

SOUTHERN PINES, NORTH CAROLINA, REALTOR® RICH CUMMINGS EARNS HIS MILITARY RELOCATION PROFESSIONAL (MRP) CERTIFICATION

SOUTHERN PINES, NORTH CAROLINA,
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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Richard "Rich" Cummings is a respected, admired, honored and appreciated Real Estate Agent with Towering Pines Real Estate in Southern Pines, North Carolina. He is a Veteran of the United States Air Force and served as a Jet Pilot. Rich was born in Yonkers, New York, and grew up in Downers Grove, Illinois. He graduated from Southern Illinois University, majoring in Industrial Technology and Aviation Technology and acquired two separate licenses; the Air Frame and Power-plant (A&P) licenses for Jet Engines. He worked as an electrician's apprentice and took private Pilot lessons while studying Aviation Mechanics.



Rich was in the AFROTC program and then enlisted in the Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant. He says, "The Vietnam War was in full effect and my number came up. Growing up, my uncle flew a

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Rich Cummings

single-engine airplane and I loved it. I had a deep fascination with flying airplanes because of that experience." While in the ROTC, Rich was a cadet with the 205th Detachment. He trained at Laredo Air Force Base in Texas where he was assigned to a 38-student pilot training school. He learned basic flying and flew Jet T-37 while learning the aircraft systems, hydraulics, electronics, and engine avionics. He flew in a two-seater side by side with the instructor and learned how to take off, soar and land. He then went on to the High-Speed Supersonic and Transonic T-38 Jets, learning formation flying with two planes that overlapped wings 2 feet apart traveling at the Speed of Sound.

Rich graduated in July 1973, and his first assignment was at Little Rock Arkansas Air Force Base on the C- 130 where he was a Pilot, Co-Pilot, Flight Engineer, Navigator, Load-master and Crew Chief. His first assignment was at the Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, is a base of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) in northeast Thailand, approximately 250 km (157 mi) northeast of Bangkok. Prior to that, Rich went to First Survival Training in Homestead, Florida, where he learned to

survive in the ocean. He says, "In WWII, Pilots were afraid to bail out of the aircraft, so our mission was to take the fear out of the unknown. We bobbed around in the ocean for over 8 hours before being rescued. They brought a helicopter overhead, using an anchor to unfold the seats, known as 'Tree Penetration' and it looks like a big lead teardrop. We strapped in and were pulled up out of the water. This was designed to penetrate the forests of Vietnam." Rich also went to Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington, to learn basic survival in the woods, including eating bugs, starting fires and building shelters to stay away from the enemy. Then onto Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines to learn Jungle Survival. Once finished with that duty, he married his high school sweetheart, Peggy.

While stationed at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Rich was assigned to Unit ADCCC - Airborne Command Control Center – where he was the Pilot who

flew the "Intel" on board to monitor ground traffic on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, which was a Military supply route running from North Vietnam through Laos and Cambodia to South Vietnam. The route sent weapons, manpower, ammunition, and other supplies from Communist-led North Vietnam to their supporters in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. He also flew the "Intel" over the Kong River in Cambodia and Thailand. There were two squads who led this Operation; 1) The Cricket Squad and 2) The Moonbeam Squad, which was Rich's squad. One for the day, one for the night. In 1973 the entire Unit was relocated to the Philippines where Rich completed his Remote Tour. He was reassigned to Little Rock Air Force Base on the 62nd Tactical Airlift Squadron where he received his Aircraft Commander Rating for Pilots. He was then stationed in Decatur, Illinois, with the International Guard – 47th Aviation Branch where he flew Helicopters for the Army Unit.

Rich then decided to go into Administration and worked with the 183rd Tactical Group. He got an Honorable Discharge then reenlisted and transferred to New London, North Carolina, with the 235th ATC 5 Civilian Airfield where he worked in Communications, Radio Transmissions, and Radar Electronics. In 2002, he retired from the National Guard and reenlisted again with the Air Force Reserves in the 916 Civil Engineer Squadron at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base. In 2008, Rich officially retired from his Military career.

While in Little Rock, Arkansas, as a civilian, Rich had worked as an Inspector for Caterpillar Tractors so, upon retirement from the Air Force, he went back to work for Caterpillar in North Carolina as an Industrial Engineer.

Because of having traveled all around the world, buying and selling homes, Rich became interested in Real Estate and decided to become a Real Estate agent. He says, "Having a home is the most important thing in life. It's your sanctuary. I wanted to be able to provide people with the best quality of service when they are looking to buy a home. Southern Pines is a beautiful place to live. The people are warm and friendly. We have the Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities, Reservoir Park, Southern Pines Brewing Company, Sandhills Horticultural Gardens,



The Creation Museum, and great Golf Courses, including Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club, Southern Pines Golf Club, and Talamore Golf Course. I am honored to be the Realtor of choice for those who want to buy a home in our beautiful community”

For more information about “Military-Friendly” Real Estate Agent Richard Cummings, please visit these important websites.

<https://www.toweringpinesrealestate.com/rich-cummings>

https://www.realtor.com/realestateagents/rich-cummings_southern-pines_nc_3434906_308594624

<https://www.homeownergurus.com/listings-search/#/2033763787>

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