

PANTEXAN

FALL 2025

**PROTECT
AND SERVE**
*Firefighters stand ready to
respond to emergencies*

PANTEX

AMARILLO, TEXAS

PANTEX PLANT

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LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

A few months ago, Pantex welcomed Secretary of Energy Chris Wright to help celebrate the completion of the first production unit (FPU) of the B61-13. This monumental accomplishment happened nearly a year ahead of schedule thanks to the work of many from across the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE) and, of course, here at Pantex.

We like to say that all roads lead to Pantex, but it is important to remember that a lot of work is happening on the other end of those roads. That work makes it possible for Pantex to bring all of the ideas and components together into a final product. This teamwork was vital in the early completion of the B61-13 FPU.

Pulling a deadline forward is a challenge, especially when the work is spread across many sites separated by thousands of miles. It could only be accomplished with the work of our NSE colleagues and their ability to free up the right people, the right facilities, and the right equipment. It required a lot of collaboration and problem solving.

Here at Pantex, PanTeXas Deterrence, LLC (PXD) works closely with the Pantex Field Office (PFO) to deliver the mission, operate as efficiently and effectively as possible, and give back to the communities that support Pantex. We continue to show strong numbers against our baseline production schedule, further proving we have a world-class team that can surmount challenges and deliver the mission.

“If you turn on the news, it will not take long for you to see how important the work we are doing is to the safety of our nation,” PFO Manager Jason Armstrong said. “We understand the world stage and the risks our country faces. It underlines our need to continue to deliver on time and on target, and our partnerships make us stronger and better prepared for the task.”

For the FPU celebration, in addition to Secretary Wright, we invited representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy, Department of Defense, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), other NSE sites, and valued stakeholders. It was an honor to hear from partners like John Evans, NNSA assistant deputy administrator for stockpile management, and Joseph M. Oder, executive director of the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, and to see Secretary Wright place the quality stamp on the FPU, marking an important step in sustaining our mission.

“This accomplishment, and the capability it is demonstrating, is a signal to the world that we are in a new era of deterrence,” Armstrong said. “Both our allies and our adversaries can see that we are adapting and stepping forward to meet our mission in a global climate where nuclear deterrence is critical. It is clear we are ready and able to continue to deliver our mission for the sake of national and global security.”

There is no doubt that as we move forward, sooner or later, we will face roadblocks. With teamwork and collaboration — as you saw with the B61-13 FPU and the work performed daily at Pantex — we are able to face those difficulties together and come out of them stronger. With the hard work and expertise we have within our gates and the NSE, I also have no doubt we will continue to deliver today and optimize for tomorrow — the Pantex way.



Kelly Beierschmitt
President and General Manager

LEADERSHIP

JASON ARMSTRONG | *Manager, Pantex Field Office*
KELLY J. BEIERSCHMITT | *PXD President and General Manager*

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AT THE READY

The Pantex Fire Department is prepared for rescue regardless of the situation.

By Hali Rowland

When you are in a tight spot, it may be instinct to call a family member, close friend, or loved one. Often, a sympathetic ear or genuine advice helps guide you to a place where you do not feel quite as stuck. But when you are *literally* stuck in a tight spot — like a confined space — skip calling a trusted confidant and instead call the fire department.

The Pantex Fire Department (PXFD) is skilled in confined space rescue thanks to yearly training and regular exercise refreshers. A confined space is an area with limited or restricted means of entry and exits. PXFD performs confined space exercises to practice difficult scenarios in training and hopefully make real-life rescues easier.

“We put responders through as many scenarios as we can in a day,” Fire Captain Lee Foster said. “When planning the training, we make it as complicated as possible, so when they get to the actual rescue it’s second nature and they shine.”

This specific training consists of tying basic knots and hitches, coordinating patient recovery, practicing

with extrication devices, and navigating different mechanical systems. Confined space training focuses on how to move patients through tight spaces such as alleyways, shafts, pipes, or other narrow areas. Foster says crews enjoy the training because it involves hands-on work and realistic situations.

“They like it because they get to train for what they do, and they’re good at what they do,” Foster said. “They enjoy any training when they’re laying hands on it and getting dirty, working hard.”

