



Audiologist and air force veteran treats own hearing loss, serves as role model for patients

Sixty-one year old audiologist and Air Force veteran Robert Stevenson lost his hearing while serving in the military as a pilot. After several years of living with hearing loss and trying many types of different hearing aids, Robert has discovered a perfect solution for his needs with Siemens Motion® 700.

Missing Sounds

Robert Stevenson first began to notice his hearing loss while serving as a pilot in the Air Force. Before entering pilot training, Robert passed the mandatory hearing test required to become a pilot, but his hearing test results were discretionary.

After he became a pilot, Robert recalls that his wife and children would often comment that the television was too loud. He also noticed that he couldn't hear well when talking on the phone unless he went into a quiet room.

Robert had been exposed to jet engine noise while serving in the military, but he also discovered that his father's hearing loss was almost identical to his.

First Hearing Aid

Robert decided to visit an Air Force audiologist, who ordered Robert's first hearing aid. He began to wear it in his left ear while flying in the Air Force.

Robert wasn't completely satisfied with the hearing aid, recalling that it sounded very "tinny." Because of this, he wasn't faithful about wearing it all the time.

He continued with his successful career, pursuing a PhD and teaching French at the Air Force Academy, all while wearing just that one hearing aid.

Interest in Audiology

As Robert neared his Air Force retirement, he went to get his retirement physical, where he ended up talking to a Navy audiologist for several hours about all the hearing tests and how they worked. After that meeting, Robert became very interested in the field of audiology and researched courses in audiology at Utah State University. He soon enrolled in the university's program.

By this time, Robert's hearing was getting worse. "I was still functioning well enough in the environments where it was necessary, but I could tell I was missing a lot," he said.

Discovering Motion

Robert tried several different types of hearing aids through the years before finding Siemens Motion 700 completely-in-the-canal (CIC) hearing aids, which he says are better than any others he has worn.

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"I'm wearing my Motion 700 CICs and can tell I'm hearing significantly better. Before the Motion 700s, as a dispensing audiologist, I've had just about every make and model," Robert said. "Nothing else could compare with them."

Robert says that the sound is more "natural," allowing him to hear things that he was missing. Sounds like crinkling paper and typewriter keys striking now seem "normal" and not harsh. He has also noticed an improvement in speech, which has helped communication with his wife and children.

During a recent dinner at a loud restaurant, Robert recalls that his wife, who has perfect hearing, was having trouble hearing him and the waiter. But Robert was able to hear his wife and the waiter just fine while wearing the Motion 700s.

Robert also appreciates the Siemens e2e wireless® 2.0 technology, which synchronizes advanced signal processing, controls both instruments and provides better directionality of sound. "I discovered the e2e convenience of only needing to press one memory button to change programs. It's a way bigger deal to have that feature than I would have ever imagined," Robert said.

Role Model for Patients

Robert now serves as a role model for his patients who may be concerned about getting hearing aids. His personal experience with hearing loss now helps his practice by putting patients at ease.

"When patients see me with hearing aids, it turns out to be a big plus and reduces their apprehension when considering hearing aids for themselves," Robert said.

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