



**NEEMO 16**  
**Training Status Report**  
**Aquarius Reef Base, Key Largo, FL**  
**Friday, June 8, 2012**

**Overview**

The training week for NEEMO 16, the 16<sup>th</sup> mission of the NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO) program, has successfully completed. The crew finished their last training dive this afternoon with an exciting 45 minute dive to 60 ft alongside the Aquarius habitat. Spirits are high and the team is well prepared for the mission splashdown, which is scheduled for this Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.



*The NEEMO 16 Saturation Crew reviews safety procedures.*



*Crew members obtain familiarization with the new Superlite helmets.*

**Mission Preparation**

A core set of team members was in place throughout the training week making final preparations for the mission, including deploying equipment to the sea floor around the Aquarius habitat for the saturation crew to perform testing. A unique task circuit has been set up to evaluate different techniques for translation, sampling, and instrument deployment, including the use of Deep Worker submersibles, which simulate Multi-Mission Space Exploration Vehicles (MMSEV). On shore, the Mobile Mission Control Center (MMCC) complex has been set up and is ready to support offshore activities. Additionally, a science team has been hard at work in preparation for the science traverse portion of the mission, which will run in parallel with the saturation crew performing NEA exploration activities during the first several days of the mission.



*Dr. Steve Chappell verifies the setup of the circuit.*

## Dive Training



Portions of the week have been dedicated to dive training for the saturation crew as well as the topside support crew. The saturation crew has received training on scuba as well as on the SL-17 and SL-37SS dive systems that they will use on EVA from Aquarius. The topside support divers received dive training specific to the mission, passed through a skills test, and are now ready to assist the saturation crew in the execution of their mission activities.

*The Crew is checked out on scuba diving skills.*

We are looking forward to an exciting mission ahead of us to help posture NASA for the exploration of planetary asteroids. During this mission we will be performing many first-time tests, including an entire mission comm.-delayed environment, integration of the submersible vehicles with the crew, time-delayed public affairs and medical conferences, and a unique Just in Time Training (JITT) protocol, which is designed to provide video and photo procedural training to enable the crew to perform activities that they had not previously studied.



*The NEEMO 16 Crew (from left to right): Kimiya Yui (JAXA), Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger (NASA), Timothy Peake (ESA), and Steven Squyres (Cornell University)*

Splashdown for the crew is slated for 10:30 a.m. EST Monday morning. We hope that you will follow the mission at

<http://www.nasa.gov/neemo/>

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*The NEEMO Mission Management  
and Topside Support Team*