



**WE SAVE LIVES FOR A LIVING**



## **AirForce<sup>®</sup> Owner's Manual**

**MD3025 Manual Inflation Pouch Model**

**USCG Approved Type V,  
Approved Only When Worn,  
Special Use Device**

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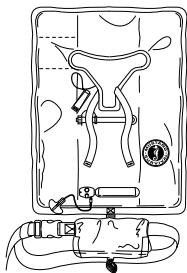
HT-1060 Printed in Canada (Rev 0802)

## DO NOT REMOVE PRIOR TO SALE.

This device will not inflate automatically upon immersion.  
Tab must be pulled to activate inflation mechanism.

## APPROVAL CONDITIONS AND CARRIAGE REGULATIONS

This inflatable PFD is approved by the U.S. Coast Guard for use as a Type V Personal Flotation Device (PFD). It is not approved for water skiing or other high impact, high speed activities. This inflatable PFD was designed to be more comfortable and less restrictive to wear than inherently buoyant PFDs. When worn, used, and serviced according to this owner's manual, this PFD can greatly increase your chances of survival in the water. Not recommended for non-swimmers or weak swimmers. Users of inflatable PFDs must be at least 16 years old.



A Type V PFD must be worn to count as an approved PFD.

## MANDATORY CARRIAGE REQUIREMENTS

Federal regulations in 33 CFR 175-1993 require you to carry Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) legibly marked with the Coast Guard approval number which are in good and serviceable condition and are the correct size for each person on board. To be considered serviceable, this PFD shall not exhibit deterioration that could diminish its performance such as broken or deformed hardware, detached webbing, rotted structural components, air leaks, or nonfunctional oral inflation tube. Unless worn, this PFD must also be properly armed with a full CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder, inflation system status indicator, and an accessible manual inflation lanyard. A PFD which is "approved only when worn" or "required to be worn" must be worn under the specified conditions.

## What is an AirForce® Air-only PFD?

While traditional PFDs are inherently buoyant, air-only PFDs like the AirForce® rely entirely upon inflation for buoyancy. Uninflated, the AirForce® is a comfortable, waist belt pack that can be inflated at any time with a 33 gram CO<sub>2</sub> gas cylinder. The AirForce® PFD is designed to meet the demands of a full protection PFD offering maximum mobility with minimum bulk. The AirForce® can be inflated either manually by jerking a pull tab, or orally by mouth. It is recommended that you familiarize yourself with the procedures outlined in INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

### Sizing and Fit

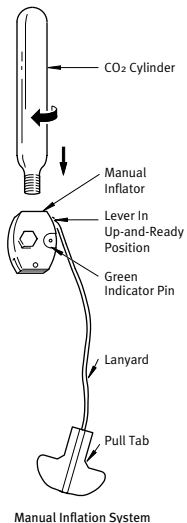
The PFD provides 33.7 lbs of buoyancy and is designed for wearers with a chest range of 30-52 inches weighing over 80 pounds.

## Check Your AirForce® PFD Before Using it

After purchasing your AirForce®, make sure it has an unused 33 gram CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder attached to the inflator mechanism (Fig. 1a).

Check the components and how to assemble the inflator by following these steps:

- 1) Undo the Velcro™ flap on the back side of the pouch to expose the bladder and inflator (Fig. 1b).
- 2) Unscrew and remove the CO<sub>2</sub> gas cylinder from the inflator and inspect its small end. If it is pierced, replace it! (Fig. 1c).
- 3) Make sure the manual lever is in the up-and-ready position and insert the green indicator pin if not already in place. Make sure the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder is screwed hand tight into the inflator (Fig. 1a).



Manual Inflation System

Fig. 1a

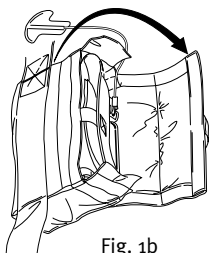


Fig. 1b

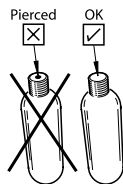


Fig. 1c

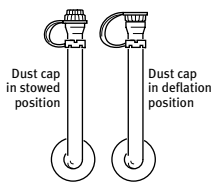


Fig. 1d

- 4) Check that the oral-inflation dust cap is properly in the stowed position (Fig. 1d)
- 5) Repack the bladder into the pouch (see “Repacking your AirForce® PFD”). Make sure the pull tab is hanging freely outside the pouch. If everything checks out according to the preceding instructions, your AirForce® PFD is ready for use.

