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**SPORT SCUBA DIVING PROGRAM**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This instruction implements AFD 34-1, Air Force Services Programs. It establishes the requirements for personnel from units assigned, attached, tenant, and associate to Kadena Air Base, who wish to participate in sport SCUBA diving programs on or around Okinawa and establishes the criteria under which Air Force agencies and activities may sponsor sport diving programs. All Air Force personnel who engage in sport diving on Okinawa are responsible for adhering to the policies and procedures herein. Commanders and supervisors will ensure that military, civilian, and family members within their commands are informed of and comply with this regulation. These instructions are punitive in nature. Violation of the instructions contained within may result in administrative, nonjudicial, or judicial punishment.

***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS***

This is the initial publication of 18 WG Instruction 34-101, superseding 18 WGR 215-1.

**1. Responsibilities:**

- 1.1. The Commander, 18th Support Group (18 SPTG/CC) is responsible for providing a safe, enjoyable SCUBA diving program designed to enhance morale and mission capability. Appoints the 18th Wing SCUBA Safety Advisor to aid in formulating SCUBA diving policies and procedures.
- 1.2. The Commander, 18th Services Squadron (18 SVS/CC) is responsible for programming, budgeting, and supervising an effective, safe SCUBA diving program. Sets the policies for operating the Kadena Marina SCUBA Sales Store and SCUBA Locker/Air Fill Station. Provides qualified SCUBA diving instructors for Services training programs.
- 1.3. The 18th Wing SCUBA Safety Advisor is responsible to the 18 SPTG/CC for the safe conduct of the Air Force SCUBA diving program on Okinawa. Provides information concerning safety, new technology, and other items of SCUBA diving interest to SCUBA diving groups. Makes recommendations on SCUBA diving safety to the 18th Services Squadron Marina (18 SVS/SVROM), provides

technical expertise to other agencies, and aids in investigating SCUBA diving accidents that involve Air Force personnel. Makes recommendations on the maintenance and inspection of SCUBA rental equipment.

1.4. Unit commanders will appoint a SCUBA Safety Representative, who will attend safety meetings called by the Wing Scuba Safety Advisor. The advisor will provide information concerning safety, new technology and other items of interest. Unit SCUBA Safety Representatives will then disseminate this information to divers in their respective units.

**2. Definitions.** The following terms apply to 18 WGI 34-101:

2.1. Certified Diver: Any person who has successfully completed a program of diver training through a nationally or internationally recognized recreational diver training agency, or anyone who has successfully completed a military diver course. Proof of training completion is a certification card from the diver's training agency. A valid, completed training log from a recognized dive training agency, and signed by the diver's instructor will also be accepted as proof of certification.

2.2. Student Diver. Any person medically qualified and enrolled in a SCUBA course under the direct supervision of a qualified SCUBA instructor while taking part in a pool, confined or open water training session.

2.3. Night Dive. Any dive beginning 1 hour after official sunset and ending 1 hour before official sunrise.

2.4. Professional/Commercial Dive. Academic or research dives sanctioned by a national/international institution, or diving for which monetary compensation is received.

2.5. Sport Dive. Any SCUBA dive not directly related to professional military duties or commercial diving operation.

2.6. Buddy System. The buddy system is defined to be a minimum of two physically mature persons, each capable of providing assistance for the other and who maintain visual contact with each other at all times.

2.7. Certification Agency. All nationally and internationally recognized SCUBA certification agencies will be recognized.

2.8. Certified Instructor. Certified by a SCUBA training agency to teach SCUBA diving or SCUBA diving related activities. All instructors are required to abide by the standards set forth by their respective certification agency, as well as these instructions.

2.9. Dive Master. A certification where an individual leads/supervises dive activities and/or assists instruction. Dive Masters must abide by the standards outlined by their certifying agency, as well as these instructions.

**3. General Rules For Sport Diving:**

3.1. Only personnel certified by an internationally or nationally recognized SCUBA certification agency may participate in sport diving activities on or around Okinawa.

3.2. All divers will adhere to Japanese and Okinawan laws/ordinances governing diving and the removal of marine life.

3.3. All sport dives will be planned and conducted within the NO DECOMPRESSION LIMITS as defined by established dive tables approved by recognized SCUBA certification agencies.

3.4. Commercially manufactured dive computers may be used in lieu of approved dive tables, but may not be used to make planned decompression dives. In the event of dive computer failure, the dive should be terminated with appropriate safety stops made. Divers should refrain from diving within 24 hours after a computer failure.

3.5. No sport dives will exceed a maximum depth of 130 feet and any repetitive dive will not exceed a maximum depth of 100 feet. Divers who are certified only to the basic level should go not deeper than 60 feet. Advanced divers should limit themselves to 100 feet and above. Dives deeper than 100 feet should only be attempted by specially trained individuals.

3.6. Alcoholic beverages will not be consumed 12 hours preceding a dive and at least 6 hours after a dive. If making multiple dives or dives to the no-decompression limit, do not consume any alcoholic beverages for 12 hours after.

3.7. The "buddy system" will be adhered to during all sport diving activities.

3.8. SCUBA equipment will not be loaned or rented to uncertified persons, except for initial SCUBA certification classes under the supervision of a certified instructor.

3.9. Certified divers under the age of 15 will be under the supervision of an adult who is a certified diver. The minor must be accompanied by two adults, if it is reasoned by the adults concerned that the minor is not capable of effecting a rescue or providing assistance to his dive partner if required.

