Memorandum for SAME Members  28 Aug 2017

1. **The Ground Rules.** On 1 June 2016, General Mark A. Milley, Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA) signed a memorandum outlining his views regarding interaction with Military Associations, stating up front the important benefits derived by the Army. He then detailed *ways to support* Military Associations.

2. **Application of the JER.** The CSA reiterated that the Joint Ethics Regulation (JER) governs interaction by individuals with Military Associations. Interpretation of regulations is guided by the intent of the regulation then acted upon by decisions of the commander. In order to derive all of the benefits of interacting with Military Associations envisioned by the CSA, interpretation of the JER should focus on how an individual can ethically participate, vice declaring why not.

3. **Critical Role of Professional Associations.** Historically, SAME has proven without exception for over 97 years that it is the most ethical platform for industry/government collaboration on solving project related challenges and it is the best multi-disciplined source of individual professional development – all focused on enhancing project delivery in support of national security. Specifically, SAME continues its long standing record of enabling solutions to tough engineering problems by bringing together *military* (all components and other agencies), *public* (all levels of government), *private* (individuals, industry, etc), and *academic infrastructure-related capabilities*. Usually, the government defines the challenges or requirements while industry and academia bring leading edge ideas and capabilities to the table. SAME has also been the best source for both industry and government for conducting market research (understanding capabilities and capacity of industry) through Industry Days and other business related events. Lastly, SAME serves the JOINT, Interagency and service specific needs in many important ways, most importantly, being a resource during a time of growing infrastructure challenges, limited resources, 16 years of war and many other dynamics that stretch the project delivery capability of government engineering organizations.

4. **The Journey from “Club” to Professional Society.** Historically, SAME was a mandated officer’s organization or “club”. Until 2012, the serving Chief of Engineers for the Army, Air Force and Navy rotated annually as the national president of SAME. Since then, SAME has operationalized a volunteer national governance model and has greatly expanded every aspect of service to the professional development of engineer officers, noncommissioned officers, enlisted service members, civilians and anyone who has a stake in the national security of our nation. Today, SAME is a diverse volunteer professional society of 28,000 members, a small national support staff and 105 local Posts. By expanding participating membership beyond the military, SAME has strengthened its unique ability as a multi-disciplined professional society. In every respect, SAME continues to operate entirely within the letter and intent of the highest ethical and professional standards.

5. **The bottom line.** Today, more than ever, government engineering organizations can meet their infrastructure challenges by leveraging professional societies for the *value* they deliver to the individual and to the organization. SAME now offers the full value that only SAME can offer as the only multi-disciplined professional society in the A/E/C industry.