

AUG 20 POST'S AUSTIN FIELD CHAPTER MEETING

Our **Austin Field Chapter** is having a **lunch and learn meeting** at the EEA Consulting Engineers Office (7300 Ranch Road 2222, Building II, Suite 100, Austin TX) on **Thursday, Aug 20, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm.**

The **meeting presentation** will be on **Hazardous Materials. AIA Health, Safety, and Welfare** credit (required for Architects each year) **will be available** for attendees.

This is an opportunity to get together with your fellow SAME professional in the Austin area.

RSVP for the meeting at <https://260820atxfc.eventbrite.com>. **RSVP DEADLINE** is **Monday, Aug 17, 5 pm.**



AUG 20 POST MEETING

Our the same day, **Thursday, Aug 20, 11:30 am -1:00 pm**, there will be a **Post meeting** at the Old San Francisco Steakhouse (10223 Sahara Drive, San Antonio TX 78216) featuring a **presentation on St. Philip's College Center of Excellence for Science.**

Our **guest speaker** will be **Dr. Eric Salas**, Program Director for the St. Philip's College Center for Excellence for Science. **Dr. Amanda Roberts** from the Center is also expected to attend.

The Center for Excellence for Science operates a 45,000-square-foot STEM education facility at the Southwest Campus. It partners with local school districts and industry leaders to increase student enrollment and success in STEM degree programs.

The presentation will focus on middle and high school student engagement programs, which introduce students to STEM careers through hands-on learning experiences, industry partnerships, and academic enrichment opportunities.

RSVP for the meeting at <https://260820samesatx.eventbrite.com>. **RSVP DEADLINE** is **Monday, Aug 17, 10 am.**



2 GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO CHOOSE FROM!!!

C O N T E N T S	Hot News.....	2	DOD Updates (USAFA).....	16-19	C O N T E N T S
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2026-2027 POST LEADERSHIP LAB APPLICATIONS

The **due date for applications** for our 2026-2027 Leadership Lab (LLAB) Program has been **extended to Friday, Aug 14**. The LLAB is scheduled to run up through February 2027. The LLAB is aimed at both up-and-coming leaders and established operational leaders in government and industry that would benefit from the discussion, sharing of thoughts and experiences, and readings in leadership and related topics.

You can review the application on **pages 7-10** of this issue and download it at <https://www.same.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/2026llab.pdf>.

This is great member professional development program and opportunity for organizations to develop the leadership skills of their young professional and other employees. Our program has been in existence since 2011 and the model for the SAME National, SAME Regions and other Post Leader Development Programs. There have been 142 graduates of the Post's LLAB since it began. Many of the graduates have filled leadership roles at the Post, Region and SAME National level.

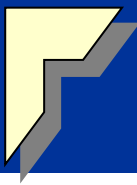
Deadline Extended

2027 POST MEETING LOCATION

The Old San Francisco Steakhouse has informed us that the Swing Room, which we have been using for our Post meetings, will not be available on Thursdays in 2027. After looking at the various options, the Post Board decided to stay with Thursdays at the Steakhouse for our meetings and utilize the Crystal Room that is available for our meetings on that day. The Crystal Room is just a little farther down the hallway past the Swing Room. The Crystal Room can seat just as many people as the Swing Room. It has its own sound system. Projection is a bit different. Rather than a wall-mounted screen, projection is done through two (2) large-screen TVs. Our first meeting in the new location will be in February 2027 (our Holiday Celebration is the January 2027 Post event). Some photos of the Crystal Room are below for your information.



Changes Coming



President's Corner



Embracing Change Together,

As we welcome August, we find ourselves in a season of transition. Whether it is the changing of commands, families preparing for a new school year, service members returning home or deploying, or our organization evolving to meet new challenges, one thing remains constant: change is an inevitable part of our community.

I have learned that change is not something to fear - it is something to embrace. Every new chapter brings opportunities to grow, strengthen our mission, and discover new ways to bridge the gap between industry and government.

Our organization has always been built on resilience. We adapt because we must; we persevere because giving up and abandoning our mission isn't an option. As we move forward, we will continue seeking innovative ways to expand our programs, engage with enlisted members and young professionals, strengthen partnerships, and ensure the success of our mission through positive collaboration.

This month, I encourage each of you to welcome change with an open mind and a willing heart- whether it's a change in your professional work life or personal life, a positive outlook will yield a positive change. Consider volunteering in a new capacity, inviting someone new to join SAME, expanding your knowledge of our constantly changing federal government, or simply reaching out to a current SAME member who may need encouragement. Small actions often have the greatest impact.

None of what we have and WILL accomplish this year would be possible without your dedication. Whether you volunteer your time, donate your resources, attend events, or advocate for our mission, you are the reason we continue making a difference in the partnerships that support our community.

As we embrace the opportunities ahead, let us remain grounded in our shared values of service, integrity, compassion, and commitment. Thank you for your unwavering support of our mission and for standing beside us through every season of change!

Upcoming Events:

