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Army Reserves with the Army Corps of Engineers until 1982, retiring with the rank of full Colonel. He was awarded by the Army's Meritorious Service Medal in acknowledgment of his 31 1/2 years of continuous service.

After his service, Bill joined the trailblazing acoustical consulting firm of Bolt Beranek and Newman (BBN) in February 1954, from which most acoustical consulting firms can trace a lineage, and where he was guided and deeply influenced by its famous partners, Dick Bolt, Leo Beranek and Robert Newman.

Bob Newman, a remarkable and animated teacher, became Bill's immediate mentor, and encouraged Bill's own teaching, always emphasizing expressive language that would be persuasive to architects and

engineers, and always with an irrepressible enthusiasm.

Alongside his consulting practice, Bill soon began teaching acoustics classes at the MIT School of Architecture, the Boston Architectural College, the Rhode Island School of Design, Harvard School of Public Health and Rodger Williams College.

Bill's inspirational teaching led many students to become future clients, and some even became acousticians. Bill once had Tony Hoover sit in on a few classes he taught at the Boston Architectural College and, to inspire his younger colleague said "OK, Tony you take over the class now."

Bill has been deeply involved in nearly all aspects of architectural acoustics and noise control consulting. He has consulted on thousands of projects of all building types, requiring

skillful interaction with architects, engineers, and clients, as well as the public.

He has a uniquely friendly, thorough, educational, and effective consulting style. Insights and research based on his projects have been the source of most of his contributions to the acoustical community at large.

There are five areas of Bill's contributions to acoustics and its practical application that are worth special consideration; masking, outdoor venue sound propagation, cinema sound quality, the practice of architectural acoustics consulting, and teaching and mentoring.

Bill was the lead author on the seminal paper "Speech Privacy in Buildings," J. Acoust. Soc. Am. 34, 475-492 (1962), that had the daring and the scientific evidence to suggest that adding appropriate back-

Door

**Bottom** 

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N/A

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ground sound could improve acoustical privacy.

More research and papers followed, leading to the entire industry of masking systems, and making open plan offices viable by increasing the potential for speech privacy, enhanced concentration, and decreased interruption. Speech privacy remains a high priority, especially with new federal mandates for privacy in healthcare facilities.

Bill's interest in the difficult problem of neighbors' complaints of sound from outdoor amphitheaters led to and has continued to influence the entire field of concert sound monitoring systems, associated methods for improved community relations, and development of acoustical criteria for outdoor concert venues.

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