



# **SAME** Mount Tacoma Post **Newsletter**

## MAY MONTHLY MEETING

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### JBLM Real Property Master Plan, the MILCON Process and Upcoming Projects

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 11:30am  
Eagle's Pride Golf Course in Dupont, WA

Cost for Lunch:

Uniformed: \$22

Civilian: \$35



Join us for a presentation on JBLM DPW Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization projects, featuring Mike Gillette, General Engineer with the Master Planning Division.

A West Point graduate and former Armor Officer, Mike retired after 20 years as a Lieutenant Colonel. His career includes Chief of Strategy for Army BRAC initiatives and over a decade at Humana as Facility Lead. He returned to government service in 2024 with DPW. This session highlights leadership, infrastructure planning, and mission support excellence.

## RSVP BY MAY 8TH

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Click here to submit your RSVP via email to Mike Funches  
[mike@ethoscivil.com](mailto:mike@ethoscivil.com)



**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.”

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# EVENT RECAP

## 2026 SMALL BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM AND MEET THE CHIEFS

**Thank you to everyone who joined us and volunteered to make this year's Small Business Symposium and Meet the Chiefs event a success.**

Industry professionals and public-sector leaders gathered April 23–24 at the Seattle Airport Marriott for the 2026 Small Business Symposium & Meet the Chiefs, hosted jointly by the SAME Mount Tacoma, Seattle, and Portland Posts. Over two energizing days, attendees built meaningful connections through Government-to-Business and Business-to-Business matchmaking and heard strategic updates from leaders representing USACE districts, NAVFAC Northwest, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the SBA.

Insightful panels and sponsor spotlights highlighted emerging opportunities, while candid discussions reinforced the critical role small businesses play in delivering resilient infrastructure across the Pacific Northwest. The enthusiasm in every session reflected the strength of our regional engineering community and a shared commitment to partnership, readiness, and innovation. To support continued engagement, the full collection of the event materials are now available online, including agency contacts and speaker bios.

*Click the boxes below to view and download the event presentations.*

**USACE  
Walla Walla  
District**

**USACE NWD  
Over the  
Horizon  
Radar**

**USACE  
Portland  
District**

**NAVFAC NW**

**USACE  
Seattle  
District**

**Small  
Business  
Admin**





## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Click here to view SAME National Events.**
- **Click here to view local SAME Events.**

- ★ **MAY 12**  
Monthly Luncheon: JBLM Master Plan  
*Eagle's Pride Golf Course, DuPont, WA*
- ★ **MAY 18**  
SAME Portland Post Golf Tournament  
*Heron Lakes Golf Course, Portland, OR*
- ★ **MAY 19-21**  
JETC 2026: Innovate Forward!  
*Oregon Convention Center, Portland, WA*
- ★ **JUNE 9**  
Monthly Luncheon: WA Military Department Presentation  
*Eagles Pride Golf Course, DuPont, WA*
- ★ **AUGUST 20**  
Steve Woolery Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament  
*Eagle's Pride Golf Course, DuPont, WA*

# STEM

## Engineering and Construction Camps Update

The Mount Tacoma Post is proud to announce that we are sponsoring two Washington high school students to attend STEM Engineering and Construction Camps this summer hosted by SAME National. SAME Camps offer high school students a one-of-a-kind opportunity to explore the world of engineering, construction, and design—right on a military base. Led by SAME professionals and dedicated volunteers from the military and engineering communities, and supported financially by many including SAME Posts and the [SAME Foundation](#), these camps immerse students in project-based learning that builds real skills, sparks curiosity, and opens doors to future education and careers in STEM.

Our post sponsorship covers camp registration and travel reimbursement valued at up to \$1,200.00 toward each camper. Please join us in congratulating Nathan Garner of Bonny Lake and Lohith Thimmichetty of Lake Stevens. Nathan will be attending the STEM Engineering & Construction Camp in Hawaii and Lohith will be attending the US Air Force Academy Engineering & Construction Camp in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

For more information about SAME STEM Engineering and Construction Camps, or to volunteer to be a Camp Mentor in 2027, contact Chris Thompson at [christianthompson007@hotmail.com](mailto:christianthompson007@hotmail.com).

# SAVE *the* DATE

JOIN US FOR A  
*Glass Blowing*  
EVENT!



**OCTOBER 13**



**3:00 PM**



**TACOMA**  
GLASS BLOWING  
STUDIO





## 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

# MOUNT TACOMA POST



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### ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

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### AIR FORCE RESERVES

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### AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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