

Preview of February 2012 SAME Presentation, entitled "An Overview of United States Corps of Engineers (USACE)". This presentation will be given by Major General Todd T. Semonite, Commander and Division Engineer of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic Division.

# An Overview of USACE

Please join us on TUESDAY, 14 February 2012 at the Horizons Club for a special presentation by Major General (MG) Todd T. Semonite of the U.S. Corps of Engineers (USACE), South Atlantic Division. MG Semonite will be giving a program and strategic update on the direction of USACE which will include such topics as the changes that USACE has undergone under BRAC; issues from the President's budget and the effects they will have on USACE; and the future direction of USACE.



For more information on our guest speaker, please see page 2.

### Announcing our 2012 SAME Board!

The ballots are all in and have been counted. Presenting our Robins Post Board for 2012!

- President: Col Nicholas Desport
- Treasurer: Mr. James Griffin
- Assistant Secretary: Ms. Casey Lucas
- Director of National Security: Mr. Joe Ballard Director of National Security: Mr. Shawn Politino
- Director of Events/Small Business: Mr. Steve Hvizdzak
- Vice President: Mr. Mike Coats
- Secretary: Ms. Esther Lee-Altman
- Director of Sustaining Membership: Mr. Art Warner

Congratulations to all our winners and we'll see you at the next board meeting to kick off a great year of SAME presentations and tours!



### Presenter's Bio: MG Todd T. Semonite



Major General Todd T. Semonite is Commander and Division Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), South Atlantic Division. He took command on May 1, 2009. The South Atlantic Division is one of eight Corps of Engineers regions providing engineering and construction services to the nation. As Division Commander, he oversees the planning, design and construction of projects to support the military, protect America's water resources, and restore and en-

hance the environment within a 250,000 square mile area which includes all or part of 8 southeastern states.

MG Semonite's immediate past assignment was as Commander of the USACE North Atlantic Division in New York City. Prior to that he served as Commanding General, Maneuver Support Center and Ft. Leonard Wood, MO.

A native of Bellows Falls, VT, MG Semonite is a registered professional engineer in Virginia and Vermont. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY and was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in 1979. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy, a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Vermont, and a Masters of Military Arts and Sciences from Fort Leavenworth. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

### SAME Spotlight: Member of the Month

Joe Jahnke, P.G. graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1986 with BS degrees in Land Use Planning and Geology. He is a registered Professional Geologist in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Georgia. He has served the Air Force and other DoD agencies as a contractor for the past 26 years. He has served in various technical and management roles throughout his career, starting his career in Civil Engineer departments for various municipalities performing

surveying, designing and construction management for roads, wastewater plants, drinking water plants and supporting utilities. In 1996 he transferred from Minnesota to Warner Robins Georgia to be the Program Manager for the Robins AFB \$78 Million Environmental Management ID/IQ contract, work included a wide variety of task orders supporting the environmental cleanup and engineering. Joe served as Program Manager for the \$10M 78th Civil Engineering Design Support contract as well as Program Manager for the new \$75M Environmental Management contract. Joe's career progressed and has served in Senior Executive roles in top 50 Engineering companies including Regional Manager for over 400 engineers, scientists and construction personnel, Vice President of Quality Control for AFCEE, AFCESA, USACE, programs. To date, Joe has technically performed, managed or performed quality control services for projects located at over 40 DoD installations including 30 Air Force bases CONUS and OCONUS.





The next Robins Post General Meeting will be held on 14 February 2012 at 11:30 am. The meeting will be held in the Horizons Club's Georgia Room. All are welcome.

#### **Upcoming Dates in 2012**

**14 February:** 1130 hours: SAME General Meeting immediately preceded by SAME Robins Post Board/ Officer's Meeting. A program and strategic update presentation will be given by MG Todd Semonite of the U.S. Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic Division.

**March:** The Robins Post will be hosting a group tour of Plant Vogtle. This will give Post members the chance to take a tour of a nuclear facility. Details on this tour will become available at a later time.

**April:** The Annual Earth Day Golf Tournament will be scheduled for this month. Date of this event TBA.

#### **Special Announcement:**

A \$1000 Donation from New South Construction was giving to the Robins SAME Post in memory of Ric Powers. The money will be used for a one time scholarship in honor of Ric and all he did for the Post. The Post will be matching \$500 to this donation for a scholarship totaling \$1500 for a deserving high school student or freshman that is pursuing a degree in engineering.

In 1997 working with Col. John W. Mogge Jr the 78<sup>th</sup> CE Commander as the SAME Robins Post President Joe became the Sustaining Member chairmen to reactivate the SAME Robin Post. Joe has been a SAME Robins post member ever since.

Our SAME Member of the Month section is continued on the next page.



