THE STAR

FALL 2015

CNS | consolidated nuclear security, llc

PANTEX PLANT | Y-12 NATIONAL SECURITY COMPLEX

Contents

Cover photo: Pantex set a new standard for the Enterprise with the latest Enterprise Assessment Inspection of the Pantex Protective Force. Assessment team members, who required more than 250 limited-scope performance tests, stated that Pantex is only the second site in the history of the inspection process to go through a complete multi-topic inspection and not receive any findings or issues in the final report.

The Star is published by Consolidated Nuclear Security LLC, the management and operating contractor for the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, under Contract No. DE-NA0001942 with the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration. Feedback is welcome at P.O. Box 2009, Oak Ridge, TN, 37831-8114 or amy.alley@cns.doe.gov.

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The beginning of a new fiscal year is always a great time to reflect on accomplishments and to look ahead to a bright future. For Consolidated Nuclear Security, our first year managing and operating the Pantex Plant and Y-12 National Security Complex was one filled with achievements.

We delivered our national security missions while reducing risk to our workers and the public through infrastructure upgrades, security and emergency preparedness enhancements, and other improvements. A record-setting pace of new construction is revitalizing both sites. We also faced many challenges head on to improve conduct of operations, mitigate hazards at our aging facilities and negotiate union agreements within our values of integrity, respect, trust and teamwork.

In this issue of *The Star*, we showcase the employees who make all that happen by putting CNS's Five Daily Absolutes—safety, security, mission delivery, quality and cost efficiency—into practice. You'll hear from employees who make it possible for CNS to effectively and efficiently achieve our missions for the National Nuclear Security Administration.

Pantexans and Y-12ers have more ties that unite them than being managed and operated by CNS. Both sites are built on a tradition of excellence, a strong work ethic, patriotism, discipline and attention to detail. Today's workforce embodies the hallmarks that belonged to the first generation of nuclear weapons workers—a standard that has endured for more than 70 years.

Read on to find out about the variety of professions held by the more than 7,600 CNS employees and how all work together to make each site the best it can be. Learn how engineering know-how and unique skill sets are working together as OneTeam. Like a small city, each CNS site has its own firefighters, security police officers, utilities workers, grounds crew and many others who keep it running. See how the CNS workforce prepares for today's missions but shares its expertise with the workforce of tomorrow.

Lastly, but definitely not least, meet some of the CNS veterans who continue to serve their country through their work at CNS.

Enjoy this issue and learn about the real stars of CNS—our employees. Be sure to visit the CNS website (http://cns-llc.us/) or the site's social media pages (Facebook and Twitter) for additional content.

Jim Haynes
CNS President and Chief Executive Officer

Special feature: When you see the camera and video icons, click them for more content.

CNS Happenings

Pantex Administrative Support Complex

Planning continues on the Pantex Administrative Support Complex, a facility needed to replace aging buildings. The ASC (drawing at right) will help ensure Pantex continues to maintain the safety, security and reliability of the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile. The proposed building will house general office space and conference areas, a visitors center, an auditorium, a cafeteria and a medical clinic. The ASC will have sustainable infrastructure that supports the health, safety and welfare of the employees, the public and the environment. This vital facility will improve the quality of life/work environment for close to one-third of the Pantex employees. The ASC will enable consolidation of some organizations in a single facility with modern and updated technologies, resulting in a more efficient operational work environment and reduced maintenance/operating cost. If approved, construction could begin in March 2016.

Representatives visit Pantex

Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, hosted Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., to discuss Pantex's role in national security. Thornberry and McCarthy viewed the High Explosives Pressing Facility. "I especially wanted him [McCarthy] to come to the Panhandle to see the contributions we make to national security," Thornberry said in a statement. Shown are NNSA Production Office Manager Geoff Beausoleil, McCarthy, Monty Cates of Pantex and Thornberry.

Y-12 visit

During a recent visit to Y-12, Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, the chairman of the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, toured the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility with Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, R-Tenn. The congressmen also visited Building 9212, Building 9204-2 and the future site of the Uranium Processing Facility. From left: Simpson, Fleischmann and Y-12 Site Manager Bill Tindal.

Putting asphalt to reuse

Asphalt removed from parking lots and other areas of Y-12, as part of the early site work for the Uranium Processing Facility construction, will be recycled and used at Y-12 and the Oak Ridge Reservation.

