

NAVAL ROTC UNIT

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

First Lieutenant Zachary C. Cook

Marine Officer Instructor

First Lieutenant Zachary C. Cook, USMC, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2017 out of Cincinnati, OH. Upon graduating Recruit Training at Parris Island, SC, he attended the Infantry Training Battalion at the School of Infantry - East where he earned the MOS of 0311 – Rifleman. Following this school, he received orders to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment aboard Camp Lejeune, NC. In 2019, he got selected for the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Program and transitioned to Officer Candidate School. After successfully completing Officer Candidate School, he attended The Basic School and earned the MOS of 1302 - Combat Engineer Officer. First Lieutenant Cook graduated from the Combat Engineer Officer Course and was immediately assigned to 2d Combat Engineer Battalion aboard Camp Lejeune, NC and served there until leaving to report for Marine Officer Instructor duty at Virginia Military Institute.



First Lieutenant Cook's billet assignments as an enlisted Marine include fire team leader, squad leader, and combat marksmanship coach. As an officer, billets served include platoon commander, company executive officer, and battalion training and readiness officer. First Lieutenant Cook has been recognized as a distinguished graduate from Officer Candidate School and the Basic School where he finished second and fifth in his class, respectively. In addition, he received the Gerald B. Cornwall Memorial Award and Gung-Ho Award from Marine Corps Engineer School as he was the honor graduate for his class.

First Lieutenant Cook's operational experience includes deploying to Sigonella, Italy, the Canary Islands, and Tunisia, Africa in support of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force, Crisis Response - Africa 19.2. In the winter of 2022 and 2023, he graduated the rigorous, austere North Atlantic Treaty Organization Winter Instructor Course in Setermoen, Norway and served as a platoon commander for 2d Combat Engineer Battalion during Exercise Joint Viking 23.1.

First Lieutenant Cook was selected in 2023 for Marine Officer Instructor duty at the Virginia Military Institute.

First Lieutenant Cook's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal in lieu of one gold star, the Good Conduct Medal, the Navy Arctic Service ribbon, two Sea Service Deployment ribbons, four expert rifle qualifications, and four expert pistol qualifications.