

Defence Instructions and Notices (Not to be communicated to anyone outside HM Service without authority)	
Title:	Joint Service Adventurous Training Sub-Aqua Diving 2019 Expedition Dates for Cyprus and Gibraltar
Audience:	All Service Units
Applies:	Immediately
Expires:	05 November 2019
Replaces:	2017DIN07-067
Reference:	2018DIN07-090
Status:	Current
Released:	August 2018
Channel:	07 Training and Education
Content:	Allocation of Sub-Aqua Diving Expedition Slots and Planning Criteria for Cyprus and Gibraltar during 2019
Sponsor:	Adventurous Training Group (Army)
Contact:	Miss Natasha Ingram – SO3 Expedition Planning and Assurance (EPA), HQ ATG (A); Tel: 94344 5655; 01980 615655. Email: natasha.ingram967@mod.gov.uk
Keywords:	Adventurous Training; Sub-Aqua Diving, Ascension Island; Cyprus; Gibraltar
Local Keywords:	Adventurous Training; Sub-Aqua Diving; Ascension Island; Cyprus; Gibraltar
Supplements: (Please click on the links to access >>>>)	Annex A: Application Form
Related Info:	ATG(A) Website (www) – via defence Gateway JSP 419 – Adventurous Training in the UK Armed Forces BRd 2806(5) – UK Military Diving Manual Vol 5 AGAI Vol 1 Ch 11 – Adventurous Training AGAI Vol 1 Ch 18 – Training Risk Management: Water Hazards 2012DIN07-144 – Civilian Participation in Joint Service AT Sub-Aqua Diving
Classification:	OFFICIAL

General

1. **Background.** All Service diving, including that classified as Adventurous Training (AT) is conducted under HSE Diving at Work Regulations 1997 (Recreational Diving Projects Approved Code of Practice, BRd 2806(5) and BSAC Safe Diving)¹. AT is conducted under the BSAC scheme using BSAC qualified personnel (PADI qualified personnel wishing to undertake AT diving must comply with regulations laid down in BRd 2806(5)). HQ ATG(A) is tasked by the Joint Service Adventurous Training Steering Group to be the Tri-Service focus for the allocation of expedition slots at JSATW Cyprus and JPDU Gibraltar and the Army focus for the allocation of up to six expedition slots on Ascension Island. The RAFSAA allocates the remainder of the Ascension Island slots to the RAF and RN / RM. Expedition Leaders (EL) must fully understand the regulations that apply to their expedition and personally brief the Commanding Officer Duty Holder (CODH)

¹ AT Diving is 'on duty' military training and therefore classed as diving at work activity.

/ Delivery Duty Holder (DDH), normally the CO of the EL. This is not a task that is delegated to the Expedition Sub-Aqua Diving Supervisor (ESADS); however, as the ESADS is the only trained member of the expedition capable of delivering AT diving, the EL must liaise closely with the ESADS to ensure that all aspects of diving regulation and safety are met. The EL is personally responsible to the DDH for exercising Duty of Care at all times throughout the expedition. This includes any non-diving activity. Single Service alcohol policy is to be strictly observed. No member of any service will absent themselves from an expedition without specific authority from the expedition OIC and CODH/DDH.

2. **Bidding.** All sub-aqua diving slots are available to Regular and Reserve Units / personnel (Cadet expeditions are not accepted). Army bids are sent to the Regional AT Desk Officer. RAF bids are sent to Sqn Ldr J Baldwin & 22 Trg Gp. RN / RM bids are to be sent to Maj L Piper and the Naval Service AT team. All bids are to be submitted by **21 Sep 18** using Annex A to this DIN. See para 29 for contact details. Prior to bid submission, the EL must have secured the required qualified personnel for the planned expedition. EL are advised to bid for alternative dates and locations to maximise their chances of success.

3. **Allocation Process.** Following the bid by closure date, HQ ATG(A) will convene a selection board and nominate a reserve list. Units will be notified if their bid has been successful or unsuccessful by **1 Oct 18**. Only on being allocated a slot can the EL must commence the JSATFA process. The following criteria will be used during the selection process:

- a. Qualified personnel identified.
- b. Evidence that expeditions will prepare their personnel to gain the best training advantage from the expedition, and develop younger or less qualified ranks as part of the expedition.
- c. Previous allocations.
- d. Equitable spread across and within the three Services.