The asphalt is removed and ground into a material called base course, which can be used to maintain unpaved access and perimeter roads and to protect them from erosion. "We are providing the recycled asphalt to organizations that typically have to purchase materials to maintain the access and perimeter roads, and we are also using it on portions of the UPF haul road," said Brian Reilly, UPF project director. "Because it's recycling, it's a win-win."

CNS stars

A typical work day for a CNS employee ranges from protecting the portals leading into the Pantex Plant and the Y-12 National Security Complex to creating a piece of equipment that makes cleanup of materials easier.

CNS's 7,600-plus employees have a range of educational background, including 2,292 personnel with bachelor's degrees, 835 with master's degrees and 100 with doctorates. A large number of employees are skilled in special trades and have years of experience. No matter the level of education, employees work in support of the National Nuclear Security Administration and are dedicated to making America and the world a safer place.

"I am extremely proud of all Pantexans and Y-12ers," CNS President and Chief Executive Officer Jim Haynes said. "It is great to see both their daily commitment to the Five Absolutes [safety, security, mission delivery, quality and cost efficiency] and to building more successful and sustainable futures for Pantex and Y-12."

Each site has its own specialties, but together they provide core elements of a sustainable and robust national nuclear deterrent and other critical national security missions, which require a variety of skill sets and knowledge to achieve. Sharing expertise across the sites is a new advantage of being under one contract and one that is bound to grow in the coming years.

CNS employees remain dedicated to serving their neighbors, America and the world. Pantex's Fire Department Battalion Chief Donavon Morgan said, "We take pride to help maintain the safety and health of the Pantex Plant, all of its employees and our surrounding community neighbors. It is important we be able to respond quickly. We cannot allow even the smallest of mistakes, which have the potential of huge consequences."

Y-12 Security Police Officer John Fellers said, "We all have an important responsibility to protect and serve this great nation of ours, whether by patrolling city streets, foreign countries or the entries into Y-12 or Pantex."

Jason McMurray, a Y-12 nondestructive analysis engineer, said, "It is extremely rewarding to work at a place that has such an important role in keeping our country and our allies safe. It takes everyone working together for us to be successful in meeting our overall mission."

Another commonality for Pantexans and Y-12ers is their pride. McMurray said, "Y-12 is a place full of extremely bright and innovative people who work together to conduct extremely difficult and important work. There is a strong sense of teamwork and camaraderie at Y-12; it is easy to see that people are looking out for each other. We have a real sense of family, and people are proud to work here."

Pantexan Melynie Greaser thinks the same of her co-workers; she's the manager of the Emergency Services Dispatch Center. "The best part of my job is working with the people. I have been a supervisor or manager for more than 40 years and have been blessed with the best of the best, caring, hard-working employees. We are like one big family."

Enterprise Planning and Controls' Glenda Roberts agreed. "Pantex is a specialized group of hard-working, patriotic people with big hearts who are known for dedication and respectful work ethics."

Chris Robinson, director of Nuclear Materials Initiatives, knew years ago working in Oak Ridge would be rewarding. "Whether it's our traditional defense programs role or our global security and strategic partnership opportunities, ultimately, what each of us does every day at both sites has an impact on making the world a safer place. Having first

visited Oak Ridge on a field trip in grade school, I remember thinking 'this town and its sites' missions would be an awesome place to work.' After coming to the University of Tennessee for graduate school, my graduate work in nuclear engineering led to a position at Y-12. In my case, I truly am living the dream."

Allison Roberts, a Public Affairs specialist at Pantex, develops content for CNS social media sites and assists with media relations.

CNS jobs bolster national security

Whether employees are engineers, carpenters, laborers, scientists or security police officers, they have a role in protecting national security.

Chris Robinson said, "As the world has dramatically changed during the last 60-plus years, so have the threats and challenges to security—both domestically and abroad. CNS core competencies remain relevant in providing efficient, effective solutions for many of these emerging global security challenges."

Robinson helps match products with customers. "My role is to develop programs and provide senior technical support for work-for-others associated with nuclear technology, nonproliferation and national security," he said.

Scientist Roland Seals has seen those challenges firsthand. During his 38-year career at Y-12, he has developed innovative technologies. "Continued research and development support our missions and are vital to ensure the safety and security of the U.S. It feels good to be a part of efforts that are inspired by patriotism," Seals said.

