

Under the new leadership of Director James Ashley, the Industrial Commission of Arizona (ICA) had a packed schedule for a commission meeting and stakeholder outreach in Tucson. Prior to the commission meeting, the ICA visited Raytheon Missile Systems (RMS) to see firsthand what a workplace dedicated to safety looks like on such a grand scale.

Raytheon was recently recognized by ICA's Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) for their role in the Voluntary Protection Program. There are only 37 companies in Arizona that have attained VPP Star status, and Raytheon is the largest of them.



ICA Public Information Officer, Bob Charles, stated, “To describe Raytheon’s attentiveness to safety as impressive would diminish the investment they have made on making sure every worker safely ends their shift and returns home uninjured. For Raytheon, safety isn’t just a box that is checked when needed, it has become instinctive.”

“We’ve worked hard to ensure RMS is a safe and productive workplace. This ADOSH recognition is validation of our commitment to employee safety,” said Kim Erzen, Raytheon Missile Systems Operations vice president. “Our relationship with the ICA and ADOSH is a partnership that serves our warfighters and our nation.”

Director Ashley stated, “Research has shown that safe workplaces saved employers nearly 26 percent on workers’ compensation costs. But, participating in VPP isn’t about costs with Raytheon; safety is part of their DNA and that is obvious after this tour.”

Chairman Schultz added, “And VPP is a program that is completely voluntary where the employer invites us in to consult with them with no fear of citations. I am proud of what we have seen here today at Raytheon. They have set the standard for safety in the workplace.”

Every shift begins with safety and all employees have the opportunity to provide feedback on safety measures in the workplace while tracking their recommendations.

Walking through the facility, many hallway billboards recognized employees for their safety. Other boards reminded employees of ways to be safe on the job. The culture of safety flows throughout the facility.

Raytheon’s safety doesn’t end when the shift ends, but the last thing one sees upon exiting the facility is a large sign stating, “Be safe, it gets you home.” Raytheon is so good at safety being second nature that employees are more likely to be injured on the road than in the workplace.

The ICA is proud to have Raytheon Missile Systems as a VPP Star company. A tour of the RMS facility proves that Raytheon’s investment in their workforce doesn’t start or end with the workday but is a value instilled in every employee.

