



IADC CONNECTION

Letter: "Mr Chairman, you nailed it: Now, let's make it happen!"

In "Management must commit to safety", Mr **Thomas P Richards** said in a few words some things that really needed saying ("From the Chairman," p 9, *Drilling Contractor*, March/April 2001). As past chairman, IADC Human Resource Committee, Safety Director, Vice President for Human Resources and a safety consultant to many industries, I would like to offer some insight as to how we can "Make it happen"—achieve an accident free operation.

Mr Richards has shown real leadership by taking 2 giant steps: recognizing the need for management commitment; and stating that we can achieve accident-free operations. I believe that our chairman has provided the motivation to take steps three and four, which are as follows:

- Step 3: Action by management to provide tightly structured, non-optional systems that address all tasks involving risk;
- Step 4: A specific, structured outline of requirements by management, every time they visit a rig to conduct safety audits, participate in planning drills for safe operations, lead safety meetings and provide positive feed back.

Step 3 requires a "system" to address risk and it is quite clear that "systems" deserve credit for the accident prevention successes in our industry.

Some of us can remember when fatalities were commonplace as the result of entering confined spaces. Then came a "system" called "confined space entry" and look at the results. Other examples of non-optional "systems" are "Lock-out/Tag-out," scaffold tagging and others.

The point to be made is that we cannot wait until fatalities are commonplace to identify hazards and implement systems.

It may be argued that you cannot have a "system" for every job on the rig that entails risk and this thinking may have some merit. You can, however have a "system" for planning that will address all risks.

In addressing risks in your operation, you need to ask: "If I had a fatality today, from this given risk, what action would I take tomorrow? Your response is quite simple: You implement the system today, before the fatality.

We have an abundance of "safety pro-

grams", but very few pure systems. The only system that is truly pro-active is a non-optional planning system. Programs such as STOP and other observation programs react to unsafe behaviors. They are necessary for quality control but take second billing to a planning system.

Another contributor to our success in accident prevention has been our industry leadership with the most recent actions by our Chairman. Through the years many soldiers in the battle against accidents have played key roles. Folks like **Virgil Stone, Dennis Heagney, Lee Matheme, Lee Hunt, Jim Day** and many others have made major contributions.

The point to this "back patting" is that with the spark provided by the Chairman, it is time for all leaders, both old and new, to not only commit, but take action to ensure accident free operations. This thing we call safety is, very simply, caring about people and working smarter.

I know we all share this commitment and now is a great time for action.

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Thank you, Mr Crawford, for your thoughtful response. Leadership and systems are both vital in continuing the industry's steady progress toward an accident-free workplace. For more on the importance of both items, see "Management must be committed to ... managing" in the May/June edition of Drilling Contractor.

Editor

Houston Chapter gives \$34,000 to charity



The Houston Chapter of IADC recently gave \$34,000 to **Just Like Us Inc** for equipment and services for children who have multiple impairments or are pro-

foundly deaf. The funds will be used for graduation activities for older students, field trips and for fulfilling the other needs of the students.

At left, (l-r) **Larry W Holloway, Atwood Oceanics Inc** and the Houston Chapter's event chairman, along with **Steve Allums, Nabors Drilling USA**, 2001 IADC Houston Chapter Chairman, present the check to **Tina Colaco**,

Executive Director of Just Like Us. Ms Colaco presented the Houston Chapter officials with artwork that was prepared by the students.

N Africa Chapt inaugurated



Presentation at the inaugural meeting of the North Africa Chapter 24 April involved (l-r) **Bill Sannan, Santa Fe International, Vice Chairman; Mohamed M Said, Egyptian Drilling Co, Chairman; IADC President Dr Lee Hunt; Mark F Nystrom, Transocean Sedco Forex, Secretary-Treasurer; and Norman Edwards, IADC Director of Operations-Middle East and Africa.**

