

# PANTEXAN

WINTER 2025

## CHILLY DAYS

*Inclement weather  
means extra precaution*



AMARILLO, TEXAS

# PANTEX PLANT



1

## LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Pantex is gaining momentum with the help of your hard work.

2

## RAIN OR SHINE

Infrastructure crew provides vital, often unseen, service to colleagues.

5

## DEVELOPING OPPORTUNITY

Plant-Directed Research and Development is pushing growth with new technology.

6

## ICE KINGS

Playing hockey is about camaraderie and cellys.

8

## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE PANTEX

Some employees have been there and back again.

10

## WALKING IS WORKING

Slips and falls may come with a steep price.

11

## PANTEX NEWS

### ABOUT THE COVER

On February 2-5, 1964, Pantex received more than 20 inches of snow. Pictured cleaning snow off a truck is J. Howard Miller, who worked as a photographer at the plant.

*Pantex File Photo*

## CONTRIBUTORS

### MANAGING EDITOR

*Andrea Caudill*

### ART DIRECTOR

*Allison Roberts*

### COMMUNICATIONS SENIOR DIRECTOR

*Laura Bailey*

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS SENIOR MANAGER

*Ashlee Estlack*

### MISSION COMMUNICATIONS SR MANAGER

*Whitney E. Watson*

### PHOTO/VIDEO MANAGER

*Phillip Winegeart*

### CONTENT EDITORS

*Melissa McCoy*

*Baillie Myers*

### CONTENT WRITERS

*Candice Copelin*

*David Lewis*

*Mel Gardner*

*Dane Glenn*

*Angelica V. Medina*

*Hali Rowland*

*Rachel Smith*

*Cary R. Varnado*

*Amberly Winningham*

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

*Kristin Gates*

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

*Adam Baker*

*Michael Schumacher*

*Johnny Story*

The *Pantexan* is published four times a year by PanTeXas Deterrence, management and operating contractor of the Pantex Plant for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. Pantex is located near Amarillo, Texas. Feedback is welcome at P.O. Box 30020, 79120-0020 or [pantexan@pantex.doe.gov](mailto:pantexan@pantex.doe.gov). Digital copies will be accessible to everyone from Pantex's public website. If you would rather not receive a physical copy, please email your preference to the email address above, and include your name and badge number.

# LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Pantex has been a popular destination this year. This is a direct result of the many good things happening at the site. We have been successful in delivering and progressing our critical mission work, and our customer and stakeholders — who know our work is hard — are very interested in learning how we are making it look easy.

Earlier this year, Pantex hosted a number of guests including U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Chris Wright, Texas Senator John Cornyn, and Texas Congressman Ronny Jackson. They saw our work first hand, giving us the opportunity to talk to them about what we are doing today to deliver our mission as well as what needs to happen in the years ahead. They were impressed, and as a result several projects have been moved forward to help us accomplish our top priorities and our critical mission work for the nation. We are gaining momentum as we address our needs to optimize for tomorrow.

One of the priorities is making facility and quality of life improvements for you and your coworkers. We have implemented the Fix It Now initiative, replaced or repaired a significant number of HVAC systems, refreshed some of the break rooms, and started on a project to overhaul the Building 12-103 cafeteria. We are also working on ways to provide better food options within the plant.

Of course, none of us would be here if not for the enduring Pantex mission. We completed 2024 by exceeding 100% of our production goals and continued that trend by completing 107% of Fiscal Year 2025 planned deliverables to the U.S. Department of Defense. This directly demonstrates the teamwork and skill we have at our facility every single day.

While those numbers tell a great story by themselves and help us gain momentum for enhancements and improvement work at the site, we've seen wonderful results in other ways. The quality defect rate has improved by 25% in the past year, and facility downtime has improved 8%. This shows that we are not only completing our mission, but we are also doing it with efficiency and operational excellence.

While all of these other great things were happening, we also completed our site separation tasks early, making Pantex a completely independent site for the first time since mid-2014. It is a significant sign that our Pantex team is not only standing alone but doing it boldly with confidence and delivering our critical mission work with pride for our customer and nation.

