

NAVAL ROTC UNIT

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

LT Adam Ponder

Naval Science Instructor

Lieutenant Adam Ponder enlisted in the Navy in 2011. After completing the enlisted training pipeline as an Aviation Electronics Technician, he completed tours at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast in Jacksonville, Florida and deployed with the USS George H.W. Bush in 2014. He completed his B.S in Sports Management through SNHU while on shore duty at NNSY. He served onboard the USS Kearsarge in AIMD as WCS for the Metrology and Calibration Lab while completing his second deployment in 2018-2019. He was selected for OCS in 2019.



After completing the Surface Warfare Officer training pipeline, he served as a Division Officer on USS MESA VERDE (LPD 19). His roles included Communications Officer, and Auxiliaries Officer. LT Ponder detached from USS MESA VERDE in August 2022 to report to his second Division Officer tour onboard USS OAK HILL (LSD 51). He served as the Anti-Terrorism Officer until February 2024. He reported for his shore tour as a Naval ROTC instructor at Virginia Military Institute in February 2024.

At NROTCU Virginia Military Institute, his roles include the Training and Safety Officer, MWR Officer, Midshipman 1/C Advisor, and Naval Operations/Naval Seamanship instructor.

His personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three gold stars in lieu of third award, Navy Good Conduct, National Defense Service medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Service Medal, and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with Bronze star in lieu of second award.