



Leader Development Program Class of 2021-22



Capt Victoria Cachro, Director of Operations/Housing Flight Commander, USAF
Pacific Region: Korea Post
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Capt Victoria Cachro is the Kaiserslautern Military Community Housing Flight Commander for the 86th Civil Engineer Squadron, 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. She joined the Society of American Military Engineers in 2012. Capt Cachro started her career at Andersen AFB, Guam after graduating and commissioning through the United States Air Force Academy in 2013. During that time, she served as Project Programmer and Strategic Planner for over 152 projects and secured the base's first joint MILCON project. In 2015 Capt Cachro moved to Turkey where she was the Emergency Management and Housing Flight Commanders. While there she was the Emergency Operations Center Manager for numerous exercises, inspections and the real world Turkish Attempted Coup in 2016. Additionally, she managed 25 personnel and transitioned over 650 homes for unaccompanied airmen due to the base's change following a non-combatant evacuation operation. During this time, she also completed her Master's in Business Administration with an Emphasis in Project Management from Colorado Christian University.

From 2016-2018 Capt Cachro was a Contingency Response Pavements Engineer where she conducted real world pavement evaluations across the United as well as the Caribbean supporting humanitarian efforts following Hurricane Maria in 2017. In 2018 she moved to Korea where she was the Project Management Chief at Kunsan Air Base. While there she led 47 personnel in executing 87 projects worth \$362 million. She also completed her second Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Louisville. In 2019 she became the Director of Operations for the 86th Civil Engineer Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. She deployed to Afghanistan where she was also the Director of Operations for the 455th Expeditionary Support Squadron leading 564 personnel in supporting airfield defense, base maintenance, communications, personnel and logistics. Capt Cachro currently leads the Air Force's second largest housing flight with 211 personnel supporting the 66,000 personnel of the Kaiserslautern Military Community. She recently won the 2020 Major General Eugene A. Lupia Award for Company Grade Officer of the Year at the Air Force level.

Fun Facts:

- I've spent over 6 out of my 8 years in the Air Force outside the United States.
- I have traveled to every continent except Antarctica.
- I taught myself how to juggle.



Josh Cohen, P.E., PMP, Project Manager, Kiewit
Lower Mississippi Region: Louisiana Post
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Josh Cohen was born in Annapolis, Maryland and growing up he enjoyed baseball and skateboarding, even going to skateboard camp in the summers. During school Josh worked for a homebuilder and landscape company until his senior year, when he

started his own landscaping company. Josh really, really, really enjoyed being his own boss the summer of his senior year.

Josh attended Virginia Tech and received a Bachelor of Science in Building Construction. During college Josh interned for Whiting Turner and Kiewit.

Professionally Josh started work full time with Kiewit after College and has worked on projects with Kiewit all over the United States and Canada. Josh has worked on bridges, industrial facilities, airports, and pump stations. Josh has worked on an electrical ductbank with 100 miles of conduit; on the development of an LNG export terminal and on the design build project rebuilding of the Biloxi Bay Bridge after Hurricane Katrina.

Josh is active in many professional societies including the serving on the boards for the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) - Louisiana Post where Josh currently serves as the Jr. Vice President and Chair of the Younger Professional Committee, and the Engineers Without Borders - New Orleans Professional Chapter as well as working on the Association of General Contractors-USACE Task Force Committee.

Josh has been a registered Engineer licensed in Newfoundland (P.Eng.) since 2014 and a Project Management Professional since 2016. Josh is also a licensed general contractor with multiple subdiscipline specialties.

Personally, Josh is a lifelong sports participant with mediocre talents enjoying everything from bowling to basketball. Recently Josh has started enjoying crossfit and is pretty mediocre at that as well! Josh currently lives in Orlando and New Orleans with his girlfriend Jenny and dog Jasper.

Fun Facts:

- I have helped design and renovate 9 kitchens in the last 4 years and been paid for my work with friendship and gratitude. I am still looking for places that accept friendship and gratitude as payment. Can you use these to buy bitcoins?
- I am a proud member of the [Krewe of the Rolling Elvi!](#)
- Other than 2020 (covid) for the last six years I was very cool and had an amazing number of friends exactly one day a year, when I hosted a block party the Sunday before Mardi Gras. This involved a brass band on my porch and about 300 of my closest friends.



Capt. Eric Collett, Operations Officer and USACE Liaison to SAME, USACE Middle Atlantic Region: Washington Post
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Born and raised in Newport News, Virginia, I decided to join the U.S. Army as an Airborne Infantryman during my senior of high school after the events of September 11th, 2001. Upon graduating Menchville High School I immediately shipped to Ft. Benning GA, for Basic Training and Airborne School. During my eight years of enlisted service, I was stationed around the globe assigned to units in Korea, Italy, and Germany. I also completed two combat tours with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in the mountains of Afghanistan. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I held every leadership position from Team Leader to Platoon Sergeant and served in Mechanized, Stryker, and Airborne formations. As an Army recruiter in Boston Massachusetts, I completed my undergraduate degree at Endicott College and applied for Officer Candidate School (OCS).

After completing OCS and commissioning as an Engineer Officer, my first duty assignment was with the 2nd Striker Brigade Combat Team, 25th ID in Schofield Barracks Hawaii where I served as a Sapper Platoon Leader. I subsequently assumed roles as an Operations Officer, Task Force Engineer, and then Executive Officer. When I left Hawaii in 2015 to complete the Engineer Captains Career Course, I capitalized on the

opportunity to complete the Master of Science in Geological Engineering program at Missouri University of Science and Technology. I also earned a Graduate Certificate in Military Construction Management.