I like to say that Pantex has its mojo back. People all across the Nuclear Security Enterprise are talking about Pantex and wanting to see not only what that looks like but more of it. You, and every Pantexan, are responsible for this success because of the dedication and determination you bring to work every day. I am confident together we can meet any task set before us — the Pantex Way.



Kelly Beierschmitt  
President and General Manager

## LEADERSHIP

JASON ARMSTRONG | *Manager, Pantex Field Office*

KELLY J. BEIERSCHMITT | *PXD President and General Manager*





## RAIN OR SHINE

Infrastructure crew provides vital, often unseen, service to colleagues

*By Cary R. Varnado*

Things are changing at Pantex, which is no revelation to anyone who has worked here even a short period of time. In the last handful of years, Pantex has added thousands of new employees, welcomed a new management and operating contractor, and gone through site separation.

For the staff of Infrastructure's Site Services team, all that change means a lot more Pantexans need their parking lots cleared and walkways shoveled — plus they need to know what Mother Nature has in store so that timely, effective plans can be made.

“With winter storms, we usually have a few days’ notice on the computer models that I use to help forecast the weather,” explained Steve Kersh, the plant’s meteorologist. “The accuracy of a 24-hour forecast has greatly improved over decades, but weather forecasting is still an imperfect science that may never be 100% accurate.”

Thankfully, the Site Services team that depends on Kersh’s work has some improved resources at their

disposal. Three new tractors enhance the team’s ability to clear roads and parking lots in a safe and efficient manner. Yard Supervisor Matt Carter says the upgraded machinery replaces 12-year-old units.

“Our new tractors have more horsepower,” Carter explained. “We are able to cover more ground in a shorter period of time.”

The upgrade brings other benefits, too.

“The new tractors are safer and more visible,” Carter said. “They have much better lighting and warning systems. They’re also larger, so we are able to cover more ground in one pass.”

The new tractors employ advanced technology and feature well-secured cabs to protect operators and allow them to do their jobs in a climate-controlled space. This, in turn, increases efficiency by prolonging the working periods between breaks.

Like other teams across Pantex, Site Services has also benefitted from an increase in personnel.

“We are now up to eight yard workers, and we will be adding three more,” Carter said. “We have also added two light-equipment guys and will be adding two more in the near future.”

Having the personnel they need, ready and able to report whenever called upon, is vital for this team. Site Services’ work necessitates operating at the tip of the environmental spear — the group braves everything from summer’s unrelenting triple-digit heat to winter’s bitter cold and wind-driven snow.

When harsh winter weather is expected, the crew gathers needed products like granular ice melt, and it may keep staff on-site, ready to act 24 hours a day for immediate response when weather events occur.

Proper preparation for a weather event boils down to accurate information, which is where Kersh steps in, acting as the crucial provider of vital knowledge.

“I will use several computer models to make a snow forecast,” he explained, “but I always tend to lean on the North American Mesoscale Model because it is a higher resolution, short-term model that has a history of doing a pretty good job.”

Kersh affirmed no model, or the resulting forecast, is

perfect. Meteorologists analyze all the data available and rely on an alchemy of data, training, and experience to predict most likely outcomes.

“The model is not perfect, but I think it does the best job of winter-weather forecasting. It was the computer model that showed Pantex getting upward of 6 inches of snow last November when Pantex canceled the day shift, but Amarillo and Canyon Independent School Districts didn’t. The end result was the computer model was right and AISD/CISD had to cancel school while in session and parents had to pick up their kids.”

Kersh works hard to provide Pantexans the best possible understanding of likely weather scenarios that might impact operations. While winter storms sometimes afford Kersh a few days to predict what’s coming, that isn’t usually the case.

“I would say that 24 hours’ advance notice of an impending winter weather storm is probably the norm,” he said.

Like a well-oiled machine, Kersh and the Site Services crew work in tandem to turn information into a recommendation for site leadership. Decision then becomes action which, in turn, keeps Pantexans safe — no matter what type of weather we face.





## DEVELOPING OPPORTUNITY

Plant-Directed Research and Development is pushing growth with new technology.

*By David Lewis*

Thomas Edison's most well-known accomplishment was producing the first incandescent lightbulb. His story of continued ambition despite growing ridicule and a significant number of failed attempts is one often used by teachers, coaches, managers, and the like, for preaching the importance of never giving up and persevering through trial. Edison's invention was the precursor for what we know today of electricity, power grids, and the ability to have light at any moment.