## Donning Instructions

It is important that the PFD is properly adjusted to fit the person wearing it. An incorrect fit or improper fastening of attachments could impede its effectiveness.

- 1) All belts and straps are already threaded correctly and only need to be adjusted for fit. The MD3025 waist belt should fit securely below your rib cage.
- 2) Put the AirForce® Pouch PFD on just like a standard waist belt pack, and fasten the front buckle. Adjust waist belt to a snug, comfortable fit, and secure the belt's loose end in the belt loop. Do not wear AirForce® PFDs under clothing, as the inflation could be restricted, or you could be injured (Fig. 2, Steps 1 and 2).

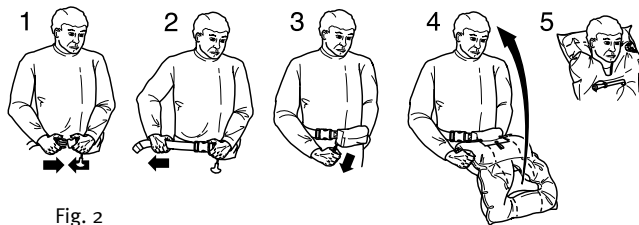


Fig. 2

## Deployment and Use of the PFD (Fig. 2, Steps 3, 4 & 5).

### Inflating then donning

- 1) Either pull on the yellow strap to bring out the bladder, then inflate orally.

Or

Pull sharply on tab to inflate.

- 2) Put over head.

### Donning then inflating

- 1) Pull on the yellow strap to bring out the bladder
- 2) Put over head.
- 3) Pull sharply on tab to inflate or inflate orally.

## Inflating Your AirForce® PFD

It is recommended that the following procedures are followed to inflate your AirForce®:

### 1) Manual inflation

Actuate the inflation system by jerking firmly downward on the pull tab. The PFD should fully inflate within 5 seconds (Fig. 3a).

### 2) Oral inflation

Properly armed and inspected, manual AirForce® PFD models will inflate. However, should inflation not occur, or in a non-emergency situation, you can fully inflate the PFD by mouth (Fig. 3b). To orally inflate the PFD, first pull on the yellow strap to bring out the bladder and locate the oral inflation tube on the wearer's left front panel of the PFD. Then remove the dust cap from the end of the oral tube and blow into the tube until the PFD is fully inflated.

**Information:** The carbon dioxide used to inflate PFDs will slowly permeate through the fabric cell over time. A slight reduction of pressure will be observed after several hours of inflation. Topping up by oral inflation may be required in the event of very prolonged immersion.

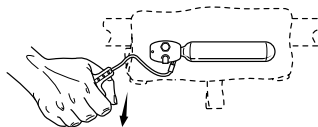


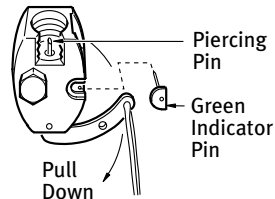
Fig. 3a



Fig. 3b

## Rearming Your PFD After Manual Inflation

- 1) Unscrew and inspect the CO2 cylinder. If used or damaged, discard the CO2 cylinder (Fig 1c).
- 2) Check the manual lever to ensure it is in the up and ready position with the green indicator pin properly installed. If the green indicator pin is missing or damaged, replace it (Fig. 4a).
- 3) Install an unused CO2 cylinder by screwing it into the top of the inflator and hand-tighten. Do not over-tighten, as this can damage the internal gasket.
- 4) Refold the PFD in accordance with the repacking instructions in the Owner's Manual.



Your PFD is now ready for use.

Manual Model

Fig. 4a

## Deflating the Buoyancy Cell

To deflate the buoyancy cell, reverse the oral-inflation tube dust cap and insert it into the valve or depress valve with fingertip. The dust cap will not lock in the deflate position so it is necessary to hold it in place (Fig.5). Gently squeeze the cell until all air or gas has been expelled. Put the inflation tube dust cap back in its normal position on the oral inflation tube (Fig.1d).

