

NAVAL ROTC UNIT

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

LT Christopher D. Hughes

Naval Science Instructor

A native of Oakdale, PA, Lieutenant Hughes graduated from Virginia Tech in 2017 earning a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Leadership. He commissioned as a Submarine Warfare Officer from the Virginia Tech NROTC Unit in May 2017.

Following commissioning, LT Hughes attended Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Goose Creek, SC followed by Nuclear Power Training Unit in Ballston Spa, NY. He then completed Submarine Officer Basic Course in Groton, CT before reporting to USS Topeka (SSN-754) forward deployed to Santa Rita, Guam in January 2019. LT Hughes first served in the Engineering Department as Electrical Assistant before serving as the Assistant Operations Officer and Assistant Weapons Officer.

While forward deployed in Guam he completed two overseas deployments to the 7th Fleet AOR and numerous high-level multinational exercises.

In December 2020 he completed a change of homeport with the USS Topeka to Pearl Harbor, HI for an 11-month dry-docking availability at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. Following drydocking he completed Sea Trials and the initial tests of the next generation MK48 Heavyweight Torpedo.

In February 2022, LT Hughes reported to Naval ROTC Unit, Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in Lexington, VA assigned as an Assistant Professor of Naval Science.

LT Hughes's personal awards include the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Navy Battle "E" ribbon, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, two Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, two Overseas Service Ribbons, Navy Arctic Service Ribbon, and Pistol Marksmanship Expert Medal

