

Thomas Schieffer

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FAA A&P Mechanic | M.S. Industrial & Systems Engineering (Human Factors & Ergonomics) in progress

Professional Summary

FAA A&P-certified flight mechanic with 20+ years maintaining commercial, military, and heavy-lift helicopters. Experienced in maintenance procedures, technical documentation, task accessibility, training, and team operations. Completing an M.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering (Human Factors & Ergonomics) to apply practical insight to procedure design, human performance, training programs, and human factors supporting safer operations and CRM.

Core Competencies

Maintainability & Procedure Design • Human Factors in Aviation Maintenance • Training Design & Human Performance • CRM Principles • Technical Documentation • Error Reduction & Task Accessibility • Knowledge Transfer & Technical Training • Safety Culture & Team Operations

Professional Experience

Columbia Helicopters — Aurora, OR | Field Flight Mechanic | 2022–Present

- Perform field maintenance and troubleshooting on CH-47 / Model 234 helicopters in remote international operations.
- Develop and follow detailed maintenance documentation per FAA and OEM standards.
- Identify accessibility, tooling, and procedure issues that increase error risk or slow task completion.
- Deliver on-site maintenance training and knowledge transfer to local teams in rotational environments.

Sikorsky Aircraft (United Technologies) — Stratford, CT | Flight Mechanic / Engineering Support & Technical Trainer | 2001–2008

- Performed maintenance, testing, and support on S-92, S-76, Seahawk, and Blackhawk helicopters.
- Supported R&D teams with prototype validation and design feedback from a maintainer perspective.
- Delivered technical maintenance training to the Turkish military and VIP helicopter programs.
- Contributed to procedure clarity, practical maintainability, and team coordination.

Additional Aviation Experience

- A&P Mechanic, Yellowstone Jet Center (2016) • Flight Line Technician, Million Air Services & Executive Flight Services (1998–2001) • Yale Solar Car Team (2004)

Education

- M.S. Industrial and Systems Engineering (Human Factors & Ergonomics), Mississippi State University | Expected 2027
- B.S. Psychology (Human Factors / Ergonomics focus), Oregon State University | 2023–2026
- A.A.S. Aviation Maintenance, Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology
- FAA Airframe & Powerplant Certification (Golden Tool Box Award)

Certifications & Focus Areas

FAA A&P Certificate #2875150 (Active) • Human Factors in Aviation Maintenance • SMS & Just Culture

Focus: Maintainability & procedure design • Training design & human performance • Aviation HF supporting safer team operations and CRM (flight-crew / maintenance boundary)

Recognition

Golden Tool Box Award | Westchester Aircraft Maintenance Association | 2001

Psi Chi honor society | 2024