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# Phil Condit quits abruptly as Boeing CEO amid controversy

By Dave Carpenter  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Boeing Co. chairman and CEO Phil Condit resigned unexpectedly Monday amid deepening turmoil over questionable tactics used by the aerospace giant in aggressively trying to win defense contracts.

The stunning resignation came a week after two executives were fired for unethical conduct, including chief financial officer Mike Sears, who had worked closely with Condit at Boeing's Chicago headquarters.

Condit, 62, said he quit to try to prevent the company from getting "bogged down" after a year of tumult involving its defense business.

"I ultimately concluded it was the best decision for the good of the company," he said. "The controversies and distractions of the past year were obscuring the great accomplishments and performance of this company."

Among other things, the Pentagon is investigating allegations that a former Air Force official gave Boeing information about another company's competing bid on a contract to supply the military with air-refueling tankers.

The Air Force official, Darleen Druyun, was later hired by Boeing as a vice president and Boeing eventually won the estimated \$17 billion contract. Last week, Druyun was fired along with Sears, who had talked to her about a job with Boeing while she was still at the Pentagon.

Boeing has had other troubles with the Defense Department in recent months.

In July, the Pentagon punished the company for stealing trade secrets from rival Lockheed Martin to help win rocket contracts. Boeing has been barred from bidding on military satellite-launching

contracts, a penalty that has cost it seven launches worth about \$1 billion.

Condit has not been connected to the ethical issues that resulted in the recent firings. The scandal has done serious damage to the image of a storied company whose roots date to the invention of the airplane a century ago. Founded by William Boeing, the company had a huge effect on the development of commercial aviation in the 1900s.

Boeing employs about 160,000 people and has churned out thousands of jets and rockets that have been used by airlines, the military and space program.

Condit had been with Boeing since 1965, when he joined the company as an aerodynamics engineer. He became CEO in 1996 and was named chairman in 1997.

Condit moved company headquarters to Chicago from Seattle in 2001 and reduced the company's historical reliance on commercial jets, beefing up its defense and space operations in a strategy that helped cushion the severe blow to the aviation business after Sept. 11.

But he has also been criticized for leading Boeing away from the jetliner business. Rival Airbus is expected to eclipse Boeing this year as the world's largest commercial jet manufacturer.

Boeing rushed to install new leaders Monday.

The company brought back Harry Stonecipher, its 67-year-old former president and chief operating officer, from retirement in Florida to become chief executive in what analysts saw as caretaker leadership.

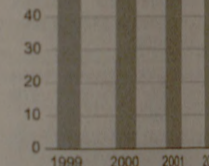
It also split Condit's duties in two, naming board member and former Hewlett-Packard Co. CEO Lewis Platt as chairman.

Even Boeing backers in Washington were hesitant to say the company's troubles involving the tanker deal are over.

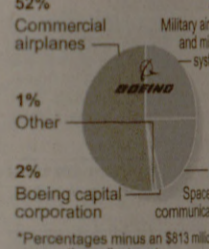
## Boeing's chairman resigns

The Boeing Company Chairman and Chief Executive Phil Condit resigned Monday. Boeing, the largest manufacturer of commercial aircraft and the third largest defense contractor, employs about 156,000 people in over 70 countries.

### Annual sales



### 2002 sales and operating revenue\*



\*Percentages minus an \$813 million accounting adjustment

SOURCES: Boeing Co., Hoover's Inc.

"I hope this is the end of it," said Rep. Norm Dicks, a leading proponent of the tanker deal. "Boeing doesn't know. There are other investigations by IG (inspector general) internally by Boeing that are under way."

Pentagon officials said the resignation was a private company matter and declined comment on the inspector general's investigation.

Despite Condit's resignation, the company's share price held steady on news of the departure. Boeing was up just 37 cents to \$38.02 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Robert Friedman, an aerospace defense analyst for Equity Group, said naming Stonecipher was clearly aimed at helping to restore Boeing's battered reputation.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### First suspect in border city ambush faces trial

EDINBURG, Texas — Four women killed when a shower of gunfire ripped through their car last year were the victims of mistaken identity, a prosecutor said Monday at the trial of the alleged triggerman.

"This was a hit that he was told to do," prosecuting attorney Joseph Orendain said in opening statements at the trial of Robert Gene "Bones" Garza, who has pleaded innocent to a four-count indictment that charges him with capital murder.

"He knew what they were going to do, who they were going to kill," Orendain said of Garza and other gang members accused in the Sept. 5, 2002, slayings. "But they hit the

wrong women."

When the shower of gunfire ripped through their car, the women were returning to the trailer they shared near the small border town of Donna, about 15 miles north of the Mexico border and 40 miles west of Brownsville.

A jury of seven men and five women will decide whether Garza is guilty of capital murder and should be sentenced to death.

Killed were Celina Linares Sanchez, 22; Lourdes Yesenia Araujo Torres, 20; Danizel Lizeth Vasquez Beltran, 21; and Maria DeLuz Bazaldua Cobarrubias, 31. Two others were in the car but survived.

The women, all illegal Mexican immigrants, were returning home from their jobs as "ficheras," or drink sellers, in a rundown casino known as Garcia's Place in Donna.

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