



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS RALPH JOHNSON (DDG 114)
UNIT 100133 BOX 1
FPO AP 96691-3303

July 1, 2024

Welcome aboard the USS RALPH JOHNSON! It is a great honor to have you and your families join our esteemed crew. As you embark on this new journey with us, I want to emphasize the significance of the support network we have in place, particularly our sponsorship program and the Ombudsman Program. These programs serve as crucial links between our command, yourself, and your families, ensuring open communication and access to resources. Our sponsors are dedicated to ensuring your transition to Japan and RALPH JOHNSON is an easy and seamless one. Our Ombudsmen are dedicated to assisting families with any challenges they may face, fostering a strong, supportive community. They provide information, support, and referral services to address concerns and enhance family readiness, which directly contributes to our overall mission readiness. To be assigned a sponsor please email sponsor@ddg114.navy.mil and to reach our Ombudsman please email rjombudsman@gmail.com.

Our ship proudly bears the name of U.S. Marine Corps Private First Class Ralph H. Johnson, a true hero who exemplified the highest values of courage and sacrifice. During the Vietnam War, while serving as a reconnaissance scout with Company A, Pfc. Johnson gallantly gave his life to save his fellow Marines by shielding them from a grenade blast. His actions on March 5, 1968, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Naval Service. On April 20, 1970, Pfc. Johnson was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. His bravery and dedication to his comrades are a constant source of inspiration for our crew. We strive to honor his legacy through our commitment to duty and service.

As part of DESRON FIFTEEN, America's largest forward-deployed destroyer squadron, the USS RALPH JOHNSON plays a vital role in maintaining regional stability and ensuring maritime security. Our mission is to deter aggression, respond to crises, and promote peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. This requires a high level of readiness, skill, and teamwork from every member of our crew. The forward-deployed status of our ship allows us to rapidly respond to any situation, demonstrating our commitment to our allies and maintaining a formidable presence in a strategically important area.

Your role in our mission is critical. Every sailor on board contributes to the success of our operations, from maintaining our advanced systems and weaponry to ensuring the smooth operation of daily activities. Your dedication, expertise, and professionalism are vital to achieving our mission objectives. Additionally, the support of your families is invaluable. They are the unsung heroes who provide the stability and encouragement that enable you to perform your duties effectively.

In welcoming you to the USS RALPH JOHNSON, we also welcome your families into our broader naval family. We understand the sacrifices they make and the unique challenges they face. Our commitment to their well-being is unwavering. Through the Ombudsman Program and other support services, we aim to ensure that your families have the resources and support they need to thrive.

Together, we will continue to uphold the legacy of PFC Ralph Johnson and contribute to the security and stability of our region. Welcome to the team; we are honored to serve alongside you. Your journey with the USS RALPH JOHNSON promises to be one of dedication, excellence, and shared purpose.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Justin Caesar", is positioned above the printed name.

J. A. CAESAR
Commander, U.S. Navy