Firefighters train for rescues involving building collapse, swift water, trenches, heavy machinery, and vehicle versus train incidents, among other scenarios. They further hone their skills through scavenger hunt training, LUCAS-device training, and emergency drills. The wide variety of disciplines learned prepares the department for potential emergencies and gives firefighters the practice necessary to respond appropriately, efficiently, and effectively.

“We hope we never have to use our training, but if we do, we’ll be ready,” Foster said. “Confined spaces are

a key focus area out here at Pantex as far as rescues go. We have on average 150 confined space entries per year at the plant, but there are about 746 confined spaces identified on the entire plant site. If someone were to get trapped, the qualified professionals on our team would have the tools and experience necessary to skillfully respond.”

Confined space training equips responders with the skills to safely navigate and operate in hazardous, limited-access environments. This specialized training empowers firefighters by reducing potential risk, improving rescue efficiency, and ensuring readiness. The skills learned come in handy during emergencies but also during day-to-day operations at Pantex. One example is when firefighters accompany trades professionals into compact spaces to assess hazards.

“When they need to go down in a manhole, a sewer, or access a tight space for electrical work, we’re there,” Foster said. “When workers need to go up in the wind turbines and they get to the top of the cell — that’s a confined space. They know they can call us and we’ll be there to help support mission delivery in that way.”

Foster emphasized people should not go in after someone who is stuck in a confined space. Instead follow emergency procedures and allow responders

like PXFD, who are highly trained and ready to respond, to do their jobs.

“A majority of confined space deaths are ‘would-be’ rescuers,” Foster said. “People going in to try and save someone instead of waiting for first responders. In emergency services, we risk a lot to save a lot. The firefighters on our team may risk everything to save someone, but they have the expertise to do it safely and confidently. If it says ‘confined space,’ chances are it is not safe.”

Firefighters train on physical dangers such as grain bins, trash trucks, and milk trucks along with preparing for environmental dangers such as snakes, spiders, or other things that could threaten someone’s health. Things might not always go as planned, but diverse training ensures responders can quickly adapt and overcome unexpected obstacles.

“When dispatched, firefighters start thinking of Plan A before getting there,” Foster said. “But when they arrive and Plan A doesn’t work, they go through B, C, D, and down the line. Training provides us with ways to practice various rescue techniques. We then take those techniques and apply them to best fit the situation and save lives.”



NEW SPACE, SAME MISSION

Employees settle in to work at the Pantex Amarillo Campus.

By Rachel Smith

As Pantex continues to grow its workforce, the need for more space became impossible to ignore. With nearly 4,700 employees at the site, which approaches historic heights, the plant's rapid expansion has led to a modern challenge: where to put everyone.

The answer? A bold step into the heart of downtown Amarillo with the creation of the Pantex Amarillo Campus (PAC).

What began as a search for extra office space transformed into a full-fledged relocation effort that reflects Pantex's commitment to Pantexans and its mission.

Project Manager David Will, who previously led the successful launch of the John C. Drummond Center in 2018, was tapped to lead the PAC effort. Working alongside specialists from Facilities, IT, Safeguards and Security, and Space Planning, as well as community partners like Happy State Bank, a division of Centennial Bank, the team set out to transform 50,000 square feet in the Happy State Bank building into a modern workspace for hundreds of Pantexans.

"We reached a point where we had more employees than desks," Will explained. "Rather than continue relying on full-time telework, we needed a dedicated space that could support our operations and offer a professional environment for employees."

Beginning in 2023, the team mapped out every detail such as infrastructure, security requirements, workspace layouts, and scheduling logistics. Weekly planning sessions helped keep the project on track while tackling the challenges that come with a major move involving multiple organizations and stakeholders.

By April 14, everything was in place, and Pantexans settled into their new offices for the first time.

The following day, Pantex officially marked the occasion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, welcoming employees and community leaders to the new downtown location. The event drew around 200 attendees and served as a celebration of teamwork, planning, and vision.

"This moment represents more than just a new building," said Pantex President and General Manager Kelly Beierschmitt. "It symbolizes continued progress, collaboration, and a strong connection to the Amarillo community."

Pantex Chief of Staff Ashley Massucci emphasized how the project aligned with key values.

"We are aiming for excellence in how we care for our employees, how we deliver our mission, and how we show up as citizens for the communities we live and work in," she said.

For the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the new campus helps fulfill an operational need with long-term benefits.

