

Mike Vitali

Chief of Legislative Affairs



Mr. Mike Vitali is the Chief of Legislative Affairs for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). In this position he provides agency-wide leadership and guidance on working with Congress, and handles all interactions and correspondence with members of Congress, committees and staffers.

Prior to his arrival at DTRA, he served as the Deputy Director for Strategic Communications at the F-35 Lightning II Joint Program Office. In October 2019, Mr. Vitali retired as a Captain in the U.S. Navy after almost 25 years as a Naval Flight Officer. In his final military assignment, he served as the Senior Legislative and Communications Advisor for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland

Defense Integration and Defense Support of Civil Authorities. Prior to this tour, he served as the Director of Senate Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense where he managed the successful confirmation of 68 Presidentially Appointed Civilian positions within the Department of Defense. He also served as the Deputy Director for Senate Affairs in the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs and with the United States Special Operations Command as the J-52 Policy Branch Chief where he coordinated Executive Agreements between USSOCOM, the Military Departments, the Military Services, other Combatant Commands, and various intergovernmental agencies.

His operational tours included flying the P-3 Orion with Patrol Squadron FOUR FIVE (VP-45), at Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, as the Commanding Officer leading the squadron through a rigorous work-up cycle and SEVENTH Fleet Deployment to Okinawa, Japan where the squadron supported 17 detachments and logged over 3,200 flight hours and as the Executive Officer during a tri-site deployment to Sicily, Djibouti, and El Salvador in support of Operations ODYSSEY DAWN, UNIFIED PROTECTOR, ENDURING FREEDOM, CAPER FOCUS, and CARIB SHIELD. Additional Patrol Squadron tours were with VP-4 out of Marine Corps Base Kaneohe, Hawaii where he served as the Tactics Officer, Maintenance Officer, and Operations Officer during the squadron's deployment in support of SEVENTH Fleet operations and with VP-16, at NAS Jacksonville deploying to both the EUCOM and SOUTHCOM Areas of Responsibility.

Additional aviation tours included an instructor assignment at Sea Control Squadron FORTY-ONE (VS-41) and his initial fleet tour with VS-35 where he earned Tactical Coordinator, Mission Commander, and Instructor qualifications in the S-3B Viking while completing two deployments to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and DESERT FOX. Throughout his career, Mr. Vitali logged over 2,570 flight hours and 267 carrier landings.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Vitali received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History and was commissioned through the Purdue University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps in West Lafayette, Indiana and also earned a Masters of Arts Degree in Education and Instruction from Trident University International.

Mr. Vitali has several military decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2), the Meritorious Service Medal (2), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (3), NATO Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2), the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Armed Forces Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Coast Guard Special Operations Ribbon and the Coast Guard Unit Commendation.