



## ATLANTIC RO-RO CARRIERS, INC.

95 River Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Hoboken, New Jersey, 07030  
Tel: 201.356.2300 Fax: 201.356.2299 e-mail: info@arrcm.com

### RICHARD (RICK) SHANNON

Rick Shannon has more than 40 years in the transportation industry, holding senior positions in world-wide shipping companies. His career covers most of the major areas in the world including South-Central America, Europe, and the Far East. He has extensive experience in the Middle East including Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Dubai. He headed up projects for the building of airports, terminals, buildings with complete turn-key operations throughout the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.

He entered the Soviet Union as the General Agent for all 17 Soviet Union ocean shipping companies in 1991. As the Soviet Union was going through the turbulent times in the early 1990's of privatization, the basic infrastructure could not adapt to the overnight changes. State owned companies were gone and private entrepreneurs now had control of all areas within Russia. A period of mayhem followed.

In addition to his own company, a new group had formed and in 1994 Rick became the President of Atlantic Ro-Ro Carriers, Inc., a 2-ship operation operating between the U.S. East Coast and Gulf to the Port of St. Petersburg. By 2000, ARRC had grown to a 6-ship operation with multi-purpose vessels capable of handling break-bulk project cargo, containers, over sized and over weight freight as well as the ability to handle vehicles and oil and gas relate cargo.

When asked by Russian officials in 2002 what was the biggest problem transport companies had moving their cargo, his answer was "Russian Customs" which had not yet caught up to the western systems and the backlog was causing loss of business, violations of contracts, huge penalties for U.S. shippers and in general, discouraging U.S. companies to trade in the Russian market place.





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After 2 years of working with the heads of Russian Customs, Mr. Shannon successfully received approval to incorporate into the Russian Customs laws, a transparency project known as Transatlantic Streamline (“TASL”). TASL eliminated delays on cargo release, congestion at the Port of St. Petersburg and allowed customs duties to be accurately calculated and collected and put American companies on an equal footing with other countries that used methods of expediting cargo not in compliance with United States laws.

TASL was well received by the U.S. government and American shippers but met resistance from some of the groups that did not want a program that interfered with the old way of doing business. At that time Customs Duty accounted for 38% of the Russian budget and millions were being lost due to lack of transparency and control systems.

Rick has been a member of most of the major trade organizations for many years. When the American Chamber of Commerce opened up in St. Petersburg in 1994, Rick was one of the first members in St. Petersburg. ARRC are also members of the Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association, The Foreign Commerce Club of New York, the Rudder Club, FIATA, and is licensed by the Federal Maritime Commission. Rick recently completed his 88<sup>th</sup> trip to Russia.

Rick had received the medal “The Veteran of Cold War on the Seas” from the Joint Council of Veterans-Submariners of the Navy, received an honoree appointment as Major General in the Cossack Army in 1999, was honored by the Russian Orthodox Church in 2000 at the Waldorf Astoria in New York along with Victor Chernomyrdin, Former Prime Minister Russian Federation and Yuli Vorontsov, Chairman of the Board of AIG Investment Bank & Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for CIS. Mr. Shannon was invited to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia, has hosted numerous events over the years for and with Anatoly Karpov World Chess Champion, Metropolitan Kirill, now Patriarch Kirill, Vyacheslav Fetisov, Oleg Gazmanov, Sergei Lavrov now Foreign Minister and has been invited by members of the United Nations to functions related to CIS matters.





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Mr. Shannon was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps and had served in Europe, Turkey, the Mediterranean and North Africa.

Mr. Shannon has also been on the Board of Directors since 1996 with the House of Hope in Russia, a free alcohol American-Russian rehabilitation center in St. Petersburg. The House of Hope was officially started in 1996 by Lou Bantle. Mr. Shannon had worked closely with Lou and over the years has financially contributed to the construction and upkeep of the HOH as well as attracting other financial supporters including Atlantic Ro-Ro Carriers. During the history of the HOH groups of 4 Russian employees were sent 3 times year to the United States to receive training from American rehabs with the highest success ratio including a high profile and credited rehab in Maryland and upstate New York. Since the passing of Mr. Bantle in 2010, Mr. Shannon as well as other Board members have increased their participation and support of the House and insure the continuation of the work Mr. Bantle started.

He was a member of the New York Sky Club for more than 20 years, held many dinners and conferences at the Club and entertained many diplomats from foreign countries during this time.

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