

IMPACT

The official magazine of the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology

Featured article:
RAY JOHNSON

2018



Remaining Involved

CEAT graduate continues to make a difference in the world



Dr. Ray O. Johnson's career path has included stints in the military and private industry.

“I try to work on things that would create a future for the world.”

Those are the words of Dr. Ray O. Johnson, an alumnus of Oklahoma State University's College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology and 2010 CEAT Hall of Fame inductee.

His career path shows he's successfully followed that mantra.

Johnson spent 21 years in the U. S. Air Force. The military sponsored his 1984 bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from OSU. He later earned a master's degree and a doctorate in electrical engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

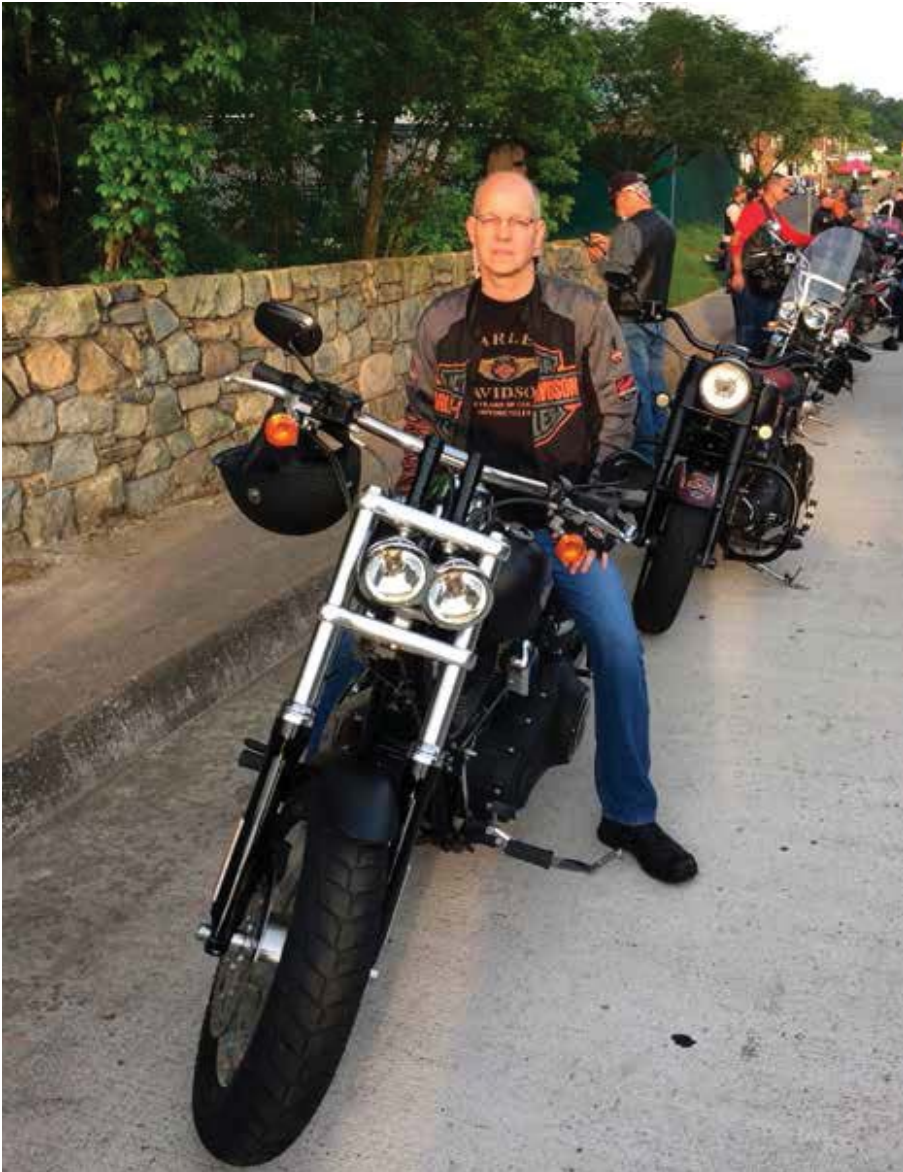
“I look back at the 21 years I spent in the Air Force in a very positive way,” Johnson said. “I gained a lot of engineering, operational, military and national security experience. I used experiences I gained from the Air Force to work on the more commercial side of things and continued to leverage my technical education for business purposes. It is not just a technical world we are living in; it is a technical and business world.”

After retiring from the military in 1995, he stepped into the business world, landing a job at Science Applications International Corp., where he was senior vice president and general manager of the advanced concepts business unit. In 2005, he went to Modern Technology Solutions Inc. as chief operating officer until 2006, when he joined aerospace and defense company Lockheed Martin as the senior vice president for engineering, technology and operations and the chief technology officer.

During Johnson's last three years at Lockheed Martin, the company experienced the best operational performance in its 104-year history.

“When I retired from Lockheed Martin in 2015, I became an executive in residence with Bessemer Venture Partners,” Johnson said.

BVP is perhaps the oldest venture capital firm in the U.S. and invests in seed-stage to



growth-stage enterprises, focusing on consumer and health care technology startups around the world.

“Sitting on the board of portfolio companies, I help from an operational point of view,” Johnson said. “A wide variety of activities I am a part of within Bessemer take advantage of my experience in engineering, technology and the operational side of a business.”

Johnson also became an executive director of QxBranch, a data analytics and quantum computer company.

“QxBranch and New Nordic Advisors just invested in a new company called Envelop Risk,” Johnson said. He sits on the board of Envelop Risk, a cybersecurity risk analytics company.

Additionally, Johnson is involved in energy and serves on the advisory board of 8 Rivers, a company that developed the Allam Cycle.

“For energy states like Oklahoma and Texas and for the world looking for carbon dioxide alternatives, this Allam Cycle process allows natural gas to be used to generate electricity without the associated carbon dioxide emissions,” Johnson said.

Johnson also serves on the technical and industrial advisory board of Terrestrial Energy, a next-generation nuclear energy company in Canada.

“Terrestrial Energy has developed a small modular reactor based on integral molten salt reactor technology,” Johnson said. “The advantage is this form of nuclear energy is non-carbon dioxide letting, which helps with issues like climate change, carbon dioxide emissions and greenhouse gases. The process is non-proliferable and very safe.”

Johnson is also on the board of visitors for the Argonne National Laboratory, providing guidance, oversight and advice to lab management on scientific and technical issues and long-range objectives, among other things.

“Finally,” Johnson said, “I work internationally with a technology-based company in Bangkok, Thailand. My goal is to help them create three new lines of business that have the potential growth of \$1 billion in five years.”

Johnson is a lifelong learner who stays involved in the fields of engineering, technology and business.

“Throughout your career you have to continue to adapt, learn and focus on your education and business opportunities,” Johnson said. “It’s not just the technical education that matters; it’s the continuing education and adaptability that enable you to progress in your career and continue to make a difference in the world.” 🌍