



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF - DIVE RECOVERY UNIT

**TEAM LEADER – RESERVE LIEUTENANT GARY REID**  
**TEAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER – RESERVE SERGEANT DAN JENSEN**



## TEAM MISSION

The Sheriff's Reserve Underwater Dive Recovery Unit is a sub branch of the LE department of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. We are responsible for the underwater search and recovery operations that have been directed or requested by the department. Being a county agency we cover the entire county of San Diego and our dive operations range from ocean recoveries to high elevation lake diving. As a primary response service, we are on call 24 hours a day and seven days a week. While we may be called upon to perform a dive recovery at any time, the majority of our dive operations will normally be conducted after normal working hours Monday thru Friday with the majority of our dive activities on Saturday and Sunday. Even though our main function for the department are dive recovery missions, we are called on occasion to assist in times of natural disasters such as the San Diego wildfires or to provide additional officer support for various functions that are held throughout San Diego County. Dive team members are sworn Reserve Deputies (you may start as a Citizen Volunteer, but you must become a sworn Reserve within 12 months). The Reserve Law Enforcement Bureau has a command structure that parallels the regular department, which provides the opportunity for reserve deputies to hold ranks including sergeant, lieutenant, captain and commander.

## BASIC REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN THE DIVE UNIT

- Posses a Dive Certification from a nationally recognized agency
- Must be 21 years or older at time of graduation from an academy
- Must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident who has applied for citizenship
- Have a minimum of a High school diploma or GED certificate
- Posses a current California driver's license. (MIL expt)
- Good physical condition
- Complete medical examination required (Before sworn)
- Vision must be correctable to at least 20/30 in both eyes
- Hearing must be unimpaired
- Posses a good moral character with no felony convictions
- Physically and emotionally able to perform LE duties
- Pass physical capability and psychological tests (Before sworn)
- Complete (at a minimum) the Level 3 Reserve Academy within 12 months after assignment on the team
- Military personnel should be assigned to area for at least 2 years

Conditions and waivers for the above requirements will be addressed on a case by case basis.

All applicants will receive an initial interview by the senior dive team staff prior to submission of application and background investigation packet.

While it is our expectation that you are a capable and safe diver, we do not expect you to be proficient in this type of diving without prior dive recovery experience. Our training program will provide you with the additional skills required to effectively and safely operate in this environment.

## TEAM DYNAMICS

We are a reserve organization therefore our team is comprised of many people from various backgrounds throughout San Diego County. Our team is comprised of current and retired military, layers, doctors, law enforcement officers from other agencies, fire department personnel, architects, and network engineers just to name a few. This multitude of diverse backgrounds has been the key note to our success as a volunteer agency.

Our team runs with the same chain of command that is used within the Sheriffs Department. A new diver will be assigned to a squad of four or five other divers. This squad will have a senior squad leader who is responsible for that particular group of divers. Each squad leader will report to the Dive Unit Executive Sergeant who will in turn report to the Dive Unit Lieutenant.

Any member of the team may bypass the chain of command when safety issues are identified where immediate action needs to be taken to prevent injury or loss of life

## COST OF BEING A DIVE TEAM MEMBER

As with any volunteer organization the bulk of the expense to participate in this type of activity falls on the individual team members themselves. Each diver is required to maintain their own complete set of diving equipment. We do provide cylinders and air for our dive operations. In addition to dive equipment the individual team member must also purchase uniform items such as shirts, pants, boots, and duty belt with individual accessories. All of these items can be purchased for around 500.00 dollars. Each year you will be permitted to submit a reimbursement for to the county that will repay you up to 250.00 dollars for items that you purchase in order to maintain your dive equipment. This reimbursement may not be used for Sheriff uniform items or ammunition.

## ATTENDING THE SHERIFF ACADEMY

Every member of the dive unit will be required to complete at least the level 3 portion of the academy. These courses are taught in the evenings on Tuesday and Thursday and all day Saturday. The classes will run from August – December. The reason that we as divers need to attend the academy are covered in two main functions. The first being that you must be a sworn officer to be on the dive team and you will be required to carry a weapon while in the performance of your dive duties. The second is that often times our recoveries are connected with criminal activity. While any of our new divers may find evidence, only a sworn dive officer will be the one to recover the evidence. Many of our dive operations will be part of a trial in our court system so the benefit of being a sworn officer will allow you to give expert testimony and maintain the integrity of the evidence.

## REMAINS RECOVERY



## EVIDENCE COLLECTION



## TEAM MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain a complete and ready set of SCUBA gear that can be accessible at all times.
- Perform routine maintenance check-offs per the annual monthly rotation schedule in order to maintain the team vehicle, boats, and other assorted equipment in operational condition
- Submit monthly hours and miles statements to document the resources you have used in the performance of your duties
- Complete required range qualifications every 90 days in order to maintain proficiency with your duty weapon
- In any given year each diver must attend at least 80% of the units scheduled trainings and recovery operations. We realize that everyone has a life outside of the department however; if you are not committed to this process this type of activity may not be for you.
- Attend an annual first aid/CPR class conducted by the unit
- Submit required reports as directed up the chain of command
- Attend at least 24 hours of P.O.S.T. educational classes each year as required by the department.

## DIVE CONDITIONS AND MEDICAL CONCERNS

Most diving will be in lakes and ponds within the County of San Diego – mostly Black water diving.

## DIVE STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

### Reserve Lieutenant Gary Reid

Phone: 619-988-6864

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### Reserve Executive Sergeant Dan Jensen

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### Reserve Deputy Ted Thompson (Training Officer)

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