



**Lieutenant Commander Robert D. Johnson**  
**Chaplain Corps, United States Navy**

Chaplain Johnson first entered the United States Navy in January 1994, enlisting as a Nuclear Electrician's Mate. He completed boot camp in Orlando, FL, followed by EM 'A' School and Naval Nuclear Power School, graduating in the top 25% of his class. In March 1995, he reported to Naval Nuclear Prototype Training (MTS 635) in Charleston, SC, followed by orders to the USS MICHIGAN (SSBN 727 Gold) where he completed seven SSBN strategic deterrent patrols and served as the boat's Protestant Lay Leader.

In March 2000, Chaplain Johnson entered the USNR at Navy/Marine Corps Reserve Center, Greenville, SC, serving as the Engineering Department LCPO for FFG 207. During this time, he completed his B.A. in Pastoral Studies at Bob Jones University (2002) and M.Div. at Bob Jones Seminary (2005), while serving as an assistant pastor at Hope Baptist Church. In 2004, he was accepted as a Chaplain Candidate Program Officer and subsequently returned to active duty in August 2005, reporting as command chaplain of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME. In 2008 he was assigned to Fifth Battalion, Tenth Marines, Second Marine Division, and served for a year in Afghanistan as the Brigade Headquarters Group Chaplain for Marine Expeditionary Brigade Afghanistan. From there he served as the division officer and then deputy command chaplain of Naval Base Rota, Spain (2011-2014). Selected for the Advanced Education Program, Chaplain Johnson earned a Th.M. in Pastoral Counseling at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and then reported to the USS NIMITZ in July 2015.

Chaplain Johnson's personal decorations and awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (2), Navy Achievement Medal (3), Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation, and Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal. He is Fleet Marine Force and Submarine qualified (enlisted). He was also the recipient of the 2010 National Bible Association's Witherspoon Award.

He and his wife, Ester, have been married for eighteen years and have four children: Justus (16), Lance (11), Laura (10), and Ella (9).