

THE LADER

Official Newsletter of the Professional Loadmaster Association

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Friendship Through Airlift



Professional Loadmaster Association
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In This Issue: Cabin Reports, serving- Report, Chapter Danny Secretary, Reports, Brewer, Treasurer, GoL Articles, "The Loader" Registration information, PLA Editor and Merchandise, East Coast Sponsors, Service after Scholarship VP Information

CABIN REPORT

By Kathy Disney

Cabin Report Hey Load! Hope this edition of the Loader finds you all happy and well in 2023! Hard to believe...2023! I'll start this Cabin Report with several announcements. First, we're having another Gathering this year in Little Rock, Arkansas, August 16-20, including travel days. Thank you, Rock Chapter for hosting again! This will be the third time The Rock has hosted a Gathering. They always do



a fantastic job at putting together a professional and fun conference! The Gathering will be held at the Marriott Hotel downtown Little Rock and registration is available now. We're holding the Gathering this year to line up with PLA national elections. If you are interested in running for a position, please let us know. We need to publish bio's/nominations and election ballots in July issue of the Loader. We are also need a new Webmaster. Andrew Lloyd has done an amazing job with our website and database. Huge THANK YOU!! He was extremely pivotal in the transition from managing memberships via excel spreadsheet to a database which has brought this organization to the professional level it deserves. I am so appreciative of all he has done! Big shoes to fill, but if you, or anyone you know, is interested in this position please let me know. We hope to have it filled and announced at this year's GoL. Scholarships are due April 1st . More information can be found at Scholarships (wildapricot.org) The scholarship is available to all PLA members and family. We award five scholarships annually totaling \$3500. We continue this scholarship program, largely due to many generous donations. Thank you to all who donate! If you would like to donate please go to Professional Loadmaster Association - Donate (wildapricot.org) where you can choose where you wish your donation to be applied (Scholarships, Gathering, Advertising, General, etc.) Annual Awards are due March 31st . Information can be found at Loadmaster Of The Year (wildapricot.org) We try to use the same format as the Air Force's Red Erwin Award, although it's hard to keep up with Air Force changes! Please be patient as we work out the format for this year's awards. We are always looking for Loader sponsors, whether national companies or local. The Loader is mailed and emailed to individuals all over this country and overseas. We offer low cost opportunities for not only businesses, but also those individuals wishing to turn their hobby into a stream of cash. My last announcement – The Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Association (TC/TAA) is having a reunion at Branson MO on May 17 – 20, 2023. Deadline for hotel rooms in Branson is 10 April 2023. Please contact Ralph Bemis at rtbullwinkle@yahoo.com for interest. I used up all my space for this Cabin Report. Hope you see you in Little Rock, Load Clear!

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The Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) was formed in the State of Washington as an active membership organization for an exclusive group of professionals recognized as Loadmasters. The PLA is organized and governed by a duly-elected Executive Committee of past and present Loadmasters. In March 1997, the State of Washington issued a Certificate of Incorporation declaring the Professional Loadmaster Association a nonprofit organization. PLA membership is comprised of and limited to current and former military and civilian Loadmasters who have flown as Aircraft Loadmasters performing aircrew duties on transport aircraft. A newsletter titled "The Loader" shall be published three times a year to inform the membership of Loadmaster participation within the airlift community and the association's current & future business activities. The use of "The Loader" newsletter is voluntary. Any comments, views, opinions, or advice expressed in this newsletter are solely the opinions of the individual who expresses them and should not be construed as reflecting the position, views, or policy of the PLA, or its executive members. Neither the PLA nor its current or former agents, members, executive members, employees, officers or representatives shall have any liability or responsibility for any use of or reliance upon any comments, views, opinions or advice expressed in this newsletter or information gained through this newsletter, including but not limited to liability or responsibility for any direct or indirect omission or negligence. Users of this newsletter agree, in advance, to hold harmless and indemnify the PLA and its agents, members, executive members, employees, officers and representatives from and against and with respect to any and all claims, damages, liabilities, losses and expenses, without limitation, arising from or related to any comments, views, opinions or advice expressed in this newsletter or information gained through this newsletter, and agree to the above terms in this paragraph.

Cover Photograph: Senior Airman Frankie Arceo, 3rd Airlift Squadron loadmaster, speaks to a member of the Spanish army about cargo details before downloading a CH-47F Chinook helicopter from a C-17 Globemaster III assigned to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, during a foreign military sales mission at Torrejón Air Base, Spain, Jan. 16, 2023. The United States and Spain recognize the central importance of the NATO alliance in ensuring transatlantic peace and security. As NATO allies for 40 years, the U.S. and Spain are steadfastly committed to providing NATO with ready forces and capabilities, strengthening transatlantic ties. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Faith Barron). For more pictures and comments about this please see the artivle section.

