

December 2025



Society of American Military Engineers

Newsletter

Washington State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BRPELS) Presentation

Presented by: Kevin Ballard, Internal Control Manager
Date: December 19th, 2025 | 11:30am - 1:00pm
Location: [Eagle's Pride Golf Course](#)

Join us for our December luncheon featuring a presentation from the Washington State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BRPELS), the state agency responsible for protecting public safety by licensing and regulating professional engineers and land surveyors.



We're pleased to welcome Kevin Ballard, Internal Control Manager at BRPELS. Kevin leads modernization initiatives across licensing, customer service, compliance, and digital transformation, focusing on stronger systems, improved efficiency, and data-driven strategies. He also brings expertise in lean process management and organizational change. Prior to BRPELS, Kevin served 11 years as an Army Artillery Officer, including two Battery Commands at JBLM, and supported strategic operations with Joint Special Operations Command and the Crisis Action Team at U.S. Forces Korea. He holds a bachelor's in Business Management from the University of North Georgia and is pursuing an MBA at Missouri State University.

We hope you'll join us for this engaging session to learn more about BRPELS's work and connect with colleagues over lunch!

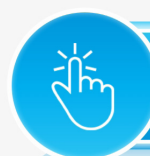
Please RSVP to Michael Funches at mike@ethoscivil.com by Monday, December 15th, 2025.



SAME VISION

"To promote and facilitate engineering support for national security by developing and enhancing relationships and competencies among uniformed services, public and private sector engineers, and related professionals."

 Follow Our Page!



SUBSCRIBE

To receive monthly updates on our post and events.

EVENTS



December 9, 2025	SAME Seattle Post Emergency Management Panel - More Details to Come Henry M. Jackson Federal Building, 915 2nd Ave, Seattle, WA 98174
December 19, 2025	SAME Mt. Tacoma Monthly Luncheon I Topic: WA Washington State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BRPELS) Presentation Eagle's Pride Golf Course, 529 Mounts Road SW, DuPont, WA 98327
December 13, 2025	Wreaths Across America Join SAME Tacoma Post in supporting our fallen heroes. Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, WA at 9:00 am
January 22, 2026	SAVE THE DATE *Meet the Agencies * Seattle, WA - More details to come.
April, 2026	SAVE THE DATE *Small Business Symposium & Meet the Chiefs * SeaTac, WA - More details to come.
May 19-21, 2026	SAVE THE DATE * JETC Joint Engineer Training Conference * Portland, OR



2026 Post Officer Elections

The following positions are open and we are seeking nominations!

We will hold elections in December and hope to swear in the new board members in January 2026.

Please reach out to [Jen Tetatzin](#) or [Christian Thompson](#) with any questions about the roles or the election process.

1. Vice President
2. Elected Director
3. Communications Chair (Publications/Webmaster/Social Media)
4. Scholarship Committee Chair



SCAM Alert!

Please be advised that there have been multiple attempts to trick our members and officers into sending money to fake accounts. These scammers scrape contact information from the web and pretend to be the Post President. Never trust a request for funds from anyone you don't know, even if it mentions the board members by name. Thank you for staying vigilant!

www.same.org/mt/



Seattle Post Holiday Social 2025

Bob Schlesinger, President, Society of American Military Engineers Seattle Post and the Seattle Post Board cordially invite you and a guest to join them for the annual Society of American Military Engineers Holiday Social.

Hors d'oeuvres & Refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 | 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

[Elysian Fields Restaurant](#)

542 1st Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98104

REGISTER NOW

Toys for Tots Giving Opportunities:

Seattle SAME and the United States Marine Corps' Toys for Tots have joined forces again this year!



Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for a boy or girl this holiday season.

Be Recognized at the Social for a Cash Donation to Toys for Tots.

