



Veteran Transition Panels: SAME's Opportunity to Provide a Unique Value to Veterans in Transition

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Mission: Develop an effective strategy to educate, mentor and assist members of the military who are/will be transitioning out of the military into the civilian sector





Method:

- Panel comprised of former military professionals that have made the transition; attendees can “see themselves” in panel members
- Coordinate directly with Military Installation Leadership to leverage support and maximize attendance
- Open dialogue with attendees
- General session followed by peer group break-out sessions
- Promote SAME, Networking, Mentoring and the A/E/C Industry





Endstate:

- Assist and inform transitioning veterans about the process of transitioning to the civilian sector
- Expand interest in career fields associated with SAME Sustaining Member firms
- Provide a professional networking opportunity
- Offer mentorship and professional development through SAME
- Encourage and Inform attendees about the benefits of SAME





SAME Post Considerations:

- Is your Post near a Military Installation?
- Is there a relationship with the Military/Military Units?
If not, is the Post willing to create a relationship?
- Does your Post have Veterans interested in this concept and willing to participate?
- Who is the “Champion” to lead the effort?





Lessons Learned since 2014:

- A dedicated “cadre” of Post volunteers is essential
- Recommend SAME Post Veteran(s) lead the effort
- Post volunteers must be resilient as the Military leadership changes frequently (expect ups and downs)
- The Military generally does not put a high priority on Veteran Transition
- Define “success” for the Post (is the Post willing to put volunteer resources to the effort?)





The Unique Value your Post can Provide:

- Networking and Mentoring for transitioning Veterans
- Closer interaction with Military personnel
- End result can be Veteran employment
- Increased Membership in SAME

“Success”: Transitioning Veterans depart each Panel having a better understanding of what they can really expect as they transition to the civilian sector





SAME

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS

Completed Warrior Transition Panels/Information Sessions

SAME National Post Leader Workshops (Alexandria, VA 2016, Bonita Springs, FL 2018)

SAME Joint Engineer Training Conference, Kansas City, MO (May 2018)

Fort Riley, KS (GKC Post)

Fort Leavenworth, KS (GKC Post)

Whiteman AFB, MO (GKC Post)

Joint Base Lewis-McChord (Seattle and Mount Tacoma Posts)

Fort Carson, CO (Pike's Peak Post)

RESULT: Benefit to over 500 Transitioning Veterans!





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