Secretary Report

Chris Cummings, Secretary - The post pandemic world is getting brighter and brighter. 2023 GoL is going to be KILLER! And what's most exciting? That you are able to register on the website, and update your profile at the same time! THE ROCK is going to knock your socks off this year, so stop reading this and go register!

Did you know that the PLA has a website? Available 24/7/365 you can log in and verify that your record is accurate. This will ensure that you are receiving all email and snail mail that we are sending. To do this, simply scan the QR code or go to this website: <https://pla.wildapricot.org/Sys/Profile>



Unable to login? Send me an email cchris1686@gmail.com or shoot me a text (845) 475-8457 with your name and email address and I'll get you where you need to be. Prefer to fax? Well, give me a call and I'll get you where you need to be too!

PLA Membership - 969 total members

Since the last edition of The Loader™ we had 36 of our active members log in! Great job! Now, if you are not one of those 36 members - I simply request that you log into the website to confirm your contact information. It is my intent to have every member take a few minutes to review their membership record. The database logs your last login and last profile update, so please help me get through the list of members without racking up a big long distance phone bill!

BONUS--- Chapter Secretaries, I want to hear from you! Let's touch base before the next edition of The Loader. This report will contain membership by Chapter in the future, and I want you to be at the top of that list!

Treasurer Report

Chris Dockery, Treasurer- As of February 22, 2023, the Professional Loadmaster Association has a total of \$5, 461.96 in checking, and \$25,781.34 in savings. Total assets \$31,243.30

East Coast Vice President

Some of the best days of your life haven't happened yet!

Hello to a new year. This is the year that the president and all 3 vice president positions are up for election. I hope that we have some members willing to step up and are willing to serve this great organization. You can either self-nominate or nominate someone else, with their permission, to any of the open positions. Check the by-laws if you have any questions. Kathy Disney will not be running for president, so this is a great opportunity for you to be our leader for the next 4 years. I will gladly serve again if asked, I hope the other vice presidents will serve if asked.

Also, the webmaster position will be open after the GOL. It is a non-elected, voluntary position for someone that appreciates helping our organization improve itself using the web and its resources.

With the next GOL in August, the Rock Chapter needs our help. Fundraising has always been a challenge for the chapter running the GOL. To keep cost down for those attending they need extra money. Back in 2002 the concept for a professional looking GOL was put forward and accepted by the members of the Liberty Chapter. Many fundraisers were held and money was tight. Everything got paid for, but as we all know inflation has hit us hard. In subsequent GOL's fundraising took lots of resources to get the monies for success.

My request moving forward is that each member going or not, please contribute what you can to the chapter hosting. You can donate thru the Wild Apricot site and designate it for the GOL.

The new Loader editor has a job to get our organization news and stories about the PLA. We all can help her with our stories or astonishing tales. She needs to hear from each chapter and individuals that may not be near a chapter. Where you part of an outstanding event, function in your city, etc. Loads can also send this happened to me or you won't believe this story. It can be short or long; they all may not be published at once but will eventually show up in a future Loader.

Kent Brown,
PLA East Coast VP



IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME. PLEASE SUBMIT AN APPLICATION BEFORE THE DEADLINE, APRIL 1, 2023. READ THE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION LOCATED IN THE LOADER. APPLICATIONS ARE DUE APRIL 1, 2023, DON'T BE LATE.

"The Loader" Editor

Greetings from the snowy desert! I got a lot of great inputs in this edition and thank you to those who are sending in your stories. I love the little glimpses of getting to know our members. I am still not hearing from over half the chapters and a lot seem to be inactive. Feel free to reach out if you have anything you would like to see included in "The Loader". Also let me know when you get new updates for your chapter leads.

Arizona Rescue West Chapter

Dillon Howell from the Arizona Rescue West Chapter President. While the squadron has continued to grow with new loadmasters. We were able to have our first meeting. Most of the council was gone but we were able to get two more loadmasters to join our chapter. At the end of March Davis-Monthan will be hosting an airshow and this will be our first event so that we can raise money for future events and the gathering of loads. One of our newest loadmasters and members has been gracious enough to let me talk about him during this issue.