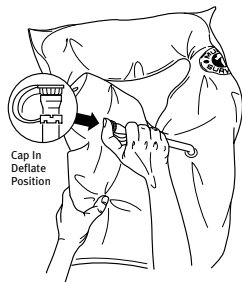


Fig. 5

## Repacking Your AirForce® PFD

Before repacking, completely deflate the inflation cell. Force excess air out through the inflation tube (Fig. 5). Do not wring cell. Put the inflation tube cap back in the normal stowed position (Fig. 1d).

**Note: Before following the repacking sequence, be sure to properly rearm your AirForce® PFD .**

Warning: Ensure the lanyard and pull tab are not twisted around the inflator or cylinder before re-packing. Ensure attachment webbing, between the bladder and pouch, is not twisted before re-packing.

- 1) Lay the bladder out on a flat surface with the inflator and oral tube facing the flat surface.
- 2) Fold the bladder into thirds using the dotted lines printed on the bladder. Start with Fold #1, then Fold #2. Ensure the tie tapes and whistle are folded in (Fig. 6a).

- 3) Starting at the top of the bladder, make your next fold at the dotted line screened on the bladder (Fig. 6b, Fold #3). Fold on the next dotted line (Fold #4). Continue folding the bladder toward the pouch (Fig. 6c).
- 4) Fold the bladder into the pouch with the inflator on top of the bladder (Fig. 6d). Ensure the inflator is positioned centered along the front of the pouch. Make sure the pull tab is hanging outside the pouch (Fig. 6e).
- 5) Secure the front of the pouch sides using the Velcro™ flaps.
- 6) Ensure the pull tab is threaded through the side and hanging freely outside the pouch.
- 7) Secure the main flap using the Velcro™ strip.

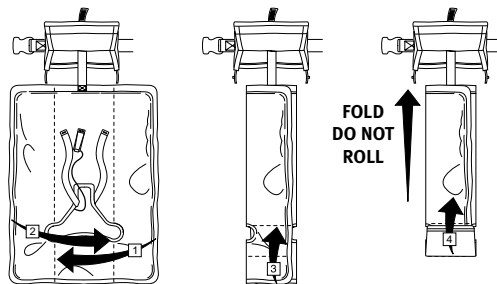


Fig. 6a

Fig. 6b

Fig. 6c

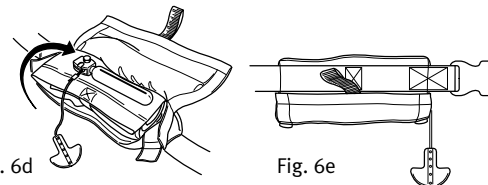


Fig. 6d

Fig. 6e

## Usage Below Freezing

When the temperature is below freezing, a fully discharged cylinder may not adequately inflate your AirForce® PFD. Do not use your PFD under these conditions unless it is already partly inflated. **Warning: CO<sub>2</sub> inflation could over-pressurize and damage your PFD if already fully orally inflated.**

## IS YOUR PFD IN GOOD AND SERVICEABLE CONDITION?

Check your PFD between outings to be sure that it is properly armed; that it is free of rips, tears or holes; that all seams are securely sewn; and that the fabric, straps and hardware are still strong. Inspect the inflatable portion of the PFD in accordance with the CARE AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

The buoyancy cell and inflation system should be checked at least every three months. In addition, the following maintenance should be performed after each time you wear or inflate the PFD.

- 1) Remove and inspect the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder from the inflator.
- 2) Check all components for dirt or corrosion. Clean or replace.
- 3) Check that the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder has not been pierced. Replace with AirForce® 33 gram CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder if necessary (contained in AirForce® accessory pack MA7170.)
- 4) Check the manual lever to ensure it is in the up and ready position with the green indicator pin properly installed.

- 5) To check the oral inflation valve, fully inflate PFD and hold valve under water. If bubbles appear, deflate and reinflate to test again. Should the leak persist, take your AirForce® to your dealer for proper servicing.
- 6) Visually examine your PFD for damage or excessive abrasion, wear, tear or contamination. Particular attention must be paid to the stitching. If in doubt, send it to your Mustang dealer for evaluation and/or servicing.
- 7) Reassemble inflation system parts and repack PFD as outlined in previous instructions and illustrations.

**Leak test:** Every three months the PFD should be tested for general leakage by orally inflating your AirForce® until firm and let stand overnight. A leaking PFD will not hold its firmness and should be replaced.

