

## The Boeing 707

America entered the age of the jet transport on July 15, 1954, when the Boeing 707 prototype, the model 367-80, made its maiden flight from Renton Field, south of Seattle. About a month after that first flight, a traveler on a piston-engine, propeller-driven DC-6 airliner struck up a conversation with a fellow passenger.

That passenger happened to be a Boeing engineer. The traveler asked the engineer about the new jet aircraft, whereupon the engineer began speaking at length about the extensive testing Boeing had done on the jet engine before bringing it into commercial service. He recounted Boeing's experience with engines, from the B-17 to the B-52.

When his traveling companion asked him if he himself had yet flown on the new 707 jet airliner, the engineer replied, "I think I'll wait until it's been in service awhile."

While he had much knowledge of the product, that engineer wasn't demonstrating much faith in it.

In Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home, we are engaged in a noble mission -- the care and well-being of the people we serve. We do have a great company, and it's exciting to talk about the beauty and functionality of the facilities we operate and the qualifications of all of our associates.

But enthusiastic talking doesn't mean much if we aren't also willing to put our actions, and our lives, where our mouths are.

--Beecher Hunter