

# THE FACEPLATE

JANUARY 1961



EXPERIMENTAL DIVING UNIT  
and DEEP SEA DIVING SCHOOL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICER IN CHARGE's    C O M M E N T S

Once again it is time for another issue of "FACEPLATE"

I hope that you all had a most enjoyable holiday season.

The New Year has commenced here with a new first for the Diving School. The new "Master" course is now in session and is off to a good start. It is regrettable that several ineligible candidates were ordered in. However, they have been returned to their commands. The course is highly specialized and only those fully eligible and motivated will complete.

The Experimental Diving Unit is well underway in mixed-gas and closed circuit Scuba. We hope to hear from more of you in the field before our next issue goes to press.

Commander Noral E. NICKERSON, U.S. Navy

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-W-O-M-E-N-

EVERY MAN IS ENTITLED TO ONE GOOD WOMAN AND ONE GOOD DOG DURING HIS

LIFE TIME

The editors of this sheet are entitled to one article from each receipt activity during a quarter. So give a few minutes of your time and contribute an article for the F-A-C-E-P-L-A-T-E. Articles may be submitted in the rough or ready for print, over your name. Bits of wisdom or gripes, we will publish anything fit to print.

FACEPLATE COPY - Deep Sea Diving School

The most newsworthy item this issue is the establishment by BUPERS and the Deep Sea Diving School of the Master Diver Qualification Course. This is the "break" many have been waiting for, and should result in many deserving candidates being designated.

However, as with any new program, there are always the few initial misunderstandings, one of which is the purpose of this course. Naturally it is set up to help relieve the present shortage of Master Divers, but a few words as to selection of candidates would appear in order.

Each candidate for this course should be fully qualified for designation as Master Diver with one exception only. This exception is that he may lack the required year of service on board either an ARS type or an ASR type vessel, as the course will substitute for one or the other. However, the man recommended should be one who you would recommend now if his service record indicated the required service on both ARS and ASR types. Recommendations are not wanted from commands who merely desire to fill a vacant Master Diver billet, as for example one command that requested not one, but two quotas for men that had been on board two weeks! This type of instruction can not be put on a "mass production" basis and the classes will be small and few in number, therefore only those men who you know deserve to be Master Diver should be nominated.

This leads us back to the subject of screening of candidates for other courses. We mentioned this in the last issue, and there has been some improvement, but this is a matter that requires your attention all the time. BUPERS sets standards for candidates for diving duty (BUPERS INST 1500.15D) that have been established by specialists in the field of instruction. If a man doesn't meet these standards, the chances are very slim indeed that he will successfully complete the course here, and it is a waste of time and money to send him. Apply these standards the same as you would apply a micrometer to a bearing; either it's "go" or "no-go", and coming close doesn't get by in the long run.

There is nothing new on the extra-hazardous pay situation that hasn't been published elsewhere, but in case you missed an issue or two of Navy Times, the latest word is that Congress will probably come up with flat-rate scales of extra pay for divers. This means that "EH", footage, etc., will most likely go - along with all the complications and paper-work.

The Diving School requires approximately 200 feet of bell hose in serviceable condition (exhaust and supply) for training. If anyone has this in excess, a note would be greatly appreciated.

In the past, many divers have had their qualifications extended six months by BUPERS when they were unable to make the required dives. The latest word is that such requests will only be approved when there are urgent reasons for failure to requalify normally, as an extension on paper does nothing to assure that any standards of proficiency are met. This means that any diver on board a non-diving vessel will have to make arrangements to obtain his dives, or will lose his designation after his qualification has lapsed for a year. Loss of designation means he can no longer be re-qualified, but must be re-trained before he can be designated

a diver again. Transfer to a diving-type vessel may, and should, be requested from EPDOLANT or EPDOPAC (Copy to BUPERS, Pers-C2331) by any diver not now filling a diving billet, so long as he has not already lost his designation. If his designation has been lost, he must apply for training in the same manner as if he had never been a diver.

To date, very few requests have been received from those officers who received their diver training and designation as a diver while they were serving as enlisted men, for designation as Deep Sea (He02) and/or Salvage Diving Officer. Enlisted designations are not carried over when you put on those gold stripes, so if you are in a warrant or commissioned status, submit a request to BUPERS via DSDS if you haven't been designated (See Article C-7314 and C-7315, BUPERS Manual). Once received, your designation should be reported on the Officer Personnel Diary as a Collateral Duty and on the Officer Data Card which is received about 5 to 7 months after you report on board a new command. Don't forget that BUPERS isn't going to assign you as a diver unless they know you are one.

Deep Sea Diving School does not carry the service records or pay accounts of enlisted personnel attached. These are maintained at U.S. Naval Station, Washington 25, D. C. What does this mean to you? Please do not write transfer orders or forward service record and pay record correspondence to the Diving School. Particularly, please do not forward Services-Wide Examinations for Advancement in Rating, as each one requires a new forwarding letter, plus Registered Mail, just to get it across the river where it should have gone in the first place.

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J-62-2 Valve Disc Assembly Failure

Another report of failure of the J-62-2 (old J2) constant air reserve manifold valve disc assembly was received recently. This is the third report we have received on this failure. In our investigation, it was found that the manufacturer had already corrected this fault by making a one piece fitting which does not have the "Floating" feature of the old assembly. This will cause faster wear on the Teflon insert but this is a small price to pay when it prevents equipment failure at depth.

