



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

JUL 13 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

SUBJECT: Improving Safety Performance at Shore Activities through the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP)

The Department of Navy is committed to preserving our Nation's warfighting capability by enhancing our safety performance. Our people are our most valuable asset. Keeping them safe and healthy is a top priority. We will never accept losing any member of our Department of Navy team in an avoidable mishap as a cost of doing business.

In March 2006, Secretary Winter published the Naval Safety Strategy, which promoted Department of the Navy shore activities' participation in OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). VPP is a management system that promotes safe workplaces and ensures leadership, accountability, and employee participation in the command safety program. Vice Admiral Sullivan's outstanding safety leadership at the Naval Sea Systems Command has resulted in all four of their Naval Shipyards attaining the VPP premier Star recognition. Their improved safety performance and keys to their success have been highlighted on the Naval Safety Center website at <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/success>. Over thirty other Department of Navy activities, including Marine Corps activities, are pursuing VPP Star recognition. This is an excellent start and the Navy and Marine Corps team are to be commended for their accomplishments and strong leadership commitment.

To aid the Department of Navy in working toward VPP Star recognition from OSHA, the Department of Defense has provided a VPP Center of Excellence (CX) staffed with contract personnel that are ready to help navigate the VPP process. The DoD VPP CX provides assessment, training, and other support at no cost to the command. The DoD VPP CX is requesting from the Military Services a list of installations/activities to begin working with in FY08 and FY09. The Navy has been allocated 10 activities for FY08 and 10 for FY09. Marine Corps has been allocated 5 activities for FY08 and 5 for FY09. Please provide my Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Safety, Mr. Tom Rollow, your recommended 20 Navy and 10 Marine Corps field activities for VPP support by August 10, 2007.

I am committed to the VPP process. As we journey toward the Secretary of Defense's 75% mishap reduction target, we cannot afford to pass up proven tools like

VPP. I encourage you to embrace it through your Navy and Marine Corps Executive Safety Boards and I look forward to hearing of your progress.

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cc:
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