

Author A.C. Frieden Visits Largest Hyperbaric Chamber in Illinois

PARK RIDGE, Illinois, USA (Oct. 26, 2013) – Thriller author A.C. Frieden and several of his diving colleagues from Underwater Safaris attended a seminar at the Advocate Lutheran General Hospital Hyperbaric Treatment Center, which hosts the largest hyperbaric center in Illinois. Dan Mazzolini, the respiratory therapist who runs the hyperbaric program, explained the range of diver-related problems that can be treated using the facility’s hyperbaric chamber. After the session, Frieden and other divers took a “dive” in the chamber. The 38-minute dive began with “descent” to an increased pressure equivalent to a submerged depth of 130 feet, and subsequently, during the ascent, the dive included a safety stop.



(Above) Author A.C. Frieden, who is also a divemaster candidate, stands at the entrance of the large hyperbaric chamber after the 38-minute “dive” to a pressure equivalent to an underwater depth of 130 feet.

“As a safety-conscious diver, I’ve always been interested in understanding the emergency procedures for treating dive-related injuries,” Frieden said. “Divers in the Chicago area should feel more at ease knowing this high-tech facility is here to help.”

In 2004, Lutheran General installed its new, state-of-the-art, computer-driven center, with the latest technological breakthroughs. The facility can provide treatment for 12 patients at a time, which is a significantly greater capacity than the other hyperbaric chambers in Illinois that are single-patient units. The center has been treating individuals with hyperbaric oxygen therapy for over 40 years. Hyperbaric treatment allows a person to breathe up to 100% oxygen while inside the pressurized chamber. The increased oxygen and increased pressure give ten to twenty times more oxygen directly into a person’s tissues, thus providing significant therapeutic effects, including for divers who suffer decompression sickness. In addition to treating dive-related illnesses, hyperbaric oxygen therapy is used to treat diabetic non-healing wounds, crush injuries, radiation tissue damage, carbon monoxide poisoning, gas gangrene and other ailments.



(Above, left) The roomy interior of the hyperbaric chamber; **(Above, right)** The chamber's control console.

About the author: A.C. Frieden is a Chicago-based fiction author, lawyer, pilot, divemaster, and former army sniper and biologist. His works include the Jonathan Brooks thriller series as well as other fiction and non-fiction books. For more info, visit his website at www.acfrieden.com and his blogs. His novels are published by Avendia Publishing (print) and Down and Out Books (ebooks).

About the Advocate Lutheran General Hospital Hyperbaric Treatment Center: More information about the center is available at www.advocatehealth.com/luth/hbo or by calling 847.723.5090.

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