"This space gives us the flexible and quality environment we need to keep advancing our mission," said Pantex Field Office Manager Jason Armstrong.

Community leaders echoed the excitement, recognizing the project as more than a facility. It's a sign of growth and shared investment in Amarillo's future.

Scott Martin, senior vice president of Happy State Bank, expressed his appreciation for the partnership.

"Working with Pantex is about building something lasting for their team and for downtown Amarillo," Martin said.

Beth Duke, executive director at Center City of Amarillo, also shared the excitement about the positive impact of the new location.

"Having Pantex employees downtown adds fresh energy and supports our ongoing revitalization efforts; we're thrilled to welcome them," Duke said.

The PAC features workstations that accommodate both full-time and hybrid employees. The layout is designed to encourage productivity while supporting flexible scheduling. Employees who rotate between on-site work and telework share desks on alternating days to make the most of the available space.

Every aspect of the facility was planned with people in mind, from secure access and IT integration to shared spaces that foster connection and efficiency.

"There was an incredible amount of behind-the-scenes effort," Massucci said. "What stands out most is how our team remained focused on the larger goal, not just checking boxes, but making sure this transition supports the long-term well-being of our workforce and our mission."

As Pantexans settle into their new space, the downtown campus serves as a reminder of what is possible through collaboration, foresight, and shared commitment. The move expands Pantex's footprint but, more importantly, it reflects a continued investment in Pantexans and the community.

WHAT IS PFO?

Learn more about the Pantex Field Office and its role with Pantex.

By Mig Owens

It takes teamwork to make the dream work or, in this case, to deliver the mission, which is assembly, disassembly, and dismantlement of our nation's nuclear weapons stockpile, special nuclear material testing and evaluation, and manufacturing and assessing high explosives.

Pantex's vital mission as the cornerstone of the nation's National Security Enterprise (NSE) is held up by a complicated support structure.

The facility itself is a government-owned, contractor-operated site. It performs federal missions funded by United States taxpayer dollars. As in any contract, there is an entity or person performing the service and a customer receiving the service.

For Pantex, PanTeXas Deterrence, LLC (PXD) is the contractor performing the work, and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is the government customer.

PXD is a private company with whom the government has contracted to operate the site. The work performed at Pantex is done under a special contracting mechanism known as a management and operating (M&O) contract. This type of contract allows PXD to have great latitude in performing the mission, recognizing that what the government is asking to be done is extremely challenging. The government tells PXD what work is to be done, and PXD decides the best way to get it done.

So, who do PXD and its employees work for? Well, the nuclear deterrence work ultimately serves the American people through several federal agencies, particularly the Department of Defense, but the cabinet-level agency responsible for Pantex's missions is actually the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

And it gets more complicated: DOE's nuclear security missions are conducted by NNSA — a semi-autonomous agency within the Department of Energy.

With its own presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed administrator, NNSA oversees the nation's NSE. The enterprise includes headquarters offices in Washington, D.C., and Albuquerque, New Mexico, along with its laboratories, plants, and sites.

Day-to-day operations at each NNSA site are overseen by federal field offices, and that is where the Pantex Field Office (PFO) comes in.

PFO has an office on site with their mission being to ensure safe, secure, and cost-effective operations at Pantex. They guide funding and mission priorities and represent the nation's taxpayers by administering the M&O contract and evaluating PXD in their performance of the plant mission.

“Our purpose is to be sure there is an advocate for the work being done,” PFO Manager Jason Armstrong said. “We are here to ensure the work is being done properly and with a focus on safety and security. PFO is also a part of the government spectrum, and we are able to articulate what Pantex needs to continue to serve the mission and our nation.”

PFO employees include experts in things such as nuclear safety, business operations, security, federal contracts, project management, and engineering. They are able to keep a close eye on operations and provide an agile and efficient response if there is a need.

“PFO works alongside our M&O partner, PXD, and will continue to enable and execute the Pantex mission, never forgetting the overall importance of delivering for our national security mission,” Armstrong said.

Other NSE locations have similar offices overseeing them. All the facilities are working toward the same goal — to deliver a safe, secure, reliable, and effective nuclear weapons stockpile; reduce global nuclear threats; provide the U.S. Navy with naval nuclear propulsion; and leverage transformative technologies to address emerging challenges.