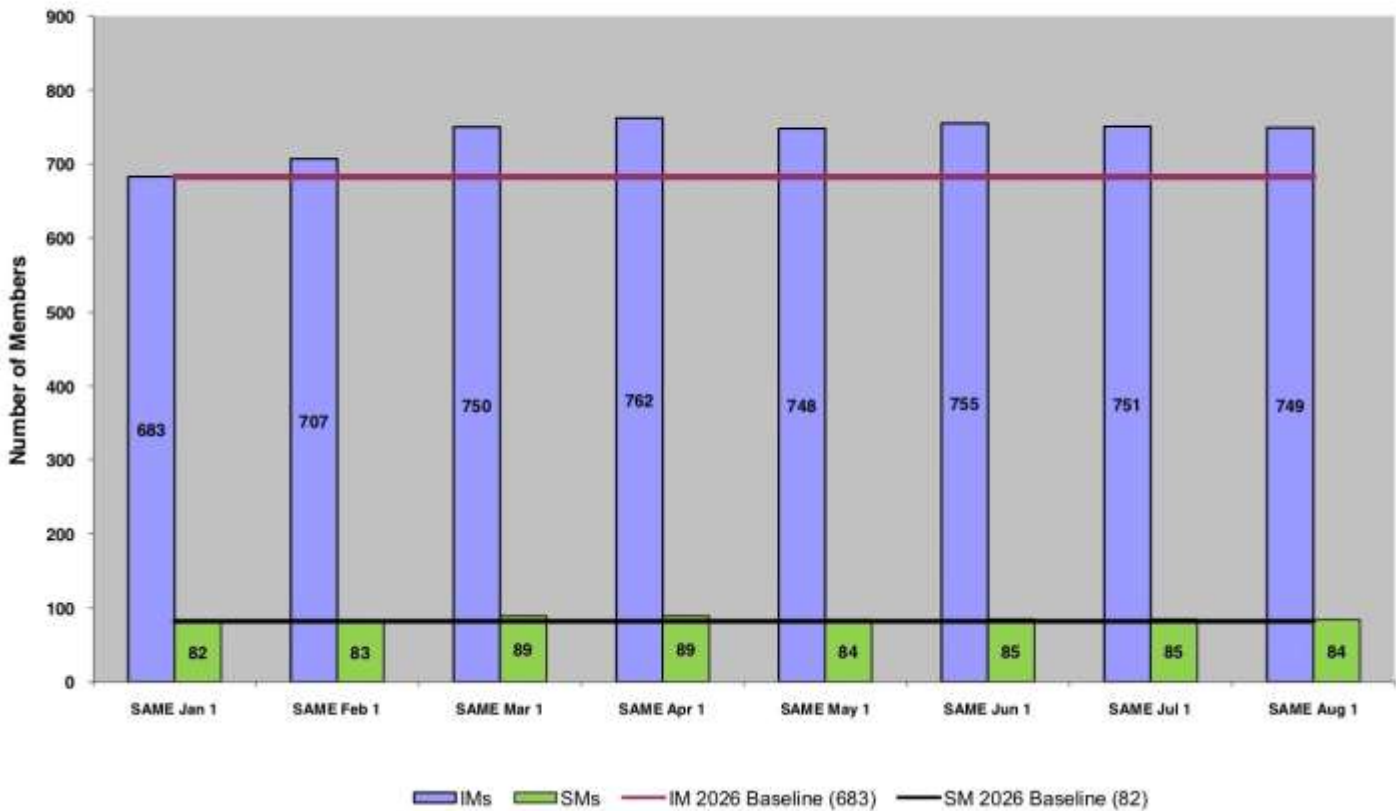
- **August Post Meeting**, Thursday, August 20, 11:30 AM - 1 PM, RSVP [HERE](#)
- **August Post's Austin Field Chapter Lunch and Learn** in Austin, Thursday, August 20, 11:30 AM - 1 PM, RSVP [HERE](#)
- **SAME Texas and Southwest Career Transition Workshop** in DFW area, October 13 - 16, **SAVE THE DATES**
- **SAME Small Business Conference (SBC)** in Charlotte NC, November 4 – 6. RSVP [HERE](#)

Sarah Fowlkes
Post President

From the President's Desk

Membership

2026 San Antonio Post Membership
(Goal: Growth in IM plus SM Changes)



If you are a member, be sure to check your membership status!

Go to <https://www.same.org/san-antonio/membership-rosters-stats/> for Individual, Organization and Student Member Rosters

Learn more about our Post - click [HERE](#) for our New Member Handbook

**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome our new members who joined or re-joined (in a new capacity) our Post from Jul 1 – Aug 1, 2026:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	TYPE
Keller Drozdick	Merrick & Company	Private Industry
Betsy Hove	Johnson Mirmiran & Thompson	Private Industry
Jenifer Kwasniewski	CTI and Associates Inc.	Private Industry
Brandy Smart	RS&H	Government
Daniel Soto	US Air Force	Government
Rodney Tasse	US Air Force	Government
Clifford Theony	Raymond Global Inc.	Private Industry
Christopher Wittman	US Air Force	Government

We would also like to welcome our new organizational members who joined or re-joined our Post from Jul 1 – Aug 1, 2026:

ORGANIZATION	TYPE
Los Alamos Technical Associates / Inc.	Private Sector

A large, stylized graphic with the text "THANKS FOR JOINING US" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The text is set against a background that is a gradient from purple on the left to green on the right, with a slight 3D effect and a shadow.

RELOCATING???

Did you get a new job or assignment? Or maybe there's some other reason you are or soon will be relocating away from the San Antonio area? There are many important things to think or be concerned about when moving - home, utilities, school for the kids, changing of mail address, vehicle registration and more.

Those, of course, are everybody's focus areas as they prepare for the next big step in their career or personal lives.

As you work those things in your move, it's easy to forget about your SAME membership. Things like what happens to my membership or is there a Post/Field Chapter where I'm relocating to may not be on the top of your list to think about and rightfully so.



So we are here to help you with your SAME membership transition. Just email us where you are moving at samesatx@gmail.com and we will help getting your membership record changed and notifying the Post/Field Chapter in the area you are moving to.

We value you as a SAME member and even though you may be moving away from the San Antonio area we want you to continue to receive all the benefits of membership with our great Society.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AS A MEMBER - SUPPORT OUR SAME FOUNDATION

The SAME Foundation supports programs that introduce youth to STEM, develop emerging leaders within our membership, and increase the number of veterans transitioning into the engineering and construction workforce. The Foundation also provides a secure and beneficial repository for charitable and other bequeaths from members of the Society and the public at large. See <https://www.same.org/foundation/> for details.

Our nation must have a continuous pipeline of quality engineering and STEM leaders to address the complex national security and infrastructure challenges. The SAME Foundation was specifically created to attack this need by leveraging the charitable capacity of our Society and of engineering and related professions.

Contributing to our SAME foundation is your opportunity to make a difference as a SAME professional!!

We hope you will consider donating or encouraging your company/organization to donate to the SAME Foundation at <https://my.same.org/donate>.



