

**Ryan C.**  
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*When were you hired by the FAA?*

I was hired on February 2, 2006.

*Are you a CPC? How long did it take you to complete training?*

It took me two years and 18 days to complete my training. I certified on February 20, 2008.

*What was your training experience like?*

At my facility we did Functional Training. It was a steep learning curve for the first couple of months and then pretty routine after that. It involved a lot of studying. I had some good days and maybe a few bad ones. All in all, if you really put your mind to getting checked out you more than likely will.

*What should the new people entering the profession expect from training?*

They should expect a lot of classroom time, drawing and memorizing maps and learning lots of information very quickly. Training is like a roller coaster – there are a whole lot of up and down days.

*What is your facility and area like?*

I work at Houston Center (ZHU), Rocksprings Specialty. The far west side of ZHU works a lot of military traffic along with general aviation and commercial traffic.

*What was your background before joining the FAA?*

I graduated from the CTI program at Middle Tennessee State University.

*Why did you choose to make air traffic control your career?*

I have wanted to be a controller since I was in grade school.

*How important is NATCA to you as an air traffic controller?*

NATCA is EXTREMELY important to me. NATCA is the only organization looking out for the workforce as well as the profession. NATCA is always looking to the future and making sure we are given the best opportunities to make our profession the best it can be.

*What has NATCA done for you? Why have you gotten involved?*

NATCA has played a vital role in my career from day one. NATCA has made sure I had and will have what is fair and right. I chose to get involved with NATCA because I want to make sure my future, as a controller, is the best it can be and that my chosen profession is protected.

*Do you have any advice for the people who are now entering the profession?*

Be proud of choosing to become a controller and get involved. The future of ATC depends on our generation to step up and keep our profession strong.