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To:

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Happiness is a belt fed weapon



Locked...Cocked...Ready 2 Rock

Volume 1. Issue 3
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Fellow Gunners,

Boo-ya boys! Stop the presses, it's a three-peat yo! Hell yeah, the third edition of *LCR2R*. Word about this little venture is spreading. I was even approached by a lovely One Charlie asking to be on the mailing list. Considering my audience I must clarify that I'm not talking about Cookie. Yes...no other then the Kell-Bell asked to be on the list of recipients. I immediately told her she was not allowed, as she is not a gunner or a honorary gunner. Considering we often see gunners naked someone may want to nominate her for such recognition.

Eventually someone will nominate a person to become a honorary gunner. If you do nominate someone please have a plan to conduct a small ceremony. The benefits are endless...the person will be included in all gunner functions, receive the coveted *LCR2R* and of course be able to walk around with an increased amount of pride and dignity.

Everyone knows that gunners kick ass. Air brushing cool designs on the flight helmets of departing gunners, kicks ass! Designing gunner t-shirts that piss off FE's and pilots, kicks ass! Creating a newsletter, kicks ass! Shooting people who are shooting at you, kicks ass! Going high-rate for a good 20 seconds, kicks ass! Doing a "beach run" and spotting boobies, kicks ass. Having an "office" that includes a .50 caliber machine gun, kicks ass! So why do I mention all of this? Mainly it's because as I write this I have 4 pints of Guinness in me and I like to say "kick ass!"

Remember that each of you have an opportunity to submit stuff to *LCR2R*. I often hear a lot of good ideas thrown out to me...but the best thing I can say is "run with it yo." In closing I'd like to point out that on the front page of June's newsletter there was a hidden message just like in this month's edition. The first person to tell me what they are wins a drink compliments of your editor.

—ROWYCO
AC Smith

Inside this issue:

Jackass Award	Pg 2
SnapSHOTS	Pg 2
Featured Article	Pg 4-6
Gunner News	Pg 7
Gunner History	Pg 8-10
Trivia and Special News	Pg 11

Jackass Award

This month there was a fierce battle between recipients. Each contestant's skills and techniques are unique. One utilizes e-mail to emphasize their jack-assery while another gave a class to convey it, the other merely flew his check ride and finally just breaking the rules (and getting caught) will earn you this prestigious award.

SSgt Jordan Ziroli

Jordan has earned the coveted Jackass Award by several different means. First, he was able to lose his base driving privileges for 90-days by receiving several moving and parking citations. He feels as if it's OK to drive his shitbox at high rates of speed and then park in spaces reserved for generals. Secondly, he was smoked by A1C Hughes during ground gunnery training. It almost seemed as if Jordan didn't know the difference between a minigun and a .50 cal. And lastly...Jordan was given a practice test with a special bonus question. His answer proved why we love to play cards with him...he thinks that 4 of a kind beats a straight flush.

SSgt Eddie Haskell

Eddie has earned the coveted Jackass Award for putting a number of people through hours of pain and misery. A short re-cap will fill in the smart ones who decided to indulge in "CAASS LEAVE" for this Ground Gunnery debacle. Sir Edward Haskell III volunteered to give a ground gunnery class to show the leadership he was just the new motivated instructor they were looking for. Edward spent a whopping 5 minutes altering a 2 hour WIC brief that he thought would suffice. Eddie stuttered, stumbled, and staggered through 90 minutes of monotone monologue. The class abruptly adjourned when it became apparent that A1C Shaun Hughes knew more than SSgt Haskell. Edward was left to pick up the pieces on his own. A slight grin arose from his befuddled face as the class filtered out. Somehow he knew in the back of his mind he had won this coveted award. He, He, He, He, He, You're gonna hate me!

SSgt Bill Birt

Bill "Bravo Foxtrot" Birt earned the coveted Jackass Award for single handedly creating the most drama the gunner corps have experienced in years. Through a single e-mail he started what seems as another season of *As The Pave Low Turns*...the longest lasting soap opera known to mankind with a variety of stars that now include, at least temporarily, Bill "Bravo Foxtrot" Birt.

