The M-197 produced by General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems is a lightweight, three-barrel version of the M61A1 Gatling gun intended for applications that require a lightweight, highly reliable weapon capable of firing up to 1,500 shots per minute.

The gun is specifically designed for helicopters, light fixed-wing aircraft and small naval attack vessels. It is adaptable for turret, pod, pintle or internal installations using either linked or linkless ammunition feed systems. Currently, the M-197 arms the Marine Corps AH-1J, AH-1T, AH-1W and AH-1Z. The M-197 is also used in the GPU-2/A 20mm gun pod.

Power requirements for the M-197 are lower than most weapons offering comparable rates of fire due to the M-197’s continuous rotary motion. The M-197 is also capable of firing longer burst lengths than its competitors.