



GUEST EDITORIAL

Optimism and dedication describe land business despite challenges

Scott Gordon, IADC Vice President-Land,
Unit Drilling Company Vice President &
Gulf Coast Division Manager



Scott D Gordon

I WISH TO thank the IADC members and staff for your vote of confidence by electing me to fill the position as IADC's 2004 Division Vice President Land. As I search the dog house for the keys to the

"V" door, I wish to thank **John Lindsay** on his outstanding job and hard work as last years Division Vice President.

The New Year will mark the beginning of my 24th year in the land contracting business. Many changes have occurred over that span of time. Some good, some not so good. As we enter the New Year, let me focus on a few areas I believe will continue to have a big impact on the land drilling Industry. They can be summed up in four words:

- **Uncertainty:** Everyone must realize we work in a price sensitive environment driven by an ever fluctuating price for oil and gas. Yes our rig count does go up when oil and gas prices go up as well as the reverse. Our difficulty arises when we attempting to predict with certainty those prices and our ensuing rig utilization.

- **Regulations:** We work in an environment in which we are held to a high standard of operational, environmental, and safety performance. Our legal systems, customers, and government challenge these standards by enacting new

laws, rules, and regulations. IADC continues to be an outstanding resource in keeping up with these changes. The 2003 Model Contract Forums is an excellent example of meeting these new challenges.

- **Optimism:** Driller's optimism for a better future in the form of higher rig rates and utilization never ceases to amaze me.

- **Dedication:** Our business is filled with hard working energetic people whose goal is to make hole. On a daily basis they meet the challenges of equipment needs, hole problems, and finding a roughneck's lost pay check. An amazing group of people.

Throughout my career, I have been witness to an IADC championing Drilling Contractors' needs not only here in the USA but across the globe. I am committed to continuing this goal as I serve IADC members and our oil and gas industry at large.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Scott D Gordon began in the drilling business in 1976 as a roughneck for Unit Drilling Company in the Texas Panhandle. That experience altered Scott's career plans from pre-medicine to engineering. Upon his 1979 graduation from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering Technology, he accepted a permanent position with the company. In August, 2001 Scott accepted a new role with Unit as Vice President - Gulf Coast Division Manager by taking over the administration of Unit's 15 rigs in South Texas and Louisiana prompting a move back to his native Texas.



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Conference Information:

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