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RCN SURGEON COMMUNICATION 01/16

1 Apr 16

GUIDE TO ENROLEMENT MEDICAL ASSESSMENT – PORT INSPECTION DIVER (MOS 00226) CANDIDATES

References:

- A. CFHS Instr 4000-04 Divers Periodic Health Assessment and Administration
- B. CFHS Instr 4000-24 Dysbaric Osteonecrosis in the CAF

1. This document is intended as a guide to CFRC medical staff, describing their duties in helping to complete an initial diver health assessment for applicants to the Port Inspection Diver MOS. Specifically, this involves preparing these candidates for a full assessment by an appropriately qualified diving medical officer (DMO), and assuring that their file has been favourably reviewed by the Consultant in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine (CDHM) in Toronto prior to enrolment into the Port Inspection Diver MOS.

Background

2. The Reserve Port Inspection Diver (PID) is the only diving occupation that can be recruited directly into the CAF. All other CAF divers either re-muster from another trade (e.g. clearance divers and SAR Techs), or acquire a diving qualification as an occupational sub-specification (e.g. ship divers, combat divers). Therefore the PID candidate is the only type of recruit candidate who must meet diving medical standards at the time of enrolment.

Process

3. PID candidates presenting to a CFRC must undergo an occupational fitness assessment IAW refs A and B. The medical personnel at the CFRC will not normally have the qualifications to do this, nor will the Recruiting Medical Office (RMO) staff. To meet these requirements, the PID candidate must be assessed by a DMO. CFRC staff will assist by arranging the preliminary tests and questionnaires required for an Initial Diver PHA, to be completed by the applicant and his/her family physician. The complete process proceeds as follows:

- a. Initial Diver PHA Part 1: preliminary tests arranged by the CFRC medical staff;
- b. Initial Diver PHA Part 2: full assessment performed by a DMO;
- c. Initial Diver PHA Part 3a: file reviewed by an ADMO; and
- d. Initial Diver PHA Part 3b: final file review by CDHM at CFEME.

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4. Once the above steps have been successfully completed the file can proceed to the RMO for approval of enrolment in the PID MOS. If the candidate fails to meet PID medical standards, they cannot be enrolled in this MOS. Notwithstanding, if they meet Common Enrolment Medical Standards (CEMS) they may be enrolled in another MOS.
5. CFRC medical staff is encouraged to become familiar with the references listed above.
6. Annex A provides CFRC medical staff with an *aide-memoire* in completing the Initial Diver PHA Part 1. This *aide-memoire* includes those things that must be done for initial diver candidates, additional to what is required for an enrolment medical. This *aide-memoire* does not replace the references, which remain the authorized standard for diver medical fitness.
7. Once the initial diver PHA Part 1 has been completed, CFRC medical staff should arrange for the candidate to be assessed by a DMO. This may be done in the most convenient and expedient manner, according to local conditions, normally by making an appointment with the nearest CAF health services centre.
8. A DMO is defined as a medical officer (or civilian physician employed by the DND) who holds a current qualification in Diving Medicine (qualification code ADWU or AEHI).

CFHIS Electronic Medical File

9. Candidates should bring a document or note showing their service number to their appointment with the DMO. There may be instances in which a file has not been automatically created in CFHIS (updated by HRMS), in which case the medical records staff at the clinic will be able to create a CFHIS file using the candidate's service number.

Provision of Care

10. Recruit candidates are not entitled to care under QR&O Chapter 34. Issues that may arise during their diving fitness assessment requiring medical care should be referred to the candidate's family physician.

Questions

11. CFRC medical personnel who may have specific questions about individual candidates are encouraged to contact their local or regional DMO. General questions regarding diving medical standards, which cannot be answered by consulting refs, should be addressed to one of the Consultants in Diving Medicine, whose contact information is available on the RCN Surgeon's webpage.

Annex A – Initial Diver PHA Part 1 Aide-Memoire

Annex B – Family Physician Letter Template

INITIAL DIVER PHA PART 1 AIDE-MEMOIRE

1. Documents to be completed by all diver candidates:
 - a. DND 2452 Aircrew and Diver Health Examination; and
 - b. CFHS Instr 4000-24 Annex A – Dysbaric Osteonecrosis Screening Instrument
2. Documents to be completed by diver candidates when applicable:
 - a. DND 2767 Recruitment Questionnaire – Asthma;
 - b. DND 2772 Recruitment Questionnaire – Headache; and
 - c. DND 2773 Recruitment Questionnaire – Seizures.
3. Tests to be performed by the candidate’s family physician:
 - a. Chest radiographs (3 views): PA inspiratory, PA expiratory, and lateral;
 - b. Spirometry;
 - c. Electrocardiogram;
 - d. Urinalysis;
 - e. Complete Blood Count;
 - f. Cholesterol profile including Total, HDL, LDL and Triglyceride levels;
 - g. Fasting blood sugar level;
 - h. Electrolyte profile;
 - i. Creatinine level; and
 - j. Hepatic function profile including AST, ALT, GGT and ALP levels.
4. The “Dear Doctor” letter template at Annex B may be used to request these tests listed at para. 3. It should be tailored to local needs where indicated. This letter has been written in such a way that information required from the candidate’s family physician as part of the general enrolment medical process may also be included.
5. The forms and tests enumerated above are to be completed in addition to the forms and tests required by the basic enrolment medical process. The basic enrolment medical process may proceed in parallel and the diving medical should be cancelled if the member does not meet minimum CF Enrolment Medical Standards. However, the candidate should not be enrolled in MOS 00226 as a PID until the Initial Diver PHA Part 2 has been approved by the CDHM.
6. CFRC medical personnel shall provide all relevant completed forms and tests results to the DMO in advance of the Initial Diver PHA Part 2. The member’s SN should accompany these documents.
7. Abnormal screening tests results should be followed up by the applicant’s family physician. CFRC and CFHS clinic medical personnel will direct applicants to their family physician as needed.

FAMILY PHYSICIAN LETTER TEMPLATE

Recruiting Medical Officer
[CFRC Address]

[Date]

[Family Physician Address]

Dear Doctor,

Your patient, [Mr/Ms PID candidate's name], D.O.B. [birthdate] has recently applied for admission to the Canadian Armed Forces Primary Reserve as a Port Inspection Diver in the Royal Canadian Navy. In order to determine [his/her] fitness for this occupation, we kindly request that you arrange for certain necessary tests and assessments, details enclosed. Please forward the results of these tests to the above address.

Note that any fees that may be required to complete this request are the responsibility of the applicant.

Divers in the Canadian Armed Forces are expected to work under conditions of physical and mental stress in remote and sometimes dangerous conditions. The requested information will be reviewed by a Diving Medical Officer charged with assessing medical fitness for diving with the Canadian Armed Forces.

Your assistance is appreciated. Thank you for helping to support [Mr/Ms PID candidate's name]'s application to be a diver in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Cordially,

["for the Recruiting Medical Officer" followed by CFRC medical personnel signature and signature block]

Enclosures [number of pages enclosed detailing the information and tests requested]