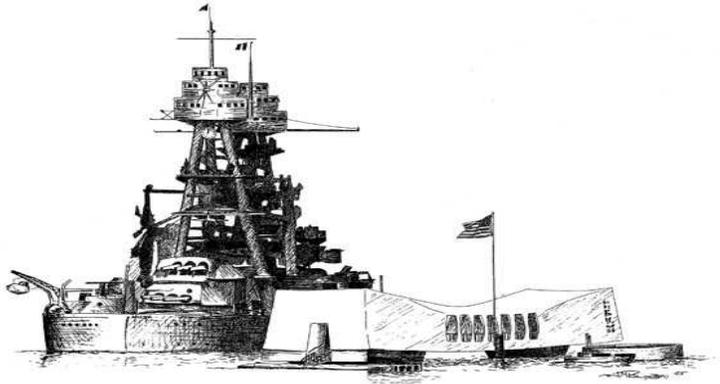


NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Commanding Officer of USS Port Royal relieved of duties

PEARL HARBOR – Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, temporarily relieved Capt. John Carroll of his duties as commanding officer of USS Port Royal (CG-73) pending the results of the ongoing investigation to determine the cause of the ship's grounding.

Capt. John T. Lauer III, who is currently assigned to the staff of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, has been temporarily assigned as the ship's commanding officer.

Carroll took command of USS Port Royal in October 2008. The ship spent three days aground about a half-mile south of Honolulu Airport before it was successfully freed today. Port Royal was towed to Pearl Harbor for closer inspection, assessment and development of repair plans.

Homeported at Pearl Harbor, USS Port Royal was commissioned on July 9, 1994.