FIRST PRODUCTION UNIT

Pantex celebrates delivering the B61-13 First Production Unit nearly a year early.

By Steve Myers

Delivered nearly one year ahead of schedule, the first production unit (FPU) of the B61-13 was stamped and celebrated on May 19 at Pantex with visitors from around the National Security Enterprise (NSE).

“The Nuclear Security Enterprise performs work that saves the world every day,” said Jason Armstrong, Pantex Field Office manager. “Through meticulous planning, strong partnerships, and exceptional execution, Pantex and the rest of the NSE continue to make strides to fulfill our mission of protecting America and its allies to help ensure global security.”

Completing an FPU is the culmination of many years of design, testing, production, and evaluation of every component that is then brought together for final assembly into a complete unit.

“The FPU is just the start,” Pantex President and General Manager Kelly Beierschmitt said. “With every unit comes progress and enhances the NSE’s ability to deliver when or if the need arises. It is important to remember that we do this work to protect our nation, our family, friends, and neighbors.”

Six National Nuclear Security Administration sites — Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Kansas City National Security Campus, Y-12 National Security Complex, Savannah River Site, and Pantex — played important roles in

accomplishing the B61-13 FPU and will continue to play a big part in full-scale production.

In March, the B61-13 program reached authorization and began full-scale production this summer, with an expected completion in Fiscal Year 2027.

Secretary of Energy Chris Wright traveled to Pantex for the FPU celebration and said he was amazed at the FPU completion.

“I was honored and a little bit emotional as well to stamp that B61-13 today,” he said. “That’s the cutting edge of this weapons’ stockpile. And amazingly, have you heard of anything today that’s done a year early? Anybody built a house or had a major project or done anything else? Showed up to your contractors and they said, ‘Good news is we’re a year ahead of schedule?’ I’m not sure I’ve ever heard that in my life.”

Secretary Wright summed up his feeling in his closing remarks.

“I know this year in the broader program here, we’re 107% ahead of plan. That’s out of fashion the last few years — everything’s late, over budget, and delayed. But not here. Not in this community. Not in this complex. Because of your tireless efforts here for generations, you give all Americans a feeling of security.”

KEY UNDERTAKING

The AFF Smart Factory is providing a stage for digital transformation.

By Dane Glenn

Several scissors snipped a red ribbon as applause from Pantexans and National Nuclear Security Administration representatives filled the crisp winter air. With that action, the Advanced Fabrication Facility (AFF) Smart Factory officially opened for production in January.

The AFF consolidates the work once performed in three different buildings and now provides new, smart manufacturing machinery to support weapons program work. The shiny new AFF — serving as the flagship smart building — proved to be a giant Pantex-sized step toward 21st century efficiency using Digital Transformation (DT).

DT is one of the 21 key undertakings laid out in the Pantex Strategic Agenda. It sets priorities aimed to deliver today and optimize for tomorrow. The DT initiative consists of four overarching pillars that include data enabler, artificial intelligence, automation (processes and robotics), and the AFF Smart Factory. It is overseen by the DT Senior Steering Group (SSG). The Integrated Management Team manages each of the four projects, implements strategic decisions made by the SSG, and works to remove project barriers within each pillar.

“The overall vision of DT is to accelerate Pantex’s adoption of new, advanced ways of performing our mission work,” Mission Assurance Officer and SSG Lead Colby Yeary said. “It is intended to make the work more efficient, higher quality, and most importantly, more user friendly for our workforce.”

It will also help the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE) at large.



“The comprehensive DT strategy will enable Pantex to support the Nuclear Security Enterprise through integrated technologies and processes,” DT Lead Integrator Josh Crooks said. “This will include added capabilities to drive data-informed business decisions and will implement site solutions and common enterprise applications like electronic technical procedures, mobile-worker capabilities, cloud migration, resource planning, model-based engineering and analytics, and education of the workforce.”

DT capabilities will allow Pantex to make site-wide advancements with the AFF Smart Factory. This facility possesses technology that notifies of malfunctioning or nonworking equipment as well as predicting future issues.

“The AFF is a machine shop with a full suite of modern subtractive and additive manufacturing machine tools to produce items that support High Explosives qualification and manufacturing,” AFF Smart Factory Integrated Project Team Lead Nick Van Doran said. “The goal of the Smart Factory effort is to digitally connect the new facility, the modern machine tools, the processes, and the people together to be as efficient as possible.”

