



CAPT MIKE HARKREADER, INSTRUCTOR

Master 3000 Ton, Master of Towing, 2nd Mate Unlimited

Mike Harkreader sailed to the shores of Saipan on a tug and barge out of Guam in January 2014. Enamored by the island and her people, he became a resident in April 2015. Mike continued to work out of Guam until 2017 sailing the Indian Ocean, Philippines, Japan, and Micronesia. He then joined a Navy Multi-Purpose Craft operating out White Beach, Okinawa as a Navy contractor in 2018 & 2019. He is currently on the mainland near his family and sailing in various capacities part time.

Captain Harkreader was born and raised in Nebraska and joined the Army's delayed entry program in Dec 1975. In May 1976 he started active-duty service with the Army soon after graduating from parochial school. He served for six years in the U.S. Army starting with 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii; then shot competitively for the 1/27th Battalion during which time his team won the competitive shooting matches in 1978. This led to winning competitions at Fort Ord, California for Western Regional matches, and finally victories at all Army matches. He re-enlisted and was sent to Fort Rucker, Alabama where he served as a rifle instructor and finished his carrier at the Marksmanship Training Unit.

Mike has enjoyed a broad and solid career as a merchant mariner having worked up from the Deck. He started as an Ordinary Seaman (OS) in 1982 on a utility boat out of Golden Meadow, LA building his sea service experience while progressing his credentials and responsibilities as a professional mariner. In 1986, he received his 1000-ton mates license and in 1989 he received his 1600-ton master's license. He served as captain for the first time in 1990 on a research vessel in the North Sea with the company he had been working with in various positions for many years. In 2003 he joined Military Sealift Command as Able Seafarer /3rd Mate answering the call of duty post 9/11. In 2013 he received his 2nd Mates Unlimited license and now sails as Master and Mate for various companies.

On a glide path to retirement, he joined the staff of Western Pacific Maritime Academy as a contract instructor where he looks forward to passing on his knowledge and experience to the next generation of mariners.