

# Mk-1 Life Preserver Updates and the M.O.B.I. Are Coming

In a message to type commanders, Naval Sea Systems Command 170530Z March 03 (NOTAL) announced changes to the Mk-1 life preserver to improve crew safety in response to Commander, Naval Air Forces, recommendations. The NavSea message states they will:

- Add the sea-dye marker to the Mk-1 allowance equipage list (AEL). However, funds to re-outfit existing Mk-1 preservers with sea-dye markers are not available from NavSea.
- Develop plans for fleet-wide introduction of the man-overboard indicator (M.O.B.I.). As part of this effort, the feasibility of adding a salt-water-activated light to the M.O.B.I. is being studied. Attaching the M.O.B.I. transmitter to Mk-1 life preservers is also being looked into.
- Revise maintenance requirement cards for the Mk-1 preserver to include the sea-dye marker. Updated MRCs will be distributed in spring SFRs. Action also will be taken to modify AELs and NSTM Chapter 077, Personnel Protection Equipment.

In an e-mail response to a fleet question, NavSea Code 05P6 (Mr. Mark Campbell) indicated, “The spring SFR will contain cards that show the new Stearns life jacket and where to put the accessories.”

In another NavSea message responding to a Mk-1 life preserver mishap report, ComNavSeaSysCom 171525Z March 03 (NOTAL) reaffirmed the above information and added that NavSea had conducted a visual inspection, a drop-test, and a submersion test on two samples of the distress-marker light (NSN 6230-01-411-8535). The drop-test consisted of dropping the distress-marker light into water three times from a height of 75 feet. The submersion test subjected the marker-light to a depth of 35 feet. Neither of the test marker-lights were damaged during the height and depth tests, and functioned normally after the tests. Therefore, the markers are suitable for shipboard use. 🌀



A fully outfitted Mk-1 life preserver shows the sea-dye marker pouch in the preserver's lower left pocket. The marker has been added to the float-coat's allowance equipage list (AEL).



This is a closeup of the sea-dye marker pouch. Updated Mk-1 life preserver MRCs, which include the sea-dye marker, are being distributed to the fleet through spring SFRs.