



Building Great Engineers: **How SAME Is Your Closest Ally**

By Mr. Ben Matthews

In August 2008, I had the privilege of representing the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) on a panel at the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Senior Leader's Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The panel's primary focus was to outline what the USACE divisions were doing toward *Building Great Engineers* and increasing the technical competency of the Engineer Regiment. The central point of my briefing was that professional societies, especially SAME, are there to help.

The mission of the SAME College Outreach Committee is to "promote the engineering career field at colleges and universities through student chapters, mentoring programs, scholarships, and career planning seminars." The college outreach mission supports the overall SAME mission, which is 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."

Those mission statements show that there is a definite synergy between the goals of SAME and the campaign plan for *Building Great Engineers* set forth at ENFORCE 2008. For example, one of the action items under the accessions section of the campaign plan is to "attract engineering talent by researching top engineering schools and concentrating marketing efforts at these institutions. Additionally, strategically assign engineer officers as Professors of Military Leadership (PML) at selected engineering schools." An item in the strategic communications section of the plan advises commanders to "develop a plan where senior engineer leaders visit local universities to promote degreed engineers and their subsequent joining of the Engineer Regiment."

SAME can definitely help the Engineer Regiment with those two items. With more than 100 posts in the United States, SAME has a presence near every major military installation. When senior leaders are ready to go out to local engineering institutions, SAME post leaders are there to help with the follow-up by maintaining contact with prospective engineer officers.

Since education and mentoring are so important to the mission of SAME, the organization's dues structure makes outreach as easy as possible: SAME membership is free for students. As engineer leaders execute the *Building Great Engineers* campaign plan, we hope you will bring your SAME cohorts along. We are there to help!

For more information, visit the SAME college outreach website at <http://www.same.org/college> or the SAME student membership signup website at <https://www.same.org/i4a/forms/form.cfm?id=72>.



Mr. Matthews served in the United States Air Force as a civil engineer officer for eight years. He currently works for Jacobs Engineering in Dallas, Texas. He also serves as the college outreach chair of the Society of American Military Engineers. He holds a master's in construction management from the University of Texas at Austin and is a registered professional engineer.

