



Gary Boggs spent 10 years in the U.S. Army, mostly in the infantry. In September 2003, the Humvee Boggs was traveling in was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED). He was hit by shrapnel on the left side of his body which caused sight loss and damaged his hearing and nerves in both arms. Recovery was long and arduous and he was medically discharged in 2005.

He went back to his home town of Marion, Ohio. His employer, Home Depot, later relocated him to Florida where he became involved with Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, an organization dedicated to helping wounded troops adjust to living back home. He became a national spokesperson for the Coalition and has been interviewed by various national media, sharing his story with other wounded troops and their families. One of his speaking engagements was at Northrop Grumman Mission Systems' Veterans Day ceremony held in Reston, Virginia.



Duane Hardesty, one of Operation IMPACT's Champions, met and recruited Gary at one of the Coalition's annual conferences. Gary joined Northrop Grumman Integrated Systems sector in July 2007. He works in Quality Assurance for the Mine Countermeasures IPT in Melbourne, Florida. His responsibilities include the Coastal Battlefield Reconnaissance and Analysis, Rapid Airborne Mine Clearance System, and Airborne Standoff Minefield Detection System programs.



Gary Boggs (left) poses with Bob Klein, vice president and director of Integrated Systems' Mine Countermeasures IPT.  
*(Photo courtesy of Steve Potter.)*

When discussions at the planning table move to the warfighter, Gary is able to provide first-hand information. Bob Klein, vice president and director of the Mine Countermeasures IPT, remarks, "Gary has a great attitude and his expertise and field experience inspire the engineers to new levels. They are working with someone who was injured by an IED. You don't need much more motivation than that to develop systems to detect and eliminate IEDs."

"I enjoy coming to work," said Boggs, "I'm happy that what I am doing is making a difference to my fellow comrades out there now."

Gary's plans for the future include finishing the two bachelor's degrees he is pursuing at Franklin University – one in business management and the other in digital communications – and continuing his work at Northrop Grumman. "I loved being in the military and for me, working at Northrop Grumman is the logical next step." Gary adds, "I'm looking forward to a long and very interesting career with the company."