TSgt John Stott

John "Flak Bait" Stott earned the coveted Jackass Award for being 2 hours into his check ride but mentally he was still hanging out in the Blade. While the rest of the crew was pounding an LZ he kept on asking people if they wanted anything from the snack bar. He wasn't just "behind" he could tell the crew if there was any inbound traffic on Mildenhall while shooting guns over the Wash. Well that's a bit of an exaggeration...one can't really say having your mini jam each time you attempt to fire "shooting." Seems as if John took his booster motor cannon plug off during pre-flight because "I don't want to damage it by stretching the wires when I take it off"...John re-installed the plug as if he actually put the square wooden block into the round hole.

Trivia

1. As you are well aware, when the firing pin strikes the primer of a .50 cal bullet a controlled explosion takes place, how much chamber pressure is created per square inch inside the cartridge case?

2. Back in the day, what was used to improve the reliability of .50 cal machine guns when conducting high altitude bombing runs where temperatures would drop to below 50 degrees Fahrenheit? And we complain when it gets cold.

3. When fired bullets tend to drop. This is due to the Law of Gravity and not necessarily poor shooting. All objects drop at a standard rate. What is the standard rate gravity? How many feet will a round drop after two seconds?

4. Who was the first enlisted person to be awarded the Medal of Honor during WWII and what his job?

5. What was the nickname of the aircraft that dropped the second atomic bomb? When and where was it dropped?

6. How many more calories do two pints of Guinness have compared to two pints of Coors Light?

Special News

The birds and the bees: Bill Birt proved he knows how to take care of business on the home front. He and his lovely wife will welcome a new addition to the B-Lo family. Yep...Bill was just poking fun one night but Sam took him seriously. This mission is said to last 9 months with an infill expected to take place in February 2006...what that means to most of us is that we will have a designated driver throughout the holiday season.

Finally off probation: Eric Weidanz has done his time. The year long wait is over and on July 1, 2005 he pinned on Master Sergeant. Any day now we expect life support to "find" an extra set of NVG's just lying around. Welcome to the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer tier.

Gunner History

E-mailed from Ed Hux

Lessons from Vietnam Helicopter Crewmembers

1. Once you are in the fight, it is way too late to wonder if it was a good idea.
2. Helicopters are cool!
3. It is a fact that helicopter tail rotors are instinctively drawn toward trees, stumps, rocks, etc. While it may be possible to ward off this natural event some of the time, it cannot, despite the best efforts of the crew, always be prevented. It's just what they do.
4. NEVER get into a fight without more ammunition than the other guy.
5. The engine RPM, and the rotor RPM, must BOTH be kept in the GREEN. Failure to heed this can affect the morale of the crew.
6. Wives are off limits, girlfriends are not.
7. Cover your Buddy, so he can be around to cover you.
8. Letters from home are not always great.
9. Share everything. Even the Pound Cake.
10. Decisions made by superiors will seldom be in your best interest.
11. The terms "Protective Armor" and "Helicopter" are mutually exclusive.
12. The further away you are from your friends, the less likely it is that they can help you when you really need them the most.
13. If being good and lucky is not enough, there is always payback.
14. "Chicken Plates" are not something you order in a restaurant.
15. If everything is as clear as a bell, and everything is going exactly as planned, you're about to be surprised.
16. Loud sudden noises in a helicopter WILL get your undivided attention.
17. The longer you stare at the gauges, the less time it takes them to move from green to red.
18. Everybody's a hero on the ground in the club after the fourth drink.
19. No matter what you do, the bullet with your name on it will get you. So too can the ones addressed "To Whom It May Concern".
20. Gravity may not be fair, but it is the law.
21. If the rear echelon troops are really happy, the front line troops probably do not have what they need.
22. If you are wearing body armor, the incoming will probably miss that part.
23. It hurts less to die with a uniform on than to die in a hospital bed.
24. If something hasn't broken on your helicopter, it's about to.
25. Thousands of Vietnam Veterans earned medals for bravery every day. A few were even awarded.
26. Combat pay is a flawed concept.
27. If you are allergic to lead it is best to avoid a war zone.
28. It's a bad thing to run out of airspeed, altitude, & ideas all at the same time
29. Flying is better than walking. Walking is better than running. Running is better than crawling. All of these however, are better than extraction by a Med-Evac, even if this is technically a form of flying.

