

Moe Plaisance named 2003 Contractor of the Year

MORRISON (MOE) PLAISANCE with Diamond Offshore is IADC's 2003 Contractor of the Year; the result of a unanimous decision of the IADC Executive Committee.



Morrison (Moe) Plaisance, left, receives the IADC Contractor of the Year award from John Deane, President of ReedHycalog.

The Contractor of the Year award was established in 1988 to recognize individual drilling contractors' outstanding lifetime achievements in technical innovation, safety and economic efficiency within the drilling industry. The award is sponsored by Grant Prideco's ReedHycalog and IADC.

Mr Plaisance, Vice President of Team Solutions for **Diamond Offshore**, has been in the drilling industry for 34 years. He worked with Diamond Offshore and its predecessors as a roughneck, driller and toolpusher and in senior management positions since 1970.

He is currently Chairman of the IADC/SPE Drilling Conference, and previously served on both the Program and Advisory Committees.

An IADC Director, he also served as Vice President of the US Central Region and both Chairman and Vice Chairman of the North Sea Chapter. Mr Plaisance Chaired the IADC/Offshore Operations Committee Deepwater Water Well Control Task Force, which published major well control guidelines in September 1998. He is also the recipient of IADC's Distinguished Service Award and the Department of Interior's Corporate Leadership Award.

He is a specialist in floating drilling operations. He began working in deep-

water operations in 1977 when assigned to oversee construction and operation of a DP drillship.

"I can say that I'm a third generation drilling contractor in that my granddad and dad worked in the business," Mr Plaisance said. "Dad had a car in the 1950s that proclaimed his company's membership in the AAODC."

"I thought the emblem with the derrick was really cool."

Mr Plaisance learned about the cyclical nature of the drilling business when he was only 10 years old. "Dad was a drilling superintendent and a stockholder with a four-rig barge contractor. Dad was also the only employee left aside from the President."

The four barge rigs were stacked side by side in Leeville, LA, and Mr Plaisance and his brothers would go with their father to check on the rigs and spend the

night in them. "We had a great time going everywhere on those rigs."

Mr Plaisance's entire family was in the drilling business, not only his father and grandfather, but brothers and uncles as well. His future wife, Vickie, was perhaps a bit wary of the family.

"When Vickie first came over to my parent's (house) she didn't know what to think about people who spoke constantly about nipping up, spudding in, pushers and dope in five-gallon buckets.

"I guess that I could conceive of no more exciting or rewarding a career than being a drilling hand," Mr Plaisance said. "Exciting and rewarding has come in many guises, some better than others," he noted.

"But the most rewarding has been meeting with and working with the people associated with this business." ■