

# Arkansas State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

## Compact Commissioner Biography

**John I. “Don” Kaminar** is Arkansas’s compact commissioner for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. He served as a teacher and administrator in Arkansas schools for fifteen years before joining the Arkansas Department of Education as a curriculum specialist. In his current role as special projects manager, he oversees the Department’s emergency preparedness program.

Kaminar began his military service in 1983 upon graduation from Texas A. & M. University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in foreign languages and a commission as a Second Lieutenant of infantry in the Regular Army. A paratrooper and Ranger, he served an initial assignment in Germany, followed by six years with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. He left the Regular Army in 1993 to become an educator, but continued to serve for the next twenty years in the Army Reserve. His reserve assignments included units in North Little Rock, Arkadelphia, and Oklahoma City and culminated with his assignment as State Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer for Arkansas. He retired from the Army in 2013 with the rank of Colonel.

During his thirty years in uniform, Kaminar has served with the international peacekeeping mission on the Egyptian-Israeli border and in combat in the Persian Gulf War and the War in Afghanistan. He has commanded units at company, battalion, and brigade levels and has served on the general staffs of the 90<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command, the 95<sup>th</sup> Division, and the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. He holds a Master of Education degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and is a graduate of the Army’s Command and General Staff College and the Air Force’s Air Command and Staff College. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

The son, son-in-law, and father of combat veterans, Kaminar resides in Bryant with his wife Toni.