

## 2002 Engineer of Distinction



### Allen R. Atkins

B.S. Electrical Engineering, TTU, 1970

M.S. Systems Engineering, TTU, 1971

Ph.D. Electrical Engineering, TTU, 1975

M.S. Business Administration, San Diego State University, 1995

Vice President, Technology & Define Process  
Phantom Works  
Boeing Corporation  
St. Louis, Missouri

### Citation

A native of Western Kentucky, Dr. Atkins received a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering in 1970, a Master of Science in systems engineering in 1971 and a Ph.D. in engineering in 1975—all from Tennessee Technological University. He also earned an MBA from San Diego State University in 1995.

He served in the U.S. Air Force-Aeronautical Division at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, from 1973 to 1980, rising to the rank of Chief Engineer, and then the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency from 1980 to 1987. At Wright-Patterson, he worked on Mini-Remotely Piloted Vehicle (RPVs). Dr. Atkins helped develop the first electric RPV, the first solar powered version, the smallest RPV, and the first one that was truly "stealthy." For his exemplary services, he was recognized as Junior Engineer of the Year in 1975. Success of RPVs led to the further development of other low-observable technologies and stealth vehicles, such as the Have Blue Stealth Demonstrator, which became the F-117 Stealth Fighter. Dr. Atkins' work was not limited to aircraft; he was the first chief engineer on the Sea Shadow, a first-generation stealth ship.

"The success our country experienced during Desert Storm can be directly attributed to the technical leadership that Dr. Atkins provided on the Have Blue program," said Gen. Ralston, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "Dr. Atkins is a pioneer in stealth technology, a technology that has become one of the highest leveraged technologies of the century," said Mr. Paul Kaminiski, Under-Secretary of Defense for Acquisitions under President Bush. In 1981, Dr. Atkins received the DoD's second-highest civilian award, the Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Award.

He then moved to the private sector as Vice-President and General Manager with the McDonnell Aircraft Company from 1987 to 1990, McDonnell Douglas Technologies from 1990 to 1995, and as Vice-President-Product Application Technology with McDonnell Douglas Aerospace Company from 1995 to 1997. After the

McDonnell Douglas-Boeing merger in 1997, Dr. Atkins became Vice-President-Technology and Define Process for Boeing at Phantom Works in St. Louis, Missouri.

At McDonnell Douglas and Boeing, Dr. Atkins concentrated on the development of robust manufacturing processes. Notable advancements are a very unique high temperature material for the B-2 bomber and a specialized R-Card for the Commanche, leading to California Quality Awards for Dr. Atkins and McDonnell Douglas. Today as Vice-President of Technology and Define Process at Phantom Works he oversees teams dealing with mission avionics technology, open systems architecture, software and information, communication, sensor, and electronics.

An advocate of educational opportunity, he has been active as a teacher in Junior Achievement, Chairman of the Board of AMIE, and a member of more than seven university advisory boards, including the Tennessee Tech ECE Department's Industrial Advisory Board for the past five years. He has been Joint Chair of the Board since April 2000, and also serves on the Board of Engineering Advisors for the College of Engineering. Through these activities he has shared his experiences with faculty and students and has been helpful in setting goals and objectives for the academic programs of the College of Engineering and, in particular, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Atkins's accomplishments have earned him many recognition and honors, notably the St. Louis Academy of Science 2000 Peter H. Raven Lifetime Award.

Dr. Atkins and his wife, Natalie, have four children and six grandchildren.



Allen Atkins receives his citation from ECE Chairperson P.K. Rajan