



Special Marine Operations / Hull Search

Course Objectives

Special Marine Operations is the internationally renowned three day (24 hour) training program for certified divers.

Special Marine Operations prepares public safety divers to locate contraband, explosives, and detect terrorist activities. This course also trains divers to safely conduct pier and hull searches on vessels currently conducting business in commercial oceans and inland waterways. This program is presented in the classroom, pool, and open-water to allow students to become familiar with the techniques prior to field scenarios. Successful completion of this program is measured in class participation and an end of program comprehensive test.

Key training topics and the associated objectives include:

REVIEW OF MARINE INCIDENTS AND ATTACKS AGAINST MARINE INSTALLATIONS

- Lord Mountbatten assassination
- Sea Shepherd sinking by French security
- Floating home-made mine found in San Francisco (Omega 7)
- Sacramento Canal threat to mine by anti-Russian protestor
- Attack on the Spanish Navy vessel Tabacka
- I.R.A. links to North America
- Aryan Nations operational plans for the Juan de Fuca strait

EXPLOSIVE RECOGNITION

- Define what is an explosive
- Explain blast effects
- Identify components of explosives: timer/switch/power/explosive
- Differentiate between military and improvised explosive devices
- Define operational protocol
- Identify placement of explosive on bridges and vessels and narcotics concealment
- Know relationship of narcotics and the fishing industry
- Explain how to spot potential narcotic carriers
- Identify rigging used by smugglers and boats
- Define armed shipboarding

PRIOR SEARCH TECHNIQUES

- Explain search techniques found to be effective in and around docks

HARBOR HAZARDS

- Describe diving in contaminated water including: sources of contamination, safety measures, and decontamination procedures
- Professional Protestors
- Define Greenpeace and the Sea Shepherd Society history, goals, tactics
- Identify direct action tactics
- List police responsibilities and preparation



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LEGAL REQUIREMENTS TO CONDUCT SEARCHES

- Know U.S. legal documents and procedures
- Understand searches on vessels of foreign countries
- Define international law and the International Marine Organization (IMO) requirements
- Describe when can you pursue

HULL SEARCH TECHNIQUES

- Know different vessel terminology
- Define full necklace and half necklace
- Identify hazards while conducting searches
- Describe support personnel duties and responsibilities
- Describe briefing and practical vessels and pier search with follow-up debriefing

THREAT ASSESSMENT

- Know where and how to get the information

VIP SECURITY

- Define role of dive team
- Describe sector sonar

BE SURE TO BRING

All students must bring: US Coast Guard approved PFD with knife and whistle, adequate clothing and protection from the environment and pen and paper for note-taking and sketching. Diving students must provide their own equipment: Scuba regulator: recently serviced and environmentally protected with alternate air source (i.e.: octopus, Air II, etc.), timing device, depth and submersible pressure gauges, BC with oral/power inflator, two tanks with current Hydro & VIP, mask, snorkel, fins, weight belt and two cutting tools (knife, wire cutters, or trauma shears.)



Special Marine Operations / Hull Search Schedule

DAY 1

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Registration, Introductions, and Course Review
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Classroom
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Classroom
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Pool Skills and Exercises

DAY 2

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Classroom
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Field Exercises

DAY 3

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Field Exercises
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Field Scenarios and Final Exam

Schedule is subject to change

PREREQUISITES

All students must be a member of a public safety agency and at least 18 years of age. Students must also read and complete a RSTC medical statement prior to attending class. Any diver answering yes to any contraindication must have the form signed by a physician. All diving personnel must provide proof of Dive Rescue I certification.

This program is designed for personnel who are physically fit. Participants are encouraged to participate after successfully completing the IADRS Watermanship Test or testing to a fitness level of 13 MET (Metabolic Equivalents) or greater. Participants with aerobic fitness questions or concerns should consult their physician prior to in-water training. Participants who have poor aerobic fitness may attend this program as surface support personnel with the approval of the instructor.