dives deeper than 40m will need to be authorised by the OIC JSSADC. More detail and an application form to undertake this activity are contained in [BRd 2806\(5\)](#).

b. **Chamber rules.** There needs to be an operational two person, two compartment chamber within 6-hours travelling distance from all dive sites using the diving team's organic transport or recognised emergency service assets excluding aircraft. If your expedition destination does not have this, seek advice from the individuals below.

c. **Oxygen rules.** Oxygen is to be available at all locations including those where there is a compression chamber. Sufficient gas must be provided for the duration of a transfer of two divers to a recompression chamber or hospital. It shall be provided by a tight-fitting mask or by a mouthpiece with a nose clip. See also Breathing Gases below.

10. **Instructors.** Ensure you have enough BSAC instructors (Open-Water instructor, Advanced Instructor or National Instructor) for your expedition. BSAC Assistant instructors can teach too. An ESADS may not necessarily be an instructor so ask them.

Commercial MOD Approved Centres (ComMAC)

11. If you cannot get an ESADS, you may be able to still deploy your diving expedition by using a ComMAC. If you decide to use a ComMAC, all of your expedition participants are only permitted to dive when undertaking training courses⁸.

12. The latest list of ComMACs, dated Mar 16, can be found [here](#). Note there has been a temporary suspension of Blue O2/Voodoo Divers in Egypt for security reasons and Safari Divers in Lanzarote is soon to be confirmed as a MAC.

Diving Medicals

13. All service personnel undertaking service sports diving must have a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive in accordance with Chapter 12 of [BRd 1750A](#). This certificate, called Leaflet 12-03, is valid for **one** year. Service diving medicals can take months to complete in some medical centres so this needs to be booked in plenty of time. Downgraded personnel, individuals with a BMI of 30+ and individuals referred by the doctor, will need to undertake further screening at the Institute of Naval Medicine (INM). Please note: [2015DIN01-191](#).

14. The doctor signing off this medical will need access to the primary healthcare records of the individual. This can prove difficult for Reservists, as the doctor signing off the medical is unlikely to be their normal GP. Reservists will need to conduct the following:

⁶ Branch SADS.

⁷ Ser 0203 to [BRd 2806\(5\)](#) lists the limited numbers an ESADS can supervise at any one time.

⁸ No diving is authorized outside of the diving course.



- a. Print off [Annex 1 \(page 26\) from the HSE document](#) on the HSE Website. Complete this questionnaire honestly and take it to the GP, getting them to sign, date and stamp it.
- b. Take this to the military doctor who will conduct the service diving medical.

15. Civilian personnel must have a valid HSE Diving Medical certificate.

Breathing Gas Standards

16. All diving gas used on your exped must comply with the standards contained in BS EN 12021:2014 and JSP 319. Essentially you will need to ensure you have copies of the following:

- a. **Annual Gas Tests.** All compressors used require an annual test at a laboratory. This must be carried out by a UKAS or EN17025 approved, laboratory. Upload this certificate in Sec 21 of your JSATFA on ATSYS. JSSADC maintain a list of locations which have in date certificates and [this can be accessed via their website](#).
- b. **Quarterly Tests.** All compressors used also require quarterly tests by the owner/operator. If the Annual Gas Test was completed within the 3 months prior to the end of your exped, this quarterly test is not needed. If applicable, upload this certificate in Sec 21 of your JSATFA on ATSYS.
- c. **Before Use Tests.** Compressors operated by commercial providers, require a test prior to their first use. These can only be carried out using a [Factair F2235](#) and are to be operated by trained personnel.
- d. **Certificate of Conformity.** All medical oxygen must have a certificate of conformity. Upload this to Sec 21 of your JSATFA on ATSYS.
- e. **Commercial MOD Approved Centres (Com MAC).** There is no requirement for members of the training expedition to conduct a FACTAIR test however, they are to look at the annual laboratory test to confirm it is in date and has the word 'PASS' (or similar) on it. ESADS led expeditions, using a Com MAC as a base, are to conduct a Before Use Test as mentioned above.

Equipment

17. **Factair F2235 Air Purity Tester.** Bicester Loan Pool (LP) Stores holds a stock of F2235 (NSN 4220-99-213-3478). Expedition Leaders are to include a request for the F2235 with their equipment application. If an F2235 kit is not available, you cannot take on risk that the gas meets the standard. You must therefore not use the air for AT sub aqua diving.

18. **LP Equipment.** If you need other equipment, LP will need to know with plenty of notice. Early bids may ensure you get all of what you requested. Do not bid for equipment inside 60 days of its intended pick up date, as it will not be processed. Do not overbid, i.e. ordering 13 suits for 12 exped participants – kit is limited and over ordering will affect others. Equipment will need to be picked up by a BSAC Dive Leader or higher (qualifications will be checked).

Useful diving contacts

19. If you have any questions, please refer them to any of the following:
 - a. Your ESADS.
 - b. SO2 ATDO (Central). Mr Cliff Pearn
Phone: 94480 4461, Email: ATGA-HQ-SO2ATDO-Central@mod.uk



- c. OIC JSSADC. Mr Dom Robinson
Phone: 01752 552583, Email: NAVYPERS-JSSADCOIC@mod.uk

- d. DSO AT. Mr Nick Harrington
Phone: 07795 012561, Email: DSA-DMR-DST-DSOAT@mod.uk

