

SUBMERGED:

They might look like scenes from out of a Hollywood science fiction movie but the photos on these pages are for real and they depict pure science.

It's an underwater experiment taking place in Metro. When four divers were locked in the Diving Research Facility (DRF) at the Canadian Forces Base in Downsview on March 3, they put their lives in the hands of "top-side" personnel.

For those involved there is no room for error. A simple miscalculation of the life supporting systems could cause injury or even death.

The Defence and Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine is conducting Canada's first deep research dive in the DRF—the world's deepest research complex of its kind. It is capable of simulating the ocean environment to a depth of 1,706 metres. The divers have gone through extensive

training since early January and became familiar with the equipment they are evaluating, such as the life support system and thermal protection suits.

The divers will also be evaluated on their bodies' reaction to physiological stress due to long exposure to a helium and oxygen saturated atmosphere.

On Sunday, a fifth diver will be sent into the dive and all will be brought to the surface eight days later, on March 16.



ELECTRODES are glued to leading seaman Bill Burton's head.



DIVER'S helmet allows two-way communication with surface at all times.



LIVING QUARTERS: Down on March 3, out on March 16.



DEEP-DIVE test facility is located at CFB Downsview

Sun photos by Mike Slaughter

LEFT: A dive team member checks out his mobility in the wet side of the chamber in experiments to test body reactions at a simulated depth of 500 feet.

FAR RIGHT: Warrant Officer Dirk VanEk, with electrodes and wires attached to his torso, leaves the living section of the hyperbaric chamber for a final check prior to the dive.

