

The Leader

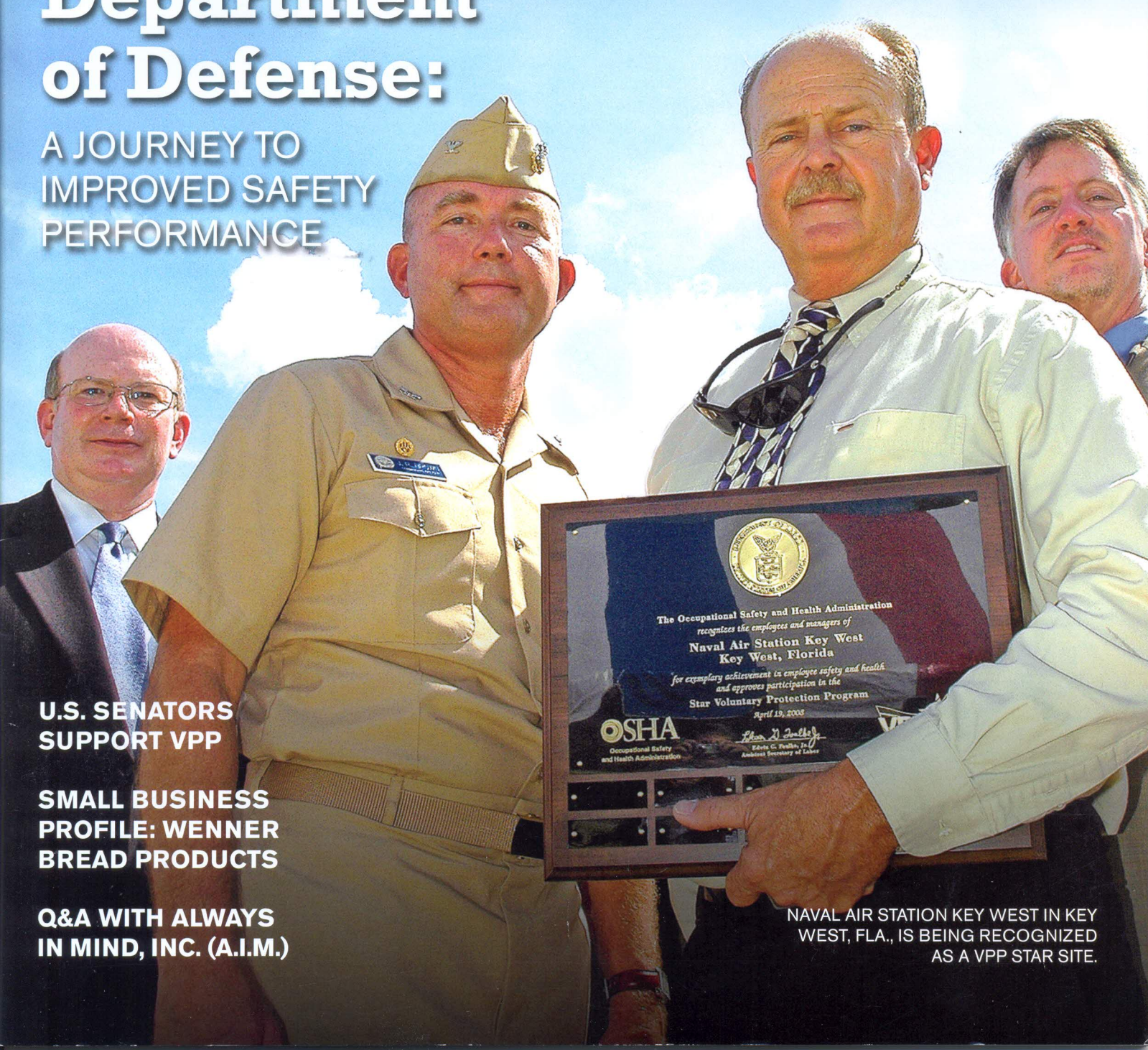
VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS' ASSOCIATION

Volunteers for Total Quality Protection

SUMMER 2010 >> VOLUME 19 ISSUE 3

Department of Defense:

