



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
BEST AEROMEDICAL-DENTAL SQUADRON (USAF)
INCREDIBLE AIR FORCE BASE, USA

1 Dec 01

MEMORANDUM FOR 123 ADS/CC (LtCol Ima Kuhl, Jr.)
123 MDG/CC (Col. Fastern Eyu)

FROM: Roc Kohn, Capt., USAF, MC, FS

SUBJECT: North South Medical Center Monoplace Hyperbaric Chamber Inspection

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this trip was to inspect and visit the monoplace hyperbaric chamber at North South Medical Center and evaluate its utility for the treatment of United States Air Force personnel from Incredible Air Force Base if such a need should present itself. Incredible AFB has an altitude chamber training facility. On 1 Dec 01, two members of the 123th Medical Group/123th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron (ADS) and three members of the 123th Training Group/123th Training Support Squadron (TRSS) visited the facility located at 1234 N. South St. Anytown, XX. 12345. During our visit, we were met by Barbi Angel (CHRN credentialed Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) nurse), Chad Jammer (RT, CHT credentialed HBO technician), and Dr. Hi Pressure (credentialed HBO physician). We were also able to see one of the monoplace chambers in actual operation with a patient.
2. **TRAVELERS:** Lt. Col. Ima Kuhl (123th ADS/CC), Major Dean Wurmer (123th Physiology/CC), Capt. Roc Kohn (123th TRSS/Flight Surgeon/Site Visit Team Chief), TSgt. Mask Leaner (123th Physiology Technician), and TSgt. Sticky Agan (123th Flight Medicine NCOIC).
3. **DISCUSSION:** Prior to the visit, the team discussed the visit via conference call with Col. Gass Guru, hyperbaric medicine chief at Brooks AFB, Texas, for further criteria. The North South Medical Center hyperbaric monoplace facility met the criteria recommended by Dr. Guru and his team at Brooks AFB as published on their web site. The facility has 24-hour, on call emergency treatment capability, including one physician on call, one nurse on call, and one technician on call. The staff is familiar with approved decompression sickness (DCS) and HBO treatment tables including US Navy Standard Oxygen Treatment Tables 5 and 6. The nurse and the technician are in the facility during treatment and the physician is within the hospital during treatment. The chamber has the ability to pressurize beyond 60 feet sea water. Inspection and certification by the local fire department was up to date for this facility. Both monoplace chambers have Built-in Breathing System (BIBS) for delivering air breaks, controllable from the outside. Both chambers can deliver intravenous fluids via an infusion pump approved for use in this chamber and can deliver blood via an IMED pump approved for use in this chamber. There are several sealable ports for intravenous lines. One of the monoplace chambers can deliver treatment while a patient is on a ventilator. Once notified, the HBO team can stop a nonacute treatment within 5 to 7 minutes in order to treat an acute patient. The monoplace chambers are both Sechrist chambers and serviced at scheduled

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place chambers are both Sechrist chambers and serviced at scheduled intervals. The air source of the both chambers are on a pneumatic air system, so pressure can be controlled even during a complete power outage. The HBO facility has multiple back-up generators to complete any acute/critical treatments in the event of power failure. Both safety directors are familiar with the ASME/PVHO and NFPA standards. The staff of the hyperbaric chamber seems enthusiastic and eager to work with the staff of Incredible AFB if the need should arrive. They were very helpful with information on other hyperbaric facilities in nearby communities.

4. Key personnel phone numbers:
 - a. North South Medical Center Hyperbaric Medicine Department:
 1. Dr. One, board certified in hyperbaric medicine and pulmonology, (123) 456-7890.
 2. Dr. Pressure, board certified in hyperbaric medicine and hematology/oncology, (123) 456-7890.
 3. Dr. Rad Diver, board certified in hyperbaric medicine and radiation therapy, (123) 456-7890.
 4. Barbi Angel, RN, hyperbaric medicine credentialed nurse, (123) 456-7890.
 5. Betti Angel, MSN, hyperbaric medicine credentialed nurse, (123) 456-7890.
 6. Chad Jammer, RT, CHT, hyperbaric medicine credentialed technician, (123) 456-7890.
 7. Hyperbaric Medicine Unit: (123) 456-7890. After hours emergency (123) 456-7890 -- ask for the hyperbaric doctor on call.
5. CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS: Based on our visit and findings, we conclude that the monoplace chamber meets all requirements for use in a decompression sickness case or other urgent/emergent medical conditions in which this type of treatment would be appropriate.
6. OTHER: During our visit to North South Medical Center, we discovered that a hospital in Nearbi, XX. has a multiplace chamber that opened around a year ago. We will look into visiting this chamber at a later date. It is approximately 100 miles from Ourtown. There is no usable landing zone near North South. Any incoming patients being transported by helicopter will need to be transloaded to ambulance at Incredible AFB (or Ourtown Airport). Patients from Incredible AFB will go by ground transport, with ground transport time of about 30 minutes.

Roc Kohn, Capt. USAF, MC, FS

CC: AETC/SGPT
MAJCOM/SGP
Col. Gass Guru USAFSAM/FEH
Major Dean Wurmer 123th TRSS Physiology/CC
TSgt. Sticky Agan 347th Flight Medicine NCOIC
Mr. Phenceel Nekk, HBO Director, North South MC