My next duty assignment with Army Central Command (USARCENT) at Shaw AFB in South Carolina involved planning and coordinating engineer efforts in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, Operation Spartan Shield, and Operation Freedom's Sentinel which required synchronizing efforts across different echelons of command and a dozen different units. While in this assignment, I participated in USARCENT's Operational Planning Teams, integrated Echelon Above Brigade engineer assets, and developing construction plans in support of contingency planning, exercises, and contingency operations.

In my next assignment as Basic Training Company Commander of B Co, 3rd BN 39th Infantry Regiment at Ft. Jackson, I became an expert in Army Training methodology and training management. I led and mentored more than 30 Drill Sergeant Instructors while transforming over 2000 civilians into Soldiers. I was selected to join the team that rewrote the Basic Training Program of Instruction (POI), personally authoring the discipline Line of Effort. I also led my company through the Army's first ever iteration of "The Forge." This new POI is now being taught to every Soldier in Basic Training and "The Forge" is now the culminating training exercise that gives civilian trainees the right to be called Soldiers.

After Command, I was assigned to my current position with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Operation Center (UOC) in Washington, DC where I serve as an Operations Officer for USACE. Receiving, analyzing, and disseminating information in support of the USACE contingency mission. Coordinating actions and communications with DOD, Army Headquarters, Combatant Commands, Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, other federal agencies to provide unity of effort in support of the Chief of Engineers' intent.

Fun Facts:

- Surfing is my passion! I moved to Hawaii in 2011, took a lesson my 2nd day on the Island and bought my first board on my 4th day, I was instantly hooked and was surfing 3-4 times a week at a minimum. By the time I left Hawaii 4 years later I had 11 surfboards and 2 stand up paddle boards. Now that I no longer live in Hawaii I don't get to surf as much as I would like to, but I still make a few trips a year to the Central America for Surf Camp. And if the forecast is good enough, I'll go on strike missions to the beaches of Maryland or New Jersey.
- I have been very fortunate in my Army career to have spent most of my time stationed out of the continental US. I have lived in Korea, Italy, Germany, and Hawaii. During one 4-year period I spent less than 30 days in the US. I used these locations as jumping off points to see the world, in total I have been to 34 different countries.
- I love trivia, one of the worst parts of the pandemic for me personally has been the cancellation of pub trivia. In Boston I played trivia with the same team almost weekly for 3 years, we always made the top 3 and had a rival team of university professors that always came down to the wire with us.



Taylor Daigle, P.E., Construction and O&M Manager, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)
Lower Mississippi Region: Louisiana Post
New Orleans
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Taylor Daigle is an Engineer for the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), a Louisiana State Agency.

Taylor joined CPRA in April 2019. She manages construction and operations and maintenance (O&M) of coastal engineering projects including marsh creation projects, shoreline protection projects, crevasses, and flood protection projects. In her two years at CPRA, she has successfully managed the construction of three projects, including a recreational use project funded by the BP Oil Spill settlement that included the excavation of crevasses and construction of docks in the Mississippi River Delta, the closest landmass to the location of the

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Taylor is looking forward to kicking off her largest project yet, a marsh creation project slated to create 774 acres of marsh in the Golden Triangle area near New Orleans. The contract award is anticipated in May 2021.

Taylor came to CPRA from the private sector, working with AECOM. While at AECOM, she started in an environmental permitting role and transitioned into a role in natural disaster resilience and construction management for disaster recovery. Following back-to-back Category 5 Hurricanes Irma and Maria, Taylor was deployed to the US Virgin Islands for 13 months serving as a Project Engineer for the Emergency Home Repairs program (EHVRI). In another project of note, Taylor served as local project lead for a survey on the natural disaster resilience of small businesses in New Orleans.

Taylor is a third-generation SAME member and has been attending meetings hosted by the Louisiana Post since 2013. She currently serves as the Post treasurer.

Taylor graduated from Tulane University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and is licensed as a Professional Engineer in the State of Louisiana. She resides in New Orleans, Louisiana. She loves her home of New Orleans, but she also loves to explore new places. Prior to starting her engineering career, Taylor spent the year after she graduated from college teaching English in Murcia, Spain.

Fun Facts:

- I am PADI certified as an Advanced Open Water Diver.
- I spent 29 days hiking the Camino de Santiago. On the first day, I crossed from France to Spain on foot. On the last day, I was on the shore of the Atlantic in Finesterre, Spain.
- A (distant) relative of mine wrote the Dictionary of the Cajun Language, and I own a signed copy of it.



Julie Eiter, P.E., LEED AP BD+C, Federal Services Mechanical Department Head, Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp.
Missouri River Region: Greater Kansas City Post
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Julie is a licensed mechanical engineer in the state of Kansas and graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in Architectural Engineering. With more than 17 years of experience in the A/E/C industry, she started her career at a mid-size firm designing building mechanical systems for pharmaceutical companies. After 6 years, she joined Black & Veatch's Federal Services Division. Since then, she has provided HVAC, mechanical and plumbing design solutions for USACE and other government agencies. Currently, she is the Mechanical Department Head, overseeing the mechanical staff for the company's Federal work, advising those in her department about their own career development.