In his daily job, Seals leads, performs and guides research and development activities in materials and manufacturing technology. He holds 23 patents and has six patents pending.

While Seals and Robinson create products, develop programs and strengthen partnerships, numerous others are behind the scenes. Jason McMurray said, "My group provides

in-field measurement needs for areas and materials that cannot be easily accessed. We go to the location to detect and quantify any unwanted radioactive materials that might be present. We also conduct waste characterizations for safe and effective disposition of contaminated waste materials collected throughout the site."

Glenda Roberts is another one behind the scenes who coordinates monthly reporting. "Each of us supports a part of the mission as a team effort in defense of our nation to keep our family and friends safe on our U.S. soil," she said.

Pantex Public Affairs Specialist Allison Roberts believes the same. "There's no doubt that we work extremely hard to accomplish our critical and unique mission, but the most important things are the pride, patriotism and people. We are passionate about our work and how it makes the world a safer place."

John Fellers summarized what most CNS employees feel in having a role in protecting national security: "We live in a country that affords its citizens many more freedoms and opportunities than any other country, and I want to do my part to ensure my children and grandchildren are able to enjoy those same luxuries."

Allison Roberts added, "The threat against our nation's freedom is more real now than ever before. It is important to me to contribute in my own small way to defend that freedom for future generations."

No matter their job description, CNS employees are working to protect national security.

Sparking engineering success

Partnership enhances fire protection expertise

CNS is partnering with the University of Tennessee on a new graduate-level engineering program to enhance fire protection expertise.

The Graduate Certificate Program in Fire Protection Engineering gives employees new educational and career opportunities while improving the CNS enterprise's fire protection capabilities. Twenty-five CNS employees from a cross-section of organizations are acquiring critical skills in fire protection engineering while earning graduate-level credit.

Y-12 Fire Protection Engineering Manager David Greer and UT Electrical Engineering and Computer Science professor David Icove got the program rolling after Greer contacted Icove about teaching a course on Fire Dynamics Simulator software to his staff. The two discussed the idea and determined a university program, comprising several core courses open to all engineering students, would better serve CNS and UT.

"As a profession, fire protection engineering is in high demand, and there is a very short supply of qualified engineers. Currently, only two schools in the U.S. offer accredited engineering degrees—Oklahoma State University and the University of Maryland. UT is now the only university in the southeast offering accredited coursework in this field," Greer said.

The UT Fire Protection Engineering program, launched in fall 2014, offers four graduate-level courses that combine industry perspective with university expertise and class assignments designed around real Pantex and Y-12 problems. Icove, an internationally recognized forensic engineering expert with more than 40 years of experience in the field, teaches the courses.

The success of the 16-week program led UT to offer each of the four courses in condensed three-week sessions during the summer. "This special compressed program is intense," Greer said. "In a one-week period, the students get a semester's worth of time in class, plus two weeks for homework and a term paper. In three weeks, they'll complete a graduate-level engineering course but will only be away from the plant for four days. The format is very demanding, but it is the only way many of the participants would ever have time available to take these courses."

CNS Chief Fire Protection Engineer Randy Lanham said engineers at Pantex who have taken courses have been impressed. "One engineer said he can use the information in his job right now—which is a big positive. Another said taking the courses has encouraged her to continue with a master's degree in fire protection engineering," Lanham said.

Matthew Alt, a UT civil engineering graduate who now supports Uranium Processing Facility Quality Assurance, said the program is a great opportunity to obtain training in a different field. "We perform a lot of oversight reviews, and these courses provide the tools and training for reviewing process and program documents like the preliminary fire hazards analysis."

The curriculum offers CNS the opportunity to provide new educational and career opportunities to employees and to target qualified fire protection engineering candidates likely to establish careers locally. "We hope to see this develop into a full master's program," Greer said.

Teaming to create better flame detection

Hundreds of miles may separate Pantex and Y-12, but the miles do not hinder collaboration. A team of Pantex and Y-12 engineers recently completed the flame detection installation design project that will be used at two Pantex facilities. This design is for installation of two of the first-of-a-kind, fully redundant, safety-class flame detection systems in the Department of Energy Complex and will be the next generation of Fire Detection and Deluge Release System.