**Warning: If you are not confident in the self inspection and servicing of your PFD, in accordance with these instructions, take your AirForce® PFD to a Mustang dealer for professional servicing or contact Mustang Survival (see contact information on back of manual).**

## AirForce® by Mustang Safety Accessories

MA-7170 33 gram CO<sub>2</sub> replacement cylinder and green indicator pin.

## Cleaning and Storing Your AirForce® PFD

To clean your inflatable PFD, remove the CO<sub>2</sub> gas cylinder. Hand wash or sponge down in warm, soapy water and rinse with clean water.

Hang to dry on a plastic coat hanger. Be sure to replace CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder. See **Rearming Your PFD After Manual Inflation**.

Always store your AirForce® product in a warm, dry place out of direct sunlight.

## WHY ARE PFDs REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT?

Drownings are the leading cause of fatalities involving recreational boating. A PFD provides flotation to help keep your head above water, help you to stay face up in the water, and increase your chances for survival and rescue. Most adults only need an extra 7 to 12 pounds of flotation to keep their heads above water. The proper size PFD will properly support the weight of the wearer.

Since this inflatable PFD does not have inherent buoyancy, it provides flotation only when inflated. Familiarize yourself with the use of this PFD so you know what to do in an emergency.

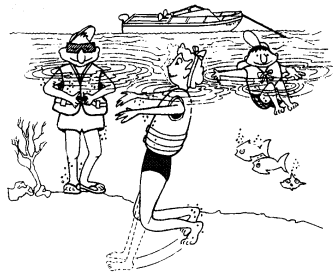
## How and Why to Test your PFD

Inflate your PFD and try it out in the water to:

- Make sure it floats you:  
Comfortably (when worn properly)  
Adequately for expected wave conditions  
(Body shapes/densities affect performance)
- Make sure it works:  
A flow of bubbles should not appear (see **CARE AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS** for leak tests)  
It should inflate quick and easily.
- Learn how it works by:  
Activating the CO<sub>2</sub> inflation system  
Rearming the CO<sub>2</sub> inflation system  
Using the oral inflator tube

The U.S.Coast Guard recommends that you purchase two rearming kits. One to be used immediately in testing the inflation system (see **HOW DO YOU TEST YOUR PFD USING THE MANUAL INFLATOR?**) and the other to carry on board as a spare.

The only check of the manual inflation system (with CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder and green indicator pin removed) would be to determine that the lever arm and piercing pin move freely when moving the lever (attached to the pull tab) several times down and up.



## How do you Test your PFD using the Manual Inflator?

- 1) To test your inflatable PFD, you will need:
  - Your fully armed PFD, and
  - Rearming kit approved for your PFD.
- 2) Put on the PFD.
- 3) Actuate the inflation system by jerking firmly downward on the pull tab. The PFD should fully inflate within 5 seconds.
- 4) Get into shallow water, just deep enough that you can stand with your head above the surface.
- 5) See if the PFD will float you on your back or just slightly back of vertical. In a relaxed floating position, verify that your mouth is well above the water's surface. Note the effect of where you hold your legs on how you float.
- 6) Get out of the water and remove the PFD. Remove the used CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder from the PFD inflator. Completely deflate the PFD using the oral inflator.
- 7) Let the PFD dry thoroughly. REARM AND REPACK the PFD in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions!

## How do you Test your PFD Using the Oral Inflator?

- 1) To test your inflatable PFD, you will not need any spare parts, or rearming kits.
- 2) Remove the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder, to prevent inadvertent activation of the manual inflation system which could potentially damage the PFD. Inspect the threaded end to confirm it is unused.
- 3) Put on the PFD.
- 4) Get into shallow water, just deep enough that you can stand with your head above the surface.
- 5) If you are a weak swimmer or non-swimmer, inflate the PFD partially so that you are supported well enough to be able to complete inflation without touching bottom, either orally or manually. Note this level of inflation because it is the minimum needed for you to safely use this inflatable PFD.
- 6) Fully inflate the PFD using the oral inflator.
- 7) See if the PFD will float you on your back or just slightly back of vertical. In a relaxed floating position, verify that your mouth is well above the water's surface. Note the effect of where you hold your legs on how you float.
- 8) Get out of the water and remove the PFD. Completely deflate the PFD using the oral inflator.
- 9) Let the PFD dry thoroughly. REARM AND REPACK the PFD in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions!

