

Joint Hyperbaric Medical Officer Course (JHMOC)

Objective: Train select U.S. Army, other U.S. Uniformed Service, foreign military, and U.S. Government physicians and physician assistants as Hyperbaric Medical Officers (HMO). This course serves as the interagency federal program for HMO training.



NOAA Diving Instructor Sean Digre lies on the deck of a small boat during a diving rescue drill, as students surround him in a flurry of action. Photo credit: Zee Rosolek/ NOAA

This course is presented by the Army Diving Medicine Program in partnership with the NOAA Diving Program, the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Public Health Service. This course provides instruction in diving physics, diving and hyperbaric medicine, performance of diving duty medical examinations, hazardous marine life, aerospace decompression illness, medical direction of HMTs, and identification of diving diseases/injuries along with their appropriate treatment in an operational and prolonged field care environment. Initial training in the use of the Emergency Evacuation Hyperbaric Stretcher and other operational hyperbaric chambers is provided. This course includes limited diving familiarization training in open-circuit, closed-circuit, and surface-supplied techniques. The JHMOC is approved for 86 hours of Continuing Medical Education.

Duration

11 training days

Qualification

At the end of this course, students are qualified as HMOs in accordance with AR 611-75. The Joint HMO Course is accredited by the DMAC/EDTCmed as a Level 2D (Medical management of diving accidents and illnesses) course. Graduates of the course are not rated Divers nor are issued a Diver Badge.

Course Dates and Locations

The JHMOC is held concurrently with the Joint Hyperbaric Medical Technician Course. These courses are typically held twice a year in April and August immediately prior to the May and September NOAA Diver Courses at the NDC in Seattle. Dates and locations may change at any time. For specific upcoming course dates, locations, and application deadlines see the Upcoming Events calendar to the left, or the NDP Training Google Calendar.

Course Cost and Fees

There is no course fee to federal Civil Servants or Servicemembers. The student and/or their agency are also responsible for covering all costs related to lodging, travel, and per diem. Courses are not open to the public.

Equipment Requirements

No diving equipment is required to attend the JHMOC. Further information will be in the Information Letter provided to eligible applicants.

Prerequisites

Diver qualification is not required prior to attendance. Students must meet the following prerequisites prior to attending the Joint HMO Course:

1. Be one of the following:
 - a. A commissioned officer or civil servant physician with an operational or training requirement for HMO qualification.
 - b. A commissioned officer or civil servant physician assistant with an operational or training requirement for HMO qualification.
 - c. Nurse practitioners and other advanced practice nurses are not doctrinally assigned in the Army to support diving units. These personnel with an operational

or training requirement for HMO qualification may apply for attendance as an Exception to Policy, which is likely to be granted if validated by their service/agency.

2. Must successfully complete the following for enrollment:
 - a. Meet physical fitness and body composition standards appropriate to their duty status and service/agency.
 - b. Meet medical fitness standards for Diving Duty in accordance with their service/agency standards within 24 months prior to the start date of the scheduled course. All waivers must be adjudicated not later than (NLT) 30 days prior to the course start date in accordance with applicable service/agency procedures. All Army students must also be Class IIF/IIP Flight Duty qualified with an USAAMA-approved physical in AERO.
 - c. Maintain medical qualification and deployment readiness standards appropriate to their duty status and service/agency. Students must hold a current/valid state license as a physician or physician assistant.
 - d. Present a Commander's Validation Memorandum signed and dated not earlier than (NET) 60 days and NLT 30 days prior to the course start date, confirming that the individual has met the minimum prerequisites and has TDY funding available for the duration of the course. There is no course fee, but the ADMP does not centrally fund student attendance. Memorandum can be signed by the first O5/GS-14 equivalent in their Chain of Command (servicemembers) or Chain of Supervision (civil servants).
 - e. Deliver valid application documents to the Course Manager NLT 30 days prior to report date.

Exception to policy of the above requirements will be granted only by the Director, ADMP no later than 30 days prior to the start date. If there are concerns that the above requirements will not be met by this time, contact with the Course Manager is advised.

Requalification

In order to maintain qualification, the HMO must follow procedures appropriate to their service/agency. NOAA HMOs must maintain currency in accordance with procedures set by the Director of NOAA Diving Medicine.

Application Package

The NOAA Diving Center coordinates attendance within this Army-managed Joint Course only for NOAA-detailed USPHS personnel. Course slots are controlled with individual service/agency quotas. Contact your Service's Diving Medicine proponent for application procedures. General information may be obtained from the Army Diving Medicine Program at usarmy.jbsa.medcom.mbx.medcom-diving-medicine@health.mil