This system will replace existing systems that are at the end of design life. As this project progresses, it eliminates real risks to Pantex infrastructure being available to support the mission. Design Project Manager Srikant Mehta said a team from Pantex has been working on this project for a few years, developing the system and the panels that control it. "The team was in need of more manpower when it came to the installation design, and that's where Y-12 was able to assist with the project," Mehta said.

The team plans to start installing the new system in 2016. The design package was a significant effort and required 3-D modeling of flame detection, single-point-of-failure mode analyses. The new system replaces the existing ultraviolet system with a more efficient infrared detection system. "An added benefit is the new system will be a single-point-failure–proof system, meaning no single point failure will cause the system to fail," Project Manager Chris Howard. "This collaboration worked out really well. Y-12 had resources we didn't have, and we wouldn't have been able to get it done without them."

Michael Shehane looks through debris after a car is burned during the test burn class at the Knoxville Fire Department Training Academy as part of the University of Tennessee's Fire Protection Engineering program.

Ready to protect and serve

Most people might think fire and smoke are the main causes of on-duty deaths for the nation's firefighters. However, heart attacks and strokes cause more than half of all line-of-duty firefighter deaths. To counter this trend, fire departments have adopted occupational fitness programs.

Y-12 Fire Chief Scott Vowell said the Fit for Duty program is designed to enhance firefighters' health and proficiency and was modeled after the Pantex program. Neither department has ever recorded a line-of-duty death.

"We want to make sure we're doing everything we can to protect them," Vowell said. "Even though the number of fires is going down nationwide, the high number of cardiac arrests is a hazard we have to address."

CNS has 76 firefighters ready to protect the Pantex Plant and the Y-12 National Security Complex, with 72 also trained as emergency medical technicians.

The National Fire Protection Association issues recommendations regarding occupational health and fitness. Vowell said the Y-12 program incorporates the NFPA standards, as does the Pantex program.

Pantex Fire Department Assistant Chief of Operations Shannon Lanier said while the recommendations are obviously important, even more vital reasons are behind the programs.

"We can quote NFPA all day long, but the bottom line is we owe this to the people who depend upon us—those we work with, those we work for and those we hope to spend many years with in retirement," Lanier said.

Pantex adopted an official fitness program two decades ago, helping everyone get on board.

"When the line-of-duty deaths attributed to health and fitness issues were about half of the annual mortality numbers, I think everyone agreed that the fire service needed to put as much emphasis on maintaining their personnel as was given to maintaining trucks and stations," Lanier said.

Under Y-12's model, firefighters undergo an annual medical exam and a health risk assessment. Within 90 days, they must complete the fit-for-duty course in seven minutes or less. They carry a 40-pound hose up three flights of stairs wearing full gear (45 to 50 pounds) and then pull a hose attached to a rope up three stories and lower it back down.

Another training station entails using a sledge hammer to move a Keiser sled, an 80 to 100 pound block, to simulate using a forceable entry tool. Next, the firefighter has to pull 100 feet of water-charged hose for 100 feet. Finally, the 100-foot "dummy drag" replicates rescuing a 165-pound victim.

Y-12 Fire Department Capt. John Fife said the program gives the firefighters a good measure of their fitness.

"One of the good things is it gives the firefighters an idea of where they are physically, their strong areas and their weak areas," he said. "It shows you where you need to improve."

Fitness programs such as those at Pantex and Y-12 not only prepare firefighters for their work, but also improve their health and well-being for their lives off the job.

Pantex Fire Department Battalion Chief Donovan Morgan said, "We ensure our programs meet federal and state requirements. Keeping our station, including the firefighters, maintained is important since we and our co-workers depend on us and our equipment. It is important we are able to respond quickly and intervene."

Adoption of health and fitness programs aims to build healthier, stronger firefighters.

Thinking outside the box creates success

When people hear "change," they often get heartburn. They may say they're for making things better, but when an organization brings change to its structure, people become hesitant. As was the case when Y-12 Utilities introduced the Be-Wise Energy program.

The complex problems of today cannot be solved with the same level of thinking that created them. –Albert Einstein

"The hardest part of reaching our accomplishments is to change the cultural mind-set," Infrastructure's Jonathan Walker explained. "Since on-site customers are not billed for utilities, eliminating waste was not priority to them, but the idea that all equipment should be running just in case will not sustain us in the future."

