

# IMPACT

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Featured article:  
**HUAN NGUYEN**

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# 2020 Hall of Fame

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE AND TECHNOLOGY



## REAR ADMIRAL HUAN T. NGUYEN

Rear Admiral Huan T. Nguyen graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He also holds master's degrees in electrical engineering from Southern Methodist University, engineering from Purdue University and information technology from Carnegie Mellon University.

Nguyen was born in Hue, Vietnam. During the Tet Offensive in the Vietnam War, Nguyen's parents and siblings were killed by Viet Cong Communist guerillas in their family home outside of Saigon. Nguyen's uncle took him in, and in 1975 Colonel Edward Veiluva and his wife Dorothy sponsored their family to come to the United States as political refugees.

Nguyen was inspired to serve his adopted country by the sailors and Marines who helped thousands of Vietnamese refugees and received a direct commission in the Reserve Engineering Duty Officer program in 1993.

While serving active duty in the military, Nguyen's operational tours included multiple waterfront maintenance assignments, including being the testing officer on the USS Kitty Hawk. He served as executive officer and chief engineer for the Joint Counter Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare (CREW) field office in Iraq, and was instrumental in the stand-up of Joint CREW Composite Squadron One.

Some of his staff assignments include being the director of military programs at Naval Sea System Command (NAVSEA); being the Engineering Duty

Officer community manager and most recently, served as deputy chief information officer for NAVSEA. Reserve assignments included command of five units within NAVSEA, the U.S. Pacific Fleet and the Office of Naval Research.

Nguyen has also worked in industry where he has obtained several patents in automotive electronics. In August of 1994, Nguyen began work as a staff electrical engineer for General Motors (GM) where he eventually managed a team of over 30 engineers in the design and integration of the Powertrain Control Module to all GM platforms. In 2006, he became the senior vice president of Bank of America, where he established the strategic framework and governance for Bank of America computing on cybersecurity. In 2009, he began working with Exelis, Inc. as a senior technical advisor and director of business development where he managed a multi-million-dollar portfolio of independent research projects on ground electronic warfare countermeasures.

Nguyen is the first Vietnamese-American to be promoted to the rank of rear admiral. He has received a Legion of Merit and a Bronze Star Medal for his work in the Middle East. He has received the Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal. He has also had the honor of serving on teams that have been awarded the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Navy Unit Commendation and the Navy Meritorious Commendation.