3.10. Divers must not fly for at least 12 hours after any dive in which compressed air is breathed, regardless of depth. Crew members on flying status must observe a 24 hour interval prior to flying after diving.

3.11. It is the responsibility of the acting instructor to ensure the medical qualification of the student entering diver training. It is equally the responsibility of the student to ensure/maintain his/her physical/medical fitness for diving.

**4. General Requirements.** Okinawa's tides and currents at times create hazards that prohibit water related activities. It is also true that on certain days, somewhere on the island, conditions are ideal. Experience, education, training and risk management should be used to assess conditions before engaging in any water sport.

4.1. Restrictions. Water related activities are occasionally restricted for the general safety of all personnel.

4.1.1. Sea Condition Green: No restrictions on water related activities.

4.1.2. Sea Condition Yellow: Exercise extreme caution when engaging in water related activities.

4.1.3. Sea Condition Red: All water related activities are prohibited.

4.1.4. TCCOR 1: All diving activities are prohibited.

**5. Prohibited Areas For Recreational Diving:**

5.1. Within 500 yards of Chimu-Wan oil tanker discharge buoy.

5.2. Within 500 yards of any pier, dock, or wharf presently in use.

- 5.3. Within 500 yards of any sewage or stream outlet.
- 5.4. The entire waterfront of Camp Kinser to the south end of the Sunabe Sea wall. (Highly contaminated with human and animal waste products.)
- 5.5. Within 500 yards of the Camp Courtney Skeet and Trap Range.
- 5.6. Within 1,000 yards of ammunition demilitarization areas.
- 5.7. In any location where a "No Scuba Diving" sign is posted or at established swimming beaches where such diving is prohibited by beach regulation.

**6. Professional/Commercial Diving.** Before engaging in professional/commercial diving (including instruction and Dive Master activities), all military personnel will obtain permission for off duty employment through their commands. In some instances professional/commercial diving could affect SOFA status. All personnel will obtain guidance from the base legal office before engaging in these activities.

### **7. Mandatory Equipment:**

- 7.1. Commercially manufactured, demand type regulator, properly maintained in working order.
- 7.2. Buoyancy control device (BCD), capable of supporting a fully equipped SCUBA diver on the surface. Must be equipped with a low pressure inflation device.
- 7.3. Submersible pressure gauge or air-integrated dive computer.
- 7.4. Depth gauge or dive computer.
- 7.5. Underwater timing device (watch, bottom timer, computer, etc.)
- 7.6. Surface signaling device.
- 7.7. Submersible dive tables or dive computer.
- 7.8. Alternate air source or "octopus" second stage.
- 7.9. Dive knife or tool.
- 7.10. Underwater compass (mandatory for night diving).
- 7.11. A primary underwater dive light as well as a secondary backup light are required for all night diving activities.

**8. Recommended Equipment.** There is an infinite variety of recommended and optional equipment that should or could be used during sport dives. Only a few items are listed as they are generally thought of as "the" pieces of equipment to carry for utility or safety purposes.

- 8.1. Protective body covering for the hands, arms, torso, and feet. This includes booties, gloves, and any exposure suit covering the above areas, such as dive skin, wet suit, shorty, etc.
- 8.2. Surface float capable of supporting two fully equipped SCUBA divers on the surface. (Mandatory for all certified SCUBA instructors during all open water training sessions.)
- 8.3. First Aid Kit. (Mandatory for instructors.)
- 8.4. Demand type or free flow oxygen unit. This equipment is highly recommended for all instructors.

**9. Dive Master.** It is mandatory that a certified Dive Master be present during all diving activities sponsored by Air Force organizations, clubs, agencies and facilities. First Aid equipment to include demand oxygen unit will be available at these activities.

9.1. Boat dives of more than six divers are recommended to have a certified diver with a rescue or higher certification rating, present during all phases of the dive. This person is to remain on the boat until all divers in the party have returned.

**10. Mishap Reporting.** In the event of a diving mishap, contact the emergency operator (from off base 938-1110 or from on base 911), and declare a medical emergency. The victim should be transported immediately to the US Naval Hospital Emergency Room, or Kadena Air Base Acute Care Services (ACS) during duty hours, unless the victim cannot be moved. All of the victim's dive gear should accompany the victim. The unit ground/SCUBA safety representative will forward a completed PACAF Form 161, Mishap Worksheet, to the 18th Wing Ground Safety (18 WG/SEG) within 3 duty days of the incident

**11. Violations Reporting.** Violations of this regulation should be submitted in writing to 18 WG/SEG, Attention: 18th Wing SCUBA Safety Advisor, as soon as possible after a SCUBA related violation. Witness statements concerning incidents should include the name, rank, organization and home/duty phone of witness. The 18th Wing Scuba Safety Advisor will investigate the violation and provide findings and recommendations to 18 SPTG/CC and 18 SVS/CC for review and appropriate action if warranted.

**12. Mishap Investigations.** SCUBA related mishaps will be investigated by the 18th Wing SCUBA Safety Advisor under the guidance of 18 WG/SEG. Investigations will be in accordance with AFI 91-204, Air Force Mishap Investigation and Reporting.

**13. Changes and Additions.** Recommendations for changes, additions and deletions to this regulation should be addressed to 18 SVS/SVROM.

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