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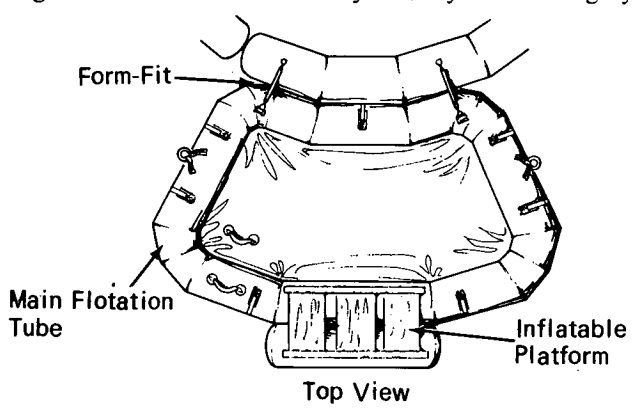
Brief 71-10167

NASA TECH BRIEF

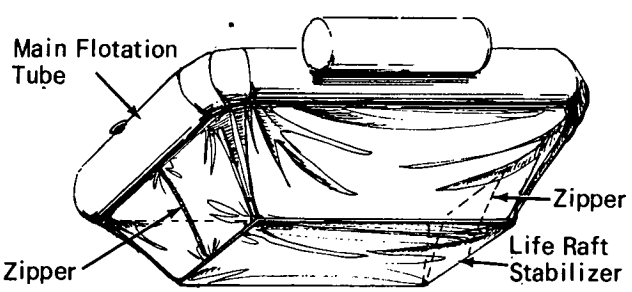
Manned Spacecraft Center

Stable, Inflatable Life Raft for High Seas Rescue Operations

An inflatable life raft capable of supporting seven men has been developed for rescue operations in high seas. The raft is easily deployed and highly maneuverable in water. Because of a specially designed false bottom consisting of water ballast containers attached to the underside, the raft provides an exceptionally stable platform from which swimmers can operate.



Top View



Bottom View

This false bottom (see fig.) is a large water-bucket arrangement reaching to a depth of approximately 0.9 m (3 feet). Zippers are used for filling the stabilizer and are closed upon complete deployment of the raft. The inflatable floor, composed of narrow-ribbed sections, provides a rigid working area for rescue operations. An inflatable platform tethered to the outboard side of the raft is used as a rest surface for rescue personnel during such operations. The platform allows for greater maneuvering room inside the raft itself.

During rescue operations, the raft can be attached to an external mooring. It can be form-fitted to establish a compatible interface which tends to reduce the jerking motion encountered in rough seas.

Note:

Requests for further information may be directed to:

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Reference: B71-10167

Patent status:

Inquiries about obtaining rights for the commercial use of this invention may be made to:

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