Julie has a passion for helping our nation's veterans both through her everyday work and her volunteer opportunities. She is Vice President for the company's Military Employee Resource Group Engagement (MERGE) – a group that supports both internal and external veterans and active-duty members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Services. Through this group, she has helped to create a Memorial Day Remembrance event to help educate others about the meaning of Memorial Day, sends care packages to employees or their family members stationed overseas, and helped to create a leadership speaker series featuring those who have or currently serve. One of her favorite events is the SAME Career Transition Event. She enjoys talking with those about to transition out of the military and helping them figure out what they want their next career to look like.

She currently resides in the Kansas City Area with her family. She spends her free time balancing her children's activities with her own interests.

Fun Facts:

- I'm presenting this year at JETC for this time!
- I share a birthday with Mickey Mouse
- I've dressed up in 1860's period clothing while volunteering with my kids at the historic Mahaffie Farmstead and Stagecoach Stop



Suzanne Grix, Business Development Manager-West Region, Forgen
 California Region: Sacramento Post
 Rocklin, CA
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Suzanne Grix graduated from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan with a bachelor's degree in Sales & Business Marketing and is currently the West Region Business Development Manager for Forgen, LLC in Rocklin, California.

She started her career in an entry level position with its predecessor, Terra Contracting, where she accepted an offer for internship and subsequent full-time position as Territory Sales Manager within months of beginning work and while still finishing her bachelor's degree. She sold underground infrastructure and industrial maintenance services across Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana before being promoted in the Fall of 2015 to the firm's environmental remediation division. She led business development for an eight-state region in the upper Midwest before accepting a transfer to the company's California office to sell remediation, geotechnical, and specialty civil construction services across the Western United States.

Throughout her 10-years with the firm, Suzanne had made many achievements including leading strategic initiatives in increasing pipelines in potential new service territories, spearheading the company's small business mentor-protégé joint venture, and sparking the complete rebranding of the company in 2019. She played a key role in the restructuring of the firm's customer relationship management software and was part of a select team nominated to develop and roll-out a corporate employee training and development framework. In 2020, she was integral to the capture of the largest project win in company history at the time of award (\$102M) and provided sales leadership that resulted in the capture of nearly \$330M of new work.

Suzanne is passionate about service to the industry having previously served as President of the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction and Vice Chair of the Young Professionals for the West Michigan Air & Waste Management Association. She currently serves the Committee for the Flood Management Association's Emerging Professionals, is an Elected Director on the Board for the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Sacramento Post, and is the Conferences Vice Chair for the national SAME Young Professionals Community of Interest. She is the recipient of NAWIC's New Leader (2014) and Foremost Leader (2016) awards and the SAME Regional Vice President Medal (2020).

Outside of work, Suzanne enjoys running, hiking, biking, and camping with her boyfriend, Steve, and "Ausky", Bonnie. She is passionate about continual improvement self-sponsoring several multi-day personal development conferences, endurance racing, completing her Toastmasters "Competent Communicator", leading her own book club, and self-publishing a weekly personal growth e-newsletter to a subscriber base of around 70 readers.

Fun Facts:

- I have walked on fire
- I publish a weekly personal development newsletter
- I've ran a 50k ultra marathon



Frances Hinkley, P.E., Account/Program Manager, Jacobs
South Central Region: Mobile Post
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Frances Hinkley is a Client Account Manager at Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. with a proven track record in sales for and management of federal programs for over 8 years. She oversees USACE environmental accounts and leads Jacobs' sales team to set visions and maximize successful strategies to execute work with federal partners.

She mentors and motivates teams to engage with key clients to offer Jacobs' best-in-class solutions. In doing such, she has effectively secured \$1B+ in total contract capacity for USACE Districts in the past year.

Prior to joining Jacobs, Frances worked for USACE, Mobile District where she served as a Technical Manager with a specialty in Environmental Compliance. During her tenure with USACE, she spent 2.5 years with the Afghanistan Engineer District – South, where she successfully managed a \$240M construction program which earned her the Superior Civilian Service Award in 2012. Frances graduated from the University of South Alabama with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering in 2003 and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Alabama. Frances has been a member of SAME since 2001 and currently serves as an Elected Director for the SAME Mobile Post.

In her spare time, Frances enjoys everything CrossFit, hiking, reading, and spending time with friends and family. She resides in Daphne, Alabama.

Fun Facts:

- I had a near death experience when I was 20 years old.
- I can back squat over 250 lbs and deadlift over 300 lbs.
- I'm an impulsive shopper.



Wendy Kerkhoff, Department Manager, Thielsch Engineering, Inc.
New England Region: Narragansett Bay Post
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Wendy currently serves as the Manager of the Construction Testing Services and Non-Destructive Examination/Welder Training departments of Thielsch Engineering, Inc. (TEI). With over 12 years of experience in the field, Wendy has extensive knowledge regarding Quality Assurance and Quality Control processes. She accomplishes departmental goals by creating clear and attainable objectives; hands-on

QA/QC over-site of staff; building technical capabilities through staffing and training; and managing the triple constraints of budget, schedule, and scope.

While at TEI, Wendy has worked on numerous federal projects for USACE, NAVFAC, and the DOD. Early in her career, she was the primary technician working at the Naval Submarine Base New London. Major projects included the Tomahawk Missile Vertical Launch System (VLS) and the Submarine Escape Training Facility. As the manager for the testing department, Wendy has continued to foster relationships with local military bases and holds a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers / Naval Facilities Engineering Command Construction Quality Management for Contractors (CQM-C) certification. TEI is the primary testing agency for Naval Station Newport and maintains an Army Corps of Engineers Laboratory Validation for soils aggregate, concrete, and masonry methods. For several years now, TEI has provided Welder Training services to General Dynamic Electric Boat's submarine and ship welders.

