



Steven Leahy

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SERVICE: U.S. NAVY, 1987 TO 2000 • NAVY RESERVE, 2000 TO PRESENT

Growing up, I always was curious about the Navy, maybe because I lived in the landlocked state of Iowa. I remember the John F. Kennedy quote, "Any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.'" That was inspiring for a young kid from Iowa. I attended Iowa State University on a Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship and spent 13 years on active duty before joining the reserves in 2000.

On active duty I was a surface warfare officer with a specialty in combat systems during several tours on board the USS *David R. Ray*. We were 12 miles off the coast of Kuwait City the night Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and were at battle stations off and on for the next four days.

A few years later, I was honored to be on the original crew that helped build the destroyer USS *The Sullivans*, named in memory of the five Sullivan brothers from my home state who joined the Navy in World War II and were killed when the ship they served on together was sunk.

I came to work for Boeing here in Huntsville in 2001. I was recalled to active duty for several months in 2003 during Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Tomahawk missile strike coordinator on board the 6th Fleet's flagship.

The Navy taught me what I call the "big three": teamwork, responsibility and accountability. In every job I've had at Boeing, I've seen what makes a team successful is coming together to focus on common issues and finding common solutions. It's leveraging the talent of multiple people by giving them responsibility and accountability for their achievements.

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