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Special Report- The JOC recognizes 14 for excellence and leadership

Peter Schauer had poor grades in high school Latin so he needed the help of a tutor. The tutor, who was studying to become a veterinarian, was exasperated by his young charge, and told Schauer that he would never make it as a vet. “At least I won’t have to worry about you becoming a competitor,” the tutor told him. The tutor was right. A fortune teller in Munich, where Schauer grew up, came closer to the mark after reading his palm and telling the 10-year-old boy that his future would be influenced by liquids. “Thus, I could either become a bartender or seek a career in shipping. I chose the latter,” jokes Schauer, president of Orion Marine Corporation, a Chicago based shipping agency. Like many others in the shipping business, travel is a big part of this job. But there the similarity ends. Schauer specializes in project shipment of telecommunications equipment. (The photo above shows Schauer on the Afghan Pakistan border.) One of his more hair-raising experiences took place in Mauritania when he traveled with a camel caravan that had to take a three-day detour to avoid a sandstorm. Through it all, Schauer, 65, relishes his work and has no plans to stop. “With a bit of luck and some humor, you will enjoy this business as much as I have”.

