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**AFCESA**



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## **TARGET AUDIENCE: Environmental, Operations, & Engineering Flights**

# **THE MCU-2/P PROTECTIVE MASK RETURNS TO THE USAF INVENTORY**

### **SYNOPSIS:**

The MCU-2/P mask, which was replaced by the MCU-2A/P mask beginning in 1990, is returning to the Air Force inventory.

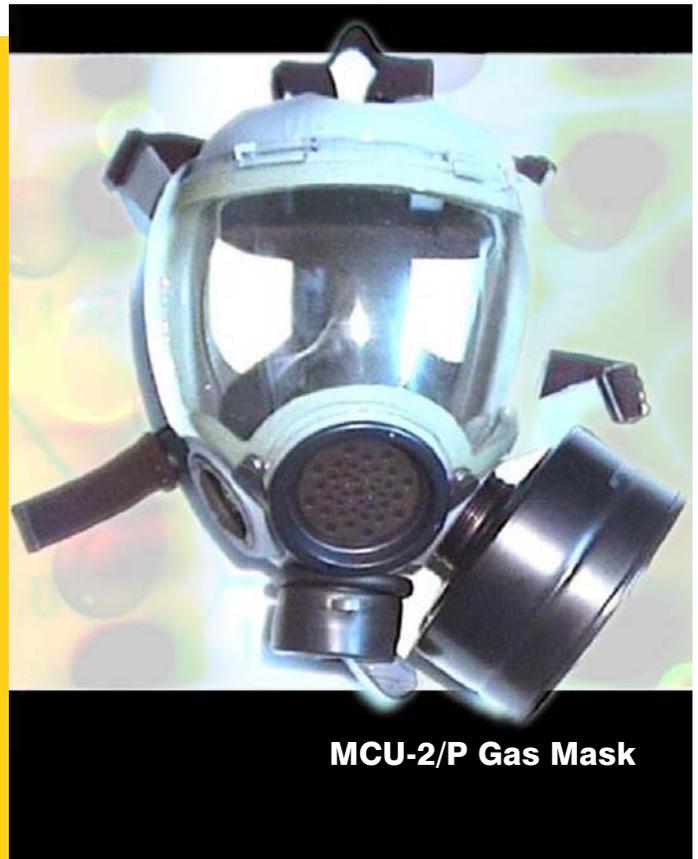
### **DETAILS:**

Beginning with the FY03 mask contract, production will revert exclusively to the MCU-2/P mask. The MCU-2A/P version will no longer be produced, although it will remain in the inventory and will continue to be an operational asset. The primary difference between the two versions of the mask was an added microphone connector assembly and smaller front voicemitter on the MCU-2A/P. Mask surveillance testing conducted worldwide since FY97 has shown that the microphone connector assembly represents a failure point (when damaged) in an increasing number of MCU-2A/P masks. Due to advances in technology which have produced external mask communications capabilities that no longer require a connector assembly, and because the assembly poses an increased risk of mask failure, it was decided to discontinue its use in new-production masks.

The new-production MCU-2/P masks will have a blue-tint eyelens that offers UV protection, improved clarity, and reduced lens discoloration due to aging. Improvements have also been made to the outlet valve assembly to include improved tightened thickness tolerances to help reduce rare valve disk collapse incidents. New production MCU-2/P masks can be identified by the manufacture date stamped on the lower side strap of the mask (circular stamp medallion). The top two numbers in the center of the stamp identify the production year. All new production masks will be stamped with "02" or higher. It is imperative that all old production MCU-2/P (not MCU-2A/P) masks be immediately removed from service and demilitarized if found. These were to be removed from service many years ago but are still being located from time to time. Air Force Technical Order 14P4-15-1 is undergoing an extensive update to reflect these (and other) changes. The production of the new MCU-2/P mask is programmed to continue through the fielding of the Joint Service General Purpose Mask, which is scheduled to begin in FY06.

### **CONTACT:**

For questions or additional information on MCU-2 series masks, you may contact Mr. Troy Stalvey at HQ AFCESA or Mr. Earl Duck at WRALC/LESGF. Mr. Duck may be reached at DSN 468-7046 ext 126 or earl.duck@robins.af.mil.



**MCU-2/P Gas Mask**