

NAVAL ROTC UNIT

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

LT Daniel T. Gartrell

Naval Science Instructor

Lieutenant Daniel Gartrell, was born in Annapolis, Brazil to American missionaries. He grew up in Decatur, GA, and commissioned into the United States Navy in 2016 from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. He joined the crew of USS LASSEN (DDG 82) their first week in Mayport, Florida after homeport shifting from Yokosuka Japan.

On his first tour, ENS Gartrell served as Communications Officer, then CE Division Officer, Cyber Officer, and finally Auxiliaries Officer. In 30 months he led Combat Communications (CC) division, Combat Electronics (CE) division, and Engineering Auxiliaries (EA) division. LTJG Gartrell earned his SWO pin onboard USS LASSEN.



On his second tour, LTJG Gartrell reported to USS McFAUL (DDG 74) out of Norfolk, VA as the Damage Control Assistant (DCA), responsible for all non-medical emergencies such as fire, flooding, and toxic gases. This role included structural hull repair, non-structural welding and fabrication, and pipe repairs throughout the ship from fire suppression systems to human waste plumbing. LTJG Gartrell met his ship and completed a deployment in the Fifth and Sixth Fleet areas of responsibility, in support of Operation SENTINEL FREEDOM. While onboard McFAUL, the crew earned the Navy's Battle Excellence award for 2019. In 2021 the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) conducted a no-notice inspection and LT Gartrell's team scored above the Fleet average! Immediately prior to LT Gartrell's transfer, McFAUL's crew set the tone for the Basic Phase of the ship's life cycle by achieving excellence bringing the ship back to life after spending seven months in the yards.

Today LT Gartrell is assigned as a Naval Instructor at the Naval ROTC Unit, Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in Lexington, VA. On his off time, LT Gartrell pursues a master's degree in Cyber Security and Policy Compliance from the George Washington University in Washington, DC.

LT Gartrell's personal awards include two Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals, one Navy "E" ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Rifle Marksmanship Medal, and Pistol Marksmanship Expert Medal