

CHAPTER 2

AIRCREW AUTHORIZED CONFIGURATIONS

2-1. PERSONAL PROTECTION PROGRAM - GENERAL.

2-2. Aircrew personal protective equipment plays an essential role in the safety and survival of Navy and Marine Corps aircrew. It has been designed to meet both the demands of normal flight operations and the extreme stresses of the combat environment. Its primary function is to provide protection against the multi-environmental hazards aircrewmembers are liable to encounter in-flight. In addition, its design has included emergency escape and evasion design features. Different combinations of personal protective equipment are used to provide overall protection and comfort to the aircrewmember under various flight, emergency, and environmental conditions.

2-3. A challenge in developing authorized life support equipment is to find an acceptable compromise between comfort and the necessary level of protection. In many cases, optimum protection of aircrew personnel must take precedence. Emphasis has been placed on developing materials and clothing combinations that will improve in-flight and post-crash survival chances, specifically, to minimize injuries and prevent loss of life in case of an aircraft accident in a hostile environment. Thus, the range of flight gear authorized is based on maximizing comfort and mobility as much as possible, without sacrificing life-saving protection or safe operating capability.

2-4. Chapters 3 and 4 identify the authorized protective flight equipment, survival equipment, and clothing intended for the protection and use of aircrew personnel. Authorized flight equipment for aircrew are presented in the form of tables denoting which protective and survival equipment are authorized to be worn by a particular aircrew position on a particular aircraft. This revised format is distinctly different than the previous version, which presented authorized gear in the form of engineering drawings illustrating overland and overwater configurations. Similar to previous revisions, authorized life support equipment in these chapters show primarily man-mounted equipment. Items such as parachutes, leg restraints, and similar aircraft-mounted/carried flight gear are not shown.

2-5. All authorized aviation life support equipment listed in the tables are not required to be worn at all times on all missions. The tables are intended to show only what is available and authorized. With the exception of the contents of survival vests and integrated torso harnesses, no attempt has been made to delineate which pieces of flight gear should be worn on what missions, or the manner in which they should be worn, as in previous revisions of this manual. This information can be found in sections of the manual describing each piece of flight gear in detail.

2-6. The information in this manual is not intended to conflict in any way with the authority of the Chief of Naval Operations/NATOPS, but simply to delineate the latest personal protective equipment authorized for fleet use.

2-6A. AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT REPORT INSPECTION.

2-6B. Any Aviation Life Support System Equipment along with related subassemblies or equipment which have been recovered following use in an emergency ditching/bailout or ejection (refer to NAVAIR 13-1-6.2 for personnel and drogue parachutes) will be returned to the nearest Naval Supply Activity for shipment via traceable means to: Code 4.6.3.3, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Bldg 2187, 48110 Shaw Rd., Unit 5, Patuxent River, MD 20670-1906.

NOTE

Under no circumstances will any piece of Aviation Life Support System equipment which has been subjected to ditching/bailout or ejection be returned to service.

2-6C. Stencil outside of container in 1-in. letters as follows: THIS EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN USED IN AN EMERGENCY. These items of equipment are required for evaluation and determination of design deficiency and to establish requirements for product improvement.

2-7. AUTHORIZED AVIATION LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT.

2-8. AIRCRAFT/AIRCREW LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT TABLES. The lists of aviation life support equipment that are authorized for all aircrew are organized in tables in Chapter 3. The aircraft/aircrew tables are organized such that flight equipment nomenclature (grouped by type of gear) creates the rows of the table, and aircrew position within a particular aircraft comprises the columns in the table. An “X” in the appropriate column/row interface identifies that piece of flight equipment as authorized for that aircrew position/aircraft. Similar aircraft with their accompanying aircrew positions are, when feasible, grouped within the same table.

2-9. An attempt has been made to identify all the aircrew positions in all aircraft models. If a particular aircrew position or aircraft model is not listed, the closest applicable aircrew position/aircraft model to the missing position or model should be used to determine appropriate authorized life support equipment.

2-10. AUXILIARY LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT TABLES. Chapter 4 contains the auxiliary life support equipment tables. These tables list flight gear that is part of an assembly, or that is carried as part of a piece of flight or survival equipment listed in the aircraft/aircrew life support equipment tables presented in Chapter 3. Items in the aircraft/aircrew equipment tables which have this type of gear are denoted with a numbered footnote, which will list the corresponding auxiliary table for that particular piece of gear.

2-11. The tables listing the contents of the survival vests and integrated torso harnesses deserve special attention. Each table is divided into two sections: the “Required Items” section and the “Optional Items” section. The Required Items section lists all the required gear for a particular vest/torso harness. This

gear is further divided into primary and alternate flight gear. The primary piece of flight equipment is listed in the leftmost portion of the second column, and is the preferred piece of gear. Indented under certain of the primary flight gear are its alternatives. When the primary piece of flight gear cannot be procured, or the mission dictates otherwise, a piece of flight equipment may be chosen from one of the survival item alternatives. In any case, all flight gear listed in the required section, either the primary piece of gear, or one of its alternatives, shall be carried in the vest at all times.

2-12. The second section of the auxiliary table lists the optional gear that can be carried in the vest or integrated torso harness, as long as the 5 pound limit of optional gear is not exceeded. As in the previous section of the table, indented items in the second column are alternatives to the flight equipment listed above that item.

2-13. The third column in both sections of the table is titled “Comment” and includes important information on the piece of flight gear. In this column the phrase “(Alternative(s) Available)” denotes a primary survival item that, if warranted, can be replaced by an approved alternate survival item. These approved alternate items are denoted by the phrase “Alternative to Required ...” (first section) or “Alternative to ...” (second section). The Comments column also identifies the amount of a particular survival item that must be carried. The quantity of all survival items is one, unless listed differently in this column.

2-14. The Optional Items table at the end of Chapter 4 lists additional optional items to the optional flight gear listed in the auxiliary tables for survival vests/integrated torso harnesses. These items are not usually carried in a survival vest or integrated torso harness, but are authorized to be carried/used by all aircrewmembers. If the items are authorized via NAVAIR-SYSCOM message, the Comment column will reflect the latest authorizing message.