Maybe a lesser-known fact about Edison was his research facility at Menlo Park, New Jersey — widely considered the world's first research and development facility. It was the birthplace of many of Edison's ideas, which would lead to later successes, failures, and theories attempted to be brought to life. This facility was created to foster the type of innovation that allowed what seemed a mere conceptual idea to become a reality. In short, Edison knew the value of research and development.

Pantex also knows the value of research and development, highlighted by its Plant-Directed Research and Development (PDRD) program.

But what is PDRD's purpose? Program Manager Caleb Heltenberg shared his thoughts on the program's main objective and goals.

"The Plant-Directed Research and Development program's core objective is to support the modernization of Pantex's production capabilities and capacities, ensuring the site remains at the forefront of nuclear security," Heltenberg said. "The current PDRD portfolio of projects includes research and development in additive/advanced manufacturing, robotics, artificial intelligence and machine learning, chemistry process development, modeling and simulation, wireless communication, system design, and more."

The Pantex Way initiative is defined by the three performance outcomes of mission delivery, operational excellence, and Pantex citizenship, and Pantex's mission is defined to accomplish the effort of delivering today and optimizing for tomorrow. By aligning The Pantex Way with the Strategic Agenda, and undertaking the optimized utilization of PDRD, Pantex has positioned itself to do just that.

"The research and development programs at Pantex provide the mechanism to investigate and develop today's cutting-edge technologies, so that we can

implement those same technologies tomorrow," Heltenberg said. "The programs primarily support The Pantex Way's three overarching outcomes: mission delivery through modernization, strategic partnerships and global security; operational excellence through safety, security, and innovation; and the Pantex citizen through recruitment and retention."

PDRD is a program mandated by Congress for use by production agencies. It allows for innovation and funding to replace equipment, improve production techniques, and introduce new innovation and ideas into engineering and science disciplines. That being said, the PDRD program isn't just limited to people in those fields. Any ideas and proposals meant to improve production or processes is eligible for review within PDRD.

"Anyone across Pantex can take advantage of the PDRD program," Heltenberg said. "A Pantexan just needs to submit a need that will directly invest in the development and application of technology that supports our mission and/or responds to PDRD needs during the annual request for proposals."

Pantex's continued efforts in researching and developing updated strategies, and investing in new, innovative ideas, are the exact purpose of the PDRD program. By supporting these new initiatives, Pantex remains positioned to evolve to support its mission.

"Pantex's research and development strategy aims to create enduring value through strategic investments in our most critical assets: our people, our technologies, our processes, and our external partnerships," Heltenberg said. "By prioritizing the development of our people, embracing modernization, and cultivating partner relationships, Pantex will accelerate innovation, improve operational safety and efficiency, and ultimately enhance its ability to deliver on our vital mission. The result is a more resilient, agile, and effective Pantex capable of addressing the complex challenges of today and tomorrow."





## ICE KINGS

Playing hockey is about camaraderie and cellys.

*By Dane Glenn*

The sport of hockey is a fast-moving sport known for its speed, precision, and flaring temperaments, but for Mark Evans and Luke Wilson, two Pantexans who play ice hockey in the Texas Panhandle, it's all about the love of the game.

At Pantex, Evans (left in top photo) serves as the vehicle maintenance facility liaison for the Office of Secure Transportation. Wilson (right in top photo) is a maintenance senior specialist for fire systems. Their combined years at Pantex barely surpass a decade, but their respective love for hockey goes back to pre-K. Living in a region where football is king, the two decided to defy the metaphorical monarchy.

“When I was younger, I went to check out the rink at the Amarillo Civic Center,” Wilson said. “I did some skating and it snowballed into playing hockey. I loved it.”

“My dad took me to an Amarillo Rattlers then, later, Gorillas games,” Evans said. “The sport was something different, especially for the area. In one of the early games, I watched a fight break out among the players. I was hooked after that.”

Evans and Wilson play in the Amarillo Hockey Association, which is comprised of 25 youth and adult teams, and has a home at the Amarillo Ice Ranch. At one point, however, the icy sport struggled for attention. The Ice Ranch didn't exist a decade ago, and ice time and player interest just wasn't there.

