



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
U.S. NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA
PSC 1005 BOX 25 FPO AA 34009-0100

NSGBINST 3500.1B CH-1
N31
11 Mar 2025

NSGB INSTRUCTION 3500.1B CHANGE TRANSMITTAL 1

From: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Subj: NAVY DIVING OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3500.39 (Series)
(b) NSGBINST 3120.3 (Series)

Encl: (1) General Planning and Operational Risk Management Process

1. Purpose. To establish Operational Risk Management (ORM) as an integral part of the decision-making process for U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (NSGB) per references (a) and (b).

2. Cancellation. NSGBINST 3500.1B

3. Action. NSGB Dive Locker personnel will follow all ORM guidance per reference (a) and use enclosure (1) for all high risk evolutions. Risk assessment forms will be signed by the evolution supervisor, however, a residual risk assessment code (RAC) resulting in a one or two requires the Commanding Officer's approval prior to commencing the operation. A risk assessment form must be completed for every mission (For missions that exceed seven days, a new ORM assessment must be completed every seven days) and the RAC will be included in the supervisors daily brief or whenever there is a change to any of the following:

- a. Identified or Potential Hazards
- b. Probability of an incident
- c. Severity of an incident
- d. Risk mitigation techniques or tactics

NOTE: All ORM Risk Assessment Forms must be kept on file in a divisional ORM binder and will be audited annually by the Command ORM Manager.

3. Review Responsibility. The Diving Officer is responsible for the annual review of this instruction.

4. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, must be managed per SECNAVINST 5210.8 of September 2019.

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4. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, the Diving Officer will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy and Navy policy and Statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will automatically expire 10 years after effective date unless reissued or canceled prior to the 10 year anniversary date, or an extension has been granted.



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Releasability and distribution:

This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronic via NSGB Public Sharedrive.

GENERAL PLANNING AND ORM PROCESS

A successful diving mission is the direct outcome of careful, thorough planning. The nature of each operation determines the scope of the planning effort, but certain general considerations apply to every operation.

Bottom Time. Bottom time is always at a premium. Developing measures to conserve bottom time or increase diver effectiveness is critical for success.

Preplanning. An operation that is delayed due to unanticipated problems may fail. Preplanning the use of the time available to accomplish specific objectives is a prerequisite to success.

Equipment. Selecting the correct equipment for the job is critical to success.

Environmental Conditions. Diving operational planners must plan for safely mitigating extreme environmental conditions. Personnel and support facility safety must be given the highest priority.

Diver Protection. It is critical to protect divers from shipping hazards, temperature extremes, and dangerous pollution during all operations.

Emergency Assistance. It is critical to coordinate emergency assistance from outside sources before the operation begins.

Weather. Because diving operations are weather dependent, dive planning must allow for worst-case scenarios.

Concept of ORM:

ORM is a decision making tool used by people at all levels to: Increase operational effectiveness by anticipating hazards and reducing the potential for loss, thereby increasing the probability of successful mission, increase our ability to make informed decisions by providing the best baseline of knowledge and experience available, and minimize risks to acceptable levels commensurate with mission accomplishment. The amount of risk we will take in war is much greater than that we should be willing to take in peace, but the process is the same. Applying the ORM process will reduce mishaps, lower costs, and provide for more efficient use of resources.

Risk Management Terms:

Hazard: A condition with potential to cause personal injury or death, property damage or mission degradation.

Risk: An expression of possible loss in terms of severity and probability.

Risk Assessment: The process of detecting hazards and assessing associated risks.

ORM: The process of dealing with risk associated within military operations, which includes risk assessment, risk decision-making and implementation of effective risk controls.

Category	Description
Catastrophic I	Loss of the ability to accomplish the mission. Death or permanent total disability. Loss of a mission-critical system or equipment. Major facility damage. Severe environmental damage. Mission-critical security failure. Unacceptable collateral damage.
Critical II	Significantly degraded mission capability or unit readiness. Permanent partial disability or severe injury or illness. Extensive damage to equipment or systems. Significant damage to property or the environment. Security failure. Significant collateral damage.
Moderate III	Degraded mission capability or unit readiness. Minor damage to equipment. systems, property, or the environment. Minor injury or illness.
Negligible IV	Little or no adverse impact on mission capability or unit readiness. Minimal threat to personnel, safety, or health. Slight equipment or systems damage, but fully functional and serviceable. Little or no property or environmental damage.

Table 1-1: Severity Categories

Category	Description
A	Frequent to occur. Continuously experienced to an individual item or person; or continuously over a service life for an inventory of items or group.
B	Likely to occur, immediately or within a short period of time. Expected to occur frequently to an individual item or person; or continuously over a service life for an inventory of items or group.
C	Occasionally will occur in time. Expected to occur several times to an individual item or person; or frequently over a service life for an inventory of items or group.
D	Seldom may occur in time. Can reasonably be expected to occur sometime to an individual item or person; or several times over a service life for an inventory of items, or group.
E	Unlikely it will occur in time. Unlikely to occur, but possible in the service life for an inventory of items, or group.