Parking:

The restaurant straddles the CenturyLink Field north parking lot and 1st Ave South so there are plenty of parking choices. In addition, Stadium Place Garage at 530 Occidental Ave South, adjacent to the Century Link Field North parking lot offers covered, secure parking at a rate of \$ 9/ hr until 10 pm: <https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/parking-program/e-park/stadium-place>

Questions? Please contact Zachary Pesicka at zachary.pesicka@wsp.com or 253.951.3522

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

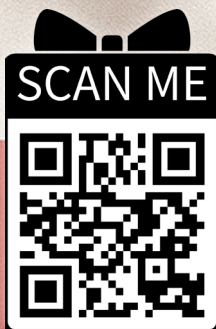
Tahoma National Cemetery Kent, WA

Join us as we remember our fallen
heroes by placing wreaths on graves
for those who served our nations.

Dedicated to ensuring that the sacrifices of our veterans
are never forgotten. Each December, volunteers lay
wreaths at the resting place of veterans across the
nation.

Please help us honor and remember as many fallen
heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance
wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your
family and friends to attend with you.

**Sponsor a
Wreath \$17**



WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA

Volunteer to Lay Wreaths
December 13th
Time: 9:00 am



SAME Meet the Agencies 2026

Announcement

Seattle/Tacoma Post

Event Overview

Senior personnel from eight key public agencies will present their known and upcoming contracting opportunities, support needs, and funding trends across the Pacific Northwest. Acquisition and program management staff will be available for questions and discussion.

Virtual Access

A GoToMeeting link will be provided following registration.

Agencies Invited

- Port of Seattle
- WSDOT
- WA DES
- King County
- Pierce County
- Sound Transit
- University of Washington
- PTAC/APEX Accelerator
- AICEF PTAC

Event Details

Date: January 22, 2026

Schedule: 8:00 AM – Registration Opens
8:30 AM – Program Begins
12:00 PM – Adjournment

Pricing

Category	Early Bird (thru Jan 16, 2026)
Members	\$125
Non-Members	\$150
Government/Military/Retired	\$75
Students	\$25

Note - Pricing increases by \$15 per category after January 16, 2026, to cover additional host service fees.

Register at: sameseattlepost.eventbrite.com



555 Able Soldier & Family Fund

The 555 Able Soldier and Family Fund is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization run by military families and retired military members. The fund's purpose is to provide goods and services for the families of soldiers killed in action, the soldiers wounded in action and their families as they recover in hospitals and the deployed soldiers and their families.

This fund was created to provide financial support for the soldiers and families of the 555th Engineer Brigade – (the Triple Nickel) during deployment to Iraq, Afghanistan and other combat zones. The “Able” part in the fund's name refers to the 555's radio call sign based on their motto, “Willing and Able”.



Honor and Heal

When a soldier falls serving our country, we all suffer the loss. The military honors every fallen hero with a military funeral, however, there are inevitable costs that go beyond the scope of what the government can provide.

The 555 Able Soldier and Family Fund is a civilian-supported, non-profit fund existing to assist soldiers and their families in need due to losses occurred in combat zones as well as those needs that arise as families prepare for and return from these long separations.

How Your Donation Can Make a Difference

Your tax-deductible contribution to the 555 Able Soldier and Family Fund will directly and positively impact the lives of families and soldiers serving our great nation. Your donation will provide numerous opportunities for outreach to these families including:

Support to families as they cope with extended deployments and casualties.

Memorial materials and social support befitting one who has given his/her life for our country.

Flower arrangements provided for memorial services in both hometown and military installation.

Through your generous donations you truly can make a difference for the soldiers and families of the 555th Engineer Brigade!



Send letters of support to:

555 Able Soldier & Family Fund
PO Box 331205
JBLM, WA 98433-1205 USA

Send Money Orders

555 Able Soldier & Family Fund
PO Box 331205
JBLM, WA 98433-1205 USA

For more information, please visit:

555soldierfund.com

MOUNT TACOMA POST

Origins of the SAME Mount Tacoma Post

SAME Mt. Tacoma (Tahoma) was founded November 6, 1950, Tahoma is the native/indigenous name for Mt. Rainier

The Tacoma Post has a rich history dating back over 70 years, with its members making valuable contributions to military engineering projects and innovations in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. From constructing essential infrastructure at military installations across Washington state to advising policymakers on engineering and national security matters, the Tacoma Post has played a key role in SAME's mission of connecting military and civilian engineers to advance engineering support for national security.