“My dad became AHA President and then I got involved,” Wilson said. “Only 20 adults could sign up to play in the early days. We only had the Civic Center, but when they didn't have the rink set up, we had to go searching for ice — Colorado, Odessa, El Paso, and other places. Now our player numbers have quadrupled, we have the Ranch, and we still play with a lot of the same guys that we have played with from the beginning.”

Longstanding traditions have also been there from the beginning, and no sport would be complete without superstition-fed pre-game rituals.

“I tape my stick 30 minutes before a game,” Evans said. “I also put my left side gear on first, then the right side. I feel I can't play if I don't do this.”

Wilson, on the other hand, keeps it simple.

“I don't wear socks with my skates,” he said.

Within the ranks of hockey players in Amarillo are a dozen or so skate-wearing, board-checking, slap-shooting Pantexans. Yet on the ice or in the office, certain values and principles are interchangeable. Hockey seasons tick away and rosters change, but teamwork, mentorship, a positive attitude, and other skills remain highly in demand.

“Hockey is the ultimate team sport,” Evans said. “At Pantex, we're the ultimate team, too. It takes everyone to accomplish the mission. Another similarity between hockey and the plant is that it's okay to make mistakes. That's not a reason to give up. Take ownership and just be honest with your team.”

Evans and Wilson value their jobs just as much as they value the ice. The longer they continue to serve the mission, their appreciation for working at Pantex deepens.

“We're doing something for a bigger cause — a common goal,” Wilson said. “I feel really special and privileged to be a part of it.”

“I love working for something bigger than myself,” Evans said. “I love meeting new people and building those relationships. When my time is done here, I want to leave it better than I found it.”

Evans and Wilson strive to contribute daily toward mission success. They want to make an impact and serve as role models for future Pantexans. As original members of the AHA, they hope to do the same for that organization. They have cut many years into the ice and will continue taping sticks and padding up for many more. Evans and Wilson try to avoid fights and hard checks because, as they are both quick to note, they are “too old for that stuff.” Despite the unavoidable things like bloody knuckles, bruised muscles, and achy joints, they still puck it up ready for a goal celly (celebration).

“I do it for the comradery,” Wilson said. “Our season lasts eight months, and we meet once, maybe twice a week. I look forward to seeing all those guys during that time.”

“I love it,” Evans added. “I think it's just unique and different. It's a good conversation starter and it is so much fun. Nothing beats it.”





## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE PANTEX

Some employees have been there and back again.

By Amberly Winningham

At Pantex, the mission is clear and, for many, unforgettable. Whether it's the uniqueness of the job, the strong community ties, or the opportunity to make a national impact, Pantex has a way of leaving a lasting impression. That is certainly true for several employees who left for other opportunities, only to find themselves drawn back to the plant they once called home.

After 27 years at Pantex in various organizations including IT, Operations, and Security, Vicky Bails, now a lead assessor in Quality, left to take a contractor role with the National Nuclear Security Administration headquarters. Though she enjoyed her new position, she could not shake the feeling that something was missing.

"My heart was always with Pantex," she shared. "I missed the camaraderie and the people. I just missed making a difference in the Pantex program."

Now back for four years, Bails finds purpose in her role evaluating programs and processes at Pantex, and she remains passionate about contributing to the mission that first inspired her career.

"Pantex has blessed my family since the 1970s in so many ways," she said. "I felt called back."

One of the biggest changes in her time at the plant? The landscape.

"All of the buildings where we once worked that are now just an empty lot is really odd," she said. "Also, it seems like we had funny names for so many of the facilities. The Burger Barn, the White House, the MOAT, and the Doghouse — just to name a few."

Director of Infrastructure Dale Stapp's history with Pantex spans decades, departments, and projects. Starting in 1977 as a diesel mechanic, he rose through the ranks to become a key leader in maintenance and infrastructure, leading innovations in work control systems and project execution.

Throughout the years, Stapp went to work elsewhere, but he came back to Pantex in 2016. He made the decision to retire in 2019, but that, too, did not last long. In 2022, when Pantex leadership asked him to return, he answered the call. Now transitioning to a part-time role with Special Projects, he remains deeply committed.