It is suggested that when replacement parts are requested from the manufacturer or a local distributor that you specify the one piece replacement so that you will not receive one of the unsafe assemblies which may still be in stock.

More on the Non-Return Valve.

On page 6 of the October FACEPLATE, a sketch was shown of the corrective modification to the presently stocked none-return valve. It is regretted that two rather major errors were in this article. The first error was that the sketch showed the angle of valve disc face at 45 degrees. The angle of this face from the valve stem axis should be 22 1/2 degrees. The "O" ring groove on the angle face of the disc is machined perpendicular to the 22 1/2 degree slope. This leads up to the second mistake. The "O" ring was described as 1/2" x 1/8" but this is not the ordering size. You should order a 1/8" x 1/4" (ring thickness by internal diameter).

The tests on the modified commercial check valve continue at the U.S. Naval School, Deep Sea Divers with excellent results up to 285 feet, which is the deepest depth at which tests have been conducted. An Experimental Diving Unit design which is somewhat simpler has been completed and will soon be given routine usage tests at the Deep Sea Divers School, as soon as it is cycled 10,000 times and other preliminaries are completed at the Experimental Diving Unit.

The 1040-A Compressor

The 3300 PSI Oxygen transfer pump of the diaphragm type manufactured by the Pressure Products Industries Inc., of Hatboro, Pennsylvania, which is the standard High Pressure Pump now for all mixed-gas diving activities, has brought with it a few problems. The worst problem to overcome is the shredding of the teflon packing (Part # A-7037-0) which gets pumped back into the filter screen at the bottom of the water reservoir (Part # B-1682-0) causing the water pressure to drop and the pump to cease pumping effectively. This can be remedied by pulling the filter from the reservoir and blowing it out with high pressure air and changing the water. This will give several more hours on the pump before pumping pressure drops again. It was decided that the teflon packing was inferior and it would have to be replaced with the leather packing which came in the spare parts with the pump (Part # A-3055-0). This is located on the plunger 17-4 P.H. (Part # A-8501) between the following part A-8540-0 Packing adapter bearing, A-8530-0 plunger

X

sleeve. It is believed that this will give many more hours of continuous work with the oxygen Transfer Pump.

Experimental Diving Unit has made this change, but to date the pump has been used only a few hours, so the results so far are inconclusive. Those activities which are using these pumps are requested to let us know your experiences so that we can pass on the dope in the FACEPLATE.

## DIVING LOGS (NAVSHIPS 1000)

PURPOSE - THE purpose of the Diving Log Book is primarily to establish a satisfactory and permanent command record of diving operations and secondly to provide data for subsequent analysis. The first purpose tends to insure proper and safe operational practices as well as to aide in administration and disbursing of diving in the command. The second purpose enables the Experimental Diving Unit to maintain a final and overall survey of naval diving in order to better carry out its mission of development and improvement of diving procedures.

DISPOSITION - Ships and commands retain completed Activity Diving Logs in files for 4 years from the date of the last entry involving special or incentive pay; then forward the log to the Experimental Diving Unit.

The Diving Log Book is a command record of dives which requires only one Log Book to be maintained at a time unless more than one diving station is being operated at different geographical places. Then an appropriate entry should be made in the Command or Activity Log that two or more Diving Log Books are being maintained. These Diving Log Books are not maintained for each individual diver.

### POLICY OF DISTRIBUTION -

The U.S. Navy Experimental Diving Unit, Naval Weapons Plant, Washington, D. C., is the authorized distribution point for the Diving Log Book. Subsequent to this publication the following distribution policy is established:

"Commands should consult previous year utilization to determine their requirements. Approximately 200 dives may be entered in each log, the average command should not require more than two logs per year. Exceptions would be those activities that operate several crafts simultaneously which require individual logs for convenience and accuracy. Request for additional logs on this basis will be honored. Request for more than three (3) Diving Logs in one calander year must be accompanied by justification.

The Diving Log does not constitute an official record of an individual's dives. The standard form (NAVPERS 2540/NAVCOMPT 2039 (NEW 10-57) is still effective and is the only dive record for personnel and should be used with the folder provided. The printing of the Diving Log was on a long range basis and it was/and is not contemplated to have another printing for "many - many" years."



## MEDICAL DEPARTMENT NEWS

Another class of Medical Officers graduated from the Diving Medical Officers Course conducted at the Deep Sea Diving School and Experimental Diving Unit on 9 December 1960. This was the third class of the year.

Members of the Class WERE:

LT William M. BRISTOW, MC, USNR  
LT Rollyn M. BUTLER, MC, USNR  
LT Allan (n) ERDE, MC, U.S. Navy  
LT Richard S. FLAGG, MC, USNR  
LT Lloyd H. LEVE, MC, USNR  
LT Julio C. RIVERA, MC, USNR  
LT Allen R. TRAUIG, MC, USNR  
LT William B. WOOD, MC, USNR

Surgeon Thomas H. MILBY  
Public Health Service

It is understood that in the future there will be only one class as year, convening in September.

Lieutenant Paul G. LINAWEAVER, Jr., MC, USN, Assistant Medical Officer for the Experimental Diving Unit was detached 16 January 1961. He had been ordered to USNH Bethesda as a resident in Internal Medicine. He was relieved by Lieutenant William B. WOOD, MC, USNR, a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. Doctor WOOD has completed his residency in Internal Medicine and is a graduate of the latest class of Submarine Medical Officers.