Name: TSGT Brian Bell

Hometown: Ocala, FL

Background: I lived my entire childhood in Ocala, nowhere near a military base. At around 10 years old, my father took me to a small airshow at the local airport. After that I became fascinated with military aircraft, especially after meeting a Tuskegee Airman at the event. That one airshow inspired me to become an aviator in



the U.S. Air Force. **Career Info:** Due to numerous reasons, I ended up enlisting to a non-aviation career in 2013 called Fuels Management, also known as POL. As a POL troop I was stationed at Ellsworth AFB 2014-2018, Kunsan AB 2018-2019, and Moody AFB 2019-2021. Along with POL, I have been an Honor Guardsman, and completed an assignment as the Executive Assistant for the 23 WG Command Chief at Moody AFB. During my time at Moody, I learned about Air Force Search & Rescue and the HC-130J. Hearing stories from the Rescue Loadmasters inspired me to attempt to retrain to loadmaster on the same airframe. Fast forward a few years, I am now stationed at Davis-Monthan AFB and have been mission qualified for six months. I am grateful to be amongst people from such a solid community that is being a Load. Favorite Part about Being a Loadmaster: Being involved with the operational side of the AirForce, and being such a pivotal component of the crew. Coming from a mission support background, it feels like I went from being the water boy to getting in the game. When my crew is able to put our brains together to discuss the Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures needed for our mission, once we execute it, it is an awesome feeling.

First State Chapter

Update from the First State! The New Year has started off at a relaxing pace now that the awards and performance report season is behind us. The loadmasters from all three wings did pretty well in their respective groups so you can expect some stiff competition from us with our PLA LMOTY nominees. Strat-air flying has been moderately paced but there were a lot of short notice missions to bring much needed relief and support to the people affected by the earthquakes in Turkey.

Team Dover regularly hosts the U.S. government's Foreign Military Sales program which is a form of partnership the United States has with more than 180 countries and international organizations to transfer defense articles, services and training to international partners. Annually, approximately \$3.5 billion worth of FMS cases flow through the "Super Port," as it is known, which is the largest aerial port in the DoD. Recently two of my former Airmen, SrA Matthew Warren and SrA Frankie Arceo from the 3rd Airlift Squadron, were recognized on a mission to at Torrejón Air Base, Spain to deliver CH-47s for the Spanish military. Spain, a member of NATO, promotes democratic values and encourages consultation and cooperation on defense and security issues to build trust and prevent conflict.

Benjamin Fay - First State secretary



(Pictured above and below) Senior Airman Matthew Warren, 3rd Airlift Squadron loadmaster, controls the winch system while unloading a CH-47F Chinook helicopter from a C-17 Globemaster III assigned to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, during a foreign military sales mission at Torrejón Air Base, Spain, Jan. 16, 2023. The United States and Spain recognize the central importance of the NATO alliance in ensuring transatlantic peace and security. As NATO Allies for 40 years, the U.S. and Spain are steadfastly committed to providing NATO with ready forces and capabilities, strengthening transatlantic ties. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Faith Barron)



Bill Cannon Chapter

We have been off to a slow start in the Pacific Northwest with the local chapter. Meetings are held second Saturday of the month at 1000 Golf Course Snack Bar Habanero Grill. Any questions about meetings and other events please contact Ron Pierce rpierce@bohsoptions.com

Gulf Coast Commandos Chapter

The Gulf Coast Commandos would like to wish a Happy New Year to PLA members around the world!! Right before the holidays a handful of members met up at the local American Legion for a few adult beverages. It turned out to be a great day for the American Legion as they gained 4 new lifetime members. We are looking at opportunities to start and grow partnerships with service organizations like the American Legion and others in an effort to support fellow veterans, but also raise awareness (and hopefully membership) of our chapter and the PLA organization. We hosted our February meeting on Friday, 17 Feb at Third Planet Brewery in Niceville. The focus of the meeting was the continued push to increase chapter membership and recruit loadmasters to be a part of this organization, planning a chapter event, and the Gathering convention this summer. In this edition of The Loader the Gulf Coast Commandos would like to highlight TSgt Heather Thompson. Heather started her flying career as an AC-130W Gunner out at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. After 6 years on gunships, she transitioned to the C-146A at Duke Field, Florida in 2021. Heather is now an instructor Loadmaster at the 524th Special Operations Squadron, and also a flight chief responsible for the training, readiness, personal and professional development of her 25 member flight. In October, Heather was the recipient of the Levitow Award during her NCOA class. Additionally, she was selected to attend lunch with Secretary of the Air Force, Mr. Frank Kendall, during a recent visit to Hurlburt Field. Heather is a fantastic asset to the 524th, AFSOC and the Air Force and we are proud to have her as a member of the Gulf Coast Commandos and the PLA!! As always, if anyone is located in the Florida Panhandle, or knows a loadmaster in the area and is interested in joining our chapter please send us an email at gulfcoastpla@gmail.com



TSgt Heather Thompson

Picture 2 (SECAF Picture): 2nd from left: TSgt Heather Thompson Secretary of the Air Force, Mr. Frank Kendall visits with members of the 1 SOW and 492 SOW to learn more about the AFSOC mission and the command's initiatives supporting both SOCOM and the Air Force's transformation for tomorrow's fight. Photo credit: TSgt Jonathan McCallum 492 SOW/PA