"Supporting the mission while also having more time for family and travel is the best of both worlds," he explained.

If you hear someone holler for "John Wayne" in the halls, don't be alarmed — it's just Dale.

"My coworkers and colleagues have started calling me that," Stapp said. "I think it stems from my behavior of being very direct with my communication when the situation calls for it."

Director of Applications, Data, and Analytics Bryan Crabtree began his career at Pantex in 1988 as a software developer. After two decades, he was recruited to support private industry IT operations, but when the opportunity arose to return to Pantex in 2022, he did not hesitate.

"I never left Pantex dissatisfied," he said. "I was content when I left, and it was a sad day. Coming back was a good day."

Though he now works in the world of applications and analytics, he still sees his role as critical to national security.

"I've never served in the military, but what I do helps support the mission to protect this country," Crabtree said. "That means a lot to me."

John Forbis, senior weapons trainer, describes his journey as anything but linear. From contractor to quality assurance tech, to process engineer and oil field trainer — he has worn many hats. But the call to return to Pantex came in 2017, largely due to the integrity of the work.

"In the oil field, I saw a lot of people saying one thing and doing another," he said. "At Pantex, we follow policy and that integrity means a lot to me."

He found his permanent home in Training and hasn't looked back.

"This is it. I'm not applying for any other jobs at Pantex," Forbis said. "The people here make all the difference. It's the best group I've ever worked with."

When asked about his favorite memory, Forbis reminisced on some delicious moments.

"I recall when we were able to buy fresh Hedley melons off a trailer in the BN5A parking lot," Forbis said. "Everyone knows the best cantaloupes and watermelons still come from Pantexan Buddy Howard from Hedley. That was a perk back in the day. And, of course, the plant retirement gatherings with homemade treats and a Lea Lowe cake were the best, too."

Senior Procurement Manager Mark Epperson first joined Pantex in 1984. Over the years, he left twice to explore other opportunities, but each time the pull of Pantex brought him back.

"The biggest difference between Pantex and other places is the volume and rigor. It's demanding, but it's worth it," Epperson explained.

The community found at Pantex is something Epperson has valued throughout his time.

"There was a group from Pantex that decided to take a ski trip to Monarch, Colorado," Epperson recalled. "We drove to Monarch the first couple of years, but because there were so many of us going, we chartered a Continental Trailways bus the last two years we went."

Today, Epperson still values the friendships and the meaningful work that define the Pantex experience.

"I know this is where I was supposed to be," he said.

For all these employees, Pantex is more than just a job. Pantex is a community, a calling, and a chance to contribute to something greater than themselves. Whether it's the mission, the people, or the pride in the work, one thing is clear: Pantex has a way of staying with you.

As Stapp puts it, "Anyone who wants to stay can stay a long time. Raise your family, build a career, and be part of something honorable. That's what Pantex is all about."



PantEX

ALL ROADS LEAD BACK TO PANTEX



## WALKING IS WORKING

Slips and falls may come with a steep price.

By Hali Rowland

How much money would it take to completely alter your life?

For Randy Broom, it was just a small bucket of change.

Broom's dad died in January because of a slip and fall incident. His father was taking coins to the bank to be exchanged when the container holding the money slipped out of his hand. His dad tried to catch the container, causing him to lose his footing and fall, injuring his neck and spinal cord.

"If you're going to do something, don't set yourself up for failure," Broom said. "My dad put the coins in a container that was smooth and didn't have a handle, so when the weight caused it to slip from his hands and he tried to catch it, rock salt on the ground and uneven footing caused him to fall and become paralyzed from the neck down."

Slip and fall injuries can happen to anyone. Broom says this tragic event is a good reminder that even small choices have big consequences.

"Decisions matter," Broom said. "You have to weigh each decision and think the outcome through before you do it. You want to take care of yourself, and in doing so, you're also taking care of the craft, because you're trying to put out the best work package to mitigate any hazards."

In his role as a senior advisor, Broom teaches a conservative decision-making class educating Pantexans on the importance of protecting themselves and others through thoughtful actions.

"In my class, I tell people that the decisions you make do not just affect you; they affect family, coworkers, and others," Broom said. "People have to be safety minded and ask themselves critical questions before performing any task."

