

Then
& Now

Lt. Gen. Carl G. O'Berry

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During his 38 years of service as an Air Force communicator, Lt. Gen. Carl G. O'Berry developed a passion for harnessing the power of information technology to benefit airmen. Today, General O'Berry continues to be directly involved in this important operational endeavor as a guiding figure in industry.

During his military career, General O'Berry contributed to numerous advancements in communications. He became architect and chief crusader for Horizon, a conceptual plan for development, modernization, and integration of joint and global communications and information systems to ensure compatibility and interoperability across the services. His retirement from the Air Force hardly marked an end to his technological pursuits. "I spent 38 years in uniform serving this

great country. Although I no longer wear the uniform, I see my work today as a continuation of what was begun with the advent of the Air Force Horizon initiative, and I plan to see it to completion."

Of historical note, General O'Berry was the last person on active duty to have served in the Airways and Air Communications Service. In addition, while a communications lieutenant stationed at Holloman AFB, N.M., during the early 1960s, he was one of 24 participants in the Acceleration/Deceleration testing program conducted at the base for the Apollo space program. The young father of four decided to participate to supplement his income, and in experiencing as many as 35 Gs during several "sled rides," earned hazardous duty pay during his 15-month involvement in the program.

Another achievement was in 1961, when, nearly five years after he enlisted and became a communications specialist, he applied for and was commissioned through one of the final classes of Officer Candidate School. Since then, General O'Berry has had the honor of performing two commissioning and a reenlistment ceremony for his three sons who entered the Air Force.

As the father of five, General O'Berry said he will never forget the tremendous pride he felt seeing all three sons follow in his footsteps and dedicate a part of their lives to the service of their country.

A few months after his military retirement in 1995, General O'Berry joined Motorola Space and Systems Technology Group in Phoenix, Ariz., as vice president and director of planning and information technology. In 1998, he left industry to spend time

Airman 2nd Class Carl O'Berry accepts a \$10 check from Maj. Peter E. Shook, commander of the 1926th Airways and Air Communications Service Squadron, for being Airman of the Month, June 1959.

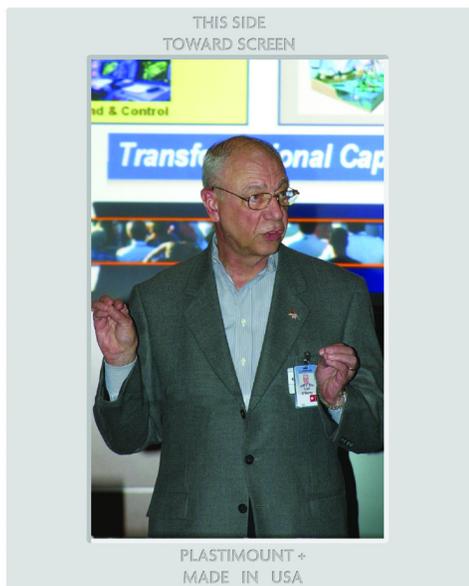
with his family. However, his continuing interest in developing technology to transform the way people interact in various operational environments led him in 2000 to join Boeing as vice president of Strategic Architecture. In this role, he is charged with developing technology that will create a network-centric global operational environment to encompass a wide array of military applications.

"My work today is vitally important to the nation and to the people of America. I believe that industry must develop the technology that puts relevant, accurate and secure information into the hands of those who fight for peace."

As might be expected of a close family headed by an information "technologist," he and Charlene, his bride of 45 years, along with the rest of their "crew" remain connected through e-mail and a family Web site. General O'Berry loved to fly airplanes and drive fast cars when he was younger, but has little time for either pastime today.

Instead, he keeps his eyes to the future. He said he's intensely proud to support those who will make the world a better and safer place for all.

"A love for country and family is in the heart of every service man and woman. I was no different; I wanted a better world so that my children, and children everywhere, might one day live in peace and realize the full potential of the democratic way of life." (Ms. Diana Ball of the Boeing Company contributed to this article.)



As vice president of Strategic Architecture of the Boeing Company, the retired general addresses members of the media during a tour of the company facility.