GULF COAST COMMANDOS



Kings of Rescue

The Kings of Rescue Southeast Chapter, headquartered in Valdosta, Georgia recently conducted an election to determine the new officers. The chapter's newest president is SSgt Keaton Watts, the new vice president is SrA Jazmyne Lomax, the new treasurer is SSgt Rachel Hoffman, and the new secretary is SrA Kimberly Gunia. The Kings of Rescue had an exciting 2022, moving over 110k pounds of cargo to enable the 23D wing's certification as the first Lead Wing. Additionally, the Kings of Rescue executed a short notice SECDEF tasking, launching within 48 hours of notice on a POTUS directed mission to provide presidential level protection and search and rescue capability for the Speaker of the House's Taiwan visit. Beyond the middle eastern theater, The Kings of Rescue disrupted over \$97 million of illegal narcotics in JIATF South. The list of ground-breaking work conducted by the Kings of Rescue continued further, with involvement in 2 NASA and Space-X missions to propel a Starlink satellite into orbit saving Ukraine countless lives and restoring infrastructure damage from Russian strikes and accomplishing 13 AFRICOM MEDEVACS. The Kings of Rescue Southeast chapter looks forward to attending this year's Gathering of Loads.

Trailblazers Chapter

Eddie Raines, Trailblazers Chapter Secretary-Greetings from SW Oklahoma! I am the newly appointed Secretary and I am very excited to be apart of this awesome chapter. The annual MainStreet Rock 'n Rumble is coming up in a few weeks this year. If you find yourself in the Altus area the first weekend in May, please come out and have a great time with us. Currently, we are also planning to have another PLA Poker Tournament soon. There was a great turnout last year and we were able to raise money towards future events. Also, we are planning on having a friendly Easter based shooting competition, possibly ending with introducing some stuffed bunnies to Tannerite. We have meetings every first Friday of the month at 1500 in the 58th AS on Altus AFB. With that being said, we've had a few ice and snow days and lots of wind, but it has been business as usual here at Altus AFB aside from graduating a record setting 1,031 C-17 students!

If you have any questions or requests please reach out to one of us: President, Cody Barry, (843)729-7249 or cody.barry@gmail.com or myself, ejraines90@gmail.com. Have a great day



Parker-Aguillon-Payne Chapter

Our annual Chapter Christmas Party was finally scheduled after the last few years being canceled due to the pandemic. It was not held at the Travis Heritage Center which we have done in the past, but at the Kings Buffet in Vacaville California. Not the special event we have had in the past but we still got together and enjoyed all our friendships and camaraderie. We are hoping the Travis Delta Breeze will start opening up for not only our monthly meetings but the ability to cater special events. As the Travis Delta Breeze Club continues to be not available for our monthly meetings, as it has in the past years, we have found an extremely popular place to have our meetings in Vacaville, at the Hide-A-Way Grill and Bar. They have accommodated us to support our monthly meetings and offer some tasty meals that we can also enjoy as we discuss our chapter business. I always must mention our participation in the America Cancer Society, Relay for Life. The location and team participations have changed drastically but we are proud to continue our support and raise donation in support of the cause. I can't say enough how our chapter is proud of Gabe Escamilla who relentlessly continues to work as our team captain and does an excellent job. Our chapter has raised over \$295,000 in support of the cause. We are looking forward to the annual races at the Sonoma Raceway, and look forward to having our chapter team volunteering for this year's NASCAR and NHRA races. This is only way we make funds to support our chapter and the volunteer support is appreciated. We are also looking at ways to help support these years "Gathering Of Loads" in Little Rock. We have always and will continue to help support the venue in the best way possible and appreciate Little Rock stepping up and taking on the special event. As always again, I like to continue thank our local members that not only continue to participate but cheerful understand the challenges we all must go through and the support we always have for each other. We always welcome all Loadmasters from Northern California and Northern Nevada to join our local chapter and are proud of current members that have moved and continue to request they be associated with our chapter. We continue to have our monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at Hide-A-Way Grill and Bar in Vacaville CA, but any changes to the meetings will be sent out VIA Email. If you have any question, please contact Mark E. Raymond at mark.raymond@att.net.

Mark E. Raymond
PAP Chapter President



The Rock Chapter

THE ROCK Chapter is hosting the Gathering of Loads, at the Little Rock Marriott, downtown Little Rock! The PLA's biennial convention includes professional development subjects applicable to current, future, and past loadmasters, opportunities for loadmasters leaving military life and transitioning to the civilian sector, stories and presentations from the loadmaster community, and culminates with a banquet on the last night.

The hotel is conveniently located downtown Little Rock near many attractions and activities. Several golf courses, sight-seeing, casinos, and more! The hotel has a shuttle to and from the airport which runs from approximately 0430 to midnight.