Is what I am about to do necessary? Is the weather going to affect this job? Is there a time crunch? Should I wait until I'm better prepared? Do I need help with the task? Does the task have the correct tools or containers that will make me successful?

Broom says safety should be at the forefront of everything we do — big and small. Asking questions can't prevent all bad things from happening, but it can help lessen the likelihood of an incident.

"My dad was laying in the hospital bed and told me, 'Randy, I wish I had taken that money and threw it



in the trash. It wasn't worth it,'" Broom said. "I said 'Dad, you can't think about it that way.' You don't know what is going to happen. What happened to my dad might not have occurred if he would have had the right safety tools for the job like a container with a handle or a clear walkway."

Broom says when going out to a jobsite, check your surroundings for slip and fall hazards. The site might be dry when the job was planned, but rain could happen at any time. Do a visual inspection and think ahead.

Spare change changed Broom's life, but he's honoring his dad's legacy by educating others on thoughtful decision making and adherence to safety requirements.

"I talked to my dad every day," Broom said. "I did everything for him, and he did everything for me. And now he's gone. You never think it's going to happen to your family. I encourage everyone at work or out in town, just be mindful and take care of yourself. Take care of others. It's not just you that is affected."





### TECHNICAL OBJECTS TEAM KEEPING CAREFUL COUNT

The Configuration Management Technical Objects Team has successfully cataloged tens of thousands of objects at Pantex. To complete the continuous improvement initiative, the team has standardized the functional location and equipment hierarchy in an electronic Systems, Applications, and Products (SAP) environment. This marks increased efficiency in collaboration, facility management, and planning. “This standardization is just the beginning of an overarching objective to unify data systems and applications by addressing data silos and the redundant information and processes scattered throughout the plant,” said SAP Technical Objects Analyst Iris Trujillo.

### GROUNDBREAKING EVENT ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING FACILITY

On July 31, site leaders and project team members celebrated the groundbreaking of the Environmental Sampling Facility. This 11,000-square-foot facility will offer much needed lab and storage space.

“This facility will be extremely beneficial to the people in Environmental and Industrial Hygiene,” Environment, Safety, and Health Division Director Harry Gulley said. “Both groups will be housed in a centralized location on plant site, which will improve efficiency by having equipment and teams in one place. This groundbreaking is exciting for ES&H as we continue safely serving Pantex’s mission.”



### SUCCESSFUL TESTING CAREER ONE CELEBRATES 5

The Career Opportunities for New Engineers program celebrates five years this year. In a security-conscious environment, it can be difficult for prospective employees to understand what their job might entail. Career ONE allows engineer employees to rotate through engineering positions and find the perfect fit for them. About 40% of participants complete all four rotations before choosing a position, meaning a majority of participants find a perfect fit early in the process. Program manager Steve Carder said they’ve retained 26 of the 27 people hired into the program. “So, it’s been good for retention; it’s working well.”

### PANTEXAN PRESENTATIONS CHOLEARNING CONFERENCE

What do Coca-Cola, the Mayo Clinic, Tesla, NASA, and Pantex have in common? All have been represented with speakers at the Community of Human and Organization Learning’s (CHOLearning) annual conference. This year, Pantexans Meredith Long and Lauri Minton (pictured at left and right, respectively) were selected to give a presentation on workplace precursors that can lead to human error and how to improve human performance. Employees interested in learning more can contact them for information or an opportunity to attend classes on the topic.





## TOP 20 LEADERS

Every year, the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce recognizes local professionals who are actively making a difference in their communities, on and off the clock, with the Top 20 Under 40 Awards. This year, three Pantexans are being recognized for contributions to their work place and community. Ashley Massucci, Shian Yada, and Maeghan Brundrett were recognized for excellence at the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards Celebration on August 28, 2025.



## SPEAK UP!

Are you ready to conquer your fear of public speaking or improve your presentation skills? Join fellow Pantexans every Thursday for a Toastmasters “Lunch Bunch” event. Each meeting includes speaking activities designed to stretch members’ skills and boost their confidence. A central part of the Toastmasters experience is the Pathways program, which offers customizable educational tracks such as presentation mastery, engaging humor, and dynamic leadership. This program guides members toward their individual speaking goals. Ready to join? Contact Micah Matlock for information on attending.