As stated in the agenda, key undertakings such as DT aim to improve Pantex’s overall state by meeting today’s technological standards as well as developing options to incorporate future advancements. The AFF Smart Factory is a project with this long-term goal in its design and implementation.

“The AFF Smart Factory is the testbed for many of the digital technologies new to Pantex that can be exported and replicated in other work centers across the plant,” Explosives Technology Operations Manager Monty Cates said. “The long-term vision is that the AFF is not only a ‘smart factory,’ but Pantex as a whole is the ‘smart factory.’”

Pantex made a crucial, strategic move with the AFF Smart Factory — an innovative chess piece on a grand board. By using the three main Pantex Way performance objectives as a foundation, the agenda strives to literally and figuratively build a bigger, better, and smarter Pantex.

But to do that, you need people.

“Digital transformation requires a lot of technical problem solving and hard work,” Cates said. “Fortunately, Pantexans excel at both.”

BEING UNITED IS THE WAY

Pantex celebrates 70 years of partnership with United Way.

By Steve Myers

Since Pantex was established, the workforce has been united in its collective efforts. From creating armaments to expanding its involvement across the Texas Panhandle, remaining united has always been the Pantex way.

More than 70 years ago, Pantexans created the Christmas Card Project, pooling money to buy each other cards. Within a couple of years, the focus shifted to area families, with each child receiving a new toy and a Christmas card containing a brand new \$1 bill. Those efforts morphed to include bicycles assembled on-site and additional gifts for 50 families and 130 children.

At that same time, Pantex began participating in a community project that was then called the Community Chest. Back in 1953, the Community Chest was made up of endowed or donated funds pooled from local communities for the purpose of charitable giving. Pantex’s total for the first two years was more than \$13,700 — not too shabby for 1953-54, when the median income was estimated at \$3,200, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In 1955, the Community Chest became the United Community Fund Campaign, or United Way as we know it today.

Since then, Pantex has been very involved with raising funds for local communities. With very few exceptions, Pantexans have managed to surpass the previous year’s United Way donation totals since the start.

Pantex President and General Manager Kelly Beierschmitt fondly recalls his first connection with the United Way.

“In 1984 I made my first commitment to supporting the United Way,” he said. “I was working the swing shift and just getting started in professional life. My donation was small. It is what I could afford. I have maintained my support over the years and have had the chance to see firsthand how even small donations can add up to change a life in our community!”

Pantex has been making a difference in the United Way campaign for more than 70 years.

“Residents from 26 counties across the Texas Panhandle rely on assistance from their neighbors,” Beierschmitt said. “We have always been a major contributor to the United Way, which helps all its

partners extend your donations for the maximum impact across the region.”

But it’s not just the donations that signify Pantex’s involvement. Pantex provides United Way-trained volunteers called emerging leaders, previously called loaned executives, who can speak to others at the site about the needs in our community and why giving is so important.

“An individual’s ability to make a difference alone is often limited,” Mission Assurance Officer Colby Yeary said. “However, together we are able to make significant impacts. The United Way serves as a means for Pantexans to help those in need throughout our communities. Pantex and its employees have been longtime supporters and partners of the United Way. The difference we have made in the lives of those we have helped is tremendous — and that’s what being a Pantex Citizen is all about!”

The Pantex United Way Committee’s efforts are organized by an employee campaign coordinator who is responsible for making sure the emerging leaders have all they need to host rallies, distribute pledge forms, and collect any funds that are raised with special events like T-shirt and coin sales.

So, when presented with the opportunity to give to the United Way, remember: when it comes to giving and humanitarian efforts, all the roads that lead to Pantex must one day, through Pantex Citizenship, lead back to supporting our neighbors and communities.





FIXED FAST

Fix It Now team is rapidly making improvements at Pantex.

By Candice Copelin

The summer months were more comfortable in many areas of Pantex with the kickoff of the Fix It Now (FIN) program, a Quality-of-Life initiative. Other Quality of Life work includes heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) replacements and the Clean Sweep program, which identifies areas for clean-up of spaces and removal of excess materials. The objective of FIN is to improve the plant and to make Pantex an even better place to work. It allows employees to identify projects in their buildings that can be fixed quickly.

