

Stories of **service**

More than 27,000 men and women who work for Boeing around the world have served in the military or continue to serve. Boeing honors them, and on the pages that follow are personal stories of service from a few of these veterans and reservists. More can be found in the November issue of *Frontiers* online: <http://www.boeing.com/news/frontiers/archive/2010/november>

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: This illustration was created using photos submitted to *Frontiers* by Boeing veterans whose stories are featured in the magazine and online. The photos are of their time in the service. **BRANDON LUONG/BOEING; SOLDIER PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK**

Nicole Lepage

Engineer, F-15 Forward Fuselage Mechanical and Structural Engineering

Structure & Payload Design, Boeing Defense, Space & Security, St. Louis

U.S. Air National Guard, 2004–present

I anxiously joined the Missouri Air National Guard in May 2004, graduated basic training with honors and was assigned duties in Aircraft Armament Systems with the 131st Fighter Wing in St. Louis. There I got the opportunity to work on F-15C/Ds. I was disappointed in June 2009 when I learned the Fighter Wing would be moved to a new mission as the 131st Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. I now perform my Air National Guard duty there. I still work as a weapons loader, but on a new airframe, the Northrop B-2 bomber. The 131st is an amazing unit. We provide a federal mission of support during times of war, but we also have a state mission of providing assistance during national emergencies. The dual role is extremely fulfilling. The military has given me much pride and I can only hope to give back to the service what it has given me. ■

PHOTO: BOB FERGUSON/BOEING



John Camara

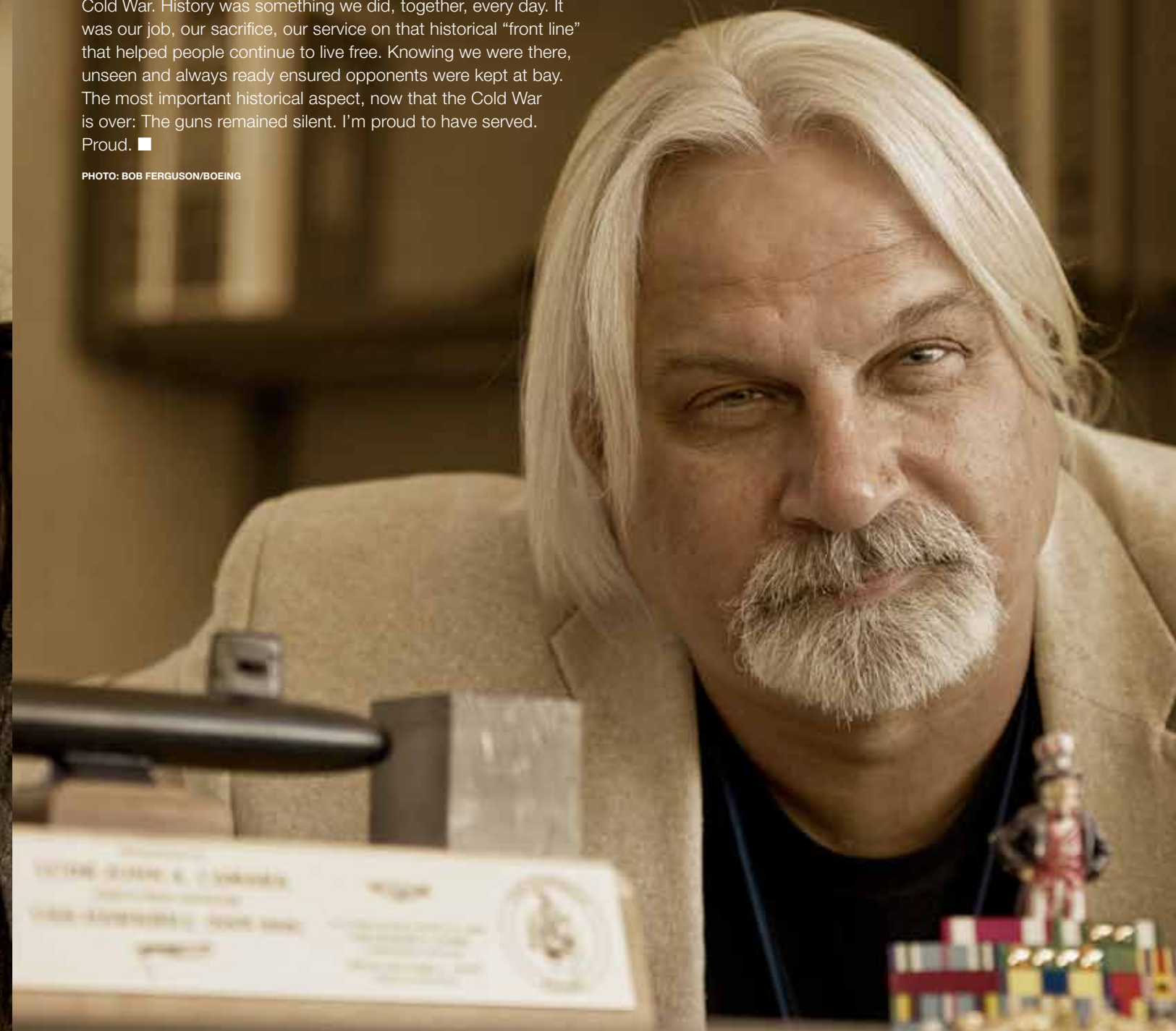
Technical Fellow, Electrical Engineering Power Systems engineer, Sea-Based X-Band Radar Vessel Engineering Team, Ground-Based Mid-Course Defense Program

Network & Space Systems, Boeing Defense, Space & Security, Huntsville, Ala.