Utility engineers observed when Y-12 is fully occupied and operational, fuel and energy consumption levels remain essentially unchanged, even on weekends. What employees do to reduce operational costs for the time the site is closed or production is down could greatly reduce energy costs.

Bobby Goins, systems engineer, said, "We knew through operational changes, behavioral changes and effective maintenance, we could save money, and we can provide opportunities to use saved funds for projects instead of expending it for commodities. We knew a fresh approach would be required."

That fresh approach was Be-Wise Energy, making Y-12 energy wise by using creative, fresh-thinking strategies.

Goins said, "We have limited resources, so we need to ensure we make every effort to conserve. Sometimes this means taking the hard road so that changes can be made."

Y-12 Utilities then set into motion projects that were fully implemented during fiscal year 2014. Shift Manager Gary Guge said, "We scrutinized the age-old gas contract and found an opportunity to secure more clean-burning natural gas for Y-12 at a lower price. It was a win-win and minimized emissions, while reducing fuel costs." One winter day, the new gas contract saved more than $117,600.

"Changing behaviors was the next step," Walker said. "I am sure employees watch their utility bills at home and use utilities sparingly. We started operating the site like homeowners and turned off equipment that was not needed, especially on nights, weekends and holidays. Seemingly minor changes to utility systems this large can produce large cost reductions."

Utilities eliminated several energy-wasting steam leaks and upgraded inefficient control equipment. "It wasn't easy to do," Guge said. "To make the repairs, we shut down the Y-12 steam plant and worked with Production to stage and plan the huge repair effort so outages would have minimal impact on mission activities."

The result? "We found one weekend outage resulted in a payback period of 80 to 140 days to recover all costs from the weekend leak repair effort with significant savings that would continue as long as the system is operating," Guge said. "The benefits of the outage/repair efforts were so compelling, we expanded efforts to include other Y-12 facilities."

Be-Wise Energy changes brought Y-12 expenditures of natural gas and fuel oil down from $9.23 million to $5.87 million (a 36 percent reduction) and saved more than $901,000 (or more than 398 million gallons of fuel) in fiscal year 2014 when compared to fiscal year 2013.

Walker said, "We realize that by eliminating waste like leaks and overuse of resources, we are good stewards. We continue to right-size our systems to today's mission."

Goins said, "It wasn't an overnight success, and future workers will need to have the same drive and outside-the-box thinking so improvement trends can continue." In the meantime, continuous improvements and utilities reductions continue.

Y-12 Utilities received the 2015 Federal Energy and Water Management Award from the Department of Energy and the Federal Interagency Energy Management Task Force for the team's outstanding achievements in energy, water and/or fleet management in 2014. Team member Larry Petrowski passed away before the team received the award, but his fellow co-workers said he exemplified CNS Core Values. "He always conducted himself with the highest integrity and was a blessing to everyone with whom he came in contact," Jonathan Walker said. Utilities Shift Manager Gary Guge said, "Larry will be missed because he touched so many at Y-12, and his knowledge of the water system will never be replaced." Pictured from left: Roscoe Wilson, Gary Guge, Jonathan Walker and Bobby Goins.

Interns jump-start their careers

Summer 2015 was a time of new adventures for 32 college students who called CNS home for the 10-week intern program. These students put their mental strength to use and gained enriching experiences while working on projects with engineering, science or business experts.

"The CNS intern program plays a key role in our strategic goal of investing in people," Chief Human Resources Officer Diane Grooms said.

"This commitment to people begins with a dedication to investing in our employees, but it doesn't stop there. We also have a responsibility to grow the next generation of employees—giving undergrads and graduate students the opportunity to work with knowledgeable staff at Pantex and Y-12. There are things that interns can learn and do at CNS that they can't do anywhere else," Grooms said.

CNS restarted the company-funded internship program this year, and it is more robust with greater participation. New program managers Rachel Winningham (Human Resources) and Ashley Stowe (Mission Engineering) saw the restart as an opportunity to enhance the program. The two took a fresh approach to how the students, managers and mentors are matched. They asked managers interested in hosting an intern to explain the organizational need and work scope, including skill set and education requirements, and then provided them with the best-matched candidates.

"We tried to match the area of study, project and manager together. That way managers have more invested in the students," Stowe said. "We've put more rigor into what the students do while they're here. They have a cohesive project to keep them engaged for 10 weeks."