SnapSHOTS





Help AC with his goal of early retirement...these displays are for sale by owner. $150 (L) $85 (R)



Two gunners and a token FE walk into a bar...this bar just happens to be the home of Guinness. The Gravity Bar overlooking Dublin (Mar 05). A really nice place to spend 7 hours of one's life.

Bigfoot Sightings



Pacific northwest, 1967



Africa, 2005

Not only is this scary...it's even scarier when this monster climbs in and out of the cockpit. (That's flight deck for you Seemore)



The 21st SOS Gunners and a few gunner wanna-bees (JB, Hoye, and Kast) got together and presented Seemore Butts a Pavelow model so he doesn't forget where he came from as he tackles his new career as a C-130 FE. John Stott completed TCTO 69-69-2005 or what's better known as...Gunners Fucking Rule!

Featured Article

By Loren Butts

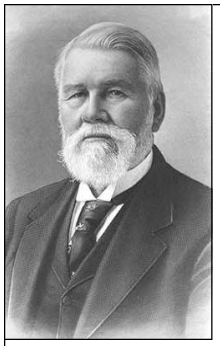
I've wanted to write something for the newsletter for awhile now and it looks like the moons have aligned for my chance. John Stott has taken a break from writing a column about badass Huey gunners so someone else could have a crack at it. He's now focused on where the right scanners window is on the H and U model gunship. I have my "Battle Axe" cold brew here and this $2K Playstation, (laptop). My other Battle Axe is out doing sit-ups in her Ranger panties wondering why there isn't any ST guys in front of her. I hope to share some kind of wisdom with you and some witty banter or analogy (only thing that word is missing is an "r" between the o and the g, right Foss?). Shortly, I will be leaving the gunner corps for God knows what, but I'm humble enough to know I will not be part of the something that I love being a part of.

I think in the end I'd rather just talk about some of the experiences I've had and what makes gunners cooler than the boom operator I see at the commissary just staring at me and the scarf. Yes, dude...your old lady will be thinking about me and my gunner brothers tonight while she's riding you like some kind of possessed hyena on catnip. I have been doing this long enough to know that a large percentage of Air Force people, let alone civilian, have no idea that we exist. Some of you guys have been on spouse day flights when, let's say, a pilots wife will come up to you after the flight and says, "I don't think your mother would appreciate you hanging off the ramp like that." Think what their faces would look like if I said, "Well, your husband is the one flying and I'm scared shitless of that more then I am of falling out." Or when you have some incentive flight finance or OSS guy on the back seats and you turn the .50 cal so it's pointing 90 degrees to the side and let it rip. You know they are back there shitting their pants about how loud that is. But I don't brag because you guys know me, I'm quiet…until deer hunting season begins, if you don't know what that means you'd better ask somebody.