Ms. Kerkhoff holds an Associates of Science degree in Engineering and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics. She is a member of several societies, including the Society for American Military Engineers

(SAME), the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS International), the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), the Massachusetts Building Congress, and the Providence Engineering Society (PES), and has held various society positions throughout her career.

Currently, Wendy lives by the ocean in Warwick, RI with her dogs, Juno and Lily, and her cat, Toothless. In her spare time, she enjoys golfing, home improvement projects, and spending time with her daughter, Sam.

Fun Facts:

- I have a license to run a boat, fly a drone, ride a motorcycle and drive an automobile.
- I enjoy working on my home and have built a porch, deck, tile floors/walls, installed a wood stove, etc.
- I was named by my sister after the character "Wendy" in Peter Pan.



James Kline, P.E, LC, Building Information Modeling (BIM) Manager, National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS)
North Atlantic Region: Mid-Maryland Post
Germantown, MD
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Jay currently consults as a Building Information Modeling (BIM) Manager and Developer for federal agencies through the National Institute of Building Sciences. He manages the development of BIM-related workflows, best practices, and adoption for NIBS' clients with the intent to empower owners, architects, engineers, and construction contractors in utilizing BIM to advance the AEC industry forward and improve the built environment in which we live. Jay holds a Bachelor of Architectural Engineering and a Minor of Military Studies from the Pennsylvania State University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and certified Lighting Design Professional.

Prior to accepting a role at NIBS, Jay started as a lighting and electrical engineer for an MEP Design firm where he focused on designing for healthcare, medical research, and hospitality projects. During his time designing lighting, he won an international lighting design award for outstanding lighting controls design and implementation at the Convene offices at Terrel Place in Washington, D.C. After spending several years focused on design, he began to grow his passion and influence in the focus area of BIM which gradually positioned him to lead the inception and development of the firm's BIM program. The success of this program empowered him to take on additional responsibilities such as Training Program Manager, and Lighting Quality Control Leader prior to transitioning to his role at NIBS.

Jay currently serves as a Captain in the US Army Reserve working closely with other officers at the US Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in Washington, D.C. to provide engineering expertise primarily during times of national crisis and disasters. Outside of work, Jay loves to cook, read, garden, exercise, learn anything, and design his someday home (in a BIM model of course).

Fun Facts:

- I grew up on a farm, and I still butcher all my own meat (other than chicken and fish)
- I am designing my own home in Revit
- As of recently, I own virtual land



Lori Kropidlowski, Sr. Business Development & Marketing Group Manger, Ahtna Solutions, LLC
Pacific Region: Anchorage Post
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Lori Kropidlowski has more than 28 years of A/E/C specific sales and marketing experience. She holds her certification as a Certified Professional Services Marketer (CPSM) through the Society of Marketing Professional Services (SMPS) and a Foundation level certification through the Association of Proposal Management Professionals (APMP). Lori has a varied background which includes marketing efforts and the preparation of proposal/bids for federal, municipal, village, and private clients. She currently serves as the Sr. BD/Marketing Group Manager for Ahtna Environmental, Inc., an Alaska Native Corporation (ANC) owned firm while also supporting four other of its sister subsidiaries. In 2020, she applied and won the SAME Small Business of the Year Award for her firm.

Before joining Ahtna in 2017, Lori served as the Sales/Marketing Director at PDC Engineers for 9 years. During her tenure at PDC, the firm grew from an 80-person, 2-office firm – to a 110 person, 5-office firm. Her individual win rate is 49% with a 92% shortlist rate (ranked in the top 3) for proposal pursuits. This nearly doubles the national average (according to SMPS).

Prior to PDC, she was the Sales Manager for The Tatitlek Village Corporation where she provided the initial set-up and management of this Alaska Native Village Corporation’s marketing/sales department supporting six SBA 8(a) subsidiaries. Prior to that she was an Associate and Proposal Coordinator with USKH, Inc., an Alaska multi-disciplined A/E firm (now part of Stantec). In her early career, Lori worked in Washington D.C. for Alaska’s Senator Ted Stevens.

Lori is also active in several professional societies. She has served on the SAME Anchorage Post’s Board of Directors since 2014. In addition, she serves as the Anchorage Post’s Centennial Celebration National Liaison (2020-2021); and on many SAME committees including Chair for the Annual Awards Banquet (2018-2021), golf tournament planning committee (2017-2020), and the Benjamin B. Talley Fund Scholarship Fund application reviewer (2019-2020). In 2020, Lori was the recipient of the SAME Regional Vice President’s Medal of Honor for Outstanding Service to the SAME Anchorage Post.

Since 2018, Lori has also served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) where she currently serves as Vice President and Co-Chair of Programs. She is also an active member with SMPS, APMP, as well as the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA).

Lori is a lifelong Alaskan, born in Fairbanks but raised in Anderson and Anchorage. Lori and her husband Ken currently reside in Anchorage, Alaska. She has three grown sons (all who have served in the military – Marine, Sailor, and Air Guardsman), and she loves her four grandbabies and fur baby (a Miniature Schnauzer named Finnigan). In addition to enjoying time with family, Lori loves gardening, movies, travel, and being active in her community.