Professional Development



2026-2027 San Antonio Post Leadership Lab Candidate Application Form

This application must be submitted no later than July 31, 2026 to samesaleadlab@gmail.com with the subject line as "26-27 SAME SA Post Lead Lab Application – Your Name". Having a mentor is required for participation in our Lead Lab Program. If you do not already have a mentor, you can request one through the San Antonio Post's Mentoring Program by completing the Mentee Application (Page 4) and submitting it with your Leadership Lab application. Please contact Leadership Lab Directors Shelby Gund at 661-619-6744 and Braden Deines at 713-417-3779 with any questions. Thank you for your interest!

Section One: Personal Information, Education, and Employment

Full Name: Last	First	Middle/Maiden	Preferred First Name	DOB
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Company Name	Business Address	City	Zip
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Position/Title	Phone	Email
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Name of Current Supervisor	Title	Phone	Email
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Shipping Address	City	Zip	Cell Phone
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Education:

Education, Part I: List schools, years attended, degrees obtained, and fields of study (i.e. Undergraduate, Graduate, if applicable)

Education, Part II: List continuing education/training acquired during the last 12 months. (Limit 3)

Present Employment:

Describe your present position, length of service, scope of responsibility.

CLICK ON PAGE ABOVE TO DOWNLOAD APPLICATION
DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUG 14

Professional Development

Section Two: Community Involvement

List civic, professional, religious, and other organizations in which you are currently or have been recently involved. Indicate office, committee and/or leadership position held if applicable. (Limit 2)

Section Three: Personal and/or Business Achievement

Describe accomplishments, awards, and/or honors as well as any appointments to boards or commissions (can be personal and professional). (Limit 4)

Section Four: Goals

Describe your goals in the following categories:

Personal (Limit 3):

Business/Career (Limit 3):

Describe both a leadership strength and a leadership weakness that you wish to enhance and/or improve:

1. Strength:
2. Weakness:

Section Five: Personal Statement

Provide a short personal statement on why you are applying for the SAME San Antonio Post Leadership Lab.

CLICK ON PAGE ABOVE TO DOWNLOAD APPLICATION
DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUG 14

Professional Development

ELIGIBILITY:

An applicant must be:

SAME and San Antonio Post member in good standing throughout the duration of the lab.

An independent agent, professional, and/or consultant, in business or government, a minimum of two (2) years with established client base, or

A person who has, for a minimum of one (1) year, been in mid-management and has had responsibility for budgets, people management, and/or other business aspects of their group/department.

TUITION:

If selected for the Leadership Lab, the tuition is \$250. Please indicate below who will pay tuition on your behalf.

☐ Firm ☐ Self

SUBMITTAL

Send the completed application with the Subject Line: **"26-27 SAME SA Post Lead Lab Application – Your Name"** to samesaleadlab@gmail.com.

SELECTION PROCESS: Lead Lab Co-Directors will select the class. Qualified candidates will be notified of their acceptance.

SAME SAN ANTONIO POST LEADERSHIP LAB PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Recruitment	Jun – Jul 2026
Selection	Aug 2026
Orientation	20 or 26 Aug 2026
Sessions	31 Aug – 8 Feb 2027
Graduation	Feb / Mar 2027

APPLICANT COMMITMENT:

I understand that SAME San Antonio Post Leadership Lab is an integrated seven-month learning series. I acknowledge that, if chosen as a participant, the following commitments are required:

a. Attendance is essential at all scheduled sessions if I am to get the full benefit of the lab through interaction with fellow students, class mentors, and speakers. I understand that more than 2 absences may lead to my being dropped from the program without reimbursement. Local participants **MUST** attend in person. I **commit to my full attention and participation** in the Leadership Lab throughout all sessions. This includes:

- Attend all 2-hour lab sessions starting in Aug 2026 through Feb 2027 as outlined on the class schedule.
- Set aside necessary prep time for each session.
- Participate in the Leadership Lab team building, service, and social activities that could be held after work hours or on weekends.
- Allocate the time necessary to fulfill all graduation requirements.

- Participate in at least one (1) San Antonio Post meeting /luncheon and volunteer at a scheduled Post event during the Leadership Lab.
- Meet with your mentor a recommended 3 times before graduation. If you do not already have a mentor, complete the mentee application (Page 4) and submit it with your Leadership Lab application to get a mentor assigned to you through the Post's Mentoring Program.
- Serve on a Committee to organize and plan Lab events: Cohort Leader, Graduation, Notetaker, Social, Ropes Course, Community Service, Post Luncheon, etc.
- Avoid any interruptions in lab participation except under emergencies or urgent circumstances.
- Refrain from telephone calls, e-mail, texting or other work during lab sessions.
- Be on time for each lab session as it is essential to the learning process and a courtesy to speakers and fellow participants.

b. I understand and agree that my participation in the Leadership Lab Program is granted by the SAME San Antonio Post. If at any time the co-directors determine that my continued participation may be detrimental to the program, to my fellow participants, or to the program facilitators, this license may be revoked without notice.

Applicant's Signature

Date

EMPLOYER COMMITMENT:

As the Applicant's employer, we approve his/her application to SAME San Antonio Post Leadership Lab Program and will endorse and support his/her participation if chosen, and acknowledge the time, effort and commitment required of a participant. By signing this document, we acknowledge the foregoing conditions for participation in SAME San Antonio Post Leadership Lab Program.

Employer/Supervisor's Printed Name

Employer/Supervisor's Signature and Title

Date

After graduation, Leadership Lab participants are expected to maintain their SAME membership in good standing and use the skills, knowledge, and experience gained to be an "active participant" in SAME and/or Post leadership roles, events and volunteer activities to help The Society meet the goals and objectives of the SAME Strategic Plan.

