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○ January 2012

○ [www.samerobins.org](http://www.samerobins.org)

# THE FLYER

Newsletter of the Robins AFB Post: Society of American Military Engineers



*Preview of January 2012 SAME Presentation, entitled “Design of the Panama Canal Third Set of Locks”. This presentation will be given by Nicholas Pansic of MWH Global, Inc.*

## Design of the Panama Canal Third Set of Locks

Mr. Pansic will present insights into some of the key design aspects of the Panama Canal Authority’s Third Set of Locks design-build project, currently underway and scheduled for completion in 2014.



MWH is the leader of the design joint venture - CICP Consultores Internacionales – supporting the construction JV team Grupo Unidos Por el Canal (GUPEC) for the project.

A brief history of the Canal expansion program, including business drivers and master planning aspects, will be given to provide context for the conceptual design and technical requirements of the Post-Panamax locks. Design aspects of the tender design that led to the highest ranked technical proposal and lowest design-build price, will be presented. Key technical challenges, including lock filling and emptying systems, seismic design of the lock structures, and design of the innovative rolling lock gates, will be discussed. Use of technologies such as facilities information system (FIM) technologies in delivering the project efficiently will also be described.

## Time for the 2012 Elections!

A new year is beginning and that means it is time for Board Member Elections! Several board positions will be on the ballot:

- President
- Treasurer
- Assistant Secretary
- Director of Events/Small Business
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Director of Sustaining Membership
- Directors of National Security

Come out to the January 18th meeting for your chance to vote on the new 2012 Robins Post Board!

## Presenter's Bio: Nick Pansic



Nick Pansic, PE is Vice President for MWH's Americas Operations based in Chicago, USA. In this role, he is responsible for strategic planning, business development, client relationship management, and project management for infrastructure programs worldwide. Over his 33-year career, Nick has contributed to the planning, design, and construction of major wet infrastructure programs on five continents. His areas of expertise include water resources development, dam design and rehabilitation, inland and ocean navigation, and shoreline protection and enhancement.

Since 1999, Nick has been an active participant in studies supporting the expansion of the Panama Canal. This includes: studies of new channel alignments for the third set of locks; engineering and environmental support to the 2005 Canal Master Plan; and his current role as Deputy Design Engineer for the \$3.5 billion Third Set of Locks design-build project.

Nick has Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a registered professional engineer in five states, has authored numerous technical papers, and is active in the American Society of Civil Engineers and the International Navigation Association (PIANC).

## SAME Spotlight: Member of the Month

Mr. Jeff Ball is currently working as the Federal and Large Projects Manager at Superior Solar Systems, LLC, and has been an advocate for sustainable development for many years. For example, Jeff has worked with the Audubon International for over 15 years on such sustainable community projects as the Reserve at Spano's Park in Stockton, CA, Coronado Island Golf Course, and many others.



Early in his career, Jeff worked with first 8A's on the Army Corps of Engineer's Tom Bigbee Waterway, which is the largest real dirt moving project of our time. The waterway is a 234 mile man-made, artificial waterway that links commercial navigation from the nation's midsection to the Gulf of Mexico. Jeff was also US Navy Seabee from 1989 to 1998 (active and reserve duty).

Jeff attended University of Tennessee for his undergraduate degree studying Plant Science and later attended Auburn University for his Master's Thesis on Wetlands Delineation.

He is married to Col Susan F. Ball (USAF Retired) and has two daughters, Chandler who is a freshman playing softball at Liberty University and Abigail who is a junior at Warner Robins High School.



The next Robins Post General Meeting will be held on **18 January 2012 at 11:30 am**. The meeting will be held in the Horizon's Atrium. All are welcome.

### Upcoming Dates in 2012

**18 January:** 1130 hours: SAME General Meeting immediately preceded by SAME Robins Post Board/Officer's Meeting. A presentation about the Design of the Panama Canal Third Set of Locks will be given by MWH Global. Elections will also be held at this meeting.

**26-28 January:** Student Leader Workshop in San Diego, CA. For more information or to submit an application, please contact Kashae Williams, SAME Post Operations Specialist, at [kwilliams@same.org](mailto:kwilliams@same.org).

**Interested in presenting at the 2012 Joint Engineer Training Conference (JETC)?** SAME is looking for outstanding session ideas for the SAME 2012 JETC Program. Please visit [www.same.org/jetc](http://www.same.org/jetc) for additional information on the 2012 JETC Call for Papers.

## 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."*



camp where Evan was able to focus on engineering concepts with fellow students who might one day become the engineers of the future. To the right is the letter that Evan wrote.

# A Thank You from a Scholarship Winner

Dear SAME Members:

I apologize for the delay, but I would like to sincerely thank you for providing me with the opportunity to experience the SAME Engineering and Construction Camp in Colorado Springs, CO over the summer. I had a great time and got to meet many great people from all over the U.S. I also learned many valuable engineering concepts that will help me as I pursue my goal to become either an aerospace or electrical engineer. I especially enjoyed the camp atmosphere – it was almost impossible not to have a good time. My favorite event of the camp was the concrete beam competition. We designed and constructed a sixteen foot concrete beam reinforced with rebar and tested it to see how much weight it could hold. Although my group's beam did not hold the most weight, I still had a great time and conveniently learned how we should have constructed the beam after we tested it. Overall, the SAME Engineering and Construction Camp was a life-changing experience, and I cannot thank you all enough for allowing me to attend!

Sincerely,

Evan Hopf

## Sustaining Member Spotlight:



A pioneer in groundbreaking scientific and engineering developments since the 1960s, TRC is a national engineering consulting and construction management firm that provides integrated services to the energy, environmental, and infrastructure markets. TRC serves a broad range of clients in government and industry, implementing complex projects from initial concept to delivery and operation. TRC delivers results that enable clients to achieve success in a complex and changing world.



TRC's clients depend on us to design solutions to their toughest business challenges. Our multidisciplinary project teams are experts in the following areas.

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- Energy Efficiency
- Hydropower Licensing, Relicensing and Compliance
- Power Delivery
- Renewable Energy

### Energy Services

- Construction Engineering and Inspection
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Municipal Engineering
- Security
- Site Development Engineering
- Transportation Infrastructure Design

### Environmental Services

- Air Quality Services
- Biological Studies and Services
- Brownfields
- Building Sciences and Industrial Hygiene
- Carbon Strategy Services
- Compliance Strategies
- Cultural Resources Management
- Environmental Health and Safety Management
- Environmental Permitting and Licensing
- Exit Strategy/Environmental Liability Transfer
- Solid Waste Management
- Sustainability Advisory Services
- Water Resources



For more information, visit TRC's website at [www.TRCSolutions.com](http://www.TRCSolutions.com).

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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. Paul Koch, our Sustaining Member Director, at 513.703.9050 or [pkoch@lviservices.com](mailto:pkoch@lviservices.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](mailto:kenneth_branton@urscorp.com) with feedback or for more information.