

## **Ernest R. Copeland**

Federal Aviation Administration  
Scottsdale Flight Standards District Office  
FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam) Program Manager (Airworthiness)

### **General**

I have thirty-eight years of experience in aviation including military, business, operations, maintenance, training, auditing, and government. I have been an Adjunct Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University for several years. I am a second generation Arizona native, born and raised in south central Arizona.

### **Professional Background**

I started with the FAA in July 2009. During my tenure at the Scottsdale FSDO, I have been a Geographic Maintenance Inspector and a Principal Maintenance Inspector. I also performed collateral duties of Quality Management System point of contact, On-The-Job Training Program Manager, and ASAP point of contact and Event Review Committee member for two certificates. I am also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's World-Wide Campus.

Before the FAA, I was the Director of Aircraft Maintenance at Airline Training Center Arizona which is owned by Lufthansa Airlines. I managed the maintenance and ground support of a 72 aircraft training fleet for the German Air Force, Lufthansa Airlines, and the University of Oxford, UK where we trained students to become airline pilots using an ab-initio program.

I was a commercial aircraft maintenance supervisor working 727, 737s, MD-80s, and DC-10s for Aviation Management Systems until they filed bankruptcy in the summer of 2000. I moved to Pan Am International Flight Academy as the Director of Maintenance until December 2005. I took on the Service Manager position at the Deer Valley facility of Cutter Aviation for a short term to help them with Federal Aviation Compliance issues. In August 2006 I moved to Airline Training Center Arizona.

I joined the U. S. Air Force in 1977 where I began a 21 year career as an aircraft mechanic. I have maintained C-9s, C-12s, C-130s, F-4s, F-5s, F-15s, F-16s, F-111s, O-2As, and OV-10s. I spent the last 12 years of my career working the F-16C/D aircraft. I retired in 1998 as an aircraft maintenance superintendent with the rank of E-7, Master Sergeant. During my Air Force career, I was stationed at Davis Monthan AFB, AZ, Royal Air Force Bentwaters, United Kingdom, Nellis AFB, NV, Langley AFB, VA, Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, and Luke AFB, AZ.

While I was in the Air Force, I performed many different jobs besides my primary duties as an aircraft mechanic. At Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, I was a maintenance instructor where I wrote lesson plans and taught aircraft courses. I also taught instructors in aircraft battle damage repair, fire extinguisher and fire safety,

cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and ancillary courses. During my tenure at Nellis, I trained over 250 mechanics. At Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia, I performed consulting and audit duties with Headquarters Tactical Air Command. I worked in both maintenance standardization and assistance, and in the Inspector General's office.

### **Academic Background**

I have several credit hours of work toward a PhD in Business Administration, with Northcentral University. I am an alumnus of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a Masters of Aviation Science from the Worldwide Campus. I have a dual specialty of Management and Safety. I also hold a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Education from Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas. Finally, I have an Associate's degree in Aircraft Maintenance from the Community College of the Air Force, conferred through the Air University.

### **Awards and Citations**

During my military career, I was awarded the Air Force Commendation medal three times and the Air Force Meritorious Service medal twice. I was named the 474<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing's Aircraft Maintenance Person of the Year in 1985. Since my military retirement, I was in Who's Who in Colleges and Universities for 2003. I was selected in 2003 as the FAA's Aircraft Maintenance Technician (AMT) of the year for the Scottsdale Flight Standards District Office and the Western Pacific Region. I have been awarded the FAA's AMT Diamond Training Award for seven years in a row.

### **Personal Background**

I was born and raised in Arizona, but spent many years traveling the world with my military father. During my childhood we lived in Tachikawa, Japan, near Tokyo, for three years, Texas in Fort Worth and Del Rio for four years, but we always ended up back in Arizona. When I am not pursuing my educational goals, I like to try my hand at gourmet cooking. I also play several different styles of guitar including classical.

I have known my wife, Lois, all of my life. We were childhood friends and later became sweethearts. She is a Registered Nurse working in homecare. We have three grown children April, Angela, and Matthew and four grandchildren.

### **Contact Information**

I am normally available from 07:00 – 16:30 MST Tuesday-Friday. I may be contacted via email at [ernest.r.copeland@faa.gov](mailto:ernest.r.copeland@faa.gov), by office phone at 480-419-0330 Ext. 335, or at my cell phone at 623-694-1227.