3 of 3

2026-2027 SAME San Antonio Post Leadership Lab

**CLICK ON PAGE ABOVE TO DOWNLOAD APPLICATION
DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUG 14**

Professional Development

B. Mentee Application

Name		Date	
E-mail		Phone #	
Company		Position	
Emergency Contact Name/Phone #			
SAME Membership Level: # years as SAME member: _____		☐ Young Member ☐ Scholarship Recipient (Year: _____) ☐ Member ☐ College Student (Year: _____)	
Mentor Preferences: ☐ No preference		☐ No preference ☐ SAME Fellow ☐ Young Member ☐ SAME Member ☐ Same gender ☐ Specific age range ☐ Similar interests ☐ Specific profession ☐ Other (indicate): _____	
What do you hope to accomplish as a SAME mentee?			
Have you been mentored before? What worked and what didn't work?			
What are your academic and career goals?			
What are your extracurricular activities? (Briefly describe roles/responsibilities, length of service, etc)			
Describe your work and technical skills.			
Additional experiences			
Licenses and Certifications			
Education			
Continuing Education			
Involvement in SAME			
What are your passions, hobbies, talents, and interests?			
Reading (Genre): _____		Music (Genre): _____	
Outdoor activities: _____		Sports: _____	
Volunteer (describe): _____			
Other (indicate): _____			
Application deadline:			
Matching ends:			
Notifications by:			
Mentoring begins:			

Mentoring Across **SAME**, A Mentoring Guide v.2.5-Toolkit

**CLICK ON PAGE ABOVE TO DOWNLOAD APPLICATION
DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUG 14**

CREDENTIALING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP) FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

The Credentialing Assistance Program (CAP) provides financial support for professional development, education, licensure and certification preparation, exam testing, and mentoring initiatives to benefit members. SAME will reimburse a portion of exam sitting or registration fees and the costs of testing preparation and training materials upon confirmation of passing an exam.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- This program is open to all SAME members, regardless of age.
- Applicants must be a SAME member for at least 12 months before applying.
- Applicants must have passed the respective examination and provide the required documentation with the application.
- The program covers financial assistance for exam sitting fees, registration fees, and study expenses (such as books or classes for the specific exam).

APPROVED A/E/C CREDENTIALS

- Certified Construction Manager (CCM)
- Certified Energy Manager (CEM)
- Certified Facility Manager (CFM)
- Certified Professional Services Marketer (CPSM)
- Design Build Institute of America (DBIA)
- Facility Management Professional (FMP)
- Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)
- National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET)
- Professional Engineer (PE)
- Project Management Professional (PMP)
- Registered Architect (RA)

PROGRAM RESTRICTIONS

No single government official or employee, or private sector individual shall receive more than \$500 in assistance through the SAME CAP program. Individuals will remain eligible to receive reimbursement through other SAME programs.

"Credentials in the A/E/C profession are a commitment to continuous learning, which is critical in such a fast and complex industry that has responsibility of protecting public health and safety. I am grateful to work in an industry that has unlimited opportunities to learn, including many credentialing paths that add value to our work."

- Hayley Blaser, PE, PMP

For more information, visit
www.same.org/credentialing



CLICK ANYWHERE ON FLYER TO GO TO SAME WEB PAGE

CREDENTIALING REVIEW COURSE (CRC) PROGRAM SHEET

OVERVIEW

The Credentialing Review Course (CRC) is a valuable benefit that provides SAME members with free access to credentialing review courses to help prepare them for professional certification exam testing.

REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must demonstrate active engagement or participation at the Post, Regional, or National level, and receive an endorsement from a Post President, Fellow, or National Board of Direction member
- Applicants must be active, paid SAME members for at least 12 months. Student memberships do not count toward this period
- The member must provide proof of registration for their respective exam within 30 days of receiving access to the review courses through PPI2Pass (for FE, PE, and ARE credentials). The exam should be scheduled within three- to nine-months of the award.
- Applicant must be willing to engage with a mentor from SAME (monthly at a minimum) throughout the time enrolled in the review course.
- Members selected for the CRC (or SAME Credentialing Assistance Program) will remain eligible to receive benefits from the other credentialing support program, no matter what order they apply to receive benefits.

ON-DEMAND CREDENTIALING REVIEW COURSES

The following professional licensure exams are available through the PPI2Pass:

- Fundamentals of Engineering Exam (All included)
- Professional Engineer Exam (All included)
- Architect Registration Examination (PcM, PM, PA, PPD, PDD, CE)

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION ACCOUNTABILITY

- Once an applicant is granted a seat in the CRC, they will have access for 12 months.
- Recipients will be assigned a mentor or they may request an established SAME member to serve as their mentor.
- Participants are to monitor overall progress based on the initial plan they establish with their mentor (and provide a schedule to the mentor to ensure the plan is being met).
- Participants will receive a warning if they fail to maintain the planned progress over the initial eight-week period.
- Should there be no improvement in the subsequent four weeks, the committee will assess the situation for additional action.

"Credentials are an important milestone for professionals in a highly regulated industry for safety and the public's welfare, such as the A/E/C sector. It means a commitment to deliver higher standard products and legally protects all the stakeholders involved."

- Justin Trexler Gattari, RA, LEED AP BD+C

For more information, visit www.same.org/credentialing



CLICK ANYWHERE ON FLYER TO GO TO SAME WEB PAGE

STEM - SAME Camper Experience

From Post-Sponsored Camper Mathias Ray (Hawaii Camp Jun 7-13)

Hello, my name is Matthias and before attending the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Hawaii Engineering and Construction Camp, I was interested in engineering, but I wasn't completely sure it was the career I wanted to pursue. After spending a week at camp, my perspective completely changed. I gained a much greater appreciation for how engineers solve real-world problems and improve the lives of others.

Throughout the week, we participated in hands-on activities like building cardboard boats, designing Popsicle stick bridges, launching rockets, completing a concrete project, and competing in engineering challenges. These activities taught me the importance of teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving while making learning both fun and engaging. We also toured military installations and heard from engineers and other professionals who shared their experiences and showed us the many career paths within engineering and construction.

One of the best parts of the camp was meeting people from all different backgrounds. Working together on projects and spending time with one another helped us build friendships that made the experience even more memorable. Everyone brought different ideas and perspectives, showing me how important collaboration is in engineering.

Looking back, this camp helped me grow both personally and academically. Before attending, I wasn't fully committed to engineering, but this experience opened my eyes to how meaningful and impactful the field truly is. I left with new knowledge, greater confidence, and a stronger interest in pursuing engineering in the future.

I am forever grateful to the Society of American Military Engineers for providing this opportunity. I would highly recommend this camp to anyone interested in engineering or construction, or even someone who is still deciding what they want to do. It is an unforgettable experience that teaches valuable skills, introduces you to incredible mentors and friends, and inspires you to see the world of engineering in a whole new way.