As a former Y-12 intern, Winningham considered her own

experience. "I wanted to mimic what was done in the past but with a more personal touch," she said. Interns submitted weekly scope summaries. "The summaries offered insight into what they worked on to ensure they were getting valuable and meaningful work. I would touch base with them regularly to see how they were doing," she said.

In addition to working on projects, the interns attended professional development workshops and scientific lectures. Each intern also was paired with a mentor from another organization who offered a different perspective and additional insight about the company.

Stowe said, "We wanted to create a program that provides a great experience for students and great opportunities for our organizations to build a pipeline of next-generation experts for CNS and the country."

He and Winningham will focus on expanding the Pantex program next year. Winningham said, "Currently, the internship programs at Pantex and Y-12 operate as separate entities. Going forward, we will partner to create a unified program that aligns with CNS's core missions."

A Pantex intern gains summer education from the Environmental Projects department.

West Point cadet, one-of-a-kind summer intern

As a second-year cadet at West Point, the U.S. Military Academy in New York, native Tennessean I. Greer sets his sights high and goes after what he wants. He's an honors student majoring in physics and minoring in nuclear engineering and expects to fly Army helicopters one day. During his one-month tour at Y-12 as an intern, he covered unique terrain.

Greer shadowed experts in neutron detection, additive manufacturing and Analytical Chemistry's technical support and development labs; studied business analytics in the Mission Assurance organization and fire protection at the University of Tennessee; joined a Civil Support Team for courses at the Alarm Response Training facility; engaged in force-on-force training at the Central Training Facility; participated in a small-unit radiological and nuclear training exercise; and spent time with distinguished military visitors. "It was a full month with little down time and plenty of hands-on experience that'll benefit me in school and my military career," he said.

"The Military Academic Collaboration, a National Nuclear Security Administration–funded program, provides select cadets and midshipmen a first-rate experience working cutting-edge research and development opportunities in disciplines and technologies of mutual interest to the military/service academies, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Transportation and NNSA," NNSA's Garry Kuhn said.

Greer had a special one-on-one session with CNS President and CEO Jim Haynes. "He shared some of his experience, and we joked about him being a Naval Academy grad and me being at West Point," Greer said. "Mr. Haynes also gave me insightful advice about leadership—inside and outside the Academy."

Employing America's heroes

With strong and unique qualifications, CNS's military personnel continue to serve the nation through their work at Pantex and Y-12. CNS service members recall memorable moments from their military careers.

Amanda Dunlap

Supervisor, Special Nuclear Material Operations, U.S. Army: Network/ satellite communication specialist

Lesson learned: Courage.

For my first deployment to Iraq, people in the states had donated backpacks full of school supplies, and when we went out on convoys, we gave the backpacks to kids. They were so excited to have a pencil with Batman on it. This experience opened my eyes to how lucky I had it growing up in the United States and how courageous these kids were, living through war after war and getting bombed every day, sometimes three or four times a day.

J.R. Sellers

Fire protection engineer
Army National Guard: Warrant officer candidate, aviation

Lesson learned: Collaboration is necessary to achieve a common goal.

The National Guard has provided me opportunities to travel and learn. In 2013, I participated in joint U.S.–South Korean military exercises. I was an information technology specialist attached to a transportation company that set up computer networks in remote locations. It was eye-opening to see such a large exercise play out and how we seamlessly integrated different schools of thought and cultures.

Casey Benzel

Software engineer, Army National Guard: Logistics team chief

Lesson learned: I am thankful to live in America.

I used to take a lot of things for granted, everything from clean water and air conditioning to being able to get a good education and access to good medical care. At Camp Bucca in Iraq, I was a platoon leader for a 45-person platoon that guarded one of 35 compounds of detainees. Each compound had barriers, barbed wire fencing and wooden towers and had anywhere from 800 to 1,000 detainees. I will never forget the eerie feeling the first time I looked into the compound we guarded 24 hours a day for nine months.

Barbara Vertefeuille

Authorization basis analyst
U.S. Army: Ordnance officer

Lesson learned: Being responsible means the decisions you make aren't always popular.

During Desert Storm in 1991, when the last battalion I belonged to deactivated, all of the ammunition sites that my battalion was responsible for needed to be emptied and the ammunition shipped back to the U.S. For several reasons, it fell on the battalion staff to help empty out one of the ammunition sites. We would load the trucks, tie the ammunition down and send the trucks to the port for shipment back to the U.S. Teams of soldiers worked together to accomplish a mission that was not part of their normal duties. This experience taught me that, with teamwork, amazing things can be accomplished.