4. **Expedition Composition.**

a. **Qualifications.** As a minimum, all expeditions require:

- (1) Expedition Sub-Aqua Diving Supervisor.
- (2) Branch Sub-Aqua Diving Supervisor (BSADS) or a BSAC Advanced Diver to deputise.
- (3) BSAC Collective First Aid Trained.

b. **Instructors.** If the aim of the expedition is to teach novice divers, an instructor with a minimum qualification of BSAC Open Water Instructor (OWI), and a safety diver with a minimum qualification of BSAC Sports Diver, is required for each pair of students. Expeditions must ensure that appropriately qualified personnel are available to deliver and support the expedition in accordance with JSP 419.

- c. **Boat Coxswains.** Expeditions must provide their own BSAC Boat Handlers and Diver Coxswains for Ascension Island and Gibraltar. Evidence of qualifications must be presented to the Centre staff on arrival at the expedition's location.
- d. **Number of Participants.** Expeditions are not to exceed 12 personnel, including instructors. Units are to nominate and prepare reserves (who have passed the necessary medical) that can be called forward at short notice.

5. **Expedition Planning and Joint Service Adventurous Training Form Alpha (JSATFA).** JSATFAs must not be created in advance of formal allocation of a slot. The EL is to start a JSATFA in accordance with sS Instructions straight away following the allocation of an expedition slot. The JSATFA progress is closely monitored by the AT Desk Officers and HQ ATG(A). For Cyprus the EL is required to confirm all administrative details with OC JSATW(C) six weeks in advance of deployment. Failure to meet the agreed planning deadlines and gain the necessary staff clearance could result in the expedition slot being reallocated.

6. **Diving Medicals.** Regular and Reserve Service personnel must be in possession of a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive issued by a Senior Medical Officer or MOD Civilian Medical Practitioner as per BRd 1750A. Any civilians authorised to participate must be in possession of a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive issued by a HSE approved medical examiner of divers (see BRd 2806 Vol 5).

7. **Carriage of Documents.** Copies of all key documentation including qualifications, BSAC membership and dive medicals must be taken with the expedition. Copies must be retained by the EL and ESADS as part of the expedition plan.

8. **Ability to Swim.** In accordance with JSP 419, Service personnel must have passed a service-recognised swimming test before participating in water-based AT activities. In addition, personnel that have qualified as Ocean Divers are also deemed competent to swim when participating in sub aqua diving. The EL is to ensure that JPA records or course certificates are checked well in advance of deployment.

9. **Insurance.** All expedition members are advised to be insured for travel and accident related incidents (see JSP 419, Part 2, Chapter 3, Annex C). Whilst there is currently no requirement² to obtain Diver Alert Network (DAN) insurance for decompression aero-med flights, the EL must be able to prove that he/she has the capability to transfer a pair of casualties from the dive site to the approved chamber in under six hours, provide a continuous supply of Oxygen to both divers throughout the transfer and complete any therapeutic decompression schedule(s) that may be required. Suitable funding must be available to meet the above requirement; this will vary from country to country. An MOD promissory note is frequently not recognised by chamber operators who will require proof of insurance or cash. The average cost of a single therapeutic decompression schedule is circa £20k; repeat procedures are frequently required. An aero med evacuation will cost circa £200k depending on range and may be required if diving in island archipelagos. Transfers may also be required if the nominated chamber is unable to deal with an unstable casualty who then must be transferred to a higher dependency unit. Therefore, the EL is encouraged to take out DAN insurance given that medical costs incurred by expeditions lie with the BLB of the unit mounting the expedition (BFC will not pay for expedition chamber costs). BRd 2806(5) contains specific requirements for AT diving in remote areas where the above direction cannot be met.

² Except Gibraltar where a casualty may need to be taken to Spain

10. **Financial Penalties.** Short notice cancellations occur too frequently for sub-aqua diving expeditions. In most recent cases, follow up investigation has shown that comparatively early notice of a change in unit plans was available but the EL did not deem it a priority to notify HQ ATG(A). The resultant effect being a waste of resource and opportunity and in the case of Cyprus in which JSATW(C) contracts in sub-aqua support, a significant bill being presented to the Commanding Officer of the offending unit. Repeat offenders will not be considered for an expedition slot in future years. For Gibraltar see para 26.

ASCENSION ISLAND

11. The RAF Sub Aqua Association is currently following the situation in Ascension Island and is in close liaison with the RAF. Current expectations are that 2021 will probably see a resumption of RAF flights and the Association will advise as to the feasibility of re-establishing the sub-aqua centre once flights have restarted.