STEM - SAME Camper Experience

From Post-Sponsored Camper Nikolai Mezokh (Navy Camp Port Hueneme July 19-25)

Welcome future SAME campers! I am Nikolai, and I went to the SAME camp in the summer of 2026. This specific camp was hosted at a naval base, Port Hueneme, right on the coast of California. Since this is a military engineering/construction camp, it was focused on the Navy's Seabees. The Seabees are the Navy's construction force, which help build structures for the Navy in war zones. Overall, this great camp taught me a lot about construction, engineering, and teamwork through fun, hands on activities.

One very interesting activity was building a concrete beam. I have never dealt with concrete before, so this was definitely a learning experience for most of us. We first had to construct a wooden "mold" for the concrete to go in, and then actually place the concrete. At the end of the week, each team's concrete beams got broken to see which teams had the strongest. Our next project was to build a popsicle stick bridge. We were only given glue and popsicle sticks. Just as the concrete beams, our popsicle stick bridges were tested to failure to see which one was the strongest. Another project was to construct an ROV (underwater pipe rover) that had to go through many obstacles underwater. This project was especially difficult because of the time constraint and because it was hard to get all of the moving parts working. Finally, our last project (and arguably the best) was to build a cardboard boat to use in the pool. We had to also waterproof the cardboard. This was a very fun project as we got to see all of our efforts pay off. Each of these projects (except the ROV) required a sketch and a detailed plan of the materials you would use and how you would build it. These projects also required a presentation to "the board" to get approved for building. This and the time limit were probably the most difficult parts of the builds. Overall, I learned that it's very important to work as a team since there is too much work for one person to do alone. I also learned the official process for approval and construction.

This camp also had many other fun activities. On the second day, we had a tour of the Seabee museum which showcased the history of the Navy Seabees and how they developed. We also had a fun time at the beach, with the water being surprisingly warm. Throughout the week, we had many Navy officers come as guest speakers and answer questions the campers had. We learned a lot from their military backgrounds and insights. Finally, we had an Olympics event where the teams competed in physical activities. Through this camp, I ultimately learned how to work with many different people on teams and how to accurately construct projects while not overcomplicating things. Overall, this camp was a fun way to get better at construction, learn about military engineering, and gain insights into future careers. I highly recommend this awesome SAME camp!



College Outreach

Post Supports Local Colleges

On Jul 8, **Past Post President Rene Cortez** provided a **STEM pathway related speech** with approximately 50 PREP students at Palo Alto College. The students were highly engaged and asked excellent questions.

On Jul 10, **Post Director Harold Eberbach** briefed at the St Philip's **College Summer Bridge Program** for students. It is a program for junior and senior high school students considering a degree in a STEM field.



Supporting STEM Education

Inside the White Box: Milestone by Milestone, the Cadet Chapel Comes Back (AF CE Weekly Email Jul 21, Story by AFIMSC Public Affairs)

The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center has taken a major step toward bringing the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel back to life, completing the first fully effective waterproofing system in the landmark's history and accelerating progress toward a 2028 reopening.

In March, AFIMSC and prime contractor JE Dunn completed installation of 1,628 weather-resistant panels, the culmination of a waterproofing effort that decades of prior repairs never achieved. Over nearly two years, craftsmen fabricated 2,062 custom aluminum hubs and 3,262 custom aluminum covers, each precision-built to fit within the original 1962 steel structure, delivering protection the Chapel has never had.

"Every solution on this restoration project has to balance modern performance with respect for the Chapel's legacy, and that makes this work both challenging and deeply meaningful," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Sherman, AFIMSC commander. "We are committed to permanent fixes, not temporary solutions and to returning the Chapel to the Cadets and the American people as quickly as possible and done right."

To get there, the AFIMSC team navigated multiple challenges, including asbestos contamination well beyond original estimates requiring full abatement before work could move forward or misaligned structural steel uncovered when restoration began in 2019.

Since its opening in 1962, the 52,000-square-foot Cadet Chapel has stood at the center of Academy life, marking the moments that define a career and shaping the experience of every Cadet class that has passed through Colorado Springs. AFIMSC is delivering a permanent solution to preserve the Chapel for Cadets, Alumni and the American people for generations to come.

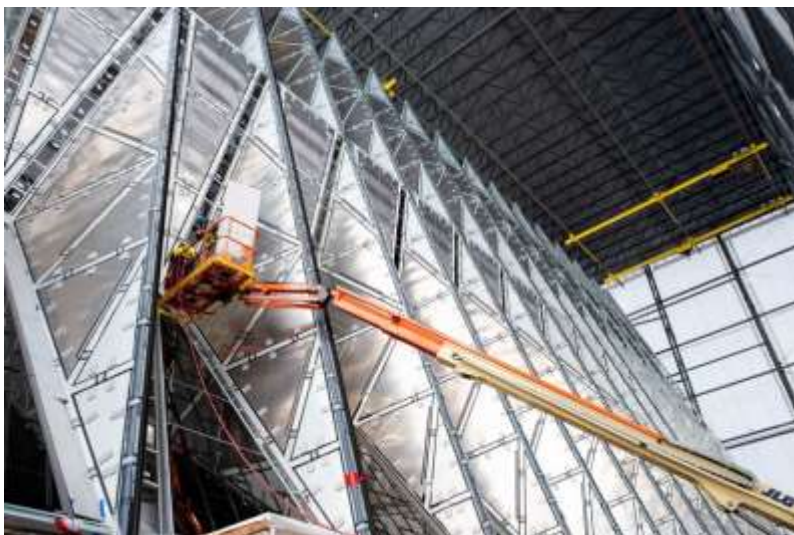
Work is now advancing on multiple fronts on what stands as one of the most significant restoration efforts in the Department of the Air Force history.

A System Built to Last

In January, the team began installing exterior cladding, a rain screen that directs water away from the building. Together with the weather-resistant panel system and just over 13 miles of joint sealant, they deliver the protection the Chapel never had.

"This is a once in a lifetime project. Local engineers contemplated permanent design fixes about 15 years ago, the design grew legs around 2015 and was then proven out with to-scale performance mock-ups. Construction began in 2019, unfortunately hit a few obstacles that altered the original timeline and cost, and today we have evidence of leak-proof Chapel and accelerated completion of August 2028," said Col. Bryan Cooper, Chapel restoration project manager with the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, a primary subordinate unit of AFIMSC.

