With our Post elections for 2017 complete, I just wanted to give a huge shout out to Esther Lee-Altman, our Post Secretary for all her work in putting together the ballot and documenting the results. Also, I cannot say thanks enough to everyone who voted, to each of our 2016 Board members, and of course our 2017 slate of Officers and Directors. We have a few new names on that list and I look forward to working with everyone for a great year at our Post. Our goal is to provide value and something that will interest everyone during the year in terms of monthly programs and “extra-curricular” activities that will provide you opportunity to get involved in the community such as volunteering your time, talent, knowledge, and experience with local students and the rest of the Middle Georgia community.

We are always ready for new ideas for programs. If you have any that you have heard before, or if there are topics that you are interested in, just let us know. Joe Ballard will be our Programs Director again this year and he would love to hear from you. If there is a STEM activity that you are involved with and would like some help, there are several of us that are interested in doing more in that area, be it at the elementary school level or at the college level (more on that level to follow!)

I welcome Colonel Jim Hickman to the role of Post President. I am excited to serve with him this coming year and I know he will bring a lot to us. Have a great 2017 and I hope to see you around the Post!

Thanks,
Mike Coats
Preview of February 2017 SAME Presentation. This presentation will be given by Ms. Lydia Ray of Columbus State University and is titled, “Cyber Warfare, Recent Trend of Vulnerabilities and What We Can Do”.

As the world is becoming increasingly digital, a series of new trends are emerging in the realm of cybersecurity. Most significant among these is cyber warfare: “actions by a nation-state to penetrate another nation's computers or networks for the purposes of causing damage or disruption”. As some of the recent incidents have demonstrated, it is not very difficult for another nation to penetrate American systems and networks. While this is extremely concerning, the good news is that building a primary line of defense against such attacks is also not very difficult.

In this presentation, Ms. Ray will demonstrate different ways of hacking, their levels of difficulty, and the vulnerabilities they exploit. Then she will discuss what common people can do to protect themselves as well as the nation from cyber attacks.

Presenter’s Bio

Lydia Ray was born in India in 1975. She earned her PhD degree in Computer Science from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2005, M.Stat degree in Statistics from Indian Statistical Institute in 1998, and B.Sc degree in Statistics from University of Calcutta in 1996. Her major field of study at present is Computer Science. She is currently working as associate professor at TSYS School of Computer Science, Columbus State University at Columbus, Georgia. She is also serving as the interim director of TSYS Cybersecurity Center, accredited by National Security Agency as Center of Excellence in Cyber Defense Education. Lydia’s research interest is in sensor networks, cybersecurity and digital forensics.

2017 Elections: New Year, New Board

Introducing your 2017 Board of Officers and Directors!

President: Col James Hickman
Vice President and Events & Small Business Director: Mr. Mike Coats
Secretary: Ms. Esther Lee-Altman
Treasurer and Financial Director: Mr. James Griffin
Senior Enlisted Advisor: SMSgt Mary Dearman
National Liaison: Ms. Anjelica Bernier
Programs Director: Mr. Joe Ballard
Education & Mentoring Director: Mr. Griff Cox
Membership Director: Mr. Ervin Walker
Emergency Preparedness & Installation Readiness Director: Mr. Greg Culpepper

Please feel free to say congratulations to our new and returning board members! We hope to have another wonderful year full at the Robins AFB SAME Post!
Upcoming Events

HQ SAME 2017 Capital Week in North Bethesda, MD: (7-9 March) So many wonderful events, so little time! SAME will be hosting their annual DoD and Federal Agency Program briefings but there is so much more to do including the Academy of Fellow program and Golden Eagle Awards dinner. For more information, please visit: http://s3.goeshow.com/same/dod/2017/capital_week.cfm#.

Go Baby Go Build Day at the University Center, Mercer University: (24-25 March) The second build day for the Go Baby Go initiative has been scheduled. The first day (Friday) will be the build day and the next day (Saturday) will be fine tuning and adjustments. Interested in volunteering? Contact a board member today to sign up!

2017 JETC in Columbus, OH: (23-25 May) The Joint Engineer Training Conference (JETC) and Expo allows people to come together for various training sessions and networking opportunities. Please visit: http://s3.goeshow.com/same/jetc/2017/index.cfm for more information on this event.

Sustaining Member Spotlight: GEC

Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (GEC) is an engineering consulting firm with offices in Macon, Columbus, and LaGrange, Georgia. GEC provides consulting in three key areas: Geotechnical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, and Construction Quality Control Testing, and Drilling.

GEC serves a variety of clients, over a wide geographic area, and over a broad spectrum of industries from development, retail, manufacturing, to government service. We have successfully completed hundreds of projects for private, public, legal, and regulatory interests. GEC's resources, which include top-notch professionals backed by significant continuing education and experience, coupled with our in-house drilling and a certified materials testing laboratory, give us the ability to successfully undertake a wide range of projects from the planning stages through construction, and from research to project oversight. GEC's experience gives us a special ability to focus on client needs while supplying quality services, including Environmental Site Assessments, HSRA Evaluation, Underground Storage Tank Consulting, Soil and Groundwater Monitoring and Testing, Asbestos Inspection and Testing, Lead Based Paint Inspection and Testing, Wetlands Delineation, On-Site Septic Application Soil Surveys, Health and Safety Plan Preparation/Implementation, Regulatory Compliance, and preparation of Storm water Pollution and Prevention Plans. Our Construction Services team provides outstanding professional services, including QA/QC Field Testing, Materials Testing and Inspection, Deep Foundation Monitoring and Inspection, Floor Flatness Testing, Concrete Mix Design and Verification, NPDES Design, Inspection and Monitoring.

Every GEC project team includes at least one of the firm's principal partners, and every project plan is characterized by a cost-effective, common sense approach to engineering and the environment. At Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants, Inc., we take our professional obligations very seriously. The services we provide can be vital to our clients' fiscal health and to the physical well-being of the public. Our clients rely upon us to do the very best job, every time - and we do.
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**Sustaining Member News**

Are you with a Sustaining Member Firm?
If you would like to become one, or if you are not sure of your company’s registration status, please contact Mr. Ervin Walker, our Membership Director at: ervin.walker@aecom.com.

Accepting Abstracts
We are accepting abstracts for presentations for 2017. Let us know what presentation topics, presenters, or tour ideas would most interest you. We want to know what is important to you. Please contact Mr. Joe Ballard at: joe.ballard.1@us.af.mil with feedback or for more information.