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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **MATTHEW CUMMINS EARNS NAFI MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION**

**KALAMAZOO, MI — 01/30/2017** The National Association of Flight Instructors is proud to announce that NAFI member Matthew Cummins has earned accreditation as a NAFI Master Flight Instructor. This is Cummins' second consecutive NAFI Master Instructor accreditation.

While serving as an emergency room registered nurse and firefighter-paramedic during the summer of 2000, Cummins fulfilled his childhood dreams by earning a



pilot's certificate. He said it forever changed the course of his life. By the end of the following summer, he was working as a Certified Flight Instructor holding Instrument Instructor (CFII) and Multi-Engine Instructor (MEI) ratings. After the events of September 11th, Cummins volunteered for military service and began a career as a United States Air Force pilot.

Over the past 15 years, Cummins has flown and instructed in over 50 different aircraft types and holds an Airline Transport Pilot rating and Master's Degree in Aeronautical Science. He serves as an evaluator pilot-chief functional check pilot for the United States Air Force Academy and helps coach the intercollegiate Precision Flying Team. Although Cummins has had many aviation experiences such as flying supersonic and piloting trans-global flights lasting nearly 24 hours, he says his most memorable times aloft are those spent "low and slow" or on flying adventures with the family.

Cummins is an enthusiastic mountain flying and tail wheel instructor who's been the "caretaker" of several unique aircraft, including an L-19 Bird Dog that he and a friend restored to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh award-winning condition. He continues to spread his passion with the capable help of a lovable J-3 Cub and versatile Cessna Skywagon. His children have inherited their dad's infectious love of flight and can often be seen camping with him at Oshkosh or on some beautiful remote mountain airstrip.

*The **NAFI Master Flight Instructor program** is the longest running and most prestigious FAA accredited master flight instructor program in the industry. The NAFI Master Instructor accreditation is earned by aviation educators based upon a system of advanced professional standards and peer review. The accreditation identifies and publicly recognizes those teachers of flight who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to excellence, professional growth, and service to the aviation community. The NAFI Master Instructor accreditation is for two years and may be used to renew an FAA flight instructor certificate. Applicants must have been a CFI for two years and have given 1,000 hours of flight instruction. In addition candidates must meet and document activity in four NAFI Master Instructor categories (Instructor, Educator, Service to the Aviation Community, and Professional Activity).*

*Members of the **National Association of Flight Instructors** work as independent instructors, at flight schools, universities, FBOs, corporate flight departments and in the military. Since 1967, NAFI and its members, who teach in 30 countries, are dedicated to increasing and maintaining the professionalism of flight instruction. NAFI members influence active pilots daily: students working to become pilots, current pilots training to advance their skills with new ratings or certificates and pilots who seek to improve their skills with recurrent training. NAFI also serves as an advocate with industry and government as a voice for flight instruction. NAFI helps shape the current and future direction of flight training. For more information about NAFI or the NAFI Master Instructor program call **866-806-6156** or visit [www.NAFINet.org](http://www.NAFINet.org).*