Water testing of the first completed section began in mid-December 2025 and confirmed the design and expert craftsman who manufactured and installed the new interior gutter system that will keep water from penetrating the structure for generations to come. The team expects to complete full water testing of the entire system by the end of this year



(Continued on Next Page)

Inside the White Box: Milestone by Milestone, the Cadet Chapel Comes Back (cont'd)

Progress Across the Project

Step by step, the pace is picking up inside the White Box as artisans work the fitting for side and strip windows, interior trim, maintenance track and framing of the interior walls that began in May.

When the scaffolding finally comes down, the Chapel will look as it did the day it opened. The restoration preserves Walter Netsch's original iconic design, and the exterior will emerge bright and clean, matching the 1962 finish before decades of weathering set in.

The colored glass blocks are going back in. Artisans began returning the Chapel's dalle de verre cassettes to their original positions in January, reinstalling 5% of the 24,192 pieces across 2,240 restored aluminum frames, each one exactly where it has always belonged.

The music is coming back, too. The 1,950-pipe Catholic organ is fully restored and back in place. The 4,518-pipe Protestant organ has completed restoration and awaits reinstallation.

In a workshop in Madison, Wisconsin, specialists are refurbishing all 118 Chapel Catholic and Protestant pews, preserving the original woodwork, before they return to the Chapel.

A Cadet Closer Look

Even mid-restoration, the Chapel is still shaping the Cadet experience. Hard-hat tours have brought Cadets from the Class of 2026 inside the ongoing work, giving them an up-close look at the craftsmanship and complexity of the project and connecting them to a space that has marked milestones for generations before them.

Senior leadership has stayed closely connected to the restoration, too. Most recently in April, Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink toured the site, moving through the interior and up through the scaffolding. The visit covered technical challenges as well as the schedule ahead. Meink and his team departed with a stronger appreciation for what the project demands and what the AFIMSC team has delivered.

AFIMSC established a dedicated restoration webpage to keep Alumni, Cadets and the public informed as the project moves forward.

Visit <https://www.afcec.af.mil/Home/USAF-Cadet-Chapel-Restoration/> to follow the latest progress.



Basic Cadet Training Program Prepares Basics for Academy Life (AF CE Weekly Email Aug 4, Story by Tech. Sgt. Zach Vaughn, USAFA)

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFNS) -- Every summer, the U.S. Air Force Academy's Basic Cadet Training program introduces its newest basic cadets to military life. Over 38 days, Military Training Instructors and Cadet Cadre teach the customs, standards and teamwork that prepare them for the academic year and life in the Cadet Wing.

"The basics are leaving an environment where they excelled and are joining a group made up of the nation's most accomplished men and women," said Cadet 1st Class Sarah Price, BCT Cadet Group Commander. "It's a significant transition that causes them to reassess their strengths and weaknesses."

The grueling course serves as the Academy's largest leadership development program and is a no-fail mission where the Cadet Cadre must lead effectively, according to Price.



Teaching and enforcing standards

Cadet Cadre are upper-class cadets who received specialized preparation from Academy Military Trainers before leading the daily BCT curriculum. They teach and enforce military standards throughout classroom instruction, physical training and practical exercises. The basic cadets learned to march in formation, military customs and courtesies, the Honor Code, and U.S. Air Force, U.S. Space Force and Academy history.

"BCT is demanding because meaningful growth rarely occurs within our comfort zones," said Price. "We intentionally built structured mentorship into this year's program where cadre spend dedicated time investing into the trainees."

The basic cadets received a Peak Performance Center resiliency briefing, learned Saturday A.M. Inspection skills for dorm room standards and dove deep into the latest edition of Contrails.



"This training is more than learning military standards, skills and camaraderie," said Master Sgt. Kayla Welch, Master Military Training Instructor. "It's about instilling a warfighter mindset that will carry these basic cadets through the toughest circumstances during their time at the Academy and throughout their careers."

Prior to field training, basic cadets also received M18 pistol training from Combat Arms instructors and introductory training in Tactical Combat Casualty Care and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear procedures

Advancing warfighter readiness

The second phase of BCT began with the March Out to Jacks Valley, July 12. Basic Cadets marched in formation from the Academy's Terrazzo to an austere field location. Home to BCT's field training since 1966, Jacks Valley features rugged terrain and limited infrastructure support. Price said the field conditions require basic cadets to adapt, think critically and solve problems.

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Basic Cadet Training Program Prepares Basics for Academy Life (cont'd)

Advancing warfighter readiness (cont'd)

"We need the basic cadets to realize that they're capable of far more than they initially believed," said Price.

"Experiences such as Jacks Valley are difficult in the moment, but they build confidence, strengthen character and forge a team that will carry those shared experiences with them for the rest of their lives."

Jacks Valley hosted a number of demanding events such as an obstacle course, confidence course, leadership reaction course and assault course. Basic cadets also learned land navigation, qualified on the M4 carbine and applied CBRN techniques in a gas chamber.

"BCT might look similar from year-to-year, however, the program evolves alongside Academy priorities," said Price. "Each class experiences training shaped by the institution's current goals and philosophy."



Price said cadre increased the intensity of physical training this year to align with current Air Force and Space Force fitness priorities. They also added more leadership-mentorship opportunities and created a curriculum that extends into the academic year.

"They learn to recognize each other's strengths, support one another through adversity, and rise together," said Price. "Those strong relationships become an essential source of resilience throughout training and well beyond these first six weeks."

Preparing for the academic year

Once the basic cadets return from Jacks Valley, they will finish BCT and prepare for the academic year. They'll perform service dress inspections, attend cadre training time, pass a physical fitness test, take an end of course exam and participate in a culminating event.

"Our basic cadets arrived at the Academy from every imaginable background," said Price. "Some have dreamed of military service while others discovered the Academy while researching college opportunities. Whether they're athletes, JROTC, preparatory school grads, or prior enlisted, they're on the same path and same team now. They've put aside their individual identities and built a common foundation built on discipline, accountability and attention to detail."

