Upcoming Meetings:

- **SAME-MSP December Meeting and Technical Presentation, Dec. 20th**

Frequently Used Links:

- National website at [www.same.org](http://www.same.org)
- Post website at [wwwSAME-msp.org](http://wwwSAME-msp.org)
- Listing of Post Leaders
- Listing of Post Sustaining Members

Speaker Bio:

Mark Kretschmar is an engineer turned communication expert. After 15 years designing precision sensor technology, he completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees in communication studies. He noticed that communication is modeled the same way engineers model the physical world to be able to predict and control it. That means engineers could be great communicators if they could work from a model that’s familiar. He developed EngineerSpeak to provide that model and now helps some of the biggest brands’ engineers shorten their presentations, increase their value to their organizations, and be more effective leaders.

Presentation Synopsis:

This presentation is an opportunity to match your communication skills to your formidable technical skills so your projects go more smoothly and your clients and corporate VIPs see you as more valuable. Often, project errors and delays are from communication issues, not technical issues. This presentation will show you how to view presentations as an engineering problem. Given an engineering lens, you can then use skills you’re already good at such as analysis, design, and problem-solving. Suddenly, presentations land in an area of your strengths and you will be the exceptional engineer who excels at communication and presentations. Learn more at [www.engineerspeak.com](http://www.engineerspeak.com).

Meeting Location:

**LOCATION**: Grumpy’s Bar & Grill, 2801 Snelling Ave, Roseville, MN 55113

Free parking is available adjacent to the restaurant.

Agenda:

Social time and lunch (if you so desire) will be available from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM with presentation from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM.

A lunch at a cost of $20 will be available. Lunch will consist of a taco bar. Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, November 22nd with your intent to either partake in the lunch or to come for the presentation only. Please click the RSVP button in the left-hand column of page 1 or use the following Eventbrite link to RSVP: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/november-professional-development-meeting-tickets-39698810210](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/november-professional-development-meeting-tickets-39698810210)

Have an idea for future meeting topics or tours?

Please contact Matt Redington with your ideas at [matthew.redington@hdrinc.com](mailto:matthew.redington@hdrinc.com) or 763-591-5487!
Highlights of the Previous Meeting

The October SAME luncheon presentation was given by Jarrett Purdue, a long-time member of SAME. Jarrett is a recently retired Air Force civil engineer officer who served 24 years on active duty in a variety of engineer leadership positions at the Air Force installation and at headquarters level. From 2015-2016, Jarrett was a director of engineering providing Afghanistan base support overseas.

Jarrett described the duties of the Air Force Engineering staff which includes engineering and operating Airforce bases at home and establishing air bases anywhere in the world. Some of the challenges that come with this work include interacting with contractors from a variety of nations, applying technologies in an environment that is challenging, certain aspects of the economic environment, and corruption that complicated the work.

The US Airforce has been active in Afghanistan since 2001. In January 2015, the Air Force’s role transitioned from NATO-led combat mission to resolute support. NATO mission is to train, advise and assist. The establishment of air safety and air traffic control is still being helped by the United States. Thirty five nations are still supporting efforts in Afghanistan. Jarrett’s engineering group helped set up a professional and sustainable Afghan Air Force.

Most of the work of Jarrett’s Air Force engineering was performed in Kabul. Over $500M of infrastructure was needed to support the Air Force needs. Many designs were canned designs from the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Engineering support helped train the Afghan on how to do contracting and maintenance of storage and maintenance facilities for planes provided by the United States. Work was contracted to local Afghan companies as well as European firms.

A significant amount of work was done by the local work force. Jarrett described the younger Afghan generation as having a more western education. The older generation is lightly educated. Much of the Afghan middle class fled the country, and the affluent stayed. Unskilled workers stayed because they couldn’t afford to leave. The young understood that they were in a fight for their country’s survival. They came to work whether they were guaranteed a paycheck or not. The older generations were in the fight for their families. They are jaded by the nation’s history and difficulties. The Air Force needed an interpreter that could speak 4 languages.

Jarrett talked about the Service Base the Air Force built in Kabul. There were significant challenges in fitting the base design in a small and intercultural area using U.S. safety processes and decisions. Poverty and economic issues are a significant issue in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is resource-poor without a rail system. The Afghan’s main cash crop is poppies. The country has to transport materials through other nations because they don’t have a sea port of their own. Value-added processing is a problem so raw materials are shipped out. Large costs are incurred to get supplies in with border fees.

The Air Force struggle with resources and bureaucracy that cannot support them. The government had anti-corruption governance in place, but that tended to slow the acquisition process. Engineering needs had to go to the Ministry Department to acquire even small items. Air Force fuel supplies were metered gallon-to-gallon so the fuel was not stolen. In the impoverished region, survival of Afghan families is rudimentary and stealing fuel is a common occurrence.

One specific success that Jarrett mentioned had to do with the pioneering of Afghan women in the air force. Although they didn’t want publicity, women’s barracks were built with child care and dining rooms for them. Even two or three female pilots were trained.

SAME-MSP Post’s 2017 Industry Day and 32nd Annual Golf Tournament Survey

Didn’t attend the Industry Day or Golf Tournament? Please take a few minutes to tell us why – this will help us improve the 2018 event and better serve you: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2VCQYYV