Fun Facts:

- In kindergarten through second grade, me and the other school kids had to walk to school in winter temperatures that were often down too negative 30- and at times reached negative 50-below zero.
- My Pork Chili Verde has won every Chili Contest I have ever entered (totaling eight First Place or People’s Choice awards).
- Conservatively over my career, I have completed over 20,000 staff resumes (probably many more).



Pam Little, P.E., PMP, Program Manager, Pond & Company
South Atlantic Region: Atlanta Post
Peachtree Corners, GA
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Pamela (Pam) Little is currently the Program Manager for the Army Program at Pond. In this role, she works with a team of approximately 25 individuals to provide comprehensive and innovative solutions to the US Army Corps of Engineers and their DOD and non-DOD customers.

Pam is a licensed civil engineer in the states of Georgia and Florida and is a certified Project Management Professional. She has 22 years of experience in engineering and construction project management with key roles on projects ranging from less than \$1M to over \$500M in total project cost. Her expertise includes implementation of innovative solutions, production of concept through construction drawings, value engineering, sustainable design integration, project permitting, construction costing, and change management. She strives to contribute to project success through collaboration, consultation, and teamwork, while providing exceptional customer service and assisting her clients to navigate the challenges of project development.

Pam has also been active in the engineering community. She has been active with the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) since 2010 and previously served as the President of the SAME Atlanta Post. She is currently serving as the Deputy Regional Vice President for the SAME South Atlantic Region. She has also been heavily involved with the Atlanta Chapter of Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) and currently is serving as a Director for their Board. In the past she has served as the Awards Chair for the Atlanta chapter of Women in Transportation Seminars (WTS) and has volunteered her time for various student STEM programs and other community organizations, including Introduce a Girl to Engineering, the Society of Women Engineers Georgia Tech chapter, the Exploring Engineering Academy, the Technology Student Association Conference, and Construction.

Pam earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia University in New York City and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. She has since participated in many continuing education opportunities, including the CREW Atlanta Leadership course and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia's Engineering Leadership Academy. Her national awards include the SAME Tudor Medal and the CREW Network Impact Award for Career Advancement of Women, both received in 2014.

Fun Facts:

- I have swum to the top of Victoria Falls.
- My best friend is a 75-pound chocolate lab.
- The most stressful thing I have done for my current job was navigate a boom lift (aerial work platform) through an active installation and hangars full of Army helicopters. I got certified to operate the lift 2 days before flying to the project site.



Matthew Matteson, P.E. PG, Geological Engineer, Wood
Great Lakes Region: Detroit Post
Novi, MI
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Matt Matteson is Wood's Digital Lead for their Consulting – Resilient Environments branch of the business. He is also co-located at the Gordie Howe International Bridge and Ford Motor Company, where he spends most of his workweek. He is self-driven, a triple published author, including twice in TME, and is involved with project automation, application support, and the inter-connectivity of the O365 cloud environment through low-code

automation. He is passionate about saving time and seeing things done quicker but also at a higher quality and drives efficiencies in the business.

He supports the deployment of Trimble XR-10 with HoloLens 2 headsets within Wood and leads development and support on the headsets for the Gordie Howe bridge. Some of Matt's achievements include deployment of automated daily e-mails and text messages surrounding project requirements, such as weather required sampling or time-delayed follow-up, database flattening to present to stakeholders, remote assistance via headsets, AI form processing, 3D modeling, and many other digital initiatives. He has participated in industry pilot programs on next Gen software solutions, and actively pursues advancement of digital technology on as many projects as possible.

Matt is a graduate of Michigan Technological University where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Geological Engineering. He is also a board accredited Professional Geologist in the State of Wisconsin, and a Professional Engineer with a civil focus in the State of Michigan.

Matt is also President of SAME Detroit Post. He has been involved with SAME for nearly the entirety of his career and has had the privilege of working with the Young Members Community of Interest, the credentialing committee, and several positions within the Detroit SAME Board of Directors and Executive Board prior to his status as Post President.

In his free time, he enjoys running, biking, and learning about new technologies, and is constantly seeking self-improvement, as well as spending time with his son, Henry.

Fun Facts:

- Grew up on a horse farm
- Studied game theory in college, highly competitive
- Follows a plant-based diet



Dr. Josh McClure, PhD, P.E., CFM, PMP, Senior Program Manager, Halff Associates, Inc.
Texoma Region: Fort Worth Post
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Josh is a water resources senior project manager at Halff Associated, Inc. in Richardson (Dallas), Texas. Over the last 16 years in the industry, he has developed expertise is in the areas of flood studies, flood mitigation, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, dam safety, streambank stabilization, and regulatory compliance. While his expertise is in water resources, he also has significant experience managing a wide array of architectural and engineering projects for cities, USACE, VA, USFS, and private clients. These projects have included environmental permitting, building design, site development, water and wastewater design, master planning, and municipal permitting review. With this breadth of experience, he has developed a unique approach to solving a wide array of engineering problems.

He has a PhD in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from University of Illinois, but he is really an Aggie with an undergrad and master's degrees from Texas A&M University. While at A&M he met his wife Amanda. They have one 15-year old, curly headed future engineer, son.

In his "spare" time, Josh serves as the scoutmaster for his son's Boy Scout troop, which allows him to enjoy his favorite outdoor pursuits, like canoeing, biking, hiking, and camping. When not scouting, Josh enjoys cooking and drinking craft beer, cocktails, and anything else delicious.