## DEDICATION ADDS UP



Firefighter and Paramedic Ricky Hamilton and Day Shift Captain Steve Lasher have collectively served Pantex and its mission for 87 years. In May, Hamilton and Lasher were pinned with commemorative 1 and 2 badges, respectively, showcasing their longevity and honoring their unwavering dedication.

## WIP WIN



Pantex Process Engineer Haram Nguyen has a history of diving head-first into the heart of adventure. Nguyen received a mechanical engineering degree from San Diego State University; Pantex came on the freshly minted mechanical engineer’s radar screen when his mother landed a job at the historic site.

“When I first came here, I had no idea what a process engineer did,” Nguyen recalled. “Come to find out, we’re really in the center of the work.”

The center of the work, it turns out, is exactly where Nguyen was meant to be.

“I love my job,” he said. “I think it’s really interesting.”

His early exposure to Pantex excited Nguyen’s imagination and led him to apply to participate in the Sandia Weapon Intern Program. The Sandia WIP was created in 1998 to accelerate learning by blending classroom and multimedia-based instruction. Participants complete both individual and team research projects, visit NNSA sites, and have access to experienced mentors.

“I hope to gain better insight into everything that happens outside of Pantex,” he said. “There are a lot of people who know about what we do here. But, there’s a whole other world out there, a lot of things we don’t have visibility on that directly impact what we do. It’s the overall mission.”





# antexpalooza

FY 2025 United Way Benefit Event



## 2025 UNITED WAY COIN

The Pantex United Way Committee invited Pantexans to put their creativity to work by designing the official 2025 Pantex United Way coin. The winning design is featured on a limited-edition coin and other campaign merchandise, including T-shirts, hoodies, and hats, all supporting this year's Pantex United Way campaign.

There were 30 designs submitted, which were judged anonymously in a two-part process. The top entries were reviewed by the committee, then the final vote was opened to all Pantexans on The Zone.

Takara Riedinger's design was selected and incorporates a nod to a quirky piece of Pantex history – "The Soap Factory." This playful nickname dates back to 1951-1956 when Proctor & Gamble (P&G) Defense Corporation, the plant's first operating contractor, ran the site. Known for their famous Ivory Soap, P&G inspired the inside

joke, though no actual soap was ever made at Pantex. The phrase stuck and remains a lighthearted nickname for Pantex today.

Pantexpalooza was held at The Lumberyard in Canyon, Texas, on September 27, and offered the coins and other merchandise as part of the fundraiser. The event offered a cornhole tournament, pie-a-leader, music, food and other activities. It raised more than \$85,000 for the United Way of Amarillo & Canyon.



## community CALENDAR



### DECEMBER

#### Christmas Project

Watch The Zone for more information and jump on the opportunity to be Santa's Helper for a local child in need. This project has a rich tradition at Pantex and has helped countless children and seniors for decades.



Pantex Plant

### DECEMBER 12

#### Winter Wonderland at Maxwell's

Load up the family and be ready for a magical evening of fun at the Winter Wonderland employee event.



Maxwell's Pumpkin Farm  
12908 S. Bell  
Amarillo, TX 79118

Disclaimer: This work of authorship and those incorporated herein were prepared by PanTexas Deterrence, LLC (PXD) as accounts of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government under contract 89233224CNA000004. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor PXD, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility to any non-governmental recipient hereof for the accuracy, completeness, use made, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency or contractor thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency or contractor (other than the authors) thereof.



**We're always  
on the  
lookout for  
exceptional  
talent to join  
the mission.**

**See our  
careers page  
for available  
opportunities.**

**SCAN the QR**

**OR VISIT**



**PANTEX.ENERGY.GOV/CAREERS**



**Check out this career  
highlight: Radiation Tech**

**Qualifications:**

- College credits in health physics fields and mathematics, or computer applications
- Several years of relevant experience
- Clean background
- Pass physical examination



**Watch this to learn more about  
what a Radiation Tech does!**



**PO BOX 30020  
AMARILLO, TX 79120**

**WE'RE SOCIAL**



**@ Pantex Plant**