I never understood the real legacy and history of being a helicopter gunner until about midway through my first year at the 31st SOS (God rest her evil, juicy girl filled, wallet emptying, 1 dollar hootch beer, dark soul). I started learning about the true history of 53 gunners starting with all the squadrons we have now taking it to the VC in Vietnam and saving a few pilots along the way. "You VC!-me no VC!-you VC!, anyway, enough Platoon, but really there is some proud heritage before us and if you get some time off from squadron clean-up and death by meetings, look through the photo albums and read the books located upstairs. You'll be in awe of the job you have being that it's nearly the same job as those dudes had. The 31st had a real live hootch that I know all but maybe the newest guys have heard about. I loved it, complete with the standard stolen things from every country which was violated by the squadron. There was illegible writing on every inch of it, girls' panties, good LOUD music, hazing of the new guys, so on and so on. What an experience that I wish all you guys could have shared. No cars and no families, complete with groupies, O's and E's kissing and hugging for the "Song" and drunkenness on a massive scale. My first experience in there involved our very own, then Capt Stanley, for New Years of 2000. He came strolling in highly intoxicated and he had shaved, in big letters, Y2K in the top of his head and colored it yellow. He then proceeded to head butt me and everyone else, as well as the top of the hooch several times…makes you wonder doesn't it? It's that night and every one like it since that make me so glad that I made the decision to cross train into becoming an aerial gunner. Foss and Jens threw a Christmas party over there that I still laugh myself to sleep whenever I think about it. I learned a lot in Korea but it didn't really hit me until I got to the 21st that I might be asked to do what I had been training to do. OIF kicked

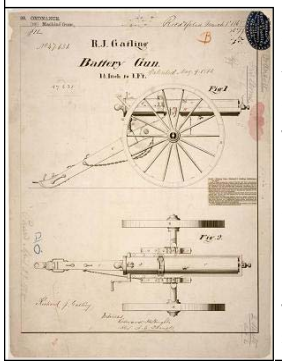
Gunner History

By AC Smith

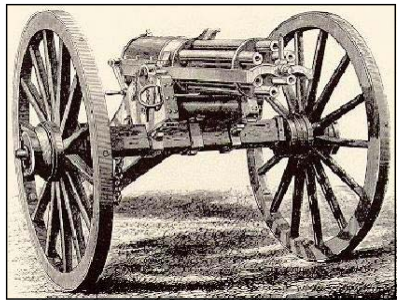


Dr. **Richard Jordan Gatling** Sept 12, 1818 – Feb 26, 1903 was an American inventor, best known for his invention of the Gatling gun, the first successful machine gun. Gatling graduated from Ohio Medical College in 1850 but was more interested in continuing his career as an inventor than in practicing medicine. He invented the Gatling gun after he noticed the majority of dead returning from the American Civil War died of illness, rather than gunshots. In 1877, he wrote: "It occurred to me that if I could invent a machine - a gun - which could by its rapidity of fire, enable one man to do as much battle duty as a hundred, that it would, to a large extent supersede the necessity of large armies, and consequently, exposure to battle and disease [would] be greatly diminished."

Info derived from Encyclopedia Wikipedia



He founded the Gatling Gun Company in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1862. The company merged with Colt in 1897. In the interim he further developed the device, and while experimenting with improving gatling guns he made a electric motor powered one, creating the first minigun. Miniguns and electric powered gatling cannons of various size would go on to be used as aircraft weapons on airplanes and helicopters starting in the later half of the 1900s, as well as on some ground forces. The hand-cranked gatling gun was declared obsolete by the United States Army in 1911, though machine driven Gatling Guns (miniguns) would see use again later that century.



Six-barrel 1 inch Gatling gun; 1865



The UH-1 could carry one or two (or even more) Miniguns on various mountings, with as much as 12 000 rounds of ammo available for "immediate delivery to enemy".

Gunner History

By AC Smith





GET SOME: An old adage states "a picture is worth a thousand words" and it's never more prominent within these photos. Take a moment and view each photo in detail. Try to put yourself in that time frame. Think about how they depended on their comrades for survival. You have two separate generations sharing a simple commonality; *it's either them or me*. Although the missions of yesteryear may be quite different from the missions we are currently asked to perform; the same sentiment, *it's either them or me,* still exists. Did they bring honor to their country? Did they defend their freedom and future freedoms? Did they change the course of history and/or world society? In today's fight we can ask the same questions about ourselves and the answers would most certainly remain the same...hell yes! Do you see yourself in these photos? You most definitely should. We share the same traits of those that have come before us...in spirit, attitude, willingness, friendship, espirt de corps, hate, anger, pride, drunkenness, buffoonery, etc. Do not forget that we share an awesome heritage. Our forefathers deserve our utmost dedication and commitment to the legacy they created. A legacy built in and out of the aircraft.

