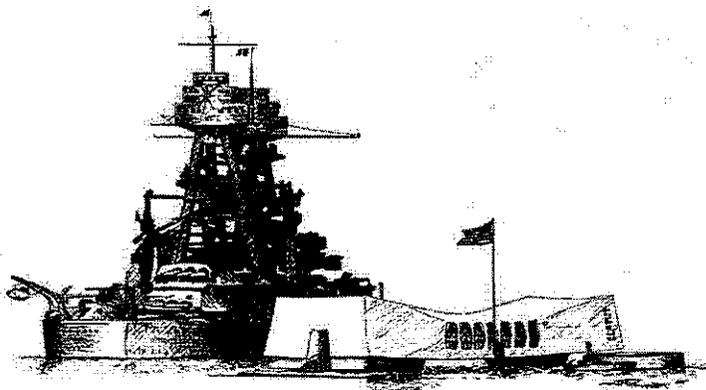


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## **Vitale to command Navy Region Hawaii, Surface Group Middle Pacific**

PEARL HARBOR – Capt. Michael C. Vitale is slated to assume command of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific on Aug. 13. Vitale, who was nominated in March for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half), has served since August 2003 as director, Navy Senate Liaison, Office of Legislative Affairs in Washington, D.C.

As Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, Vitale will manage the Navy's shore installations and infrastructure in Hawaii, serving as regional coordinator for more than 60 Navy commands, including 11 surface ships, 17 submarines and 4 aircraft squadrons. About 15,000 active duty Navy personnel are stationed in Hawaii, in addition to 20,000 Navy family members and 10,000 civilian employees.

In his other role as Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, Vitale will be responsible for the training, maintenance and readiness of the 11 surface ships homeported at Pearl Harbor, ensuring they are prepared to surge in accordance with the Fleet Response Plan.

Vitale's first Navy assignment was aboard the Pearl Harbor-based USS Reeves from 1978 to 1980. He has also had assignments on the Joint Staff, command of the Pearl Harbor-based USS

John S. McCain, command of Destroyer Squadron 24, and chief of staff for Carrier Group Four. He is a graduate of the University of Louisville and holds Masters degrees from the Naval Postgraduate School and the National War College.

“Pearl Harbor is where I began my Navy career, and it’s great for my family and me to return to a place we love so much,” said Vitale. “Hawaii has tremendous strategic importance to our nation, and I am honored to be responsible for ensuring the Navy’s operational forces based here have the support they need to fight and win.”

Rear Adm. Barry McCullough commanded Navy Region Hawaii until June, when he left to take command of the USS Enterprise aircraft carrier strike group. Capt. Ronald R. Cox has served as commander in the interim.

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*Capt. Vitale’s complete biography and high-resolution photo are available on the Navy Region Hawaii website at [www.hawaii.navy.mil](http://www.hawaii.navy.mil). Capt. Vitale is available for brief phone interviews prior to his arrival from Washington, D.C.*