

### ***Civic Minds***

**Date:** Friday, April 1, 2016

**e-Edition Date:** Wednesday, March 30, 2016

**Article Title:** **Boeing job cuts could hit 10 percent in 2016**

**Section:** Main, A1

### **Vocabulary:**

Look up the definition of ***exasperated***. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

“Likewise, Ray Goforth, executive director of the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), is ***exasperated*** that “we’re the only state that’s not attaching accountability requirements” to corporate tax breaks.”

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Since Boeing Commercial Airplanes CEO Ray Conner announced a drive to cut the workforce six weeks ago, his team has taken steps expected to eliminate \_\_\_\_\_ jobs by June — and that may be only halfway toward the total cuts this year.
2. An internal Boeing document obtained by The Seattle Times reveals that at least one company unit is targeting a \_\_\_\_\_ percent workforce reduction overall.
3. And people with knowledge of what’s planned say that’s roughly the percentage of jobs expected to be cut. That would translate to as many as \_\_\_\_\_ jobs being eliminated.
4. Asked about the plans, Boeing said Tuesday the initial jobs eliminated include whom?
5. What is the workforce reduction a part of?
6. Sean McCormack, Boeing Commercial Airplanes (BCA) vice president of communications, said Tuesday that our targets are what?
7. According to a Boeing transcript of that webcast, Conner said the company needed to drastically reduce costs — and thus airplane pricing. Why?
8. What is Airbus’ biggest weapon against Boeing?
9. “The only way you quickly can reduce costs is by laying people off. There’s no magic about it.” There is a danger for Boeing in cutting too many jobs, especially as it plans to match Airbus by revving up 737 production to 57 jets per month and 787 Dreamliner production to 14 jets per month. What’s seen as dangerous in this move to cut so many high-skilled jobs?
10. He said that Airbus winning 63 percent of single-aisle sales last year with its A320 jets going against Boeing’s 737 jets was “alarming. What is the 737 so important?”
11. Combining single-aisle and twin-aisle sales, he said Boeing now has \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the total backlog. Airbus is “trying to drive us to \_\_\_\_\_ percent,” which he said would anoint the European jet maker as the securely dominant player.
12. Boeing’s workforce in Washington State, including commercial airplanes, defense and corporate units, stood at just over \_\_\_\_\_ at the beginning of the year. At that time, total BCA employment companywide stood at \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:**

He said the coming cuts highlight a lack of accountability for the \$8.7 billion in aerospace tax breaks extended to Boeing in 2013 to make sure Boeing built the 777X here.

“This should make it clear to the Legislature why it is important to tie guaranteed job numbers to tax incentives, like the other states have done,” Holden said.

Likewise, Ray Goforth, executive director of the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), is exasperated that “we’re the only state that’s not attaching accountability requirements” to corporate tax breaks.

More than 9,000 Boeing jobs here have been eliminated since fall 2012, many by transferring engineering work to Boeing sites in other states.

“Now we are losing thousands more jobs,” said Goforth.

- **Do you agree that tax breaks should be directly tied to guaranteed jobs? Why or why not?**

### **Essay**

In justifying the anticipated cuts to employees in last month’s internal webcast, Conner was unusually frank as he invoked a dire threat from Airbus.

He said that Airbus winning 63 percent of single-aisle sales last year with its A320 jets going against Boeing’s 737 jets was alarming. Even in the market for bigger twin-aisle aircraft, Conner said, “We’ve ceded ground to Airbus.”

He cited another sales campaign last year, when longtime all-Boeing customer EVA Air of Taiwan bought 18 of the largest 787-10 Dreamliners, despite intense pricing pressure from the competing Airbus A350-900.

Boeing had to dig deep to close a large price gap, “not all the way but just enough so we were able to win,” Conner said.

“That’s our reality, guys. That’s what we’re dealing with,” Conner told employees. “And with the market kind of stabilizing here and not seeing the kind of growth or the opportunities for more campaigns, I think we’re going to be in an even tougher fight as we move into 2016 and beyond.”

- **What would help Boeing gain momentum over Airbus?**
- **In what main areas would change need to take place?**

**Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy**

***How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.***

- Using The Seattle Times e-Edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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