The event registration includes access to the M Lounge where breakfast is served. You will also find snacks here throughout the day free of charge. And of course... the hospitality suite!

The banquet will be a semi-formal seated affair. Please remember to purchase a banquet ticket for your guests. No military uniforms necessary for the banquet.

Note that if a spouse or guest will be attending the banquet, you do not need to register him or her separately but do need to pay for their banquet tickets.

To access the group rate, please use this link on wild apricot or call the hotel directly and tell them you are part of the Gathering of Loads. Book your group rate for PLA Gathering of Load Masters

Group rate is \$115,

PTDY/TDY letter is still in the works.

Schedule will be out soon.

Cant't wait to see you all there!!





Gathering of Loads 2023

LITTLE ROCK

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ROCK CHAPTER IN LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS

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Scholarship Award

The Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Association (TC/TAA) has graciously agreed to sponsor a Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) Scholarship in Mike Welch's name in perpetuity. The PLA and the scholarship award winners would like to thank TC/TAA for their generous contribution to the scholarship program.

Guenther Apiary, Finding Success With Beekeeping in Arkansas reprinted from 2023 Arkansas Grown Magazine pages 88 – 90 (https://issuu.com/arkansasgrown/docs/ar_grown_2023) permission to reprint given by Amy Lyman Arkansas Department of Agriculture After 20 years in the Air Force, Danny Brewer finds working with bees therapeutic. Retired after serving our country as a Loadmaster on a C-17 Globemaster cargo plane based at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey, Brewer began his new career as an apiarist with encouragement from his father-in-law, a retired Fort Smith fireman, who had 80 hives. Brewer and his business partners, Mark and Trisha Guenther, now own 1,100 colonies in 36 bee yards and sell their Local Arkansas Honey in Harps, Kroger, and Whole Foods. When he retired from the military in 2008, Brewer started gardening heavily but with little success. His father-in-law suggested adding a beehive on his property. Honeybees provide 80% of pollination for fruit, vegetables, flowers, and seed crops, as well as forage crops such as alfalfa and clover. Brewer witnessed this positive impact first-hand when he experienced a significant increase in his garden's production after adding the hive to his property. Brewer learned to work with bees through mentors from the local bee club and watching YouTube videos. He began his unconventional career path "catching swarms." Soon Brewer went from one hive to 65 hives and was the go-to for 911 bee removal calls. On one emergency, Brewer was called to remove a swarm of bees that had made their home under the floor of an upstairs bedroom of a two-story house. Brewer removed a piece of the floor in the bedroom and found two more hives. Brewer says it is very common for bees to enter the flooring of a house through holes drilled in the home's exterior for television cables or other services and build their hives in the cavities between the joists of two-story homes. For disease prevention purposes, every bee yard in the state has its latitude, longitude, and GPS location registered with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) and hives must be inspected before they can be sold or relocated. These inspections are necessary to contain American Foulbrood disease. Bees can fly three miles and infect other bees, resulting in an epidemic. Brewer learned of an opening for a bee inspector at the Department during one of his inspections and another new career began. As a retired military serviceman who is 50% disabled, Brewer found the "perfect job" and worked as an inspector for four years before joining Guenther Apiary. Guenther Apiary ships over 400 beehives to California each January to pollinate almond trees. During this time, the bees make only enough honey to feed themselves before the hives are then shipped back to Arkansas. Once the bees return, they work to make honey from Arkansas flowers, producing Guenther Apiary's Local Arkansas Honey, a Homegrown by Heroes Arkansas Grown product, that can be found in grocery stores around the state. Brewer has learned a great deal about bees on his career journey. "Bees will fly themselves to death. They simply wear out their wings. Bees are clean animals and will not die in their hive. The term 'busy as a bee' is a perfect description as bees never stop," said Brewer. "They are constantly defending, building, making wax and honey, and will work themselves to death." Brewer has no idea how many bee stings he has experienced. But, even with

the stings, Brewer said working with bees makes him feel good. He finds it enjoyable when the honey flows and all is well. He said he is happy when his bees are happy. Studies indicate that beekeeping helps veterans overcome depression and post-traumatic stress. There are several programs for veterans interested in beekeeping, including Beekeeping for Veterans, Hives for Heroes, and programs through the American Beekeeping Federation. For more information on these programs for veterans with an interest in beekeeping, visit beekeepingforveterans.com, hivesforheroes.com, or abfnet.org.

To learn more about Guenther Apiary, visit guentherapiary.com. For more information on Arkansas Grown Homegrown by Heroes, visit arkansasgrown.org/homegrown-by-heroes/about.



