

12-4 SURFACE-SUPPLIED HELIUM-OXYGEN DESCENT AND ASCENT PROCEDURES

The Surface-Supplied Helium-Oxygen Decompression Table ([Table 12-4](#)) is used to decompress divers from surface-supplied helium-oxygen dives. The table is in a depth time format similar to the U.S. Navy Air Decompression Table and is used in a similar fashion.



Figure 12-3. Dive Team Brief for Divers.

- 12-4.1 Selecting the Bottom Mix.** The Surface-Supplied Helium-Oxygen Decompression Table ([Table 12-4](#)) specifies maximum and minimum concentrations of oxygen allowable in the helium-oxygen mixture at depth. The maximum oxygen concentration is set so the diver never exceeds an oxygen partial pressure of 1.3 ata while on the bottom. The minimum oxygen percentage allowed in the mixture is 14 percent for depths to 200 fsw and 10 percent for depths in excess of 200 fsw. Diving with a mixture near maximum oxygen percentage is encouraged as it offers a decompression advantage to the diver. For operational planning, the range of possible depths should be established and a mixture selected that will meet the maximum/minimum specification across the depth range.
- 12-4.2 Selecting the Decompression Schedule.** To select a proper decompression table and schedule, measure the deepest depth reached by the diver and enter the table at the exact or next greater depth. When using a pneumofathometer to measure depth, correct the observed depth reading as shown in [Table 12-2](#). Ensure the pneumofathometer is located at mid-chest level.