## WEAR YOUR PFD

In approximately 80 percent of all boating fatalities, the victims were not wearing a PFD. Most fatal accidents happen on calm sunny days. This inflatable PFD is much more comfortable to wear than other PFD types. Get into the habit of wearing this PFD. Non-swimmers and children especially should wear a hybrid or non-inflatable PFD at all times when on or near the water.

## HYPOTHERMIA

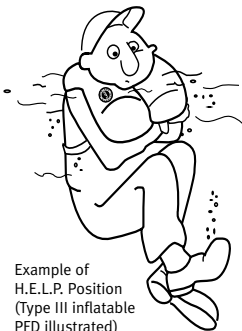
Prolonged exposure to cold water causes a condition known as hypothermia – a substantial loss of body heat which leads to exhaustion and unconsciousness. Most drowning victims first suffer from hypothermia. The following chart shows the effects of hypothermia:

HOW HYPOTHERMIA AFFECTS MOST ADULTS		
Water Temperature °C (°F)	Exhaustion or Unconsciousness	Expected Time of Survival
0.3 (32.5)	Under 15 min.	Under 15 to 45 min.
0.3 to 4 (32.5 to 40)	15 to 30 min.	30 to 90 min.
4 to 10 (40 to 50)	30 to 60 min.	1 to 3 hours
10 to 16 (50 to 60)	1 to 2 hours	1 to 6 hours
16 to 21 (60 to 70)	2 to 7 hours	2 to 40 hours
21 to 27 (70 to 80)	2 to 12 hours	3 hours to Indefinite
Over 27 (Over 80)	Indefinite	Indefinite

PFDs can increase survival time because they allow you to float without using energy treading water and because of their insulating properties. Naturally, the warmer the water, the less insulation you will require. When operating in cold waters [below

60°F (15.6°C)] you should consider using a coat or jacket style PFD or a Type V Thermal Protective PFD as they cover more of the body than the vest or belt style PFDs. Some Points to Remember About Hypothermia Protection:

- 1) Always wear your PFD. Even if you become incapacitated due to hypothermia, the PFD will keep you afloat and greatly improve your chances of rescue.
- 2) Do not attempt to swim unless it is to reach a nearby craft, fellow survivor, or a floating object on which you can lean or climb. Swimming increases the rate of body heat loss. In cold water, drown-proofing methods that require putting your head in the water are not recommended. Keep your head out of the water. This will greatly lessen heat loss and increase your survival time.
- 3) Use the standard H.E.L.P. position when wearing an inflatable PFD, drawing the legs up to a seated position, because doing so will help you conserve body heat.
- 4) Keep a positive attitude about your survival and rescue. This will improve your chances of extending your survival time until rescued. Your will-to-live does make a difference!
- 5) If there is more than one person in the water, huddling is recommended while waiting to be rescued. This action tends to reduce the rate of heat loss and thus increase the survival time.



Example of H.E.L.P. Position (Type III inflatable PFD illustrated)

## **EACH OF THESE DEVICES IS INTENDED TO HELP YOU SAVE YOUR OWN LIFE**

For your PFD to function properly, follow these suggestions to verify that it fits, floats, and remains in good condition.

- 1) Check the inflation mechanism status indicators before each use.
- 2) Get in the habit of rearming the inflation mechanism right after each inflation.
- 3) Try your wearable PFD on and adjust it until it fits comfortably in and out of the water.
- 4) Mark your PFD with your name if you are the only wearer.
- 5) Do not alter your PFD. If it doesn't fit properly, get one that does. An altered device is no longer Coast Guard approved.
- 6) Your PFD is not intended for use as a fender or kneeling pad.
- 7) If your PFD is wet, allow it to dry thoroughly before storing it. Store it in a well-ventilated area.
- 8) Do not dry your PFD in front of a radiator or other source of direct heat.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you need more information about PFDs and safe recreational boating, contact your state boating authority, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadron, Red Cross, or your nearest unit of the U.S. Coast Guard; or call the CG Customer InfoLine at 1-800-368-5647 or the free boating course number 1-800-336-BOAT (in VA, 1-800-245-BOAT).

## **DO NOT ATTACH PFDs TO YOUR BOAT**

Each PFD has straps, hooks, buckles, or other means for securing the device in place on the wearer. Some PFDs also incorporate decorative dee rings or tabs. Such items are not to be used to attach the device to the boat. Attaching the device to the boat will not permit it to perform as intended.