

CAPTAIN KEVIN M. MCGOWAN
United States Navy
Director, Naval Command College



CAPT Kevin M. McGowan is a native of Erie, Pennsylvania and a 1990 graduate of the United States Naval Academy where he earned an engineering degree and his commission as an Ensign. After Flight Training in Pensacola and Corpus Christi, he was designated a Naval Aviator in 1992.

His first operational tour was in Patrol Squadron ELEVEN in Brunswick, Maine from 1993 to 1996 where he flew the U.S. Navy's P-3 Orion, serving as Pilot NATOPS Officer, and Safety/NATOPS Department Head. He qualified as Plane Commander, Mission Commander, Instructor Pilot, and NATOPS Evaluator. He completed counter-drug deployments to Puerto Rico/Panama/Honduras and a second deployment to Sigonella, Sicily in support of Combat Operations over Bosnia-Herzegovina and Operation SHARP GUARD. At the completion of his tour in 1996, Patrol Squadron ELEVEN was decommissioned.

CAPT McGowan's next assignment was to Patrol Squadron THIRTY as an FRS Instructor Pilot. As part of the "Pro's Nest," he served as the Command Security Manager, Aircrew Division Officer, and the Quality Assurance Officer. He completed his instructor tour at the FRS as the lead FRS IUT Instructor Pilot and with the highest sortie completion rate on record.

In 1999, CAPT McGowan reported aboard USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75) as the Assistant Navigator (ANAV) where he qualified as Fleet Officer of the Deck Underway and deployed to CENTCOM and the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. In 2001, he was recognized as the LANTFLT "Ship-handler of the Year" and additionally became the first aviator to qualify as non-nuclear Engineering Officer of the Watch (EOOW) aboard a Nimitz class aircraft carrier.

In 2001, CAPT McGowan reported to Patrol Squadron TWENTY SIX for his Department Head tour where he served as the CTG OPS Officer, Training Department Head, and Operations Officer. While assigned to the "Tridents" he deployed to SOUTHCOM for counter-drug operations and he additionally served as Officer in Charge (OIC) of PATRON Keflavik in Iceland.

In 2004, CAPT McGowan reported to Commander Naval Personnel Command in Millington, Tennessee to serve as the VP Air Combat Placement Officer in PERS 43. Following his tour at BUPERS, he reported as a student to the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island where he earned his Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies in 2006 as part of the College of Naval Warfare.

In 2006, CAPT McGowan was selected for aviation operational command at sea and reported to the RED LANCERS of Patrol Squadron TEN for duty as the Executive Officer. On 27 June 2008, CAPT McGowan became the 72nd Commanding Officer of the RED LANCERS of Patrol Squadron TEN completing a successful PACOM deployment and preparing the squadron for home port change from Brunswick, Maine to Jacksonville, Florida in conjunction with a CENTCOM deployment.

Following his successful squadron command tour, CAPT McGowan reported to the Commander of COMUSNAVCENT/COMUSFIFTHFLEET in Manama, Bahrain as Director of Theater Security Cooperation and Director of Strategy and Strategic Communications. Additionally, CAPT McGowan stood up the Maritime Center of Excellence (MCOE) serving as first Director and Deputy Commander.

In 2010, CAPT McGowan reported as faculty to the United States Naval War College in Newport, RI where he served as a military professor of Leadership in the National Security Affairs department teaching the National Security Decision Making, and Theater Security Decision Making courses as well as the Naval Staff College's international short course.

Captain McGowan was selected for major command ashore on the October 2012 Aviation Major Command Screen Board. He commanded Officer Training Command Newport in from May 2014 to May 2016 wherein he was responsible for the initial leader development and onboarding of two-thirds of all new naval officers (3200 per year) across five schoolhouses (OCS, ODS, DCOIC, Mustang Academy, and NSI).

In June 2016 become the 31st Director of the Naval Command College at the Naval War College in Newport. Naval Command College is the NWC year-long senior international partnership and leader development course for hand-picked future Heads of Navy from ~50 countries each year.

He is married to the beautiful Ms. Alessandra Sambiasi from Rome, Italy.