

Derek Mercer currently works at Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation as an Airworthiness Engineer in the Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) Certification Department. Prior to Gulfstream, Derek spent six years in the United States Army as an Avionics Mechanic, working on UH-60 Blackhawks and CH-47 Chinooks, and finished his Army career as an Avionics Inspector. During the time spent in the Army, Derek deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and spent one year in Camp Humphreys, South Korea. Derek currently resides in Guyton, Georgia (just outside Savannah) with his wife and four kids, but he calls McDonough, Georgia his hometown, although he was born on a Naval base in Beaufort, South Carolina. Derek has a Bachelor of Science in Project Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) and is currently a student at Embry-Riddle pursuing his Master of Systems Engineering degree. He is also a Student Ambassador for the Savannah/Pooler ERAU campus and enjoys speaking with people who are interested in becoming a future student at ERAU.