**If you know Loadmasters out there doing great things- I want to hear about it so I can talk about them!! -Marie G., Editor*

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Its a Family thing

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jahshield Blades, 37th Airlift Squadron NCOIC of loadmaster development, center, presents his coin with his wife, Senior Airman Kyra Blades, at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Jan. 12, 2023. They grew up together in Belize and his wife enlisted after seeing his positive experience in the U.S. Air Force as a loadmaster. Blades was announced as Airlifter of the Week for displaying exceptional leadership in his first six months on station.



Flight of the Flock

Loadmasters assigned to the 1st Special Operations Squadron unload a Polaris MRZR during a Flight of the Flock at Ie Shima, Japan, Jan. 5, 2023. The 1st SOS is on-call to conduct specialized mobility operations with the MC-130J, including infiltration, exfiltration and resupply for allied forces in austere environments.



U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Alexis Redin

You KNOW You Fly Too Much When....You KNOW You Fly Too Much When....

by C.W. Behrens and D. Bean

This one was written inflight on a 19.2 hour leg from McGuire AFB, NJ to NewDehli, India

At Home:

1. You can't fall asleep without clutching an oxygen bottle
2. You mount a bailout horn to your alarm clock
3. You can't go to the bathroom without your knees around your ears
4. You insist your wife serve dinner from oversized cardboard boxes
5. You change all the clocks in your house to Z time
6. You keep looking for the button to flush the toilet
7. Your bed pillows are 8"x5"
8. You have a set of "trips" where your couch used to be
9. Your kids KNOW what "Howdy" means
10. You pull coin checks on your wife
11. The only channels your TV gets are CNN, AFRTS, and foreign language
12. You order your dinner NLT 3 hours before you intend to eat
13. You keep a copy of CAASS on your computer at home to calculate how many ways the scheduler can ruin your weekend

In The Car

1. You do a final walkaround before getting in
2. You call for clearance before backing out of your spot
3. You insist your passengers be briefed before moving from your spot
4. You try to load waypoints into your car stereo
5. You instinctively reach overhead to start your engine
6. You ask your wife to pop the trunk by saying "Ramp control, arm the doors"
7. You ask the cashier at the gas station to convert your purchase to pounds
8. You measure gas mileage in PPH
9. Your car sputters and you look over your shoulder for the engineer
10. You log all day/night time behind the wheel
11. You insist your kids in the back seat face sideways
12. You won't let your family in the car without a set of orders
13. You end up in Hoboken after following a pickup truck with its hazards on
14. You plan a trip to Burlington with Mount Holly as an alternate

Exercise Juniper Oak

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Clayton Yosten, 8th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III loadmaster, unloads a high mobility artillery rocket system (HIMARS) component from the aircraft in support of Exercise Juniper Oak, Nevatim, Israel, Jan. 19, 2023. Juniper Oak is a large-scale bilateral exercise, aimed to enhance interoperability between U.S. and Israeli armed forces contributing to regional security. \



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Asselta)

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Shane Stoddard, 8th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III loadmaster, secures a high mobility artillery rocket system (HIMARS) vehicle onto the aircraft and miscellaneous cargo for transport in support of Exercise Juniper Oak.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Asselta



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Asselta

A little from Marine Loadmasters

U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Jacob Hall, explains aerial refueling instrument uses to Cpl. Tyler Hatto, both loadmasters with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 152, during Vagabond Horizon 2023 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Arizona, Jan. 23, 2023. VMGR-152 traveled from Iwakuni, Japan to participate in Vagabond Horizon 2023 and increased their combat readiness through joint training with various U.S. Air Force units across Arizona's unique environment.



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Samantha Rodriguez

U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Cassidy Branen, a loadmaster with Marine Aerial Refueler Squadron (VMGR) 152, secures a container delivery system bundle for aerial delivery during Vagabond Horizon 2023 Yuma Proving Grounds, Yuma, Arizona, Jan. 10, 2023. VMGR-152 traveled from Iwakuni, Japan to participate in Vagabond Horizon 2023 and increased their combat readiness through joint training with



JB Charleston Launches 24 C-17s

U.S. Air Force Airmen, assigned to the 14th Airlift Squadron watch as 24 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft fly over the Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge, Charleston, South Carolina, Jan. 5, 2023. A formation of 24 C-17 aircraft took flight from JB Charleston to fly over the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge before splitting into four smaller formations to rehearse flexible and deterrent response options, like the ability to land in austere environments and quickly accomplish a variety of mission sets.