JSATW Cyprus

12. **Outline.** JSATW(C) is an Army-led centre which includes an AT Dive Branch. Expeditions are for a 10-day period. As there is no guarantee that RAF CNFP seats will be allocated on the Trooping flight and individuals can be excluded at the last moment, all expeditions are advised to use civilian airlines to and from Larnaca airport, which is 20 minutes transit from Dhekelia (JSATW(C)). Flights must not be booked until staff clearance has been received from HQ BFC.

13. A typical expedition plan is as follows:

Day	Activity
1	Fly in and take over accommodation
2	Take over equipment and possibly a shallow shore based dive
3	Shore based dive, skills development and familiarisation
4	Offshore boat dive
5	Rest day- activity to be JSATFA and approved by DDH if required
6	Offshore boat dive
7	Offshore boat dive
8	Off shore boat dive
9	Off shore boat dive
10	Hand in kit in and fly back

14. **Diving Summary.** Cyprus has many shore dives suitable for trainee Ocean Divers and higher level trainees. The wreck of the Zenobia is one of the top 10 wrecks to dive in the world and is suitable for all levels from Ocean Diver and above. Water temperatures in the winter are between 14°C and 17°C, whilst in the summer months they can rise to 28°C. Diving depths range from 3 to 43 metres.

15. **Accommodation.** Expedition accommodation is located within Dhekelia Station which is approximately 1.5 miles from the JSATW(C) Sub-Aqua Branch. Accommodation is transit in style, generally 8 person rooms. Requests for male and female accommodation and messing are to be made direct to the JSATW(C) Facilities Manager.

16. **Transport.** All requests for transport are to be submitted via the TSU, Akrotiri, Cyprus (details of which will be forwarded to successful expeditions by JSATW(C)). If

Service vehicles are unavailable, units will need the authority of their unit budget holder for the TSU Akrotiri to hire appropriate vehicles.

17. **Equipment.** All the equipment for a sub-aqua diving expedition is provided by JSATW(C) at no cost. A comprehensive equipment list will be made available to those units allocated an expedition slot. All diving equipment is maintained on-site through the JSATW(C) Sub-Aqua Branch technical department. Nitrox is generally not available to visiting expeditions. IT facilities are generally within JSATW(C) HQ and this can be booked through the Facilities Manager, however within the Sub-Aqua Branch, expeditions should be prepared to brief from a laptop (not supplied) in the small classroom provided.

18. **Boats.** Expeditions are inclusive of 5 days' boat hire (free of charge) which includes the provision of a coxswain and enables 2 dives per day. One night dive is allowed from the boat per expedition however this counts as two individual dives.

19. **Further Information.** Once allocated a slot, the EL is to contact JSATW(C) Chief Instructor Dive Wing – see para 30 for contact details, who will send out an information pack with further instructions.

20. **Available Slots.** The available slots in Cyprus for 2019 are as follows:

Slot	Start Date	End Date	Remarks
1	19 Mar 19	29 Mar 19	
2	2 Apr 19	12 Apr 19	
3	30 Apr 19	10 May 19	
4	21 May 19	31 May 19	
5	4 Jun 19	14 Jun 19	
6	25 Jun 19	5 Jul 19	
7	9 Jul 19	19 Jul 19	
8	3 Sep 19	13 Sep 19	
9	17 Sep 19	27 Sep 19	
10	1 Oct 19	11 Oct 19	
11	22 Oct 19	1 Nov 19	
12	5 Nov 19	15 Nov 19	

Gibraltar

21. **Outline.** Expeditions are for a 12-day period, delivered via the AT dive centre located at the JPDU Gunwharf, which is a PJHQ unit run by a RN PO Centre Manager. All visiting expeditions are sponsored by HQBF Gibraltar. Flights are not to be booked until HQBF Gibraltar staff clearance has been granted. RAF CNFP flights are unreliable so expeditions are strongly encouraged to book civilian flights direct to Gibraltar and all personnel must arrive and depart on the first and last day of their expedition. Overland transit of Spain or any planned use of a Spanish airport is strictly prohibited. AT diving and equipment is provided in theatre by the Army. Boats are provided by JPDU.

22. **Diving Summary.** Gibraltar offers some fantastic diving on a large number of wrecks and sites. Diving conditions are pleasant all year round, with the water temperature dropping to 14 degrees in the winter months. Visibility can range from 6 to 15

metres depending on the weather conditions. One attraction, but also danger of diving in Gibraltar, is the predominance of deep water surrounding the land; depths of over 20 metres are available around the harbour area with deeper sites only a short boat trip away.

