

## How many uses can we find for a 40mm shell...?

### From Vince Marrasso

As anyone can remember if you ate at the Thai restaurant one could be sure of a trip to the Flight Surgeon for NO S--- PILLS. I was DNIF for 3 days, couldn't stand it, {so I} told the Flight Surgeon I was good to go.

So late that night over the trail I had this terrible urge. Everyone knows if you use the Honey Bucket, you clean it. I cheated, stuck a Duffle bag in the bucket. There we were merrily shooting up the trail with me on the bucket. Air dropped the Duffle bag over the trail with some 20mms for ballast.

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### From Bob Woods

*"As anyone can remember if you ate at the Thai restaurant one could be sure of a trip to the Flight Surgeon for NO S--- PILLS."*

Lomatil, the greatest asset to aircrew, I never had that much problem with the Thai restaurant, but the BX snack bar did me in a few times.

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### From Rich Silva

One night there was a sensor operator (this was back in the wild and wooly days of the Plain Janes) who also felt the urge to fertilize the Trail. He also used an ammo bag and was doing well until the jettison phase of the operation.

We see that he was going to throw low off the ramp and we all knew that you had to throw high because of the wind wrapping around the ramp edge. I'm sure that he thought that as an *osiffer* he knew more than a bunch of Neanderthal gunners gesturing wildly.

He threw the bag down and it returned to his face. When he requested the pilot RTB the FE (who was monitoring us) {told} the Boss what REALLY happened. The AC told junior to clean up the best he could and live with it until we were Bingo or Winchester. Talk about a shitty attitude after that.

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**From Larry "Lil Pete" Peterson**

"War Stories - 40 mm cans are better"

God bless the 40MM cans, they worked better as a port-a-potty, easier to sit on. They sealed up real good too. Just think... someday some gook will see that can open it up and it will be just as fresh as the day it was canned!!!!

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**From Jim Spier**

This one is too good not to expand on.

When the first Gunship with the 105mm installed arrived at Ubon none of the Gunners were trained on it. They flew in a couple of NCOs from the 1st Air Cav in Nam to train some crews and check them out. Of course they had to fly the trail to train us and one of them we named "Tiny" for his huge build. He had a bad case of the Ubon trots over target and the gunners told him to get a 40mm can and use it and chuck it. They meant the can that was used to hold four clips.

Tiny grabbed a spent 40mm round out of the barrel and tried to hit that silver dollar size hole. Things were pretty bad and went down hill from there.

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**From Steve "Kid" Raddigan**

*"Tiny grabbed a spent 40mm round out of the barrel and tried to hit that silver dollar size hole. Things were pretty bad and went down hill from there."*

I hope it had a chance to cool off first!!

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**From Dave Burns**

Steve, I was on that mission, and there was shit all over the place! When we landed at Ubon, we beat feet double-time as we just knew that the crew chief was going to go ballistic. We made it [to]the gerty, but he caught up with us. The boy was some kind of pissed! You should have seen the fingers pointing at Tiny.

Tiny was from Oklahoma and I went to see him when I was in smart school in Norman. He ran for sheriff in his hometown and won!

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**From Kid Raddigan**

I was also going to bring up the 40mm cans after reading the posts.... yes the difference progress can make ...The wipe and toss dual purpose can, no scratchy canvas, no fuss, no flush, no mess and no shitty attitudes in the gunners' section.

I am sure we would have shared that info with the *occifers* if they asked, but I was a two stripper: they wouldn't ask me.



**From Larry "Lil Pete" Peterson**

As I remember they didn't fly with us very long they thought we were all nuts, flying in circles and all that AAA. Speaking of 571, has anybody heard from Jake Jacobs?? Have not heard from him since 2003 reunion.



**From Bob Kindred**

One of the interesting things about the 40s, I thought, was the engraving on the breech blocks. I saw several from " Brooklyn Navy Yard, 1944." I believe there was one stamped 1942.



**From Jim Spier**

I didn't go through Lockbourne on my first tour, was already at Ubon loading snake eyes. I wormed my way into the unit and was OJTed by Jim Paris.

I went through Lockbourne on the way to my 2nd tour to get trained on the 40mm. The first day of class the instructor showed a slide and asked if anyone knew what it was. I answered 4 rounds of 37mm and not accurate. He asked how the hell I could tell they were not accurate. I told him the way they were spread out and the fact of who ever took the picture lived to develop it. He moved on.



*A final thought...*

**From Clyde Gowdy**

I have a bracelet (KIA) made from a 40 MM shell fired during Desert Storm. My last IO student. Dave's first student (IO/Loadmaster) was lost on Spirit 03 over Kuwait. Dave was his replacement. After his first mission Dave made two brass bracelets from a 40MM shell, using a leatherman tool, had the same engraved w/Spirit 03. I mailed mine to Gunner Jack (Korea). After it was gold filled, he returned it to me at the 1993 reunion in Las Vegas. Gold filled allows me to wear it without it turning my arm green. It is a special gift, one I treasure very much.