Over the past seven decades, the Tacoma Post has carried on this tradition of excellence in engineering support and remains an active forum for cooperation between military and civilian engineers in the Tacoma region and surrounding areas.

Original Objective from 1950:

In the interest of national defense; to advance knowledge of the science of military engineering; to promote efficiency in the military engineer service of the United States; to maintain its best standards and traditions, to preserve the memory services rendered by the engineering profession throughout the wars in which the United States has been engaged; to encourage and foster and develop between military engineers and other arms of the military service a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding of their respective duties, powers and limitations; to encourage, foster and develop relations of helpful interest between the engineering profession in civil life and that in the military service; to hold meetings for the presentation and discussion of appropriate papers for social and professional intercourse.

SAME History

The Society of American Military Engineers grew from our nation's experiences in World War I, when more than 11,000 civilian engineers were called to duty as the United States entered the war. Upon their return, many feared the collective knowledge and the cooperation between the public and private sectors that proved vital to combat success would be lost. And, they suspected that what they had just experienced was not, in fact, "The War to End All Wars" Industry and military leaders determined to capitalize on the technical lessons and camaraderie shared during their battlefield experiences.

SAME was formed in 1919, as an "association of engineers" that would preserve and expand upon connections formed in war and promote the advancement of engineering and its related professions.

In the Puget Sound area there are Posts in Seattle and Tacoma. The two posts have formed a joint committee to address preparation for and response to emergencies and disasters. The committee was simply called "Readiness" for many years. In the last three years the name has changed twice, and it is now the "Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security" committee. I am the Tacoma Post co-Chair of the committee.

Our work in support of emergency preparedness is to make known to Federal, State and Local emergency management officials and disaster relief organizations the capabilities of our Sustaining Members and to expedite their use during a disaster. These companies have engineering, architecture, construction, HAZMAT testing and mitigation, and numerous other capabilities. Our members have capabilities in 10 of the 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) in the National Response Framework.

There are 26 companies that have specifically volunteered their capabilities to be available in an emergency or disaster situation. Our committee has prepared this brochure with an explanation of the SAME role and a list of available firms.



Why join the Society of American Military Engineers?

If you are thinking of joining a professional association, it is critical that you ask yourself “what does membership provide for you?” We can all agree that there is little value in paying dues and investing time into an organization just to check a box. After all, the relationship you have with a professional association should create a connection to something that you can relate to and have a passion for. Personally, I struggled with finding what was right for me when considering membership for many professional associations, but then I discovered the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). My initial impression was that it very much felt like an officer’s club that did not have much to offer a young noncommissioned officer.

I discovered, however, that SAME is a diverse organization that routinely invests in the development of its members. From new member, to the President of the Society, this professional association wants to help you become a better leader supporting the defense of our Nation. SAME provides fantastic networking opportunities, plenty of options for volunteering, technical information through webinars and publications, and even offers stipends to pay for professional certifications. Plus, the membership fee covers the life of your uniformed service!

Everyone can benefit from what SAME has to offer, and you do not need to be an Engineer or have a degree to join. You can volunteer with your local Post, participate in networking events and professional development briefs, and even get a one-day pass for the annual Joint Engineer Training Conference (JETC) or Small Business Conference (SBC) at no cost.

SAME offers professional NCOs tangible value with real rewards, over three distinct periods in a career.

Near-Term: Active SAME membership thrusts us into an environment of exposure to engineering techniques and practices of industry and Military Departments other than our own. We soak up information and knowledge without realizing it, immediately making us better NCOs.

Mid-Term: SAME offers unique opportunities to continue our technical education and pursue licenses and certifications from affiliated associations. Over a few months, credentialing can better posture NCOs for increased responsibility and promotion. Taking advantage of these industry-recognized certifications will also assist with a smoother transition when exiting the military.

Long-Term: NCOs will one day move on from direct military service whether Active Duty or Reserve Component. Most of us change employers but we still prefer technical employment in such a rewarding field. If you want to secure the future, SAME offers the best opportunity for networking with potential employers.