“We have developed a process that allows us to work simple jobs by using templates and lower-level work orders,” said David Taylor, facilities general senior specialist. “They are jobs that are worked by our Craft shops, so we are able to utilize their talents to make the plant a better place to work. Pantex has been here a long time and most of the buildings that we work in could be better with just a little help.”

High-traffic areas that support a large number of employees such as breakrooms, bathrooms, dressing rooms, and walkways all qualify for the FIN program. If a Pantexan notices a microwave that isn’t working or a sink that is in need of repair, all they have to do is notify their building staff who will help funnel qualifying projects to the FIN team. Team members will be dispatched to fix these issues as quickly as possible.

“The Fix It Now process established in work control allows us to plan small projects very quickly and

utilize our craft resources to execute them promptly,” said Facility Engineer Advisor Dale Stapp. “PXD has committed several million dollars to make these changes around the site. We will be tracking all the jobs and are really looking to improve the quality of life for all personnel.”

Right now, buildings that house a lot of Pantexans are the primary focus of FIN because it will affect the most people. Many of the FIN team members have been dispatched to these buildings because they can take care of many projects at once — projects like painting, cleaning debris, repairing bathrooms and change houses, and repairing breakroom fixtures and drinking fountains. After these projects are done, they will move on to other areas of the plant in need of a little TLC.

“The Fix It Now process was seamless for my building,” said Trainance Posey, fitness specialist. “The work they did definitely improved the aesthetics inside and outside of the building, making it better to walk into work every day!”

Improving the lives of Pantexans is the goal, and the employees working these projects are excited to do it — so excited, in fact, that of the 1,300 identified projects, the team has completed just over 1,200 of them.

“The best part about Fix It Now is that it is for all Pantexans, not just one area or one group,” Taylor said. “Over time, everyone will be a little better off from the work we are doing.”

LIFE-SAVING AWARD

COFFEE MEMORIAL RECOGNITION

With just a few moments of your time, selflessly donating blood offers a gift of hope to others. Pantex received two awards from Coffee Memorial Blood Center recognizing its significant role in helping save lives through blood donation. The #1 Lifesaving Partner Award recognized an impressive 660 donations in a single fiscal year, making it the No. 1 business partner. Pantex also earned a Top 10 Business Partner award. One blood unit collected can save up to three lives. An individual can give blood every 56 days —watch for notifications of upcoming drive dates and times.



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

ENGINEER EARNS HONOR

Congratulations to Engineering Technical Operations Senior Director Lance Hansen on being honored with the 2025 Civil Engineering Alumni Achievement Award from the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering at Purdue University. This shows Pantex’s commitment to recruit and retain innovative leaders such as Hansen. “This is quite an honor, and a humbling one at that,” Hansen said. “I was a graduate student at Purdue in the early years of this award and sometimes wondered how folks made their way through the profession to such recognition. I learned later there are many, many ways to have impact. My journey is just another one of those ways. I am happy to be considered a worthy addition to this cohort of Purdue professionals.”



DATA MANAGEMENT

LIMS LAUNCHED

Pantex’s laboratories have a new coordinated data management system that compiles formerly scattered data into one place. Explosives Technology’s Frank Cordova and Berenice Pitre headed the implementation of Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), a powerful tool that consolidates information, such as managing and tracking samples, uploading and storing test data, tracking quality assurance data, and managing inventory. It also tracks maintenance needs that can be identified with features like color-coded expiration dates.



TOP HAND

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Administrative professionals have a huge influence in the workplace, and every day they solve problems, keep teams organized, and wrangle schedules. Every year, Pantex celebrates administrative professionals and their achievements and contributions. This year, Carla Nelson, senior support for both Environment, Safety, and Health, and Infrastructure and Modernization, was announced as the 2025 Administrative Professional of the Year. “My success is a direct result of the collaboration and support of my team and colleagues,” Nelson said. “When you love what you do and have great leaders surrounding you, coming to work is enjoyable.”





TIME TO EAT

Last year, the Pantex Fire Department Cook Team won first place for their ribs at the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Barbecue Cook-Off. This year, they're offering their secret pork rib recipe for your Labor Day barbecue.

