

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### 2010-2011 Focus Areas

I am humbled by this incredible opportunity to lead the Society of American Military Engineers team; it is a great honor to follow such a motivating leader and patriot as Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, PE., F.SAME, USA. In this, the first of many correspondences I will make as SAME President, I would like to talk about what it means to be a team, and why it is so important to the future of SAME. Without each and every member of our team—the uniformed services, military and civilian alike, our industry partners and our Sustaining Member Companies—SAME would fail.

The strength of a team is dependent on its members. Our team is large, diverse and interdependent. Although being part of SAME certainly makes us better individual professionals, when we combine our talents we become game changers—changing the future of our profession and our nation. That is why our first focus area for this year

addresses increasing uniformed and civil servant members—the core and focus of the military engineer society—as well as emphasizing the value of membership to each and every member.

We set the stage last year for growing uniformed service membership with an outstanding (and unprecedented) measure to waive annual dues for military members, and with a new dues structure for our civil servants employed by a uniformed service. This year, as we continue to grow, we'll tackle the challenge of making SAME exciting and rewarding, especially for our newer or undecided members. We need to continue to attract field experience, technical expertise and innovative leadership to strengthen our SAME team. To recruit these professionals to our cause, we must create value for our members and the clients we jointly serve.

The heart of this effort will be at the Post level. At all great Posts, members at all levels are identifying needs in their community, leading teams and getting involved. We have to be brilliant at the Posts. We need active, passionate members and leaders as well as innovative programs to recruit and retain quality members. That level of involvement inspires others to get involved and continues to build on our success. The next step is to make sure we are communicating and advertising the value of SAME membership, particularly among our uniformed personnel and civil servants. As SAME President, I challenge all members to spread word of the value of SAME membership, so we can continue to build SAME to last.

Engineering is a profession that requires diligence and focused development at all levels, from formal education through apprenticeship to advanced development of our seasoned professional engineers. As true professionals, we must be committed to finding our replacements and honing their skills. We all need mentoring and coaching throughout our careers to help us prepare for an uncertain tomorrow.

As such, our second focus area for this year is to formalize our “Mentorship Continuum,” targeting each critical stage in a member's development. This continuum focuses on children to interest them in architecture, engineering, and science with a robust K-12 outreach program; offers construction camps for motivated high-school students; provides college scholarships to those who want to pursue a degree in architecture, engineering and related fields of study; grooms young professionals to be successful; and challenges seasoned professional engineers to become active mentors to grow future engineers. We will be challenging our national committees, councils and the Academy of Fellows to be active parts of this mentoring continuum.

Finally, like a scrambling quarterback making the best of a broken play, many of the challenges we are facing in the A/E/C community—shrinking budgets, aging infrastructure, energy security and changing policies—are forcing us to change the way we think and forcing us to deviate from our original play. With tough competition for resources, we need to be creative. We need to work together to develop sustainable solutions that will look holistically across our posts, ports, camps and bases. As such, the third SAME focus area is to build sustainable installations.

Open lines of communication and the ability to leverage members' strengths and expertise is the difference between good organizations and great organizations. SAME needs synergy at all levels—up, down and across—to ensure our team can create new solutions when and where needed to move the ball, the team and the vision to build sustainable installations down the field. We will be working to further define how SAME and its members can contribute to our national security through building and maintaining sustainable installations.

There is much work to be done! But I know that the talent and energy of our team can do anything to which we set our collective mind. I look forward to tackling these focus areas with you, and challenge you to get involved wherever you can. Together, as family and as a team, we will make SAME brilliant; we will build great engineers, we will build great leaders and we will build SAME to last.

Maj. Gen. Timothy A. Byers, ESAME, USAF  
SAME President 2010-2011