Gordon Milbach

Logistics specialist
U.S. Marine Corps: Mortar fire direction center chief

Lesson learned: Never accept defeat. Every failure is an opportunity to learn from mistakes or to discover a new approach to the challenge before you.

In 1991, during the liberation of Kuwait, my unit was tasked with assaulting and liberating the Kuwait International Airport, securing it for air access and holding it to turn it back over to the people of Kuwait. When the Army and Air Force Exchange Service radio network came on the air and told the world we planned to take back the airport, the reporter questioned whether we could be successful. What he didn't know is that we had already retaken the airport four hours earlier and were just waiting on the first flight to land.

Sherry Philyaw

Safety culture advocate
U.S. Navy: Aviation machinist's mate senior chief

Lesson learned: It doesn't matter where you come from (geography, society, gender), *you* are the deciding factor as to where and how far you will go.

I was a female jet engine mechanic back when there were few women in the field. In our squadron of more than 500 people, there were only three women. A lot of people didn't believe we should be allowed to be jet mechanics. I didn't have the same attributes/skills the other guys in my shop had, but each of us brought something to the team. I wasn't as big and strong as most of the guys, but I was small and had great dexterity. I couldn't carry the huge tool box, but I could slide inside a jet intake to work on the blades of the engine. I could get inside a fuel tank to work on piping. The big guys couldn't do that!

Small businesses bring big successes

It has been a great year for CNS's Supply Chain Management with both sites receiving recognition.

Y-12 named DOE Mentor of the Year

In June, Y-12 received the Department of Energy's Small Business Mentor of the Year award.

Y-12 Small Business Program Manager Lisa Copeland said, "It makes me very proud to be a part of CNS; receiving this award is a reflection of CNS's commitment, willingness and ability to support the small business community. We all should take pride in this accomplishment as it is a recognizable achievement for Y-12."

The DOE Mentor-Protégé Program recognized Y-12 for its mentorship with BES Technologies LLC, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business in its third year as a protégé. Environment, Safety and Health is the sponsoring organization, and Sam Easterling is the technical mentor.

Easterling said, "Y-12 employees are competitive, and it is always good when our site is recognized with a national award presented by our DOE customer. We can all be proud of helping a local business to ensure our mission by working to make certain that clean personal protective clothing is available for Y-12 employees."

Through the Mentor-Protégé Program, CNS was able to position BEST as a Nuclear Quality Assurance-1 compliant supplier, making it stronger and more resilient to market conditions.

"BEST provides quality services in support of our national security mission," Easterling said. "Having the opportunity to support a veteran who deliberately hires veterans to perform work important to Y-12 employees is a joy. Knowing that BEST understands the importance and is supportive of the Y-12 national security mission makes it that much sweeter."

Y-12 was named DOE Small Business Mentor of the Year for its work with BEST.

Accolades come in threes to Pantex

Pantex received three awards from the Small Business Administration in August: SBA leader in the Lubbock-West Texas District and the SBA Region VI (comprised of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana), outstanding provider of stellar access to procurement opportunities for small businesses and an overall SBA Procurement All Star.

"The significant level from which the awards were given and the breadth of the region from which we hail speaks volumes to the prestige of the awards," Pantex Manager of Transformation and Strategic Initiatives Kelly Delgado-Goudschaal said.

Working with small businesses is something Pantexans have done for many years. Supply Chain Management's Barbara Smith said, "We have an established goal each year as to the amount of dollars to be awarded to small businesses, and we work with a variety of organizations, such as those with expertise in special tooling, packaging and fuels."

Delgado-Goudschaal said, "These awards are a direct reflection of the dedication and the commitment of the Procurement personnel at Pantex. We have had a long-standing tradition of supporting small businesses within our community."

Pantexans receive three awards from the Small Business Administration. Shown are (back row from left): Frances Tillery, Barbara Smith, Teresa Albus, Jeff Gillmore, Tammi Pedro, Randy Lucas, Ashley Hayton and Diane Johnson; front row from left: Kelly Delgado-Goudschaal, SBA Regional Administrator Yolanda Olivarez and SBA District Director Calvin Davis.

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