

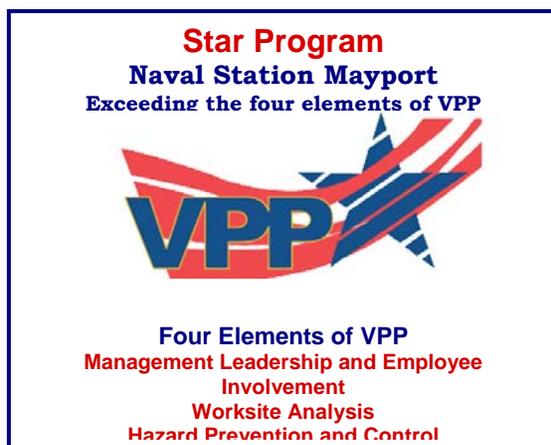
STAR VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAMS STATUS AWARDED TO NAVAL STATION MAYPORT, FL

During a ceremony conducted on 14 December 2009, the Commanding Officer of Naval Station (NS) Mayport accepted Star Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) Site designation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA recognized NS Mayport for initiatives implemented toward safer work practices and environments of the workforce.



OSHA Area Director Mr. James Borders presents the STAR VPP Site plaque to Naval Station Mayport Commanding Officer CAPT Aaron Bowman.

VPP demonstrates cooperative action among government, industry, and labor to address worker safety and health issues and expand worker protection. VPP participation requirements center on a comprehensive safety and health management system with active employee involvement to prevent or control safety and health hazards at the worksite.



OSHA approves successful employers by designating them to one of three VPP program levels: *Star*, *Merit*, or *Star Demonstration*. *Star* is the highest and most challenging participation category. The VPP *Star* award designation indicates that the organization receiving the award has successfully demonstrated ongoing planning, implementation, integration, and control of four interdependent elements:

- Management Leadership & Employee Involvement
- Worksite Analysis
- Hazard Prevention & Control
- Safety and Health Training.

A designated Star site must have had all of its occupational safety and health program elements operating effectively for at least one year, and its three-year injury and illness rates compared to a like industry class in the private sector must be below the national average published annually by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for that industry. Injury and illness history for a site is evaluated using a three-year total case incident rate (TCIR) and a three-year day away, restricted, and/or transfer case incident rate (DART rate). One way that OSHA determines the qualification of applicants and the continuing qualification of participants in the VPP Star Program, is to compare site injury and illness rate history to the published BLS industry class rates. For VPP Star eligibility, site injury and illness rate history must be below comparable BLS rates for at least one of the three most recent years as shown below:

Year	Hours	Total # of Cases	TCIR	Number of Cases Involving Days Away from Work, Restricted Activity or Job Transfer	DART Rate
2006	998,400	16	3.2	10	2.0
2007	1,144,341	21	3.7	16	2.8
2008	1,146,145	14	2.4	11	1.9
Total	3,288,886	51		37	
Three-Year Rate (2006-2008)			3.1		2.3
___ 2005 BLS Rates for NAICS 561210 (4.7/2.0)			6.2		2.6
___ 2006 BLS Rates for NAICS 561210 (5.9/3.0)					
X 2007 BLS Rates for NAICS 561210 (6.2/2.6)					
2009 YTD	563,942	5	1.8	4	1.4

All of the rates are well below the BLS rates for the same time-frame.

During the final certification inspection conducted by OSHA, it was noted that all elements of the site's safety and health management system meet the quality expected of VPP participants.

Employee involvement is a cornerstone of VPP. OSHA's conferring of VPP Star worksite status on NS Mayport is an official recognition of the outstanding efforts of the entire Naval Station management, union leadership, safety staff, and employees who teamed up to establish and maintain their excellent safety and health record.

The following examples illustrate the types of actions taken by Naval Station Mayport toward attaining VPP Star recognition:

- Universal knowledge of Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) by employees. All were very familiar with and use the JHA extensively.
- Universal knowledge of the VPP Program. Everyone interviewed was familiar with and engaged with VPP.
- Teaming of entire Naval Station chain of command to achieve an excellent safety and health record.

During the presentation ceremony, Mr. James Borders, Area Director, OSHA remarked on the displayed employee involvement necessary for Star designation.

Deputy Assistant Secretary (Safety) T. A. Rollow stated in a letter of Special Recognition for VPP Star Status Achievement: “This award represents excellence in workplace safety and health management. It reflects an uncompromising professionalism and safety-focused organizational culture essential to your continued mission success and optimal readiness. It is an exceptional achievement of which all personnel at Naval Station Mayport can be proud!”

NS Mayport Commanding Officer CAPT Aaron Bowman accepted the award for the command and commented that the command mission for “Finest Service to the Finest Fleet” was being enhanced by NS Mayport’s designation as a Star VPP Site. Bowman added, “The dedicated efforts of all command personnel, from Department Heads down to the deck plate were necessary and essential in our Star designation by OSHA. The commitment displayed by the command to the principles of safety greatly enhances our ability to support our war fighters in both training and combat operations.”



L-R NS Mayport Safety Manager Jimmy Stidam, former Safety Manager Frank Alexander, Executive Officer CDR Michael Watson, Commanding Officer CAPT Aaron Bowman, and OSHA Area Director James Borders proudly display VPP Star banner.

For more information on OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program, how to qualify, a VPP eligibility checklist, and a VPP application, visit these websites:

OSHA VPP Guidance

<http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp>

VPP Participants' Association

<http://www.vpppa.org/>

VPP Eligibility Checklist

<http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/vppflyer.pdf>

VPP Information Kit

http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/VPP_Kit.pdf

VPP Application Form

http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/corporate/vpp_cfap_template.html#II

Naval Safety Center VPP Guidance

<http://safetycenter.navy.mil/osh/shore/VPP.htm>

DoD VPP Center of Excellence (CX)

<http://www.vppcx.org/>
