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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **MMS RECOGNIZES CONTRACTOR FOR SAFE DRILLING OPERATIONS OFFSHORE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

The U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) Pacific Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Region presented **Helmerich & Payne, Inc. (H&P)** with the agency's District Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE) today in recognition of its accident-free extended-reach drilling operations on ExxonMobil's Platform Heritage located offshore Santa Barbara County, California. This is the second consecutive year that **Helmerich & Payne** is recognized with a MMS safety award for its extended-reach drilling operations. **H&P**, a drilling contractor for ExxonMobil Production Co., was presented with the MMS safety award at a ceremony in the MMS regional office located in Camarillo, California.

"The Acting MMS Director joins me in commending **Helmerich & Payne** for its part in developing offshore mineral resources while maintaining a constant commitment to environmental protection, offshore safety, and regulatory compliance," said MMS Pacific OCS Regional Director Dr. J. Lisle Reed. "During the 2000 rating period, MMS inspectors, engineers and environmental scientists conducted 19 onsite drilling inspections with no incidents of noncompliance issued to ExxonMobil as a result of a **Helmerich & Payne** violation."

"**Helmerich & Payne**, in conjunction with ExxonMobil, are safely and successfully utilizing state-of-the-art extended-reach drilling and well completion technology to access oil and gas reserves in the Sacate Field more than four miles away from Platform Heritage," said Reed. "This operation underscores **Helmerich & Payne's** professionalism while, at the same time, highlights the continuing advancements in today's drilling technology."

**(more)**

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“The advancements in extended-reach technology enable companies to utilize fewer platforms to develop reserves within a greater geographic area,” explained Reed. “In the case of ExxonMobil, they will be able to develop the Sacate Field from their existing Platform Heritage instead of having to install Platform Heather, a facility already approved in the company’s Development and Production Plan.”

The MMS established the SAFE Program in 1983 to recognize companies that enhance offshore operational safety and environmental protection for the Nation's Outer Continental Shelf. In addition to federal regulatory compliance, award criteria for nominees include accuracy of recordkeeping, training, equipment maintenance, and utilization of new technology.

The MMS, a bureau in the U.S. Department of the Interior, is the federal agency that manages the nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the outer continental shelf. The agency also collects, accounts for and [disburses more than \\$5 billion per year in revenues](#) from federal offshore mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on federal and Indian lands.

**-MMS Pacific-**

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