WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of forming an in situ temporary barrier within a gas turbine engine, the method comprising:

installing an inflatable device within the gas turbine engine, the inflatable device having a backbone and an inflatable bladder, the inflatable bladder having an elongated connection with the backbone that extends between a first end point on the backbone and a second end point on the backbone, wherein the second end point is spaced along a length of the backbone from the first end point; and

inflating the inflatable bladder with an inflating fluid such that the inflatable bladder forms a seal along a fluid path of the gas turbine engine.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the backbone comprises a flexible and inextensible material.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder is inflated within an annular chamber that forms at least a portion of the fluid path, and wherein the seal formed by inflation of the inflatable bladder is an annular seal.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein after inflating the inflatable bladder with the inflating fluid such that the inflatable bladder forms the seal along the fluid path of the gas turbine engine, the method further comprises:

performing a foam wash of the gas turbine engine.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the backbone includes a first segment and a second segment coupled together by a connection member, wherein the inflatable bladder is connected to the second segment but not the first segment.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the backbone is formed of a material having a flexural modulus in a range of about 100-1000 ksi.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the backbone is formed of a material having a tensile strength of greater than about 46 MPa.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the backbone is formed a single continuous piece.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder has a longitudinal length, and a free section of the backbone, wherein the backbone extends beyond the longitudinal length of the inflatable bladder.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the backbone has at least one flat surface, and the inflatable bladder is not connected to the at least one flat surface.

11. The method of claim 3, wherein installing the inflatable device within the gas turbine engine comprises:

inserting a free section of the backbone through a first access port of the gas turbine engine that provides access to the annular chamber, the free section of the backbone being a section of the backbone along which the inflatable bladder is not connected; and

moving the free section of the backbone around the annular chamber along a circumferential direction defined by the gas turbine engine.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the free section of the backbone is moved around the annular chamber along the circumferential direction more than three hundred sixty degrees.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein installing the inflatable device within the gas turbine engine further comprises:

retrieving the free section of the backbone through a second access port of the gas turbine engine that provides access to the annular chamber; and

moving the inflatable device further along the circumferential direction such that the inflatable bladder extends annularly or traverses or extends at least two hundred seventy degrees (270°) through or around the annular chamber.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein moving the inflatable device further along the circumferential direction such that the inflatable bladder extends annularly or traverses or extends at least two hundred seventy degrees (270°) through or around the annular chamber comprises:

pushing a portion of the inflatable device that extends externally from the annular chamber and from the first access port such that the inflatable device moves further into the first access port; and

pulling a portion of the free section that extends externally from the annular chamber and the second access port further out of the second access port.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the backbone has a bladder support section and a free extension section, the bladder support section being a section of the backbone to which the inflatable bladder is connected, the free extension section being a section of the backbone along which the inflatable bladder is not connected, the bladder support section being positioned between the free section and the free extension section, and wherein the portion of the inflatable device that extends externally from the annular chamber and from the first access port that is pushed is the free extension section.

16. A method of forming an in situ temporary barrier within a gas turbine engine, the method comprising:

installing an inflatable device within an annular chamber defined by the gas turbine engine, the inflatable device having a backbone and an inflatable bladder connected to the backbone, the inflatable bladder being formed of an expandable or foldable material, wherein installing the inflatable device within the annular chamber comprises:

guiding a free section of the backbone through a first access port of the gas turbine engine and circumferentially through the annular chamber, the free section of the backbone being a section of the backbone along which the inflatable bladder is not connected;

retrieving a portion of the free section of the backbone through a second access port of the gas turbine engine so that the portion of the free section is positioned external to the annular chamber; and

moving the inflatable device by performing at least one of pulling on the portion of the free section extending from the second access port external to the annular chamber and pushing on a portion of the inflatable device extending from the first access port external to the annular chamber so that the inflatable bladder extends annularly or traverses or extends at least two hundred seventy degrees (270°) through or around the annular chamber; and

inflating the inflatable bladder with an inflating fluid such that the inflatable bladder forms an annular seal within the annular chamber.