

Message from the Captain

From: Commanding Officer, USS PINCKNEY (DDG 91)

To: Prospective Firewalkers and Families of USS PINCKNEY (DDG 91)

Subj: WELCOME ABOARD!

First and foremost, welcome to the one of the most beautiful cities in the country – sunny San Diego! Secondly, welcome to the most advanced and lethal warship in the United States Navy's superior naval fleet. Aboard PINCKNEY, we are led by three guiding principles – **technical excellence, mastery in war, and unwavering professionalism**. From the moment you step aboard, you will be challenged to become a technical expert regarding your equipment and your craft. You will have opportunities to push the envelope in putting that expertise into practice and develop innovative solutions to our most pacing warfighting challenges. Your application of that in-depth knowledge will enable you to become a master in warfighting. This warfighting culture is nurtured through mutual respect, honor, pride, and hard work – in short – unwavering professionalism!

As you will discover in navigating the website, PINCKNEY's namesake is Messman First Class William Pinckney. A native of Beaufort, SC, Pinckney, while aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CV 6) experienced firsthand the famed Doolittle Raid of Tokyo, the Battle of Midway, and the Battle of the Eastern Solomons. After repairs in Pearl Harbor, ENTERPRISE was badly damaged in the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands. Surviving a blast on the flight deck, in the ammunition handling room, Pinckney regained consciousness and braved third degree burns, electric shock, and heat to rescue Gunners Mate James Bagwell. When asked about the events, Pinckney stated simply that he was only, "Proud to Serve!"



Rooted in service, we on the mighty ship PINCKNEY, take pride in humble service. We do not get caught up in the bravado of being the most premier warship; however, we pride ourselves on serving one another and those that are protected by the nation's cloth. We are honored to have you as a valued addition to this team and family, and we promise that while this will be an incredibly challenging tour characterized by hard work and grit, we can assure you that you will feel welcome and as if you are a part of something great! To the families of those chosen to be a part of the Firewalker family, we can assure you that your sons, daughters, or otherwise will be taken care of and that they will forever be positively changed by the experience they have on this formidable warship.

I, as well as the executive officer and command master chief, am happy to answer any questions that you may have throughout your pipeline. You can also email the command sponsor program (sponsor_program@ddg91.navy.mil) with any questions as well. They are standing by to connect you with your parent division and ensure that your transition to PINCKNEY is as smooth as possible. Again, we are extremely happy to have you as part of the team!

Proud to Serve!

Dustin T. Smith
Commanding Officer
USS PINCKNEY (DDG 91)