



Here at ATS, we know many of our Aviation Maintenance Technicians (AMTs) arrived via various career paths. We were interested to learn more and now cannot wait to share a few stories along the way to AMT Day on May 24.

Meet Rick Mackey, Director of Business Development at Ranger Air Aviation (an ATS Company)

When Rick was just ten years old and growing up in a small town called Memphis, TX, he would listen to stories told by his great uncle who worked for Boeing in Burbank, CA and was fascinated. He then repeatedly started telling his mom and dad that he wanted to work on airplanes.

This stayed with him until he went to college, where earned an associate and applied science degree with a computer maintenance technical focus. Following, he joined the U.S. Air Force, spending six years working maintenance on Boeing B52Gs and F-15B & C models. For most of his time, he was stationed in either Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX or (now closed) Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, NY.

During his last few years in the military, he spent nearly nine months in Saudi, Arabia in support of Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield, and also earned his Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) license through the FAA. He was able to get credit for his hours spent working on military aircraft and apply them towards his license requirements.

Rick's journey to ATS took quite a few twists and turns. One of his more unusual jobs over the next few years was working as a 'flying mechanic' with a contract aircraft maintenance company. He saw the world as he worked the aircraft's line maintenance needs, visiting South America, Russia, Europe, and Asia (etc!) while delivering freight.

His desire to get back to Dallas, TX area took hold where he secured a job as a crew chief and aircraft mechanic at a VIP modification center. This eventually led to a position as weekend shift manager, so he started an additional job during the week at... drum roll.... Ranger Air Aviation! Throughout the next nine years, he would balance working at various aircraft and engine maintenance companies while at the same time learning the ins and outs of Ranger's used serviceable materials (USM) and parts trading business, becoming full time at Ranger in 2008.

If you are in the industry and know Rick, you most likely know him as Ranger Rick. A nickname handed to him by his customers from the way he answered the phone which started as "Ranger this is Rick." After a while, the 'this is' was dropped, and Ranger Rick easily stuck especially due to the popular National Wildlife Federation (NWF) cartoon named Ranger Rick.

When asked what keeps him working at Ranger, he indicated he simply enjoys doing what he is doing. And the thrill of getting that big 'P.O.' isn't bad either. In fact, the morning of this interview, he had just landed 'a big one' and his excitement was contagious!

Thank you, Ranger Rick, for your many years dedicated to aerospace and your numerous accomplishments.