U.S. Air Force photo by Shellby Matullo

Open water rescue training

Master Sgts. Chris Doster and Spencer Schenkelberg, 39th Rescue Squadron loadmasters, throw Mk25 smoke markers and LUU-2 flares from the back of an HC-130 J Combat King II aircraft Feb. 16, 2023, during open water rescue training. Smoke markers and sea dye are used to establish reference points on the surface of land or water to rescue forces to indicate where isolated personnel are located. During night operations, loadmasters use the LUU-2 flare to illuminate a wide area.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Darius Sostremiroir

31st RQS, 1st SOS conduct jump training

An Amphibious Reconnaissance Craft, or ARC, is dropped out of a 1st Special Operations Squadron MC-130J Commando II, during jump training conducted by U.S. Air Force 31st Rescue Squadron pararescueman over the Pacific Ocean, Feb. 22, 2023. Members from the 1st SOS helped transport members from the 31st RQS in an MC-130, allowing for military personnel to drop supplies and conduct jump training over water.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Tyilir Meyer

U.S. Air Force pararescuemen assigned to the 31st Rescue Squadron jump out of a 1st Special Operations Squadron MC-130J Commando II, over the Pacific Ocean, Feb. 22, 2023. Pararescuemen train rigorously and meticulously to ensure that when they are called, every member of the team can perform with precision.



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Tyilir Meyer

Airmen awarded Distinguished Fly Cross

January 4, 2023 - U.S. Air Force Capt. Chris Brown, 15th Airlift Squadron C-17 pilot; Senior Airman Ammar Shigri, 15th Airlift Squadron loadmaster; and, Tech. Sgt. Bryan Bailey, 16th Airlift Squadron Operations flight chief instructor loadmaster, proudly stand in front of a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft after each received the Distinguished Flying Cross medal at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina.

The Airmen earned their DFCs for their heroism in 2021 during the 17-day evacuation of 124,000 people during Operation Allies Refuge from Hamid Karzai International Airport in Afghanistan’s capital of Kabul. It is the largest non-combatant evacuation in American history.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Alex Fox Echols III

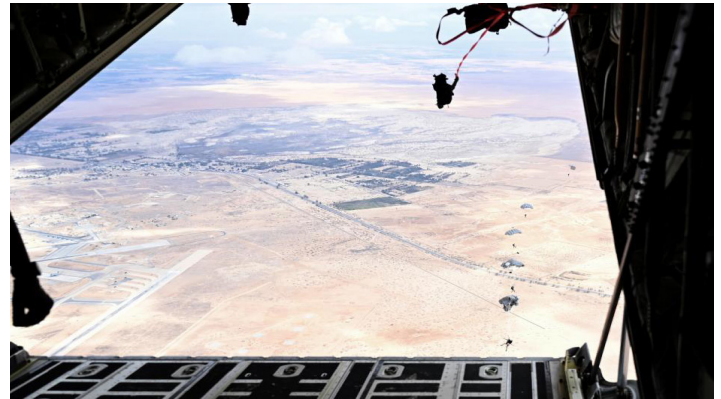
Pararescue Airmen conduct infiltration, exfiltration exercise in CENTCOM AOR

Staff Sgt. Justin VannCunningham, 26th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron loadmaster, guides a vehicle onto a HC-130J Combat King II during an agile combat employment exercise within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, Feb. 3, 2023. The exercise consisted of rapid special warfare Airmen and heavy equipment infiltration and exfiltration scenarios, military free-fall and static line jumps, and drop zone operations, sharpening key rescue capabilities within the CENTCOM AOR.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Gerald R. Willis

U.S. Air Force Pararescue Airmen assigned to the 52nd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, perform a static-line jump from a HC-130J Combat King II during CENTCOM exercise



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Gerald R. Willis

Story from the road

Did you load something and think I might have just exceeded a limitation and broke the plane?

During operational test of the C-17 at Pope AFB loading a 621G type Scraper was just this event for me. During testing we would check with the Army on what was to be tested this week and check that they had needed equipment like sleeper shoring.

After loading the scraper into C-17A P4 Aircraft 1190 the sleeper shoring would not fit under the axles. No hammer or crowbar to take off a layer of shoring the driver has an idea. He says hey I can raise the back end up to allow for the shoring to fit. All we need to do is place some shoring under the blade.

We place about four pieces of 2 x 6 x 8 ft long under the blade. He then lowers the blade till contact is made and raises the back of the scraper into the air. About at this time the aircraft commander taps my shoulder and ask is this o.k.? I respond yes, he is just lifting the back. He says look. The entire scraper 28,159 lb is balanced on the shoring under the blade with both the front and rear axles off the aircraft floor. My initial response was oh this is not good. Lower it back down.....Grabbed my tape measure and the dash 9 to start checking pounds per linear foot (PLF) and to my surprise I was in limits. The floor of the C-17 is built with ribs running the length of the floor and every inch of width across those ribs increases capacity significantly. - Ron Pierce



Photo provided by Ron Pierce

Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center

TSgt Brett Radziewicz watches C-17 landing behind 2 C-130 during Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) Exercise on Wheeler AAF, Hawaii



PLA Merchandise

PRICE REDUCTION

The Liberty Chapter is offering the 911 20th Anniversary Coin, the pic is of the front & back. They are a whopping 2.5 in. in each direction. Lots of intricate detail. Only \$10 ea. plus shipping. Shipping is \$3 to \$10.40. I can fit 10 in a small priority box for \$10.40 shipping, that includes insurance.

