Saturation Fly-Away Diving System (SAT FADS) Conducts Manned Testing Milestone at Naval Experimental Diving Unit (NEDU) in Panama City, Florida.

13 April, 2011

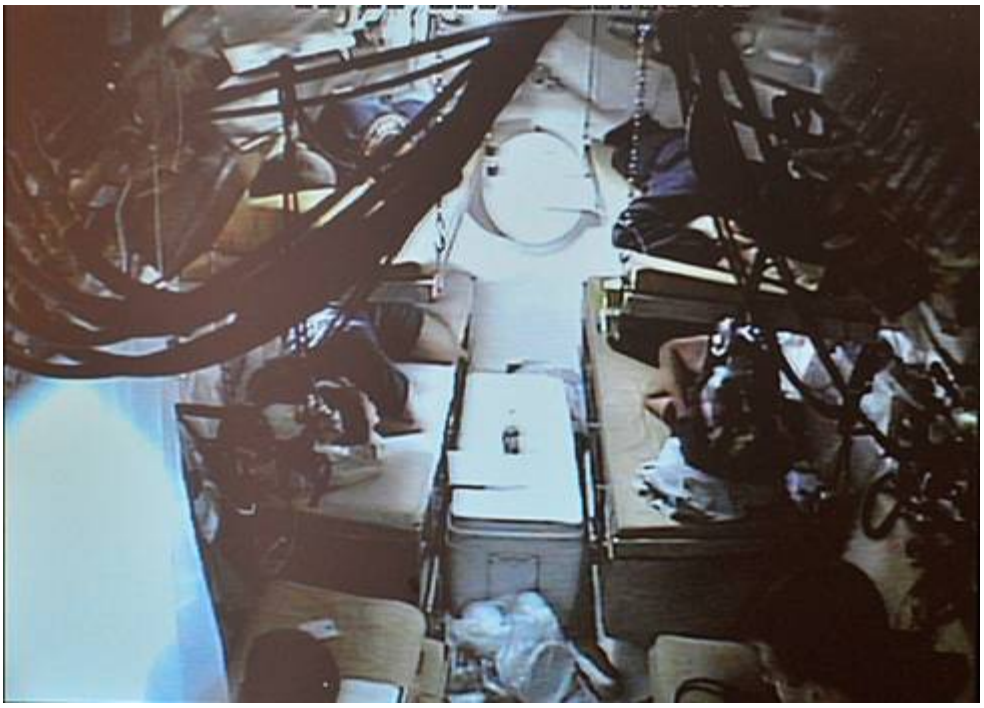
After delivery, final assembly and 30 fsw manned testing pierside at NEDU in the fall, the SAT FADS system underwent grooming, training and then additional testing over the winter. Following months of dedicated efforts, the system has completed its first manned saturation dive.

Components of the SAT FADS system on the pier at NEDU. Bell handing system to the right and living quarters underneath the control van on the left.

During the week of 3 April, SAT FADS team conducted a 250 fsw manned dry saturation dive at the pier, with 6 divers performing saturation systems operations and evaluations. This is the first manned dive to this depth for the system. It demonstrates the capability of the system to perform saturation operations at this depth in preparation for a full operational depth dive to 1000 fsw later in the month.

MDV Johnson, SAT FADS Master Diver, operating from the Dive Supervisor station in the SAT FADS Control Van.

Last Friday, 8 April 2011, the Saturation Flyaway Diving System (SAT FADS) team completed the 250 fsw manned dry saturation dive pier side at NEDU in Panama City, Florida. The divers completed their final leg of 3+ days of decompression passing thru 50 fsw traveling at a rate of 3 feet per hour and reached the surface at 11:25am.



Divers rest in the living quarters during the three day recompression phase of manned testing.

The successful completion of this dive is a critical step in preparation for a 12+ day manned saturation dive to full operational depth of 1,000 fsw scheduled to begin on 18 April.

SAT FADS Dive Team celebrating a successful test shortly after reaching the surface.

The Saturation Fly-Away Diving System (SAT FADS) is designed to provide a mobile and worldwide capability for deep water sustained diving operations to depths of 1,000 FSW. SAT FADS supports 6 saturation divers for a period of 21 days, with an additional 9 days of decompression. The system is composed of five major components; 1) The Main Deck Decompression Chamber (which includes living quarters and air lock) 2) a Manned Diving Bell, 3) the Bell Handling System, 4) A Control Van, and 5) Two Auxiliary Support Equipment Vans. It is designed to be deployed using military aircraft and commercial over the road tractor trailers and can be installed on any suitable commercial vessel of opportunity.