Featured Article

Still by Loren Butts

off and I slept underneath my minigun in the left window for three days before the first tent arrived. There's my welcome to war story brothers, each of us have one that we just shake our head at when you hear it. It was an intense time and I wouldn't trade it for anything.

All those visceral experiences are what makes this job unmatched compared to any enlisted flyer job, there's no doubt in my mind about that. With that in mind it was really hard for me to make the call to change career fields but I don't have any desire to fly anything else as a gunner and the Pave is coming to an end. It should work out, if not, I'll just be the guy at your party that laughs too much at Stott's jokes, although I'll be there a little later then 7:30, the time when John tucks his tail under, gets in the car, proclaims in his drunken SPM (Sexual Prowess Miss-estimation) to his lovely, massively tolerant and patient wife..."what I'm going to do to you when we get home…." 3 minutes later he's snoring in the car and drooling more than Madison.

Lastly, I wanted to share with everyone some of the great and interesting people I've met since I've been around. These are in no order and not all are gunners. You all probably know at least one on the list. The list is meant to poke fun at certain situations which may not have been funny at the time or may not be funny now. I'll buy a beer for the first person that gets all of them correct, but you have to hurry, I leave July 9th. I'll leave "Senior" Smith the answers to all but # 3 for next month's issue.

1. This guy while sleeping in the hallway of a hotel in some Eastern bloc country, being woken up with the gentle slap of a fuzzy foreigner, awoke in a rage and mauled the gentleman with the two cinder blocks hanging from his arms that I call hands. These actions earned him an all expense paid train ticket back to England where he was properly reprimanded. Who is it?

2. Another fine aviator while intoxicated decided that the van he was riding in might spontaneously explode and jumped out of the side door. He managed to stop himself on a dime. That dime happened to be pavement and his brakes were various parts of his face. Who is it?

3. This one is kind of gross and offensive; if any one gets it I'll buy two shots of Jaeger for the both of us. If no one knows I will not tell anyone who it is (so this is a gimme for the contest). One night a horny Sgt FE was downtown at the Batman bar in Osan. The Batman had the finest girls in town or something like that. Sgt FE "bar-fined" (a.ka. purchased) the most unpleasant during the day but "soju fine" at night young lady and took her back to the hotel for some "me-da" lovin'. Well, she forgot to mention during the price barter that she was on her monthly cleansing. Sgt FE brought honor to himself and the squadron by showing this lady a good time anyway, but in the process of some unorthodox positions managed to get some unpleasantness on him. He eventually met back up with us and much to our surprise he looked a little different. I thought he had got his ass kicked by some Korean special forces guy or something. He didn't even know he was covered head to toe. We laughed about that for months.

4. Who burned a toothbrush box for light over a mattress of paper with a flashlight hanging from his bed? I will never forget that...ever. Easy one.

Featured Article

Yep still by Loren Butts

5. Sgt "Turbo" FE while break-dancing at the G-club after the 1st Scottish Dining-in was politely asked to leave after his kilt flew up and all the ladies and guys gasped in disgust as the uncovered "man parts" flung around like a limp noodle. Who is it?

6. While starting up the ole' BBQ grill for some tasty eats the impatient gentleman wanted the fire to start a little easier and added some "miracle water" to the mix. The subsequent explosion put second degree burns on most of his face and hands which became a safety day topic for months. Who was it?

7. This pilot, drunk at the Christmas party, decided the elegantly decorated fake tree was eyeing him like Na-Anthony does Stott. After much building of courage he crossed the room in a full sprint and form-tackled the tree completely across the dance floor. The club staff shit kittens right where they stood. He ended up paying $60 bucks for the tree but it was worth eight times that much in humor capital. Who was it?

8. Being late sucks especially when you pull out to pass the lorry that's doing 50 in your shitbox BMW that does 51. You then hit a car head on that's driven by a little old British lady. Because you were not wearing your seatbelt you gash your head and lip wide open so you need stitches over the stitches you previously got from starting a fight at a pub the week before where you got your friend a broken nose. Who was it?