Contact me at plaloadmaster@comcast.net.

Thanks

Kent Brown

Liberty Chapter



PLA Clothing - PLA clothing merchandise can still be purchased at: https://plaload.qbstores.com/all_products.html?OC=SF7606_

Scholarship Donations can be made to our PLA Headquarters:

P.O. Box 4351 Tacoma WA 98438

Write "Scholarship Fund" on checks. Remember every little bit counts toward keeping this program ongoing.

Scholarship Manager

Jim Engelker

707 Morningview Drive,

Rapid City, SD 57702

engelkerj@gmail.com

The Professional Loadmaster Association (PLA) offers five scholarships annually for College and/or Vocational/Technical School after high school graduation. Current college or vocational/technical students may apply to complete their educational endeavor. We have two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each named in honor of John L. Levitow and Bill Cannon. These are permanent scholarships. Three additional \$500.00 scholarships, each named for a different deceased Loadmaster, will be awarded each year. Candidates for the selection process must be from PLA members in good standing and their family members (sons, daughters or grandchildren), and are limited to one scholarship per applicant. If exceptional circumstances should arise, the Executive Committee will handle them accordingly. For more information on scholarships go to <http://www.loadmasters.com/scholarships>. Applications, located on the PLA website, may be applied for through the Jim Engelker at engelkerj@gmail.com.

Timeline for Scholarships: Scholarship applications are due by close of business on April 1, 2023. Please review the PLA scholarship information on the PLA website. Take the time to complete an application, include your photograph and email it, in PDF format, to Jim Engelker. All scholarship applications received after that date will be returned. Announcement of

the scholarship award to the individual participant shall be no later than the middle of May of the year before scholarship announcement. Announcement of scholarships awarded shall be published each year in the July issue of "The Loader" newsletter.

When completing your PLA application you will need to know the PLA membership number and date. Please contact Chris Cummings at cchris1686@gmail.com to obtain this information."

Additional Scholarship Name Selection: Selection of names to be honored for upcoming additional scholarships shall be provided by December of the year before scholarship announcement.



SENIORS + SCHOLARSHIPS = COLLEGE
BE A POSSIBLE WINNER.

GET HELP FOR COLLEGE

APPLY FOR A PLA SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION DUE APRIL 1, 2023

Application form can be found at:

www.loadmasters.com/scholarships

Send to: engelkerj@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL LOADMASTER ASSOCIATION
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION Rev: October 2018

Please limit your application to only those items requested on the form below. NOTE: If additional space is required to complete the application, please continue on a separate piece of paper, and make sure you reference the item you are continuing.

Student's Full Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____
Email address: _____

High School Students:

GPA: _____ Class Rank: _____ Class Size: _____ ACT/SAT: _____
College(s), University(ies), and Vocational/Technical School(s) you have made application to:

College Students:

College/University, Vocational/Technical School GPA: _____
College/University, Vocational/Technical School you are or will be attending:

All Students:

Proposed Field of Study: _____
Why did you choose this field of study? _____

Scholarships/Financial Aid you have received or still pending (include amounts):

What is your connection with the Professional Loadmaster Association? Please provide the name of the PLA member and his/her relationship to you. _____ Membership # and expiration date of PLA membership _____
(i.e., I am a member, my father/mother/grandparents are members, etc.) _____

Have you ever received a PLA scholarship in the past? If so, you are not eligible for additional PLA scholarships.

If at all possible, complete application and email to engelkerj@gmail.com.

Please attach the following items: The following items, in addition to the requested information on page one, will be used by the selection committee to select the PLA Scholarship winners for the coming year.

1. Please provide a short biography (150 - 200 words) and a current photograph of yourself. The short biography MUST include an introduction (your name, date of birth, where born, parents names), information about education (level of grade obtained, type of graduation – high school diploma, GED, level of college), relevant information regarding any awards and achievements you have received, relevant work experience and/or qualifications, as well as hobbies and interests and a conclusion. The conclusion should include future dream goals and/or future job aspirations.

2. Explain why financially you should receive this scholarship.

NOTE: Photograph WILL NOT be used by the selection committee. The purpose of the short biography and current photograph will be used by the editor of the PLA Publication "The Loader" if you are selected as a PLA Scholarship winner.

Student signature

Date