Josh has been involved in SAME for over 10 years and has been on the Fort Worth Post Board for the last five years. He is currently serving as Post President.

Fun Facts:

- I enjoy country-western dancing, which is how I met my wife.
- I once secured a job interview with a British company in Oxford, while waiting in line to enter the Vatican in Rome, while talking to a couple from Maggie Valley, North Carolina, where I had honeymooned with my Texas wife, who had started the conversation (because I'm an engineer and she is not).
- My work has taken me to Saipan and Rota, two of the most beautiful places in America (and it's protectorates) that you've never heard of.



CDR Kris Neset, P.E., MSM-USPHS, Engineer Consultant, Center for Disease Control (CDC)

Rocky Mountain Region: Pikes Peak Post
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CDR Neset is currently an Engineer Consultant for the Center for Disease Control (CDC), National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH), Water, Food, and Environmental Health Services Branch (WFEHSB), Safe Water Section in Atlanta, GA. He is responsible for providing professional consultation services in all aspects of safe water (drinking water and clean water) at a national-level scope. His experience includes several years as a civil engineer in private practice as well as over thirteen years of experience with the Indian Health Service (IHS) as a Field Engineer, Senior Engineer Consultant, and Tribal Utility Consultant. CDR Neset has served multiple public health deployments with the US Public Health Service (USPHS): Hurricane Ike Recovery (2008), Mouse River Flooding Recovery (2011), Hurricane Maria Response (2017), Hurricane Maria Recovery (2018), Navajo Nation Water Access Mission (2020), Navajo Home Water Cistern and On-Site Wastewater Disposal Mission (2020). In addition, CDR Neset served in IHS agency specific deployments to Rosebud IHS Hospital (2018) and Pine Ridge IHS Hospital (2019).

Prior to transferring to the USPHS, he served twelve years in the ND Army National Guard (enlisted and officer) and served a 15-month deployment as a platoon leader conducting route clearance missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005-2006. CDR Neset has a B.S. in Construction Engineering from North Dakota State University and a M.S. in Management from Minot State University. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of North Dakota.

Fun Facts:

- I love watersports at the lake, and I am still able to barefoot on 1 foot at 40 mph; I have been to the Chiropractor and Physical Therapy for back issues over the years.
- My wife and I have two daughters that just so happen to be obsessed with competing in two of the most expensive sports: one in figure skating and one in English riding. I was going to track how much we spent on these two sports in 2020 but my wife advised against that.
- In high school cross-country, I witnessed a teammate/friend that got trampled over by a deer while we were running hills (he was injured for about a week). This fact is more about my friend but since the deer was about a one foot away from myself, I figured I can count it. I thanked my friend for "taking one for the team" that day. He didn't find it funny.



Travis Pital, P.E., M.S., Project Manager, PacRim Engineering
 California Region: San Diego Post
 San Diego, CA
 tpital@pacrimengineering.com

Travis Pital is a Professional Civil Engineer in the State of California who graduated from San Diego State University (SDSU) with a bachelor’s and master’s degree in Civil Engineering. He is a native of Los Angeles, California but spent a large portion of his childhood in Frederick, Maryland and Tampa, Florida. He currently works for PacRim Engineering as a Project Manager, joining the firm in 2017 to open a new office in San Diego, CA while fulfilling an (8a) IDIQ contract for NAVFAC SW. He primarily works as a civil engineering consultant for NAVFAC, A/E Firms and Design Builders, executing projects on various military installations across the NAVFAC SW Area of Responsibility (AOR).

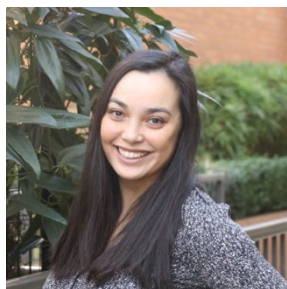
Travis has become heavily involved with the SAME San Diego Post over the years and currently serves as the Young Professional (YP) Committee Chair and sits on the Board of Directors. During his tenure as YP chair, he successfully assembled a group of individuals that have planned many networking events for retired and active-duty military personnel as well as other industry professionals. During the COVID-19 pandemic, his committee hosted many virtual networking events that included educational sessions such as teleworking tips, “Socially-Distanced” Happy Hours and games such as bingo and trivia to keep the SAME San Diego Young Professionals engaged during an uncertain time. Prior to serving as YP chair, Travis was responsible for coordinating other events that included a joint Orange County and San Diego SAME trip to Catalina Island. The trip included a presentation and tour of the island’s history and infrastructure related challenges. He also led a charitable event that fed families whose children were seeking medical attention at the Ronald McDonald House in San Diego, CA.

In December of 2020, the San Diego Post selected Travis for its Gaslamp Award. This award is presented to a SAME Young Professional who has demonstrated an insightful and new approach in making long-standing improvements in the outreach and inclusion of emerging leaders.

Travis currently resides in San Diego with his wife Erica. The two met during their time at SDSU and have since adopted their beloved Terrier mix, Montezuma (Monty). They enjoy exploring San Diego and other Southern California locations as well as traveling abroad in their free time.

Fun Facts:

- I have taken on the new hobby of cooking and have recently mastered the art of pizza making.
- I love football and am an avid Green Bay Packer fan. I have been able to check off a bucket list item of attending a game at Lambeau field. GO PACK GO!
- I enjoy doing CrossFit.