I truly wish I had learned these things sooner in my career, so I urge you not to wait. Come see what SAME can do for you!

CMSgt Adam Boubede



Enlisted Membership Application

Join Now → www.same.org/join



Name

Mailing
Address

Email 1

Email 2

Work Phone

Cell Phone

Base or
Installation

Service Branch
and Rank

DOB (mm/yy)

Highest Degree ☐ High School ☐ Technical/Associates ☐ Bachelors ☐ Masters ☐ Doctorate

Questions about membership?

Contact our Member Services Team member@same.org or 703.549.3800 ext. 131

**Society of Military Engineers
607 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314**

Dedicated to National Security Since 1920

Mt. Tacoma Post



POST OFFICERS

Post President (Interim)

Jen Tetatzin
jen@tetatzin.com
757-774-1456

Past President

Julio Iguina
jiguina@walshgroup.com

First Vice President

Jen Tetatzin
jen@tetatzin.com
757-774-1456

Assistant Secretary

Chris Thompson
cthompson@civilaire.com
913-704-5789

Secretary, Student Chapter Mentor

William (Bill) Fierst
wfierst@ahbl.com
253-383-2422

Treasurer

Seth Mattos
sethm@georesources.us
253-229-7090

Assistant Treasurer

Mary Bruenn
mbruenn@nexusbec.com
253-205-4697

VP Sustaining Members

Memberships, Camp, Post Fellow

Dave Newkirk
dnewkirk@shive-hattery.com
253-606-1047

VP Individuals Member

James Cave
James.Cave@wsp.com

Programs & Awards

Michael Funches
mike@ethoscivil.com
253-414-1989

Scholarships

Roy Cutler
roy@cutler-mgmt.com
253-377-7568

Awards

Kim Kaul
kimkaul@kmb-architects.com
360-352-8883

Newsletter

Gina Rainwater
info@prodims.com
425-828-0500

VP Young Professionals

Meaghan Owens
mowens@ensafe.com

Student Chapters, Streamers

Michael Cozart
mlcozart@gftinc.com
253-922-0446

Chair, EP&IR

Mike Moran
michael.moran248@gmail.com
253-982-4660

Director

John Haddick
jehaddick@msn.com

Director

Janna Peters
JannaPeters@KMB-architects.com

Webmaster

Jen Tetatzin
jen@tetatzin.com
757-774-1456

OPEN POSITIONS

Second Vice-President

Small Business Liaison

Leadership Development

STEM

LOCAL MILITARY ENGINEERS

US ARMY

555th Engineer Brigade
LTC Ada Cotto
ada.l.cotto.mil@army.mil

I Corps Liaison

LTC Joe Byrnes
joseph.k.byrnes.mil@army.mil

555 SAME Liaison

MAJ Graham Warner
graham.n.warner.mil@army.mil

CDR 864th BEB

LTC Rachel Hoffman
rachel.e.hoffman4.mil@army.mil

CDR 14th BEB

LTC Edwin Callahan
edwin.c.callahan.mil@army.mil

CDR 23rd BEB

LTC Chris Johnson
christian.r.johnson18.mil@army.mil

CDR 5th BEB, 5th SFAB

LTC Chester Boyles
chester.d.boyles.mil@army.mil

CDR 3-364th BEB, First Army

LTC Gregory Wynn
Gregory.x.wynn.mil@army.mil

189th CATB

LTC Gregory Wynn
gregory.x.wynn.mil@army.mil

US AIR FORCE

627th Civil Engineer Squadron

LTC Col Matthew Buscemi
matthew.buscemi.1@us.af.mil

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Construction and Fac Mx Office

LTC Adam Iwaszuk
Adam.m.iwaszuk.mil@army.mil

AIR FORCE RESERVES

446th Civil Engineer Squadron, AF Reserves

LTC Kimberly Hubbard, Kimberly.
hubbard.1@us.af.mil

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

194th Civil Engineer Flight

LTC Col Justin Pierce
justin.pierce@us.af.mil

248th Civil Engineer Flight

COL Casey McGinn
casey.mcginns@us.af.mil