- First decide your cut: baby back ribs are meatier, but also leaner and smaller, while spare ribs are larger, fattier and more flavorful. We recommend a spice rub that has just a little heat and a little sweet. Lots of smokers will work, but if you're using a wood smoker, choose a quality cooking wood.
- Remove the membrane from the back of the ribs.
- While wearing food-safe gloves, squirt mustard on your ribs and rub it in with your hand.
- Add your spice to completely cover the rack of ribs. If desired, rest the ribs overnight in your refrigerator.
- Prepare the smoker for indirect cooking at 225 degrees.
- Place the ribs, meat side up, as far away from the heat source as possible. Cook for approximately

three hours. Every 30 minutes, spritz them with a spray bottle filled with apple juice.

- Once the rib meat is pulling from the bone, it is time to wrap them. Place two pieces of heavy-duty aluminum foil on a table next to your smoker. On one piece, place a half-stick of butter sliced into small pieces, sprinkle two tablespoons of brown sugar, and drizzle a tablespoon of honey. Place the ribs, meat side down, onto the foil. Repeat the steps above to the backside of the ribs. Fold up the foil's sides and pour in a few ounces of apple juice. Wrap the foil tightly around the ribs, and wrap it a second time with the second piece of foil.
- Place the packet back on the smoker, meat side down, for another two hours.
- Remove the ribs from the foil with caution because they will be very hot and tender.
- Apply BBQ sauce (we recommend Stubb's Sweet Heat) to both sides of the ribs and allow the sauce to become tacky.
- Remove the ribs and rest them on a cutting board for 10 minutes prior to cutting.

WE APPRECIATE EVERY ONE OF OUR PANTEXANS WORKING IN SKILLED TRADES! OUR MISSION COULDN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT YOU!



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Mike Foster, who this year celebrates 50 years of service to Pantex.

"I fondly remember many friends, co-workers and customers that I enjoyed working with and serving," Foster said. "Most have since retired and many of those have passed away. When I leave Pantex,

all I can hope for is to be remembered as a dependable person."



STEAM DAY

Elementary school students visited Hodgetown, the Amarillo baseball stadium, for a field trip on May 6. At the event hosted by Pantex, they got to experience an educational and fun day with lots of activities related to science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM), and then enjoyed watching a baseball game.



VOLUNTEERING

Thank you to Pantexans who volunteered to serve the High Plains Food Bank and its mission of feeding more than 13,000 households monthly across 29 counties.

Join fellow employees each month at the Pantex Night at the Food Bank, an opportunity for Pantexans to volunteer. If you'd like to sign up, email public_affairs@pantex.doe.gov.



INTERNS

This summer, Pantex welcomed 35 students from 18 colleges into its 10-week internship program. They practiced skills and learned more about what Pantex does, which closes the gap between knowledge and experience. The group presented their final projects on July 22.

PANTEX NIGHT AT HODGETOWN



Pantexans flocked out for a fun night watching the Amarillo Sod Poodles play baseball on June 12. Were you there?



community CALENDAR

SEPT. 12 through SEPT. 20

Tri-State Fair and Rodeo

Funnel cakes, fast rides, and fun sights are on tap during the annual fair, which has been a tradition for more than 100 years. Get tickets at www.tristatefair.com.



Tri-State Fairgrounds
3301 SE 10th Ave
Amarillo, TX 79104

OCT. 1 through OCT. 31

Month of Volunteering

Spend a day this month improving your community. Local volunteer groups have received funds for projects; check The Zone to sign up to help.



Texas Panhandle

OCT. 1 through OCT. 31

United Way Rally

The United Way of Amarillo & Canyon supports core needs of the local community. Pantex will support the United Way with fundraising and rally events throughout the month. Watch The Zone for your opportunity to join in!



Pantex Plant

OCTOBER 2

BBQ Cook Off

🕒 5-9 p.m.

Are you hungry yet? The Amarillo Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Good Times Barbeque Cook-Off. Be sure to grab tickets and get some good eats. Get information on The Zone.



Tri-State Fairgrounds
3301 SE 10th Ave
Amarillo, TX 79104

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We're
always
on the
lookout for
exceptional
talent to
join our
team.

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PANTEX.ENERGY.GOV/CAREERS



Check out this career
highlight: Fire Protection
Engineer

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Engineering or Fire Protection Engineering
- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Clean background
- Pass physical examination



Watch this to learn more
about what a Fire Protection
Engineer does!



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