Faith Powell, Water Resources Engineer, HDR
 Northwest Region: Seattle Post
 Bellevue, WA
 Faith.Powell@hdrinc.com

My industry background is in multidisciplinary river and coastal civil works projects and my educational background is in mechanical engineering. I am currently taking classes to obtain my master’s in civil engineering. I have been in the industry for over seven years. Projects I work on include flow control at dams, inland navigation, flood control, fish passage, intakes, and irrigation. While being a mechanical in a world full of civils is fun, I feel like pursuing my master’s in civil will give me insight to these types of projects that tend to be dominated by civil engineers.

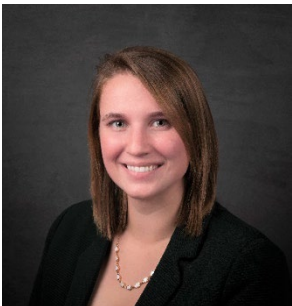
I serve multiple roles in my current place of employment such as being a supervisor to junior staff, a technical discipline lead on a variety of projects and being a project manager. Previous leadership and project management trainings I have had include PSMJ Project Management Bootcamp, HDR internal Project Management training and participation in leadership discussion series through ACEC and SAME. I enjoy the work I do because of the impacts they have on the local and regional level. One of my favorite projects I have been a part of to-date is the design and construction of the third set of locks at the Panama Canal. The experience is something that I will carry with me throughout my career and it was an amazing privilege to be a part of a project that affects world-wide commerce.

I am an active member at the SAME Seattle post and hold the Assistant Treasurer position. In addition to holding the Assistant Treasurer position, I actively assist in event planning for facilitating government and private sector communications. Since COVID, I have helped lead the transition to hosting virtual meetings at the Seattle Post. It has been a fun challenge to navigate this virtual world and bring value to our members, sponsors, and local government.

In my personal time, I play disc golf with my husband and we travel around the United States competing in disc golf tournaments. I am also involved in the local disc golf community where I live. I host in-person disc golf clinics aimed at promoting more women involvement in the sport and provide a safe space for them to learn. My husband and I have two dogs at home who keep us on our toes. I enjoy biking, boating and water sports in the summertime.

Fun Facts:

- I play disc golf professionally and have held an athlete sponsorship since 2019.
- I love nearly all water sports – Swimming, Diving, Wake boarding, Water Skiing, Water Polo. While I competed in those sports in college, I still enjoy them recreationally.
- I'm currently writing and compiling a gluten free cookbook.



Samantha Robbins, Project Environmental Scientist, Stone Environmental Engineering & Science, Inc.
Ohio Valley Region: Kittyhawk Post
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Samantha (Sam) Robbins, a project environmental scientist at STONE Environmental Engineering & Science, Inc. (STONE), has seven years of experience in the A/E/C industry since graduating from The Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. Her expertise includes environmental compliance review and monitoring, regulatory agency coordination, storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) review and inspection, spill prevention control and countermeasures (SPCC) implementation, and training personnel. At STONE, Sam serves as the lead and liaison for Construction Stormwater Compliance on behalf of several municipal and private clients; is the assistant Project Manager for a Statewide Environmental Commitment Monitoring contract for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT); is Project Manager for a wide range of individual projects; has served as assistant Project Manager on an environmental compliance contract for the Mansfield Air National Guard (MANG); and is STONE's Lead for all Stormwater Services.

Prior to STONE, Sam gained the contractor's perspective on project management and compliance by working for the Beaver Excavating Company on ODOT's single largest (\$480M) and first public-private-partnership (PPP) project, the Southern Ohio Veterans Memorial Highway. As the resident environmental compliance specialist, she spent three years performing compliance observations for all environmental concerns covering 1,200 acres, and developed and implemented tracking methods to meet compliance and maintenance schedules. Sam also coordinated extensively between the owners, developers, contractors, engineers, and regulatory agencies to solve construction and engineering challenges in the field and ultimately achieve compliance success.

Sam grew up in a small rural community in Northeast Ohio where her passion to seize any opportunity to volunteer inside and outside of the community was built. She serves in leadership roles for several organizations beyond SAME including the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners Group, and 4-H. Within SAME, Sam serves on the Kittyhawk's post STEM committee and is eager to drive forward the mission to Enrich the STEM Pipeline at the local and national level.

Fun Facts:

- I like my puns intended.
- I am allergic to sloths.
- In my youth, I was once the Rabbit Queen of Ohio.



Capt Bradford Shields, P.E., USAF, Chief, Operations Manager, AFIMSC
European Region: Kaiserslautern Post
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Capt Bradford L. Shields is the Operations Branch Chief, Air Force Installation & Mission Support Center Detachment Four, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Captain Shields advises on the programming activities for United States Air Forces in Europe's \$5B construction portfolio. Captain Shields' operations team consists of the command subject matter experts for fuels and electrical infrastructure, as well as providing command guidance for installation asset management through facility condition assessments of the command's \$54B facility Plant Replacement Value. Additionally, Capt Shields serves as the engineering subject matter expert for Joint Task Force Israel charged with defending our allies and their interests.

Capt Shields is a career civil engineer officer who entered the Air Force in 2011 after receiving his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Program at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina and has 9 years of active-duty service. He has previously been stationed at Luke Air Force Base (AFB), Wright-Patterson AFB, and Kunsan Air Base (AB), while also holding two advanced degrees in Business Administration and General Engineering Management. Captain Shields is also a registered Professional Engineer with the state of North Carolina.

