

Andy Hutchison

Director, Global Strategy • Commercial Airplanes, Business Strategy and Marketing • Renton, Wash.

SERVICE: U.S. MARINE CORPS, 1976 TO 1981 • MARINE CORPS RESERVE, 1981 TO 2006

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy, in 1976 I entered the Marine Corps, where I served as an infantry officer. I served most of my active-duty time in Hawaii, but it was not all fun in the sun. My unit deployed twice to the western Pacific, so I was away quite a bit. My wife and I calculated that I was gone for 20 of our first 40 months of marriage. But I look back on my days as an infantry officer with great fondness.

I continued in the Marine Corps Reserve after leaving active duty and, in 1982, came to Boeing as a systems analyst at the Kent Space Center.

In the Reserve, I became a logistics officer and served as a company commander and battalion commander. I was able to attend training programs that helped keep my understanding of military systems and doctrine up to date, which was helpful in my work at Boeing. The benefit of experience was a two-way street. As a battalion commander for about 1,000 troops, I was able to apply Continuous Quality Improvement techniques I learned at Boeing through programs such as Operation Eagle, a precursor of our Lean+ methods.

I served nearly 27 years in the Marines before I was deployed to a combat theater. In 2003, with the rank of colonel, I was assigned to a forward base in Kuwait as deputy for Logistics Operations for the U.S. Marine and British forces during the assault phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I was, and remain today, deeply appreciative of Boeing support for its reservists. Offering differential pay when they are activated for duty and continuing health benefits for their dependents takes a lot of pressure off our military people.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to enjoy the best of two worlds: 30 years of active and reserve service in the Marine Corps, and 27 years at Boeing.

PHOTO: MARIAN LOCKHART/BOEING

