



Donny Phipps, CBO, CFM

International Code Council Board Director [Donny Phipps](#), CBO, CFM, building official in Richland County, S.C., still is looking for challenges in the building safety industry where he has served for 43 years, 29 with the city of Columbia and 14 with Richland County.

Part of that philosophy no doubt is due to the discipline taught in the military from a very young age from his father, who also was a veteran. In addition to his military background, Phipps' father also built homes and drew house plans. Phipps recalls earning extra spending money in high school by helping his father on job sites and drawing plans. Even as an Eagle Scout, Phipps' scoutmaster, another veteran, taught troop 331 the basics of the military drills and marching.

Phipps joined the military in September 1969 and served for three years, in part, as a squad leader as well as platoon guide in basic training. He later attended Advanced Individual Training in Ft. Belvoir, Va., for bridge design and drafting. Phipps' later military time was spent at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., as a drill sergeant helping to prepare troops for the introduction to basics of combat.

After a brief post-military career in hotel management, Phipps began working as a housing inspector in the city of Columbia in October of 1974 and moved through the ranks to the building official/director of inspections for 13 years. He retired after 29 years with Columbia and moved on to Richland County.

"Serving in the Army prepared me for the many challenging and rewarding experiences that I've encountered," he said. "It was the best thing that happened to me. I am proud of my military experience and as a code official and feel both the military and the building safety industry provide a quality service of safety to the public."

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