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GEMINI FLOTATION COLLAR

The Gemini Spacecraft Flotation Collar was developed primarily to permit safe entry into the spacecraft and to provide a relatively stable work area prior to retrieval of the craft. It also ensures extended flotation capability for the space craft in the open sea.

The collar consists of a rubberized fabric flotation tube fitted with a webbing sling in the center on which the spacecraft is supported. The tube is "form fitting" around the space craft and has thirteen replaceable chafing pads to prevent the spacecraft from rubbing against the tube. When inflated, the tube is about 19 inches in diameter and can support approximately 3,800 pounds of submerged weight.

The Gemini flotation collar shown on the Lunar Landing platform is an operational collar which was used in one of the Gemini flight retrievals.