



**Roy L. Johnson, Admiral, USN (Ret.)**  
"Roy"

Date of Designation: 25 January 1932 NA # 3884

Dates of Active Duty: June 1929 - December 1968

Total Flight Hours: 8,400

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 120

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 50 Prop: 8,350 VF/VA: 300

VR/VP: 200 VS: 310

Combat Tours:

WW II: July 1943 - November 1945

Korea: October 1951 - February 1952

Vietnam: June 1964 - August 1965

Aviation Commands:

Commander, Air Group 2, Jun. 1943 - May 1944

CO, USS *Badoeng Strait* (CVE-13), Oct. 1951 - May 1952

COMCARDIV 4, 1958 - 1959

CO, USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59), Oct. 1955 - Sep. 1956

COMSEVENTHFLT, Jun. 1964 - May 1965

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Service Medal

Legion of Merit

Distinguished Flying Cross

Bronze Star

Air Medal

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

Roy Lee Johnson was born in Big Bend, Louisiana, on March 18, 1906, son of John E. and Hettie Mae (Long) Johnson. He entered the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, on June 15, 1925, on appointment from Louisiana, and as a Midshipman played varsity baseball and was a mem-



ber of the "Lucky Bag" staff. He was graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 6, 1929, and subsequently advanced in rank to that of Rear Admiral to date from January 1, 1956, and to Vice Admiral, from December 15, 1961.

Upon graduation from the Naval Academy in June 1929, he was assigned to the USS *Tennessee*, and served as a junior officer in that battleship until May 1930. He was then transferred to the USS *West Virginia* from communication duty on the Staff of Commander Battleship Divisions, Battle Fleet. On January 28, 1931, he began flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, having had preliminary training at the Naval Air Station, San Diego, California, in 1930, and on January 25, 1932, was designated Naval Aviator.

From March to June 1932 he had duty at the Naval Air Station, Hampton Roads, Virginia, and upon detachment was ordered to the USS *Salt Lake City* for three years duty with Scouting Squadron TEN-S, aviation unit of that cruiser. He returned to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, on June 20, 1935, and for two years served as a Flight Instructor. In May 1937, he joined Scouting Squadron SIX for three years duty, while that squadron was based on the USS *Enterprise*.

On June 29, 1940, he was ordered to Patrol Squadron TWELVE, and completing that assignments he reported on March 28, 1941, to the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., where he was on duty when the United States entered World War II. He remained in the Bureau until May 1943, when he was transferred to the Fleet Air Command, Quonset Point, Rhode Island, and assigned duty as Commander Carrier Air Group TWO. He continued in command when his Air Group joined the USS *Hornet* early in 1944, and from May of that year until May 1945 he served as Air Officer and later as Executive Officer of that same ship.

For meritorious service while in command of Carrier Air Group TWO, and as Air Officer of the USS *Hornet*, he was awarded the Air Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, with Combat "V", the Legion of Merit, also with Combat "V",

- Continued -

and a Gold Star in Lieu of the second Legion of Merit.

The citations follow, in part:

Air Medal: "For meritorious achievement in aerial flight as Commander of a Carrier Based Air Group, attached to the USS *Hornet*, in action against enemy Japanese forces at Palau, Woleai, Wake and Truk, from March to May 1944. Coordinating and leading fighter sweeps against enemy airfields and airborne craft, and bombing mission against enemy shipping and shore installations, (he) directed the operations of his squadron in the air over target, took photographs of the targets in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire and made valuable and timely reports of his flights to the Task Group Commander. . . "

Bronze Star Medal: "For meritorious service as Air Group Commander and later as Air Officer onboard the USS *Hornet*... from March 5 to July 20, 1944. Serving with distinction in an assignment of vital importance, (he) rendered invaluable service in connection with the organization, training and operation of his air group and contributed materially to the successful record of accomplishment attained by the *Hornet* and the aircraft onboard..."

Legion of Merit: "For exceptionally meritorious conduct. . . as Air Officer of the USS *Hornet*, assigned to Second Carrier Task Force, Pacific Fleet, during operations, . . . from June 5 to September 24, 1944, ... (he) contributed materially to the high degree of operating efficiency attained by the Air Group..."

Gold Star in lieu of second Legion of Merit: ". . . as Air Officer of the USS *Hornet* during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Philippine Islands, Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns from October 2, 1944 to April 22, 1945. . . (he) operated the air department at the peak of efficiency during this period of extensive air activities and consistently maintained a high degree of availability and performance of aircraft. . . (contributing) materially to the infliction of damage upon the enemy by the air groups serving on his ship..."

He is also entitled to the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the USS *Hornet* for "extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces in the air, ashore and afloat in the Pacific War Area from March 29, 1944 to June 10, 1945..."

Returning to the Navy Department, he reported on October 3, 1945 for duty in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In July 1947 he was ordered to Norfolk, Virginia, where he served as Aviation Operations Officer on the staff of Commander SECOND Task Fleet.

In January 1950 he reported as Training Officer on the staff of Chief of Naval Air Reserve Training at Glenview, Illinois. In that capacity he had additional duty at Pensacola, Florida, and various other places until detached in October 1951. On November 15, that year, he became Commanding Officer of the USS *Badoeng Strait*, which under his com-

mand participated in operations in the Korean Area. After his detachment in July 1952 he had instruction at the National War College, Washington, D. C. , for a year.

During the next two years he served as Head of the Air Weapons Systems Analysis Staff, Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air). In May 1955 he reported as Prospective Commanding Officer of the USS *Forrestal* (CVA- 59), and assumed command of that giant flattop (the first of the super aircraft carriers of 60,000 tons to be completed) at her commissioning at Norfolk, Virginia, on October 1, 1955. He commanded the *Forrestal* until June 1956, then had duty as Director of the Long Range Objectives Group, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

In December 1958 he assumed command of Carrier Division FOUR and on January 25, 1960 reported as Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Plans and Policy), Navy Department. In January 1962 he became Deputy Director of Joint Strategic Target Planning, with headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, Nebraska. He assumed the duties of Deputy Commander in Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet on July 30, 1963. On June 15, 1964 Vice Admiral Johnson assumed command of the United States Seventh Fleet,

In addition to the Legion of Merit with Gold Star and Combat "V", the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", the Air Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, Vice Admiral Johnson has the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; China Service Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal; the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two stars and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation. He is also entitled to wear the Navy Unit Citation awarded the USS *Badoeng Strait* for services during the Korean action.

Vice Admiral Johnson and his wife, the former Miss Margaret Louise Gross of Washington, D. C., have two children, Jo-Anne Lee Johnson and Roy Lee Johnson, Jr. His hometown is Eunice, Louisiana.