23. **Accommodation.** Accommodation and all messing is provided at Devils Tower Camp. Wherever possible, the expedition will be placed in good quality accommodation, however generally it is of a basic standard. All diving expeditions to Gibraltar must pay for their food, except for packed lunches – on completion of the appropriate paperwork these will be supplied at Public Expense. The catering set up at Gibraltar WO/Sgts mess is not pay as you dine, therefore payments must be made by cheque or cash on arrival by expedition groups.

24. **Transport.** A 9-seat self-drive mini bus is provided for the duration of the expedition; additional transport, if available, can be requested. Nominated drivers must hold an appropriate unendorsed driving licence, FMT600 and pass a short driving test. The transport is for Service use only and is not permitted to enter Spain.

25. **Equipment.** All equipment for a sub-aqua dive expedition is provided by JPDU at no cost. A comprehensive equipment list will be made available to successful units.

26. **Boats.** There are two dedicated non-publicly funded boats (RHIBs) available to all expeditions. Each Coxswain must present, as a minimum, a valid RYA Powerboat Level 2 certificate to the Centre Principal on arrival. The hire cost is £350 per boat per expedition. At the time of booking your diving expedition to Gibraltar you are required to pay £350 non-refundable deposit, this will be deducted from your bill from the hire of the boats after your expedition.

27. **Further Information.** The publication “Underwater Gibraltar; A Guide to the Rocks Submerged Sites” (authors P. Smith and D. Fa - ISBN 191965508-5) will assist expedition leaders in the planning of their dives. There is also a locally produced book provided by Gun Wharf which will be available on arrival.

28. **Available Slots.** The available slots in Gibraltar for 2019 are as follows:

Slot	Start Date	End Date	Remarks
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	18 Feb 19	1 Mar 19	
2	18 Mar 19	29 Mar 19	
3	8 Apr 19	18 Apr 19	
4	13 May 19	24 May 19	
5	17 Jun 19	28 Jun 19	
6	8 Jul 19	19 Jul 19	Closed slot – no bids
7	5 Aug 19	16 Aug 19	
8	16 Sep 19	27 Sep 19	
9	7 Oct 19	18 Oct 19	
10	28 Oct 19	8 Nov 19	

29. **Contact Details.** Initial enquiries should be channelled to the Regional AT Desk Officers below:

Email	Name & Region	Mil Number	Civilian Number
Tony.phinn988@mod.gov.uk	Mr T Phinn / South	94222 4177	01252 349177
Cliff.pearl101@mod.gov.uk	Mr C Pearl / Central	94480 4461	01952 674461
Dougie.peters821@mod.gov.uk	Lt Col (Retd) D Peters / North	94740 3639	0131 3103639
Michael.mumford100@mod.gov.uk	Mr M Mumford / LONDIST	94631 2402	0207 414 2402
James.mcdougall722@mod.gov.uk	Mr J McDougall / Germany	94344 8934	01980 618934
Jonathan.may120@mod.gov.uk	Mr J May RMAS	94261 2363	01276 412343
Natasha.ingram967@mod.gov.uk	Miss N Ingram / ATG(A) HQ	94344 5655	01980 615655
Darren.fox121@mod.gov.uk	WO D Fox / RAF 22 Trg Gp	95423 7273	01637 857273
Matt.hunt961@mod.gov.uk	FS M Hunt / RAF 22 Trg Gp	95423 7757	01637 857757
james.baldwin412@mod.gov.uk	Sqn Ldr J Baldwin RAF Sub-Aqua Association POC		
Paul.gellender267@mod.gov.uk	Maj (Retd) Gellender SO2 Naval Service AT team	93802 8075	02392 37075 02392 57050
Lee.piper988@mod.gov.uk	Maj L Piper RNRM Sub-Aqua Association POC	93832 8147	02392 548147

30. Further useful contact details are below.

Post	Name	Mil Number	Civilian Number
OC JSATW(C)	Capt William Young	94120 4537	00357 2474 4537
JSATW(C) WSM	Vacant	94120 4788	00357 2474 4788
JSATW(C) Chief Instructor Dive Wing	Sgt Ben Swinfield	94120 4867	00357 2474 4867
JSATW(C) Facilities Manager	Mr Mark Beggs	94120 4951	00357 2474 4951
JSATW(C) Clerk	Mrs Lisa Young	94120 4406	00357 2474 4406

HQ BFC J7 PD SO2	Maj Steven Douglas	94120 3092	00357 2596 3092
OC JPDU (Gibraltar)	WO1 Kelvin Noteyoung	9231 98531 5060	00350 5625 9000
JPDU Centre Manager	POPT Stephen Fidock	9231 98531 5479 / 5076	00350 2005 5479 / 5076