Table 1-2: Probability Categories

Risk Assessment Matrix		PROBABILITY				
		Frequency of Occurrence Over Time				
SEVERITY	Effect of Hazard	A Frequent (Continuously experienced)	B Likely (Will occur frequently)	C Occasional (Will occur several times)	D Seldom (Unlikely; can be expected to occur)	E Unlikely (Improbable; but possible to occur)
	Catastrophic (Death, Loss of Asset, Mission Capability or Unit Readiness)	EH 1	EH 1	H 2	H 2	M 3
	Critical (Severe injury or Damage, Significantly Degraded Mission Capability or Unit Readiness)	EH 1	H 2	H 2	M 3	L 4
	Moderate (Minor injury or Damage, Degraded Mission Capability or Unit Readiness)	H 2	M 3	M 3	L 4	L 4
	Negligible (Minimal injury or Damage, Little or No Impact to Mission Readiness or Unit Readiness)	M 3	L 4	L 4	L 4	L 4
Risk Assessment Levels		EH=Extremely High H=High 2 M=Medium 3 L=Low 4				

Operational Risk Management (ORM) Risk Assessment Worksheet

Open water diving using Open Circuit SCUBA					
Identify Hazards		Assess Hazards		Make Risk Decisions	
Operation Phases	Hazards	Causes	Initial RAC	Develop Controls	Residual RAC
Pre-Dive	Worn/damaged equipment	Improper PPE	2	Ensure pre and post dive accomplished	3
Dive	Temperature	Weather	3	Sunscreen, wetsuit, appropriate attire	4
Dive	Sea State	Weather	2	Monitor local reports and reschedule work to a time when sea acceptable sea state exists	3
Dive	Biologic	Fish, corals, living organisms	3	Brief no logic bar and seal have divers wear appropriate PPE as required	4
Dive	Debris	Trawl, wreck, anything submerged or sunk	3	Appropriate diving operation, appropriate PPE, Dive Sup brief	4
Dive	DCS/RGE	Various	2	Implement safe diving practices IAW USN Diver Manual	3
Dive	Lost Diver	Detached trailing line another lost diver buddy	4	Use of trailing lines, implement safe diving practices, buddy lines	4
Post Dive	Ship, obj, fall	Various	2	Diving under	3
Lessons Learned:				Accept Risk:	Prepared By: Date:

Operational Risk Management (ORM) Risk Assessment Worksheet

Chamber Operations							
Identify Hazards		Assess Hazards	Make Risk Decisions		Implement controls	Supervise	
Operation Phases	Hazards	Causes	Initial RAC	Develop Controls	Residual RAC	How To Implement	How to Supervise
Pre-Dive	Worn/damaged equipment	Improper PMS	3	Ensure pre and post dive PMS has been accomplished LAW MRC or manufacturer guidance	4	Pre and Post dive checks	3M Weekly report
Dive	Temperature	Failure of ECS, AC, Emergency Generator	3	Implement safe diving practices LAW USN Dive Manual	4	Maintain ventilation rates and follow temperature time limitations LAW USN Dive Manual	Dive Sup monitor.
Dive	DCS/AGE	Various	2	Implement safe diving practices LAW USN Dive Manual	3	Brief all dives LAW USN Dive Man	Brief all dives LAW USN Dive Man
Dive	Barotrauma	Individual susceptibility	4	Brief tenders and patients. Tenders monitor patient during travel. Adjust travel rate to patient's comfort.	4	Conduct Chamber Dive Brief. Ensure tenders are trained. Adjust travel rate during operations.	Ensure patient is monitored throughout the recompression operation.
Dive	Oxygen Toxicity	Various	3	Ensure treatment depth is maintained. Tenders monitor patients for signs/symptoms. Follow treatment tables	4	Ensure treatment depth is maintained. Monitor patients. Follow Treatment Tables	Monitor Chamber environmental conditions and patients
Dive	Fire	Improper clothing/materials in chamber	3	Ensure occupants' pockets are free of unauthorized material and proper cloth is worn. Monitor. Fire Extinguisher	3	Ensure occupants' pockets are free of unauthorized material and proper cloth is worn. Monitor. Fire Extinguisher	Check pockets prior to entry into chamber. Ensure fire extinguishing system is online.
Post Dive	Slip, trip, fall	Various	2	Diving tender	3	Diving tender will assist diver and assist with the removal and storage of any equipment	Dive Sup monitor.
Lessons Learned:				Accept Risk:		Prepared By: Date:	

Operational Risk Management (ORM) Risk Assessment Worksheet

General Operations							
Identify Hazards			Assess Hazards	Make Risk Decisions		Implement controls	Supervise
Operation Phases	Hazards	Causes	Initial RAC	Develop Controls	Residual RAC	How To Implement	How to Supervise
Lessons Learned:				Accept Risk: _____		Prepared By: _____ Date: _____	