A JOURNEY TO IMPROVED SAFETY PERFORMANCE



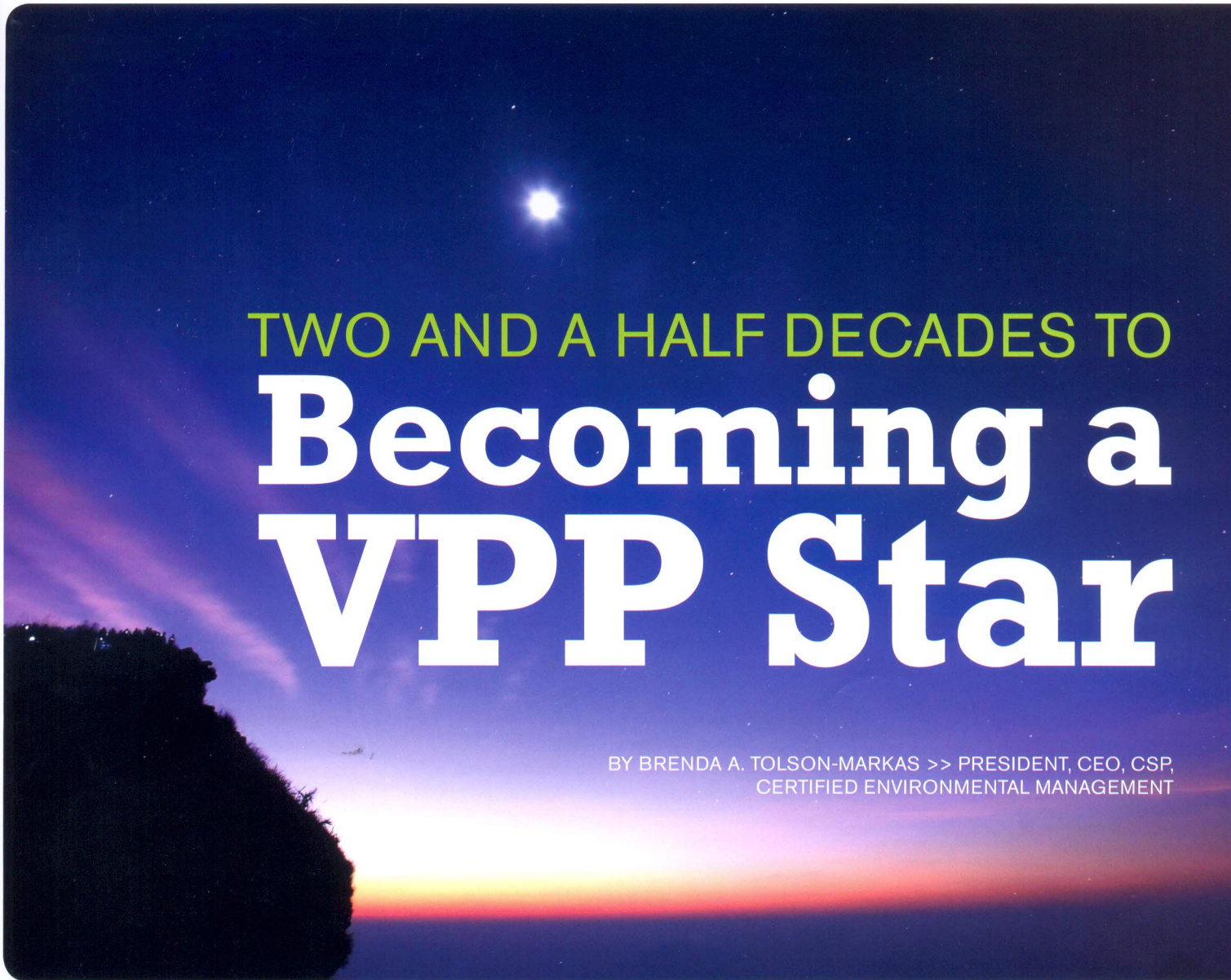
U.S. SENATORS SUPPORT VPP

SMALL BUSINESS PROFILE: WENNER BREAD PRODUCTS

Q&A WITH ALWAYS IN MIND, INC. (A.I.M.)



NAVAL AIR STATION KEY WEST IN KEY WEST, FLA., IS BEING RECOGNIZED AS A VPP STAR SITE.



TWO AND A HALF DECADES TO Becoming a VPP Star

BY BRENDA A. TOLSON-MARKAS >> PRESIDENT, CEO, CSP,
CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

What is the importance of zero? That was the question that the Certified Environmental Management, Ltd., (CEM) President asked one of their clients in the mid-1980s. The explanation was simple; any reported injury or illness performance above zero means that someone who works for our company is experiencing a health or safety event that could permanently change their lives or the lives of their families. The CEM executive began to understand the meaning of this zero criterion. So how does our team at CEM see the importance of zero? Essentially, that was our first step to becoming an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) Star site and understanding the totality of an OSHA recordable.

In the workplace, risk equals cost – that's the bottom line. With corporations of all sizes facing shrinking budgets, increased stakeholder scrutiny and intense competition for market share and quality employees, controlling costs by effectively managing workplace environmental, health and safety (EHS) programs is crucial for sustaining growth and profitability. Workplace EHS programs reduce costs and risks by maintaining a safer, healthier and more productive workforce, adding significant value to the bottom line. Integrating EHS systems with strategic business planning delivers far-reaching financial, economic, competitive and operational benefits.

CEM partners with clients to understand their specific business and EHS processes,

objectives and strategies. From individual programs to comprehensive systems, we help companies address both immediate and long-term EHS issues, delivering point solutions that add value today and sustainable management strategies that enable our clients to track EHS value and drive improved EHS performance well into the future. We have the experience to understand the business value of EHS and the expertise to provide comprehensive solutions that effectively deliver that value.

That is why in 2008, our CEM team, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) laboratory and consulting group chose to vigorously pursue becoming a VPP Star worksite.