Following BCT, the Class of 2030 will enter the Cadet Wing as fourth-class cadets during the Acceptance Day Parade on Aug. 5.



Upcoming Events

SAME & Other Activities

(see <https://www.same.org/san-antonio/events/> for Post Events)

(see <https://www.same.org/events-programs/> for SAME Events)

- SMPS San Antonio Chapter Meeting, Aug 11, Port San Antonio's Projects, Investments and Opportunities, Witte Museum (Dawson Family Hall) - see <https://sanantoniosmps.org/>
- 2026-2027 Post LLAB Applications Due, extended to Aug 14 - see [page 2](#) and [7-10](#) and <https://www.same.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/2026llab.pdf>
- Post Meeting, Aug 20, St Philip's College Center for Excellence for Science, Old San Francisco Steakhouse - see [page 1](#) and <https://260820samesatx.eventbrite.com>
- Austin Field Chapter Meeting, Aug 20, Hazardous Material, EEA Consulting Engineers Office (Austin) - see [page 1](#) and <https://260820atxfc.eventbrite.com>
- Federal AI Summit, Sep 10, Stanford University CA - see <https://www.federalaisummit.org/>
- SAME Pacific Industry Forum, Sep 15, Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort - see <https://www.same.org/event/2026-pacific-industry-forum/>
- Orange County Post SAME OC/LA Joint Small Business Forum, Se 17, On the Greens Conference Center - see <https://www.same.org/event/same-oc-la-joint-small-business/>
- Joint CMAA-Post Meeting, Sep 17, "Annual Professional Ethics Training" by Andrew Hunt from Project Control, Old San Francisco Steakhouse - **SAVE THE DATE**
- CMAA SCTX Scholarship Clay Shooting, Oct 2, Joshua Creek Ranch, Boerne TX - see <https://sctxcmaa.org/>
- 2026 SAME Tri-Regional JETS Conference, Oct 6-8, New Orleans French Quarter - see <https://www.same.org/event/2026-tri-regional-jets-conference/>
- Post Meeting, Oct 15, Old San Francisco Steakhouse - **SAVE THE DATE**
- Post Meeting, Nov 19, Old San Francisco Steakhouse - **SAVE THE DATE**
- 2026 SAME Federal Small Business Conference, Nov 4-6, Charlotte NC - see <https://www.samesbc.org>



Post Member Selected for Military Promotion

In his July 22 email, Brig Gen Christopher Leonard, Director of Air Force Civil Engineers, announced the selection of 20 Lieutenant Colonels by the P0626A Active-Duty promotion selection board for promotion to Colonel. **Post member Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Emborski** was one of the 20 selectees. Congratulations to Stephen and the other selectees. As Brig Gen Leonard stated “these Airmen Engineers have all been selected based on their recognized potential to LEAD THE WAY for our Airmen and I am excited to witness their continued success as they move to the next tier of leadership.”



2026 Post Board Members

POSITION/NAME (E = Elected; A = Appointed)	PHONE	COMPANY
<i>President (E)</i> <u>Sarah Fowlkes</u>	(512) 423-9089	Jacobs
<i>Vice President (E)</i> <u>Cathy Bond-Cassidy</u>	(210) 683-0392	
<i>Treasurer (E)</i> <u>Sam Hutchins</u> , F.SAME		Retired
<i>Secretary (E)</i> <u>Bridget Booth</u>		Clark Construction Group
<i>Director, Partnerships, 2026-27 (E)</i> <u>Steve Holt</u> , F.SAME	(210) 391-0921	MOCA Systems
<i>Director, Programs, 2026 (E)</i> <u>John Enyeart</u> , F.SAME	(210) 552-8368	AFIMSC
<i>Director, Member Development, 2026-27 (E)</i> <u>James Kisiel</u>	(713) 823-7068	Olsson
<i>Director, STEM & College Outreach, 2026 (E)</i> <u>Harold Eberbach</u>	(210) 995-0535	KMEA
<i>Immediate Past President</i> <u>John Baker</u>	(210) 872-1705	Lockward, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.
<i>Assistant Secretary (A)</i> <u>Danielle Genzer</u>	(210) 446-4348	Merrick
<i>Assistant Treasurer (A)</i> <u>Dick Kochanek</u> , F.SAME	(210) 884-9731	Retired
<i>Director, Young Professionals (A)</i> <u>Andrew Silvas</u>	(210) 643-0544	Broadbent & Associates
<i>Director, Fellows (A)</i> <u>David Pratt</u> , F.SAME	(210) 248-0909	WSP

Post Board Organization Chart

2026 Post Board Members

POSITION/NAME (E = Elected; A = Appointed)	PHONE	COMPANY
<i>Director, Individual Members (A)</i> <u>Ed von Dran</u>	(210) 326-6991	.Alpha Terra Engineering, Inc.
<i>Director, Sustaining Members (A)</i> <u>Michele Torres</u>	(703) 593-4407	Health Facility Solutions Company
<i>Military Enlisted Affairs Liaison (A)</i>		
<i>Director, Scholarships (A)</i> <u>Bonnie Hopke</u> , F.SAME		Retired
<i>K-12/STEM Outreach Coordinator (A)</i> <u>Anthony Figiera</u>	(725) 268-8132	Weston Solutions
<i>SAME E&C Camp Coordinator (A)</i> <u>Capt. Varsha Savalia</u>	(520) 313-1482	USPHS
<i>College Outreach Coordinator (A)</i> <u>Terry Watkins</u>	(210)403-6329	Jacobs
<i>Univ of Texas Student Chapter Mentor (A)</i> <u>Richard Mahn</u>	(512) 617-3103	Freese and Nichols
<i>Texas A&M Student Chapter Mentor (A)</i> <u>John Baker</u>	(210) 872-1705	Lockward, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.
<i>UT San Antonio Student Chapter Mentor (A)</i> <u>Terry Watkins</u>	(210) 403-6329	Retired
<i>Small Business Coordinator (A)</i> <u>Chris Scott</u>	(210) 816-4793	Health Facility Solutions Company
<i>Servicemember & Vet Support Coordinator (A)</i>		

