Mr. Rich Carpenter, International Trade Specialist, U.S. Commercial Service –Chicago, U.S. Department of Commerce

Rich Carpenter is an International Trade Specialist with the US Export Assistance Center (USEAC), in Chicago Illinois. His passion lies with helping small enterprises compete internationally, facon equal footing with the big guys. A long time Navy Sailor and U.S. Army OIF veteran, Rich is also been the founder of his own small business, *Rich Carpenter Photography*, through which he gained firsthand knowledge of the pitfalls and challenges facing the veteran entrepreneur in the U.S. today. While working for the US Commercial Service on the east coast, Rich found himself increasingly drawn to the incredible, and yet little known export support network provided by the federal government, catering specifically to small businesses. His work with the Commercial Service lead to finally devoting himself to becoming a full time advocate / trade specialist supporting local small business in Chicago - helping them to navigate the often complex paths to compete in the global market. Rich has written for numerous publications, and has a keen interest in export compliance, IPR issues abroad, and the latest in currency manipulation trends. Please feel free to stop by the US Export Assistance table and say hello, or call the US Commercial Service office in downtown Chicago, as his motto is always "How can I help you today?"