

SWRMC wins the Admiral Vern E. Clark 2013 Navy League Safety Award

By Cassandra Eichner, Southwest Regional Maintenance Center Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO-- Southwest Regional Maintenance Center (SWRMC) was selected to receive the Admiral Vern E. Clark 2013 Navy League Safety Award at the Sea-Air-Space Exposition in National Harbor, MD slated for April 9.

The award recognizes SWRMC's contributions to improving the safety culture within the Navy, including their dedication to mishap prevention and the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

"It is an honor to win such a prestigious award," said Capt. Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, SWRMC commanding officer. "I am extremely proud of every individual's dedication to safety and mishap prevention. We have a very dedicated safety department that does an exceptional job of communicating and leading safety initiatives, and we have skilled leadership executing those requirements down to the deckplate."

"Every individual should feel proud that we won this award," said Lou Campos, SWRMC environmental, safety and health department head. "Without their participation, this award is not possible."

SWRMC's nomination package competed against 37 other well written nominations. SWRMC's efforts to be a STAR VPP site was one initiative included in the nomination package. SWRMC's VPP committee is currently working on accomplishing all of the mandatory requirements to receive STAR recognition.

The nomination package also highlighted SWRMC's safety risk management, including their hazard abatement efforts, trends, and mishap reduction efforts, which resulted in a 27% reduction in civilian mishap cases since last year.

"Our robust safety programs not only benefit our workforce, but the taxpayers as well," said Lou Campos. "There are costs associated with workplace occupational injuries and illnesses. When an employee is off of work on workers compensation due to workplace injuries/illnesses, they are not performing work for our ships, which is what our organization is paid to do."

The presenter of the award, The Navy League of the United States, is a national organization of more than 60,000 civilian volunteers in 250 local councils throughout the U.S. and overseas. The objectives of the Navy League are to develop and maintain public interest in the U.S. Sea Services and their missions, offer cooperation and assistance in matters sustaining naval efficiency and to support Sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen and their families.

SWRMC's mission is to provide superior ship maintenance and modernization to ships in the Pacific Fleet, who stand ready to fight and win.

For more information about SWRMC, please visit <http://www.swrmc.navy.mil/>.