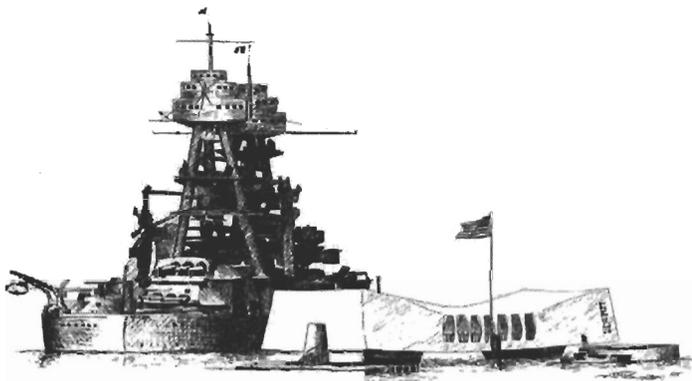


# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Aug. 7, 2006**

**POC: Lt. Barbara Mertz**

**RELEASE #38-06**

## **Change of Command Ceremony scheduled for Navy Region Hawaii/Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific**

PEARL HARBOR – Rear Adm. Townsend G. “Tim” Alexander will assume command of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific tomorrow at 10 a.m. at a traditional change of command ceremony on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Alexander, who was nominated in May for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half), has served since April 2004 as the commanding officer of Naval Base Coronado, Calif.

As Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, Alexander will serve as regional coordinator, managing the Navy’s shore installations and infrastructure in Hawaii. The command serves the more than 60 local Navy commands, including 12 surface ships, 16 submarines and four 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, Alexander will be responsible for the training, maintenance and readiness of the 12 surface ships home ported at Pearl Harbor, ensuring they are prepared for forward-deployed Fleet operations.

Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale commanded Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific since August 2004 and took command of Carrier Strike Group Two/Commander USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Carrier Strike Group on June 7 in a ceremony aboard the carrier.

**Media representatives who wish to cover the ceremony must contact Navy Region Hawai’i Public Affairs at 473-2888 by 3 p.m., Aug. 7 to arrange an escort. Media will be met at the Nimitz Gate Visitors Pass Office parking area at 9:15 a.m., Aug. 8.**