



*At RNDC and Young's Market Company, we are committed to attracting, developing, and retaining military veterans. In keeping with our core value of family and caring for the well-being of our community, RNDC recognizes and supports associates who are active duty or veterans of the U.S. military.*

**Name:** Patrick Merkel  
**Title:** Division Manager, On-Premise  
**Location/Business Unit:** New Mexico

**Military Branch:** United States Air Force  
**Military Rank (optional):** Staff Sergeant  
**Service Dates:** 1988-1994



**Please share details about your assignments and/or deployment(s) while serving.**



During my time in the Air Force, I was a System Analyst working with the Special Operations Detachment at Kirtland Air Force Base. I was stationed in New Mexico and during my time there I fell in love with the culture, the people, and the weather. At the end of my service in 1994, I decided to make New Mexico my home.

**What was your proudest moment, recognition, or accomplishment?**

While attending the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy, I was awarded the John Levitow Award, this is the highest honor presented to a graduate of Air Force Enlisted Professional Military Education. To be eligible for the award a graduate must rank in the top 1% of their class.

**What was the most valuable experience you gained from your service? How has it helped you in your post-military career?**

The most valuable experience I received during my service was the significance of teamwork. Great things can be accomplished when everyone works as a team and this has directly translated into my post-military career. We are better together and in our industry we all must work as a team to achieve common goals.

**What do you enjoy most about working at RNDC/Young's?**

I enjoy the culture we have built. We work hard and long hours, but we do this as a family. I consider my coworkers extended family and if one of us is down we rally around them and do whatever we can to assist. That is what families do and I love that it is part of our core values.



**Share one or two FUN FACTS about yourself.**

I enjoy cooking and I do most of the cooking in our house. If I am not on the golf course, I am usually doing some type of home improvement project with my bulldog Kevin right by my side.