

Frontiers

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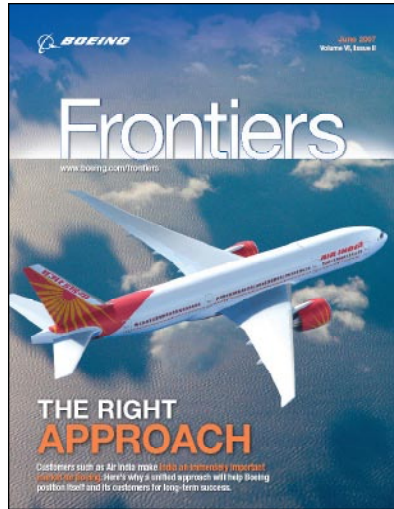
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“We rushed home to find a Bomarc ramjet and two Boeing executives waiting to present this ‘gift.’”

—Dave Ingebright, Everett, Wash.



Remembering Bomarc

It was with some nostalgia that I read your article on the Bomarc missile program (June 2007). It brought back memories from when I was a youngster in the early '60s, growing up in Seattle, at the height of the Mercury program. My friend David F. and myself (David I.) were really into science and even had a company called D&D Telephone Co., where we built electronic gadgets.

One day we came up with the idea of writing a letter to Boeing to ask for scrap metal so we could build a space capsule. I wrote the letter and sent it off. But I had nearly forgotten about it until David F. and I were in our fifth grade science class and our teacher, Miss Duncan, told us of a “gift” from Boeing waiting

for us at my house. We rushed home to find a Bomarc ramjet and two Boeing executives waiting to present this “gift.”

My letter had been routed to the Boeing Aerospace division. They must have seen some merit in the honesty of my letter and looked around for some “scrap metal.” That scrap metal turned out to be a Bomarc ramjet engine, some metal fins and a sandblaster’s helmet. David F. and I had many hours of fun building a capsule from the old ramjet, and it sparked our lifelong interest in science and aerospace.

I went on to a career at Boeing Commercial Airplanes, where I worked in the Flight Test organization and then the Lab Test group. Recently I moved to the Test Manufacturing and Quality Operations organization as a manager supporting the Everett (Wash.) Structures Lab. David F. went on to work for the US West telephone company (now known as Qwest) and now is the part owner of a yacht refurbishing business. We stay in touch and reminisce about the time Boeing gave us a ramjet engine.

—Dave Ingebright
 Everett, Wash.

Editor’s note: The donation of this “gift” was chronicled in a May 1963 article in the Boeing News newspaper.

Letters guidelines

Boeing Frontiers provides its letters page for readers to state their opinions. The page is intended to encourage an exchange of ideas and information that stimulates dialogue on issues or events in the company or the aerospace industry.

The opinions may not necessarily reflect those of The Boeing Company. Letters must include name, organization and a telephone number for verification purposes. Letters may be edited for grammar, syntax and size.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Aug. 6–9:** Unmanned Systems North America 2007. Washington, D.C. See www.auvsi.org/symposium
- Aug. 11–14:** 2007 Air Carriers Purchasing Conference. Orlando, Fla. See www.acpc.com
- Sept. 3–6:** Asian Aerospace 2007. Hong Kong. See www.asianaerospace.com
- Sept. 12:** Aviation Week Forum for Green Aviation. Brussels, Belgium. See www.aviationweek.com/forums/greenmain.htm
- Sept. 17–18:** Aviation Week Supply Chain & Logistics Forum. Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, Texas. See www.aviationweek.com/forums/scfmain.htm
- Sept. 17–19:** SpeedNews 8th Annual Aviation Industry Suppliers Conference in Toulouse. Toulouse, France. See www.speednews.com/Conference
- Sept. 18–20:** American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics’ Space 2007 Conference and Exhibition. Long Beach, Calif. See www.aiaa.org/Space2007
- Sept. 23–25:** Routes. The World Route Development Forum will conduct its 13th annual conference. Stockholm, Sweden. See www.routesonline.com
- Sept. 25–27:** National Business Aviation Association 60th Annual Meeting & Convention. Atlanta. See www.nbaa.org
- Oct. 2–3:** Aviation Week Lean & Six Sigma Forum. San Francisco. See www.aviationweek.com/forums/leanmain.htm
- Oct. 15–17:** Cargo Facts 2007. Seattle. See www.cargofacts.com
- Oct. 16–21:** Korea Aerospace & Defense Exhibition 2007. Seoul, Korea. See www.seoulairshow.com