

Life in North Carolina



North Carolina... the birthplace of aviation and our Air Force heritage.

The State of North Carolina is one of the most diverse states in the union. You are only a couple hours from the beach, the mountains, lakes, an infinite number of professional golf courses and many other historic places and events to enjoy.

Where to Live-- An assignment at the Group will undoubtedly be the pinnacle of your military career but the benefits do not stop there. Our unit members choose to live 15-60 minutes from the unit in every direction based on lifestyle and community preferences. One can choose to live in a planned/gated community, buy large parcels of land or simply live in one of the many suburbs in and around Vass, Southern Pines, Aberdeen, Pinehurst, Sanford, Cameron, or Raeford area.

North of Base—If you choose to live North of the Base you have many housing options, but we will focus on just a few. North Carolina is known for its Tobacco, Coast line, Mountains and Professional Golf Courses. Nestled in the rolling hills and pine trees of the area are several gated communities such as Carolina Trace, Carolina Lakes and Kings Grant and are ideal places to live. Homes in these communities can range from the mid 100s to over a million. These communities provide a safe, quiet community for you and your family that is



extremely affordable. Best of all, each of these communities are within reasonable driving distance to the unit. Also, these communities are within an hour of the state capital of Raleigh. Raleigh is the center of shopping in outlet malls and also the epicenter research and development of technology and medicine in the Research Triangle. In addition, the Raleigh-Durham area boasts the nation's premier medical research and treatment centers operated by Duke Medical Center. All of Duke's medical

facilities are accessible to unit members via a consult request from the physicians assigned solely to our unit.

West of Base—There are several communities such as Vass, Pinehurst or Southern Pines where unit members choose to live. Vass is more rural with larger lots and acreage to purchase. Southern Pines is a small town that has southern charm with its historic downtown area featuring an old rail road station, Irish pub, outdoor adventure stores such

as 'River Jacks', blocks of traditional craftsman and historic homes as well as community activities such as "movie in the park" night. The Raleigh area is easily accessible via US 1. For the NASCAR fans, Charlotte Motor Speedway is about 2 hours away.

If you follow golf at all you will know the town of Pinehurst. Each year the Professional Golfers



Association (PGA) descends on Pinehurst and many other tournaments also call the area home such as the Junior, Women's and Men's North & South Amateur Championships as well as the Intercollegiate Golf Tournament.

This boom town also has many gated communities that are discreetly tucked away between the pine trees and hills of Pinehurst's pristine landscape. Southern Pines and Pinehurst also boast a large Equestrian community, so it is not uncommon to see sprawling farms with thoroughbreds peppering the hill sides. There are also neighborhoods that offer single home lots up to 5 acres such as Steeplechase for the smaller

horse lover. One of the area's biggest attractions is the Pinehurst Resort where one can indulge in many self pampering events.

South of Base—Some members of the unit choose to have a little breathing space so they choose to live south near the town of Raeford and Laurinberg. These towns are easily accessible by traveling through post and the training areas and isolated pine forests. The Raeford area has been home to crop farmers over the years but the area is exploding. The Fayetteville Airport is also easily accessible from Raeford in about 30 minutes. I-95 is also close so if you're wishing you were at Myrtle Beach for Bike week, the Interstate is just a few minutes ride away.

What to do in North Carolina—North Carolina is an easy location to have an extraordinary assignment. There is literally something for everyone here. One of the most visited attractions is the Biltmore Estate located in the Appalachian Mountains of Asheville, North Carolina. The Biltmore is America’s largest home and is about a 3 ½ hour drive from here. The area is also home to Dupont State Forest which has over 90 miles of hiking trails and forest access roads. Additionally the forest service hosts a “Tour de Falls” each year that highlights the 150 foot ‘High Falls’. The Pisgah National Forest is also



near Biltmore and includes some white water rafting, hiking and camp sites for those who like to ‘rough it’.

To our South-East is Myrtle Beach, SC (about a 2 hour drive). It boasts one of the largest motorcycle rallies in the nation and white sandy beaches. Also of interest to hikers and bikers is the Blue Ridge Parkway. The parkway is a scenic drive starting in the mountains of

North Carolina and extending all the way north to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. For those of you that love to ride bikes there is no better route than traveling the Blue Ridge Parkway during the spring or fall seasons. There are road side waterfalls, fly fishing and other stops.



As summer turns to fall and fall turns to winter the landscape changes to a winter wonderland and the higher elevations begin to get snow.



North Carolina has several areas that have skiing such as Sugar Mountain and Wolf Laurel. They offer night skiing and fireworks displays on holidays and certain weekends.

Bottom Line—If you wish to work at a unit where you love to come to work, your ideas and creativity are encouraged and you’re able to live in a place that has so much to offer then you’ll enjoy your assignment with the unit.