

Contributed by Tommy Trampp





U.S.A.T.
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Troop-Carrying Vessels To Get New Life Jacket

As a result of extensive tests, the yoke-type Kapok life preserver (see above) has been developed as a replacement for the CO-2 dual-tube life belt which in the past has been authorized for use of troops on troop-carrying vessels.

The new jacket may be worn either with or without pack, rifle and other gear, and is designed so that the pack may be removed without taking off the life preserver. Likewise the preserver can be quickly removed when the wearer reaches shore without disturbing the pack or other gear worn. It has sufficient buoyancy to support a man fully equipped with helmet, rifle, ammunition and pack.

The tie-tape at the neck of the preserver may be needed if the wearer is going to be immersed in choppy seas for a prolonged period. When the tie-

tape is used during landing operations, it should be tied in such a way that it can be slipped easily with one hand, even when wet. *It should never be tied in a square knot.*

When properly adjusted, the preserver will support the wearer with his face out of the water even if he is unconscious.

The joint BuShips-BuSandA letter announcing the new-type jacket (NDB, 30 June, 45-751) points out that it will be distributed, as available, only to troop-carrying vessels (in amounts equal to 105% of troop complement) and may not be issued except by the direction of ComServFor, Pacific. Special requests and requisitions should not be forwarded to BuShips or BuSandA.