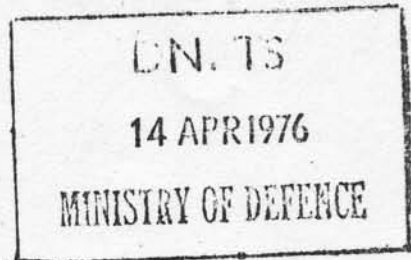


73

SUPERINTENDENT OF DIVING
ADMIRALTY EXPERIMENTAL DIVING UNIT
c/o HMS Vernon, Portsmouth
Telephone: Portsmouth 22351 Ext. 872375



Reference: 57.3 (196/76)

DNPTS
Orion Block
HMS NELSON
Portsmouth PD1 3KH

13 April 1976

SUB AQUA ADVENTUROUS TRAINING - DECOMPRESSION TABLES

- References:
- A. S of D Letter No. 57.3 (606/75) dated 26 Nov 75 — (68)
 - B. VERNON Letter No. 691/95 dated 4 Dec 75 — (70)
 - C. MOIC INM Letter No. INM/SRA/3829/75 dated 1 Dec 75
 - D. Chairman RN & RM SAC N/N dated 6 April 76 — (71)

1. The confusion caused by the introduction of the 1972 air tables is agreed but no easy form of resolution can be seen. It has been agreed by the MOIC, Institute of Naval Medicine, DNW and Captain HMS VERNON that no advantage can be seen from the 1972 tables and it is wrong to have two different sets of Tables in use.
2. The 1968/72 Tables have advantages in safety below 55 metres but otherwise are longer and more restrictive than the existing tables. Since SDDE is now being withdrawn from the Fleet and the new AQUARIUS apparatus is limited to 30 metres there is no need to revise the existing tables for revision's sake.
3. It is a pity that neither DNW, MDG(N) or S of D were consulted by the BSAC before they made their decision. Even should we adopt the 1972 Tables, and this would be solely to reduce confusion with no operational advantage, it is unlikely that a Change could be made to BR 2806 in under 18 months. (Change 2 has only just been issued).
4. Again, even should the 1972 Tables be adopted, under no circumstances would the Double Dive formula be adopted. This formula is only good for the applied two dives. Since the bulk of naval diving employs mixed gas based on an equivalent air depth and involving several repetitive dives this quick rule of thumb method, which is liked by the sport diver, is not satisfactory.
5. Steps have been taken to:
 - a. Prevent any further release of diving tables without the agreement of all MOD(N) departments.
 - b. To further examine whether any advantage can be gained from the 1972 air tables. (Increments of 5 metres have so far proved to be over-great in the final stages of decompression from long and deep air dives, e.g. 1 hour at 60 metres which, it is appreciated, is beyond the endurance of the sport diver).
6. Until this matter is resolved the opinion that service sub aqua diving should keep to normal service practice is maintained.

A G Worsley
A G WORSLEY

Commander Royal Navy
Superintendent of Diving

The Captain HMS VERNON

Copy to: Chairman, RN & RM SAC