

ROGER D. JOHNSON



Roger D. Johnson entered the US Navy in June 1950. Upon completion of his enlistment as an electronics technician, he was given a Secretary of the Navy fleet appointment to the US Naval Academy. He Graduated with distinction in June 1955.

Johnson attended flight school and graduated as a Naval Aviator in October 1956. He reported to light photographic squadron 63 (VFP-63) and served as team pilot and detachment maintenance officer. He flew F9F-8 Cougars and F8U Crusader reconnaissance aircraft.

In June 1963, he received a Master of Science degree in physics after attending the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey California. He had specialized in plasma physics and controlled thermonuclear reaction studies.

He then served three years on the staff of the Commander Fleet Air Western Pacific.



Roger, ready for flight.



Roger D Johnson's US Naval academy Midshipman's Uniform worn while a cadet at the Academy.

Johnson reported for duty to the Naval Air Systems Command in 1966 and was a member of the TF34/S-3 development team. The S-3 Viking aircraft was designed to operate from carrier decks to serve as anti-submarine warfare.

He was assigned to Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet in August 1969 as the F-4 Fighter Class Desk and coordinated fleet participation in the development of the F-4B to F-4N Service Life Extension Program. This update and rework project made the aircraft available for another six years of service life.

In 1971 Johnson became Executive officer of the Navy's largest Naval Air Rework Facility in North Island California.

He was a distinguished graduate from the National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1976. He then reported to the Naval Air Systems Command in Washington DC as the deputy project manager for the F-14 Phoenix project.

In September 1977 Roger was promoted to the project manager of the F-14 Phoenix project. He was nominated for promotion to Rear Admiral by the president and was accepted.

Native of Willmar is selected for promotion to rear admiral

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Special to the Tribune) — Capt. Roger D. "Smiley" Johnson, a native of Willmar, has been selected for promotion to Rear Admiral, USN. He was among 37 naval line officers nominated for promotion by the President.

Capt. Johnson is currently the F-14/Phoenix project manager at the Naval Air Systems Command, Washington, D.C., a position he has held since September 1977.

The F-14 is the Navy's primary all weather, carrier-based, fighter capable of performing long, medium and short range air-to-air combat as well as air-to-surface attack missions. It alone, of all U.S. fighters, carries the Phoenix missile which has demonstrated the destruction of multiple air targets at extended ranges.

Capt. Johnson enlisted in the U.S. Navy in June 1959 where he served as an electronics

technician. A Secretary of the Navy fleet appointment, he graduated "with distinction" from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1965.

He entered flight training and was designated a naval aviator in October 1966. Capt. Johnson then reported to light photographic squadron 63 (VFP-63) and served as a team pilot and detachment maintenance officer flying F9F-8 Cougar and F8U Crusader reconnaissance aircraft.

Johnson attended the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, where he specialized in plasma physics and controlled thermonuclear reaction studies. He received a Master of Science degree in physics in June 1963.

Following postgraduate school he served three years on the staff, Commander Fleet Air Western Pacific in various assignments.

Reporting to the Naval Air Systems Command in 1976,

Capt. Johnson was a member of the TF34/S-3 development team. The S-3 Viking aircraft is designed to operate from carrier decks in the role of anti-submarine warfare and is powered by the TF34 Jet engine.

He was assigned to Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet in August 1969 as the F-4 Fighter Class Desk (fleet engineering responsibility) and coordinated fleet participation in the development of the F-4B to F-4N Service Life Extension Program.

This major aircraft update and rework program makes the aircraft available for another six years of service life. Two years later, he became the executive officer of the Navy's largest Naval Air Rework Facility, North Island, California employing nearly 7,000 people in the repair and overhaul of aircraft, engines and assorted components.

Capt. Johnson was a distinguished graduate of the National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Class of 1970. After graduation

he reported to the Naval Air Systems Command as the deputy project manager for the F-14/Phoenix Project.

Among the awards and decorations Capt. Johnson holds are the Navy Commendation Medal and the Navy Unit Citation.

He is the son of Mrs. Irene D. Johnson (deceased) of Willmar. He is married to the former Jean Ann Bernard of Omaha, Nebraska. They have three children, Kim, Karen and Scott, and currently reside in Vienna, Va.



**US Navy Spoons,
brought home by
Johnson.**

Johnson was assigned assistant commander for systems and engineering, then deputy commander for plans and programs in 1980.

On 12 April 1984, Rear Admiral Roger D Johnson became the Eighth Commandant of the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC) in Belvoir Virginia

Under Johnson's leadership, the college's five month Program Management Course became more refined. The DSMC Regional Centers expanded, opening one new center in 1984, and two more in 1985. Roger

also worked on improving attendance of Naval personnel at the College.

Admiral Johnson initiated a study to explore the use of computers and advanced technology in classrooms in November 1984. The study was a success, and led to the introduction of the first computers in the classroom, Zenith (Z-100), in June 1985. This allowed student and staff daily on the job computer capability for the first time.

On 27 September 1985, Admiral Johnson passed his leadership of DSMC on to AS Air Force Brigadier General Charles P. Cabell.

Three days later, on 30 September 1985, rear Admiral Roger D Johnson retired from the US Navy.

after his retirement, Johnson began working for Cypress International in Alexandria Virginia as the vice president for Navy programs. He then went on to serve as the Navy systems representative in Washington for Boeing Co, retiring in 1995.



On 4 October 1996, Johnson passed away of cardiac arrest in Fairfax Virginia. He was 64 years old. He was survived by his wife, 2 daughters, a son, and grandchildren.