

Medical assessment of FTD: Military diving aspects

The fitness criteria for military divers are primarily based on medical and safety considerations for the diver. First: does the physical condition endanger the individual in the hazardous environment? and second: can the condition be exacerbated by hyperbaric exposures?

These conditions are general rules from an occupational health viewpoint for fitness criteria and are also applicable to commercial divers. Standards for military divers in allied forces are described in the Allied Diving Publication (AdivP2), which includes criteria for fitness to return to diving after acute decompression illness, also these criteria are roughly the same as the guidelines for commercial divers.

The most important additional factor concerning physical standards for military divers is whether they are able to meet the physical and mental demands of highly specialized tasks required such as exit and re-entry from a submarine, special amphibious forces and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD).

These additional factors must be considered in the light of the occupational and operational setting, and for each individual circumstances. Therefore a trained diving medical officer or occupational physician with experience in the field is required.