

# ROCKWELL NEWS

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## Temporary job lasts three decades

Back in 1956, a young engineer from Iowa State University began working for Collins Radio Company in what he thought would be a temporary job. Thirty years later, not only is he still with the company, he runs an important part of it.

CDC President Jack Cosgrove said he had orders to enter the Army four months after graduating from college so he took a job with Collins in the interim.

"It was shortly after the Korean War and soon after I started working for Collins, my orders were changed," he recalled. "My reporting date was changed from September to March and I was only going to serve six months with the rest of my time to be served in the reserves."

After his six months, Cosgrove returned to Collins and over the next three decades he rose up through the corporate structure becoming the head of engineering, division vice president and finally, in 1984, president of Collins Defense Communications. He celebrated his 30th anniversary with the company July 23.

Cosgrove was born in Cedar Rapids in 1934. He attended McKinley High School, working at Collins during the summer. At age 16, he had a job making antennas on the assembly line. The following year, he worked in test repair on the ARC-27, making \$1.07 an hour.

He worked for a construction company following his freshman and sophomore years in college because it paid more money, \$1.50 an hour, money he needed to pay his tuition.

"I always knew I wanted to be an electrical engineer," Cosgrove said. "Electricity always fascinated me and applying the technology to build radios seemed pretty interesting."

Although his interests would seem to make him a natural to work at Collins, Cosgrove says he almost decided to work elsewhere after he was denied a job because of a misunderstanding.

After his junior year of college, Cosgrove contacted Collins and was told to report Monday morning and he'd be given a job.

"I showed up and they said there was no job for me and the fellow who had told me to be there was on vacation," Cosgrove recalled. "A few days later, the con-

struction company called and offered me a job so I took it."

A year later, Cosgrove completed college and began his "temporary" job at Collins almost immediately.

"I graduated at 11 o'clock on Saturday and started working at 7:30 Monday morning," he said. "I've been here ever since."



**ANNIVERSARY** — When CDC President Jack Cosgrove started working for Collins in 1956, he thought it was a temporary job. He celebrated 30 years with the company July 23.