Post Board Organization Chart

2026 Post Board Members

POSITION/NAME (E = Elected; A = Appointed)	PHONE	EMAIL
<i>Servicemember & Vet Transition Coordinator (A)</i> <u>Markus Henneke</u>	(703) 853-0219	IMEG Corp.
<i>Leadership Lab Co-Director (A)</i> <u>Shelby Gund</u>	(661) 619-6744	AFCEC
<i>Leadership Lab Co-Director (A)</i> <u>Braden Deines</u>	(210) 202-0430	Health Facility Solutions Company
<i>Website Manager/Newsletter Editor (A)</i> <u>Dick Kochanek</u> , F.SAME	(210) 884-9731	Retired
<i>Social Media Coordinator (A)</i>		
<i>Awards Committee Chair (A)</i> <u>Dick Kochanek</u> , F.SAME	(210) 884-9731	Retired
<i>Golf Chair (A)</i> <u>Michael Beach</u>	(830) 816-5434	Broadbent and Associates.
<i>Holiday Celebration Chair (A)</i> <u>Kelsey Edwards</u>	(817) 648-9470	Bhate



Post Board Organization Chart

Post Sustaining Members

as of Aug 1 Rosters

Company/Agency	Website
#	
3KEYS SERVICES GROUP LLC	http://www.3ksq.com/
A	
Aerostar Environmental and Construction	http://www.bbch-llc.com
AG3 Group, LLC	https://ag3-group.com/
Alpha Facilities Solutions, LLC	https://alphafacilities.com/
Alpha Terra Engineering, Inc.	http://atei97.com
American Structurepoint / Inc.	www.structurepoint.com
Aptim Federal Services, LLC	https://www.aptim.com
AR6 Construction & Engineering, LLC	https://ar6ce.com/
Austin Bridge & Road / LP	https://www.austin-ind.com/
B	
Baer Engineering and Environmental Consulting Inc.	http://baereng.com
Bain Medina Bain, Inc.	https://bmbi.com/
BB&E Consulting Engineers Professionals	https://bbande.com/
Benham Design LLC	http://www.benham.com
Bhate	https://www.bhate.com
Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp.	https://www.bv.com
Blast Resource Group / LLC	www.blastresourcegroup.com
Bristol Industries	http://www.bristol-companies.com/services/engineering
Burns & McDonnell	http://www.burnsmcd.com
C	
CAPE	http://www.cape-inc.com
CCI Prime Contractors, LLC	https://www.cci-alliance.com/home/
CDM Smith	https://www.cdmsmith.com/
Chenega Corporation	https://www.chenega.com/
CRUX Solutions	www.cruzsolutions.com
Cushing Terrell (CTA Inc.)	www.cushingterrell.com

Post Sustaining Members

as of Aug 1 Rosters

D	
Design Build Consortium, LLC	https://www.manta.com/c/mb4ypf0/design-build-consortium-llc
E	
Eaton Corporation	https://www.eaton.com/us/en-us.html
ECC	https://www.ecc.net/
EEA Consulting Engineers	https://eeace.com/
F	
Flour	https://www.fluor.com/
Flux Resources	https://www.workwithflux.com/
FPM Remediations	https://www.fpm-remediations.com
G	
Garver	https://www.garverusa.com/
GFT / Inc	https://www.gftinc.com
H	
Hasen Global LLC	http://hasenglobal.com
Health Facility Solutions Company	https://hfscompany.com/
HGL	www.hgl.com
Huitt-Zollars Inc	https://www.huitt-zollars.com/
I	
IMEG Consultants Corp	https://www.imegcorp.com
J	
Jacobs	https://www.jacobs.com
K	
Kleinfelder	https://www.kleinfelder.com
KMEA	https://www.kmea.net/
KOMAN Holdings / LLC	www.komanholdings.com

Post Sustaining Members

as of Aug 1 Rosters

L	
LAUKOA	https://www.dawaononohana.com
Los Alamos Technical Associates / Inc.	www.lata.com
M	
M2 Federal, Inc.	https://www.m2federal.com
Mason & Hanger	www.masonandhanger.com
Matrix Design Group	https://www.matrixdesigngroup.com
Merrick & Company	https://www.merrick.com/
Michael Baker International	https://www.mbakintl.com
MOCA Systems / Inc.	www.moca-pm.com
N	
North Wind Group	https://northwindgrp.com/
O	
OEC Process (Onion Equipment Co.)	https://www.oecprocess.com/
Olsson	https://www.olsson.com
Oneida ESC Group	https://oescgroup.com/
P	
P. Max Engineering	https://www.pmax-eng.com
Parsons	www.parsons.com
Phoenix General Contractors LLC	https://www.phoenix-gc.com/
PIC Global	www.picglobal.net
Pond & Company	https://www.pondco.com
Protection Engineering Consultants	www.protection-consultants.com
Q	
QRI/Quaternary Resource Investigations	www.QRI.com
R	
RS&H	www.rsandh.com
RSP Architects, Ltd	https://www.rsarch.com

Post Sustaining Members

as of Aug 1 Rosters

S	
SCIDEV, Ltd.	https://scidevlt.com/
SES Infrastructure Services LLC	https://bbch-llc.com/company/sif/
Stanley Consultants Inc.	www.stanleyconsultants.com
Stantec, Inc.	https://www.stantec.com
Steelcase, Inc.	https://www.steelcase.com
Street Legal Industries, Inc.	http://www.slind.net
STV	www.stvinc.com
Surveying and Mapping/ LLC	www.sam.biz
SYNLawn	https://strictlygreengrass.com
T	
TB Industrial LLC	www.tb-industrial.com
Tepa Companies.	https://www.tepa.com/
Terracon Consultants, Inc.	https://www.terracon.com
Tetra Tech, Inc.	https://www.tetrattech.com/
Tiger brain Engineering, Inc.	https://tigerbrain.com/
Torres-Moore LLC	none listed
V	
V2X	https://gov2x.com/
Versar Global Solutions	https://www.versar.com
W	
Walter P. Moore	www.walterpmoore.com
Weston Solutions, Inc.	http://www.westonsolutions.com
Woolpert, Inc.	https://woolpert.com/
Wright Construction Group / LLC	https://www.wrightconstructiongrp.com