U.S. Navy, 1974–2000 (active duty and reserve)

According to most, history is a course required for graduation, something somebody did in the past that must be memorized. I served for 24 years in the Submarine Service both as a nuclear-trained technician and later as an officer during the height of the Cold War. History was something we did, together, every day. It was our job, our sacrifice, our service on that historical “front line” that helped people continue to live free. Knowing we were there, unseen and always ready ensured opponents were kept at bay. The most important historical aspect, now that the Cold War is over: The guns remained silent. I’m proud to have served. Proud. ■

PHOTO: BOB FERGUSON/BOEING



Katrina Grooms

Equal Employment Opportunity investigator
Boeing Global Diversity and Employee Rights, Houston
U.S. Army, 1990–1998 (active duty and reserve)

I enjoyed every waking moment of my military service in the U.S. Army. I learned self-discipline and it showed me I had the potential to do anything I set my mind to do. I also learned to finish any task I started. The Army taught me the value of working with diverse groups of people from all walks of life and cultures, and it gave me the opportunity to attend college, where I obtained associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees. The Army's core values are loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. I am successful in my career because of my service to my country, and because I work for a company that invests in me. Hoorah! ■

PHOTO: ELIZABETH MORRELL/BOEING



John Beer

Flight Crew Operations Manuals/Flight Crew Training
Airborne Early Warning & Control Projects

Boeing Defence Australia, Boeing Defense, Space & Security, Brisbane, Australia

Royal Australian Air Force, 1967–1987

After initial trade training, I started maintaining de Havilland Caribou airplanes in Sydney and New Guinea. After moving on to Macchi jet training aircraft in Perth, I was eventually moved to Adelaide, to the Lockheed P-3, and stayed for my remaining 17 years of Royal Australian Air Force service.

After working on and watching these large airplanes come and go over the initial few years, I decided to apply for flight engineer training, graduating in mid-1977.

I totally enjoyed the flying, even though the work and commitment remained very high as I became involved in simulator and flight-deck training activities. Upon retiring from the air force in 1987, I capitalized on my military training and experience and began a 15-year civil flying career, flying Boeing 727 and 747 airplanes with airlines all over the world. Now, I'm working on flight-crew operations and training projects for the Wedgetail and other Airborne Early Warning & Control aircraft variants. ■

PHOTO: HEIDI SNOWDON/BOEING



Scott Dittberner

Senior Business Operations specialist,
Engineering Business Operations

Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Everett, Wash.

**U.S. Navy, 1975–1980; U.S. Coast Guard
Auxiliary, 2002–present**

I have always prided myself on being a patriot because I truly love my country and all that it stands for. I served six years in the U.S. Navy, at the tail end of the Vietnam War and during the Cold War period of the late 1970s. They were tough times for those in uniform, who were treated poorly and not looked upon kindly by the public. I left the Navy in 1980 and started a career in aerospace. However, after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, I felt compelled to get back into uniform and help defend my country. I joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, which augments the Coast Guard, where I am qualified as a vessel examiner and as boat crew. It's good and comforting to see that Americans now value and appreciate men and women in uniform and treat them with respect. It is a positive sign that we are all patriots in our own way, and that will help keep the country strong and safe in the years to come. ■

PHOTO: MARIAN LOCKHART/BOEING



Linda Herrera

Orbiter Avionics engineer, Network & Space Systems

Boeing Defense, Space & Security, Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

U.S. Air Force, 1977–1983

Graduating from high school in 1977, I had dreams of engineering and travel. I enlisted in the Air Force, accepting a career in avionics, inertial and radar navigation. While in the service I was able to see many places and experience challenges that now sound like the stuff of movies. My most memorable trip was an operation to air-refuel cargo planes dropping supplies at the South Pole. Although the maintenance crew planned to spend a relaxing day touring New Zealand while the mission was flown, an intermittent problem in one of the tankers caused us all to be part of the mission—a cold adventure indeed. My training served me well after the Air Force. I worked for 10 years on Tomahawk Cruise Missile guidance computers, and today I am part of the Boeing Space Shuttle Guidance, Navigation and Flight Controls team at Kennedy Space Center. ■

PHOTO: BOB FERGUSON/BOEING

Anna Belle Farrington

Senior manager, Cell 10 Quality
Boeing Commercial Airplanes, North Charleston, S.C.
U.S. Air Force, 1986–2007

I served in the U.S. Air Force for more than 21 years, retiring as a senior master sergeant in May 2007. My specialty was aircraft maintenance, both in bombers (the Boeing B-1B) and transports (the Boeing C-17). The time I spent in the military was awesome. The culture and training you bring from your military experience allows you to be successful in any endeavor you undertake. Indeed, the love I have for aircraft continues now that I'm working for Boeing. And I'm no longer maintaining aircraft. Now I'm building them from the ground up! ■

PHOTO: BOB FERGUSON/BOEING

Al Matthews

Videographer, Creative Services
Shared Services Group, Tukwila, Wash.

U.S. Navy, 1969–1985

I spent 15 years on active duty. My first duty station was Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M. I found it strange that I was serving in the Navy at an air force base in the middle of the desert. I spent most of my days in the back seat of McDonnell Douglas F-4s and Douglas TA-4s shooting high-speed film of weapons releases. After that, I worked in Intelligence, Combat Camera Group and Public Affairs. Everything I have done in the military has made me a better videographer, and everything I learned there I am able to use at Boeing. I am glad to be part of the best aerospace company in the world. ■

PHOTO: MARIAN LOCKHART/BOEING