

***James M. “Mike” Starling, Colonel, US Army (ret.) –  
Director of Research***

A seasoned logistics operations and management professional with 30 years practical and managerial experience in domestic and international logistics. Employment history includes 2 major global corporations (Imperial Chemical Industries – chemicals; Merck KGAA, Darmstadt, Germany - life sciences) and a major North American retailer (PEPBOYS - auto parts and services). Twenty of those years were at the departmental manager level leading functional teams in transportation, distribution, warehousing, and customer services.

Mike’s unique background blends both strategic and tactical planning and execution. From hands-on front line operations specialist to project logistics analyst; from corporate profit improvement initiatives to network optimization projects; from supply chain planning & collaboration to team implementation and measurements; Mike brings proven capability well versed in analytical assessment, contract negotiation and operational management for a wide variety of transportation modes and situations.

Additionally, Mike is a retired US Army veteran. Enlisting as a Private E-1 he attended Officer Candidate School and after a distinguished career retired with the rank of full Colonel. During his career he held command positions at company, and battalion level, was involved in operations in SE Asia and Europe. With a primary specialty in port and terminal operations, his hands on experience included truck line haul and air terminal operations as well. His military training and front line experience in small unit tactics, operational planning and execution, transportation operations, hazardous material handling, and mission requirements innovation, creativity, leadership, and motivation has served as a solid underpinning for his current “second career” in civilian transportation and logistics management.