



ROYAL NAVY RESERVE

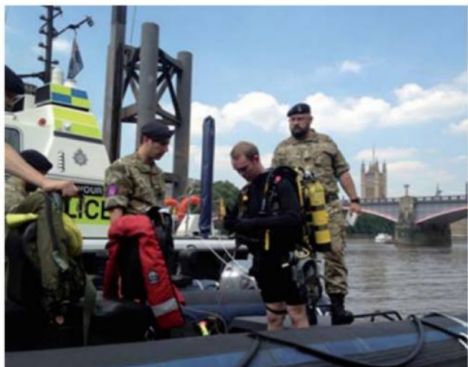
Diving Specialisation



What does the Diving Specialisation do?

The aim of the RNR Diving Specialisation is to support the Royal Navy Fleet Diving Squadron (FDS) to:

- Generate manpower to directly support FDS for NATO Submarine Rescue System Transfer Under Pressure (TUP).
- Deliver a Homeland Defence underwater search capability in the UK, providing Maritime Explosive Ordnance Disposal Force Protection (MEOD-FP) divers to support harbour searches in strategic UK ports.
- Generate diving teams to support UK Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance (EOR) operations, and backfill the FDS area teams when deployed overseas in support of Fleet operations.



Role of the Diver

The main role is to work at maximum depths of 30 metres on SCUBA type equipment as part of a specialist MEOD-FP diving team.

The tasks will primarily involve underwater searches. Those who join could find themselves attached to one of the RN's regional diving units either on diving duties in one of the dockyards, or as part of an RN bomb disposal team.

It is a highly skilled, physically tough job that demands a lot of an individual, but gives a huge amount back in return. RN Diving teams generally operate as highly trained close-knit teams and RNR Divers will be expected to integrate seamlessly into this environment.



NATO Submarine Rescue System

Based at HMNB Clyde, the NATO Submarine Rescue System (NSRS) is the most advanced facility of its kind in existence; kept at permanent readiness to deploy anywhere in the world within 72 hours.

The RNR Diving Specialisation provides High-Readiness manpower to mobilise with the system and support Transfer Under Pressure (TUP) operations of rescued Submarine crews.

RNR Divers undergo regular NSRS continuation training; including annual exercises worldwide.



Who can join?

The RNR Diving Specialisation is open to volunteers from within the RNR who possess a recognised civilian diving qualification (e.g. HSE, or BSAC/PADI); as well as individuals with previous military service and who hold a Royal Navy or Army diving qualification.

The Specialisation will also assess candidates with no prior diving qualifications or experience. Assessment of these candidates will be made during the selection process to identify suitability for onwards/ full diver training.

Entry requirements and selection process

Intro Weekend

This weekend is open to all Ratings, including those still undertaking RNR Initial Naval Training (INT), however candidates must complete INT before progressing further.

Those who express an interest in the Diving Specialisation will be invited to attend an Intro Weekend where they will be given briefs about the role of the Specialisation as well as being asked to undertake physical training to test stamina, endurance and strength, as well as their personal motivation.

The Divers Physical Fitness Test (DPFT)

Candidates will undertake the following DPFT as part of the initial Acquaint weekend:

- 1.5 mile run as a squad
- 1.5 mile run (individual effort) in under 10.5 minutes
- 8 chin ups (to full extension)
- 16 triceps dips
- 40 sit ups in 1 min
- 2 x 30kg load carry over 30 metres

On completion of the Intro Weekend, successful candidates will be required to pass a service diving medical assessment, before returning for a Potential Diver's Assessment (PDA) course.

Potential Diver's Assessment

The PDA weekend introduces candidates to military diving equipment.

They will be required to conduct a number of dives, both in water and in a Recompression Chamber, to test their abilities.

Candidates will also have to complete another DPFT in addition to other physical exercises.

It should be noted that the physical exercise conducted over both the weekends is strenuous and candidates will need to be well prepared.

Those who successfully pass the PDA Weekend will be invited to begin RNR Diver training.

These candidates will be issued with an 'Aptitude Pass' certificate, which is valid for two years.

Upon successful completion of the PDA, candidates are eligible to attend the Specialisation's regular training weekends alongside qualified Divers.





Initial Diver Training

Unless joining from a military background (in which case the route may vary) all candidates will have to undertake the following to qualify as a Diver in the Royal Naval Reserve:

Air Phase: A two week initial course that trains candidates in military diving equipment and culminates in dives to 30m. The course will also test physical stamina and endurance, including a further DPFT.

Search Phase: A two week course that trains candidates in Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance (EOR) search techniques used by RN diving teams. The training will test candidates' ability to operate in a physically demanding environment.



Underwater Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD):

A two week course that trains candidates to safely recognise and identify explosive ordnance. The course culminates in a pass or fail underwater ordnance identification task and will qualify candidates to exactly the same level as an RN Diver.

Candidates must also complete: First Aid, Recompression Chamber Operator/Attendant and MIB driving courses.

Further Training

On successfully passing all of the listed courses; candidates will be qualified as an RNR Diver, although will still have to successfully complete a further training exercise to gain full operational status.

After completing initial training members of the Specialisation can take a range of courses

to continue their professional development. Training can be undertaken in:

- NSRS TUP Operator/ Attendant
- Advanced Diving First Aid
- Transportation of Hazardous Goods (HAZMAT)
- Diving Equipment Maintenance
- Military Diving Instructor

Specific training for leadership and diving supervision is undertaken for promotion within the Specialisation.





What Qualities Does The Diving Specialisation Look For?

Those interested in joining the Specialisation should enjoy working in challenging environments, working as part of a team, working with cutting edge technology, and like to get 'hands on' as part of their duties.

The skills required are:

- good physical and mental stamina
- an ability to multi-task
- being a good communicator, as well as being reliable and trustworthy.

Candidates should be between the ages of 18-45 although ex-military candidates may join beyond the age of 45.



By the very nature of its duties the Specialisation puts much emphasis on maintaining standards through regular and rigorous training. Weekend training takes place every month and qualification courses are generally run once per year. On average a new candidate can expect to achieve full qualification as an RNR Diver after two to three years. Members of the Specialisation can also expect to support NSRS TUP operations and will be required to commit to High Readiness Reserve (HRR) on completion of appropriate training. High standards of conduct are expected at all times from RNR Divers.

