



Western Pacific Maritime Academy

## Biography



# MICHAEL W. BACHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Master Mariner, OIM, Master of Towing, Master of Sail

Mike Bacher calls Saipan home since 2014, having arrived to the Northern Mariana Islands as Captain on the ships anchored outside the lagoon, and stayed on Saipan because of the island's captivating beauty and the peoples rich and enduring culture. In his retirement as Captain from both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Merchant Marine, he is the founder and Executive Director of Western Pacific Maritime Academy. He is the father of a grown son who is currently working as a merchant seaman with ambitions of becoming an engineer.

Born in Switzerland and raised in Colombia, Germany and the State of Virginia on the mainland, he joined the Navy in soon after high school in 1979 as a Quartermaster specializing in Navigation. As an enlisted man, he served on the USS Spruance, USS LaSalle and then taught at Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) as the staff navigation instructor with the Navy ROTC Unit. He separated as a Chief Petty officer in 1990, and in 1991 commissioned as an Ensign Navy Reserve into the Merchant Marine Reserve Group. In 2018 and 2019 he served as the Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping Officer in Charge for the Fifth Fleet Commander in Bahrain. With service spanning six decades, and two centuries, he retired honorably from the Navy in 2020 with over 40 years of service.

While serving at MMA, Mike earned his original Third Mates License in 1987 and sailed as Able Seaman on a tanker servicing military outposts in the western Pacific. He continued service as merchant man on and off through the years and attained his Unlimited Masters license in 2004. Shortly after he served as Captain on the UNSN John McDonnell conducting survey for the Navy in the Western Pacific. In 2008 he transitioned to the Oil and Gas sector and served as Offshore Installation Manager on the former Hughes Glomar Explorer, and in 2012 he transitioned into an auditing role as Marine Manager in Kuala Lumpur. His other commands included Drill Ship West Auriga, USNS Soderman, USNS Gordon and USNS Gilliland. Through the years he has worked as a Qualified Instructor for several outstanding maritime schools including Maritime Institute of Graduate Studies (MITAGS)

Mike graduated from State of New York (SUNY) Maritime with a Bachelors in Marine Transportation and Holds a Masters in Transportation Management from New York Graduate Studies.