

The University of South Alabama (USA) Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Student Chapter hosted Mr. Andrew Patch who facilitated a technical overview focused on the USACE Mobile District's Water and Wastewater Technical Center of Expertise's disaster response efforts to St. Croix. Mr. Patch is a USA Civil Engineering Alumni who led the USACE's response efforts to assess St. Croix water/wastewater infrastructure and develop emergency solutions to prevent sargassum from halting production of desalinated water.

In July 2022, sargassum intrusion began to affect the St. Croix shorelines in the vicinity of saltwater intake structures to their desalination plant, reducing its ability to produce drinking water and power. The desalination plant affected produces 93% of the island's potable water and 98% of the island's power.

The USACE Mobile District and multi-agency disaster response team mobilized to the affected area and implemented corrective actions to stabilize the threat to the Island's drinking water and power supply distribution intake points and implemented immediate and significant cost-effective controls to ensure that a safe and stable water and power supply was sustainably provided to St. Croix's residential and commercial customers and to prevent future similar disasters.

## Attendance

More than 70 USA SAME Student Chapter members, SAME Mobile Post members, and USA Engineering students and professors attended Mr. Patch's technical presentation. The SAME Mission is to lead collaboration in support of our national security priorities through advancing three interrelated strategies: Drive Partnerships, Deliver Solutions, and Develop People.



# University of South Alabama

## SAME Student Chapter November 2025 Meeting



November 13, 2025