9. At another dining-in event this guy had a moral dilemma about how drunk he was and decided...out with the bad and in with the good. He vomited in a trash can in front of the squadron and everyone, with a half-eaten corn dog in one hand and his middle finger up on the other one. Classic picture still floating around somewhere. Who was it?

10. Last but not least, this was the most difficult one; I thought I had 10 Darwin's. Oh yeah I'll call this one "Ace the Mechanic." While spouse was deployed to war the car starts to run funny. Remembering the instructions, "check the oil often", this person unscrews the cap on top of the motor and sees that the oil is very low. 2 gallons later it fills to the lip and this person feels pretty good about themselves until a start attempt is made and the car runs really rough for a few minutes and then stops with a loud bang and fizz. Yes, boys this happened! Who was it? Don't think too hard on this one.

Anyway, I wish you guys all the best. Little Rock is where I'll be. I'll probably not do very much deer hunting there. I'll always keep my scarf in my flight suit pocket and I will certainly always remember all the good times. To quote an infamous gunner..."Isn't this great?" — Pavelow Leads, Loren



Seemore stares at a book while aboard a C-130 so he doesn't have to chat with Scott Burns. As he pretends to read he is saying to himself "Damn, I hate riding in 130's...geezze look at the belly on that loadmaster! That's like Jim Gary and Foss put together; thank goodness I'm not a 130 fag...Ooopss I wonder if anyone will smell that"

Gunner News

Next Van Gough? All he needs to do is to cut his ear off. Pictures certainly don't do these helmets justice but John Stott continues to hook up departing gunners by air brushing their old flight helmets. These are bad ass! John doesn't do this for just anyone and it says a lot for Seemore and Brad as they are truly kick ass gunners and NCO's.



Diamonds are a Burns best friend: Yes the same thing was said last month but this time it's official. Last month's news of Scott being accepted to become a First Shirt was a bit premature (hee, hee, hee...premature). Scott thought he was jinxed but that's not the case (the AF will take anyone). After school he will be the Shirt for the 95th Reconnaissance Squadron located on RAFM. Oh boy...we will still have the pleasure of seeing that grey haired old man most likely telling far fetched war stories of his far fetched Pavelow glory days.

Moving on up: We are proud to announce that the following Pave gunners have been selected for promotion: To TSgt— Dan Courson, Eddie Haskell, Jose Gonzalez, Mason Minich, Charles Scott (Peanut) To MSgt— Jim Herrick, Rick Hunter (both at Recruiter Duty), Ron Diego, Jon Lacquement, Lyle Stevens, Bob Strong, PJ Wright.

Eaton's lifestyle change: No, Will Eaton (Metro replacement unit) hasn't announced he has come out of the closet (at least not yet). He has put down the cigarettes and picked up the running shoes. Within 6 weeks he has progressed from 4 mile runs, to 8 miles, then an 11 miler and has topped off at 16 miles. He's certainly on his way to join the Gunner Marathoner Club with a goal to run the Air Force Marathon (Sept 05). So who's next?

I have a dream: But what if 3 other people have the nearly the same dream? Brad, AC, Corey and Roger Bowers (token FE) think it's f*!^#*g weird that's what! They weren't even sleeping in the same bed (Corey's toe nails kept scratching the others...so they left). All 4 guys dreamt that they started playing poker one night and didn't stop until 1200 the next day. The game turned to *guts* and a few pots were up to $900.00. It's a bit sketchy as to who the big winner was but in each dream Corey ended up being the big fat loser with a pay out over $800. Corey's sure glad it was just a dream!

Put down that beer and grab a book: Well let's not go that far but a new initiative is soon to take place within the gunner corps. You will see at least one offer per month for gunner professional development. The first opportunity (for those left in town) will be an Effective Writing class held at Lakenheath on 8 Jul 05. Once again this can be left up to our imaginations. Trips to museums and the American cemetery come to mind.