In 2014, Captain Shields attended the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) as a Master's student and pioneered research on 3D printing systems within Civil Engineering Operations. Following AFIT, Captain Shields served at Kunsan AB as the 8th CES's Readiness and Emergency Management Flight Commander leading a 12-person flight, as well as 130 disaster response force members, as the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) emergency response function for the 8th Fighter Wing and southern half of the South Korean peninsula. Finally, prior to his current position, Captain Shields served as the Officer in Charge, European Operations for US Air Forces in Europe Civil Engineer Directorate overseeing the long-range planning of the European Deterrence Initiative program worth over \$1.8B in construction across 17 NATO allies. Additionally, Captain Shields was deployed in 2019 as a Joint Engineer Project Manager for Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. There he planned and executed over 20 projects worth \$8M throughout East Africa, including a large ISR beddown in Southern Somalia supporting theater security operations and two POTUS directed mission sets in the region.

Fun Facts:

- My love for history and travel drove me to open my own small side business as a travel agency, Foxhole Travels, specializing in trips to historical locations
- My wife and I have 2 little boys, Jordan (5) and Zachary (2), who love everything outdoors, Legos, construction, and space, especially the recent coverage of the Mars Perseverance.
- I pin on Major later this summer and will take over as the Operations Flight Commander for the 20 Civil Engineer Squadron, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina



Capt Ariel Waiters, USAF, Project Manager, JBMDL
North Atlantic Region: New Jersey Post
Marlton, NJ
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Capt Ariel L. Waiters is a project manager for the 305th AMW KC-46A Program Integration Office (PIO) at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JBMDL). In his PIO role, he manages and coordinates the requirements for thirty million dollars in construction and renovation projects for KC-46A beddown at JBMDL.

Capt Waiters' Air Force journal began at the United States Air Force Academy Prep School in Colorado Springs, CO, during the summer of 2007. While the Prep School and the Academy were a significant change from the city of Memphis where he was born and raised, his years of attendance help established develop his love of engineering. In 2012, Capt Waiters graduated with a commission in the Air Force and a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Following his graduation, he worked as an Admission Advisor for his alma mater. As an advisor, Capt Waiters traveled throughout the Southeast to educate high school and junior high students on the Academy's opportunities.

Following his advisor duty, Capt Waiters was stationed at Moody AFB, GA as a project programmer and manager. As an additional duty, Capt Waiters became a Master Resilience where he taught active-duty members emotional intelligence skills to assist in coping with stress.

When stationed at JBMDL, Capt Waiters was the chief of the Environmental Compliance Section for the 787th Civil Engineer Squadron. His section coordinated installation compliance projects and plans across 42,000 acres and over 4,000 facilities. He administered program oversight regarding Federal and DoD regulations compliance for JBMDL and 88 mission partners. As an additional duty, he led the 87th Civil Engineer Group's first S-Staff. Under his guidance, the staff planned and executed training for more than two hundred members.

After his Environmental roles, Capt Waiters led 87th Air Base Wing Commander's Action Group for DOD's sole tri-service joint base. My duties consisted of coordinating with 15 organizations consisting of 3000 personnel that supported an installation population of 52,000. During that time, Capt Waiters married his wife, Shaneen.

Fun Facts:

- I enjoy blues dancing.
- I have a budding interest in hydroponics.
- I enjoy a good coffee shop when I write and draw.



Brian Wybrecht, P.E., Engineer, USAREUR-ODCSENG
International Committee: Rhein-Main Post
Wiesbaden, Germany
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Brian Wybrecht is an Engineer and Project Manager for U.S. Army Europe & Africa (USAREUR-AF) Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer (ODCSENG) in Wiesbaden, Germany. He has a variety of projects in Eastern Europe and Israel supporting base infrastructure through the U.S. Military Construction program, the European Defense Initiative, and Foreign Military Sales.

A native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Mr. Wybrecht holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Michigan State University.

He began his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District in 2011 as an intern with the DOD's SMART Scholarship for Service Program and started full time as a Structural Engineer in 2013. As a design engineer he was responsible for providing plans and specifications for drainage and flood control structures. He contributed to several major projects such as Empire Flood Gate, Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Projects, and the Permanent Canal Closure Pump Stations; all constructed in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Wybrecht returned home to serve in a developmental assignment in USACE's Detroit District as the technical lead for the design of the Soo Locks Upstream Approach Walls in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. The Soo Locks construction effort is a \$1 Billion megaproject to construct a larger lock chamber in one of the Great Lakes' most strategic and important shipping channels. Mr. Wybrecht was proud to carry on his family's legacy at the Soo as his grandfather helped construct the Poe Lock in the 1960s.

Mr. Wybrecht has supported USACE's Overseas Contingency Operations by serving as a structural engineer for the Forward Engineering Support Teams (FEST) in USAREUR-AF ODCSENG. During his first stints in Europe, he helped conduct bridge assessments and developed base master plans.

Mr. Wybrecht deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in 2016-2017 to support an Army Reserve FEST where he worked on the planning and design of infrastructure and basing projects in support of US, Coalition, and Iraqi forces.

In his off-time, Mr. Wybrecht plays football for a local German team, supports SAME as the Young Professionals Coordinator, and studies German at a community college. Mr. Wybrecht is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Louisiana.

Fun Facts:

- I worked on a USAID project in Liberia
- I attended a World Cup match and watched Germany play
- I summited a 14,000 ft mountain in Colorado