# An Eagle Project Completed with Some Help from SAME



It has been a busy Fall for the Boy Scouts of Robins AFB. Andrew Peets, a senior at Warner Robins High School, along with the scouts of Troop 220 completed his Eagle Scout Service Project. Andrew worked with Dr. Bob Sargent (the Base Natural Resources Manager) to identify a conservation project

on Base that could be used to fill this requirement. A properly selected Eagle Scout project should highlight the scout's skills in time management, money management, fundraising, scheduling, leadership and project management. Andrew chose a project to constructed eight (8) floating platforms to be installed in the Base lakes. These types of platforms provide a safe location away from people and predators for turtles to bask in the sun, absorbing the needed

# SAME Mission

"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."

# SAME Vision

"To be a premier global engineering organization leading the professional and personal growth of all members in support of military readiness and development of solutions to national security challenges."

heat to sustain their cold-bloodied bodies. The Post donated \$100 towards materials for this worthwhile project.

Under Andrew's direction, the materials were obtained, platforms constructed and four (4) units were installed in Duck Lake as well as four (4) were installed in Scout Lake in October. It only took a few days for the turtles to find the platforms and grow comfortable enough to start using them, as you can see in the attached photos. Congratulations to Andrew for completing his Eagle project and good luck in completing his last step towards earning his Eagle rank.



### Member of the Month continued

Currently Joe serves as the Chair of the Aerospace Industry Committee (AIC). The AIC is group of over 200 companies that support the Robins AFB mission by partnering to assure industry meets the changing needs throughout the Air Force. The AIC hosts the Annual Requirements Symposium where Robins AFB briefs upcoming requirements to enable industry to provide the government with better products and services delivered cheaper faster and higher quality. Joe is also an active member of Military Affairs Committee supporting the military members and their families stationed at Robins AFB. His personal goal is to unite Robins AFB business affiliates with government and civilian employees and highlight our local community commitment to EDIMGIAFAD.

Joe is the Co-Founder of F3 Solutions, a local Professional Engineering Services Woman Owned Small Business. F3 Solutions strives for the highest level of professional accomplishment to provide innovative solutions supporting Environmental Engineering, Energy Management, Information Technology and Logistics for our community. He advocates the F3 Solution commitment to the community to strengthen our brand, help customers view us positively and inspires our team members by working for a socially responsible company.



# Sustaining Member Spotlight: Ikhana Inc.

Ikhana is a Native American Owned, SBA 8(a) and HUBZone Certified full service design-build company that provides engineering, construction, and environmental services to clients across a wide range of markets including: Federal, State, Local Government, and commercial. Ikhana means "intelligent" design in the Choctaw language.

Offering a competitive advantage due to our highly experienced team, Ikhana has extensive knowledge and proficiency in completing federal facility design and construction projects. Our team consists of federal construction specialists, planners, architects, and engineers and has in-depth knowledge and experience in the preparation of plans and specifications for military construction.

Ikhana offers various services including:

- **CONSTRUCTION SERVICES: General Contracting** Design –Build New Construction **Facility Repair Construction Management** Remodeling **Renovations & Additions** Estimating Site Work & Infrastructure
- **ENGINEERING SERVICES:** Project management Civil Engineering Natural Resources Services **Environmental Management** Wetland Restoration Mechanical Engineering **Environmental Remediation** Geotechnical Investigations Infrastructure Protection

#### **OPERATIONS&MAINTENANCE:**

**Preventative Maintenance** Landscaping/Tree Service **Facilities Management Emergency Response Grounds Maintenance Occupations Hazards Building Condition Surveys** Remediation



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# **Awards Galore for Post Members!**

Every year, the Post presents two awards to some very deserving Post members that truly show their dedication and embrace the SAME virtues and ethos. This year was no exception.



Casey Lucas, from AECOM, received the Outstanding Young Member award for her hard work as Assistant Secretary of SAME.

A long time SAME member and orchestrator of our Fall Golf Tournament, Nelson Rosa, also from AECOM, received the Ric Powers Achievement award.





2011 was an exceptionally good year for the Robins Post as several Post board members won awards as well:

- Congratulations to Col Desport for winning the prestigious Newman Award! This award is presented to a civilian or military member of the USAF for their outstanding contribution to military engineering.
- The South Atlantic Regional Vice President (RVP), Mike Blount, was present at the January general meeting to present several of our Board members with regional merit awards. Esther Lee-Altman won the RVP Merit Medal and Griff Cox, Ken Branton, and Joe Ballard received recognition of their service by receiving RVP coins.
- Mike Coats was nominated for the SAME National Post Service Medal as well. Results are pending and should be announced at this May's JETC where it will be presented. SAME National only awards this medal to one individual per year and Mike certainly deserves to be this year's winner for all his efforts and years served in SAME.

Congratulations to everyone on their recent achievements!



#### Post Officers

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#### SAME Robins Post 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. Art Warner, our Sustaining Member Director, at 478.923.5999 ext 12 or at arthur.warner@amec.com.

#### **Accepting Abstracts**

We are currently accepting abstracts for presenters and Presentations in 2012. Let us know what presentation topics or presenters would most interest you. We want to know what is important to you. Please contact Mr. Ken Branton at kenneth\_branton@urscorp.com with feedback or for more information.