



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
USAFSAM/AFI (AFMC)
HYPERBARIC MEDICINE DIVISION
BROOKS AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS 78235-5252

MEMORANDUM FOR HQ AFMOA/SGP
ALLMAJCOM/SGP
All USAF Operational Hyperbaric Facilities

12 Apr 1999

FROM: USAFSAM/AFI (DSN 240-3281)

SUBJECT: Update to Decompression Schedule Generation for Wet and Dry Dives

1. Since 1964, the USAF has used modifications to the US Navy Standard Air Decompression Tables based on the work of Dr. Bruce Bassett. Since then, other modifications have been added, including use of 100% O₂ during decompression stops for inside observers on multiplace chamber treatment dives. Over the past two years, new methodologies have come to light which provide a much more scientific approach to denitrogenation. The Joint Advisory Committee for Clinical Hyperbaric Medicine (JACCHM) has reviewed these methodologies and it is now time for deployment of their recommendations.

2. Effective 1 May 1999, the old USAF decompression tables (7-2) are obsolete. Standard wet dives will revert to current US Navy methodology. Nitrox dives, flying after diving, diving at altitude, and all hyperbaric chamber inside observers will use the Nobendem Air-Nitrox spreadsheet calculator available from the downloads section of the Davis Hyperbaric Laboratory web site (<http://wwwsam.brooks.af.mil/hyper/>). A review of the USN Standard Air Tables is attached to this E-Mail, as is an introductory lesson on the use of Nobendem. All questions may be directed to my POC: Col Benton P. Zwart (zwart@samafc.brooks.af.mil ; dsn 240-3281).

// SIGNED //

E. GEORGE WOLF JR., COL, USAF, MC, CFS
Consultant, USAF/SG Clinical Hyperbaric Medicine
Chief, Hyperbaric Medicine Division

ATCH: Basic Deco Tables (PDF)*
Advanced Deco Tables (PDF)**

NOTE: Policy approved by HQ AFMOA/SGOO, 29 April 1999

* Note: PDF indicates "Adobe Acrobat Reader TM" format