



# Driving Partnerships & Delivering Solutions through IGE

**Mike Huffstetler | Ben Matthews**

# Meet Mike Huffstetler, F.SAME President-Elect

## About Mike

Grew up in: Atlanta

Now lives in: Omaha

Member Since: 1988

Day Job: Principal | Federal Programs Leader at DLR Group

Favorite SAME memory: walking across our office parking lot to attend Blue Ridge Post luncheons at a golf course club house in the mid-90s – didn't get any easier than that!

Fun Fact: Father of 6, intrepid “home improver”



# Meet Ben Matthews, F.SAME

## Vice President, Human Capital COIs

### About Ben

Grew up in: Okemos, Michigan

Now lives in: Dallas

Member Since: 2002

Day Job: Vice President, National Market Leader - Civilian Agencies at Michael Baker International

Favorite SAME memory: Late night JETC mentorship with Gen Stock as a Young Officer

Fun Fact: Lost 50 lbs. to jump out of a perfectly good airplane



# SAME's Cornerstone

“We are establishing at this time a Society of American Military Engineers. **This society will serve no selfish purpose.** It is dedicated to patriotism and national security. Its objects are, in brief, to **promote solidarity and co-operation between engineers in civil and military life,** to disseminate technical knowledge bearing upon progress in the art of war and the application of engineering science thereto, and to preserve and maintain the best standards and traditions of the profession, all in the interests of patriotism and national security.”

The Military Engineer (TME) magazine, January 1920

# What is IGE??

## Industry – Government Engagement

IGE is the cornerstone of SAME's enduring purpose... bringing together the public and private sectors to collaborate on issues of importance to the public sector AEC industry; deliver the government's mission; achieve technical excellence; and foster critical relationships.



# SAME's Unique IGE Value

While other organizations may also provide similar opportunities...

SAME is uniquely positioned to provide THE BEST IGE value around:

- JOINT SERVICE environment
- Not just the services...agencies!
- National, regional, and local levels
- Multi-disciplined solutions
- We represent the full life-cycle of projects, buildings, etc.
- Businesses of all sizes
- Inclusive and above-board events
- Not a lobbying, but an *advocacy*, organization

IGE does not  
have to be  
intimidating!

IGE formats  
include:

- Industry Days
- Listening Sessions (reverse Industry Days)
- Structured roundtables
- Exercises such as tabletop exercises
- Interactive Demos
- Open dialogue to:
  - Serve as initial stages of research
  - Explore whether further collaboration is needed

# What is an IGE Project?

IGE projects address specific critical issues in an attempt to:

- ***Solve problems***
- ***Better define issues***
- ***Define a path to further address the topic, with follow-on actions or other forward efforts.***

Projects should have defined:

- Exercises such as tabletop exercises
- Interactive Demos



# Current National IGE Projects



Addressing the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Challenge (EVIC)



Alternate Project Delivery Methods



Artificial Intelligence



Avoiding PFAS Information Overload: Targeted Training for Operational Entities



Climate Change: Sea Level Rise and its Effect on Military and Public Infrastructure



Cybersecurity: Operational Technologies Threats and Policies



Installations of the Future



Pre-Project Partnering



Small Business Size Standards: Challenges Facing Transitioning Federal Small Businesses



Warfighting - the Future Challenge and Installations' Requirements



# IGE Best Practices

## **SURVEY Your Constituents**

- Determine the pressing issues affecting their success; concerns in how we do business; “environmental” factors in your area; etc.
- Then, ask members to rank-order these and focus on the most “popular”.

## **Determine CHAMPIONS to carry the topic forward**

- Who’s a subject matter expert on the topic?
- Who’s a great facilitator?
- Work in teams if possible!

## **DEFINE the Issue**

- What’s the current situation surrounding the topic?
- Agree on a problem statement and WHY resolving issues matters
- Define success or a desired outcome
- List specific discussion topics that fall under the issue



# IGE Best Practices

## Prepare your stakeholders

- Invite the “best” representative to participate on any panel or roundtable
- Ensure all involved understand the issue and agree on the problem statement – ask them to further refine it if they don’t!
- Confirm how each stakeholders would define success for their participation and on the issue
- Hold meetings with all representatives to level-set, define expectations, and so everyone involved knows the others’ perspective before going into the live activity

## Prepare your audience

- Share read-aheads to allow your audience to participate to include the problem statement
- Introduce stakeholders and their unique perspective so the audience understands their point of view up front

## During the activity

- Endeavor to engage the audience so they feel they are part of the discussion
- Validate input from all sides
- Orchestrate interaction of panelists, SMEs, and audience
- Determine if it’s best to have one big dialogue, break into small groups, etc....let the participants decide



# IGE Best Practices

## Develop OUTCOMES of this specific activity

- Determine 3-5 key takeaways or findings
- Define action items or recommendations for each set of stakeholders
- Outline next steps for the issue if all agree to further dialogue / discussion

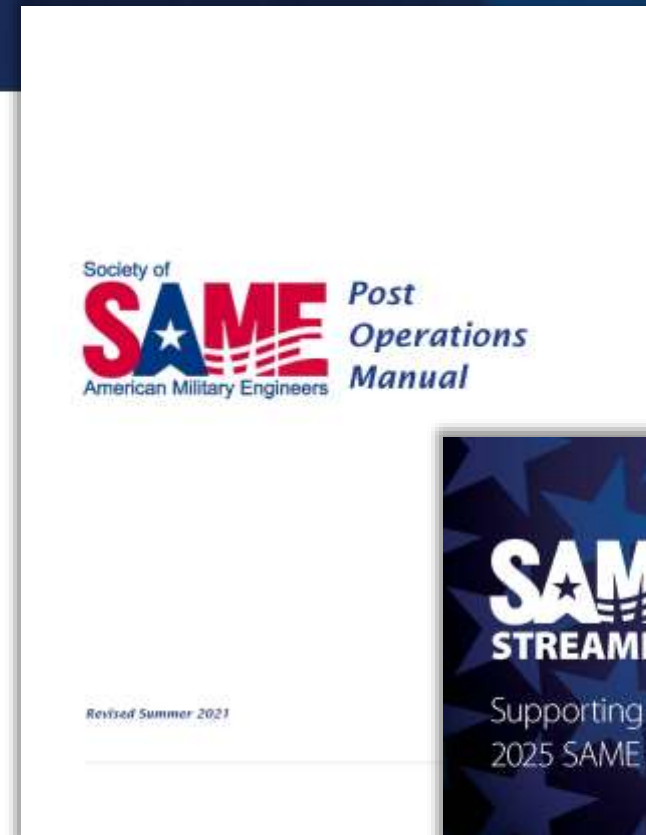
## Follow Up

- Stay in contact with representatives and participants after the event

## Methods of reporting successes

- White paper, website, follow-up programs, tell the National office!

- 2025 SAME Streamers Program
  - Excellent examples of Post-level IGE activities from *Surveys* (25 pts) to *IGE Workshops* (250 pts)
  - Prioritizes through points earned
- 2030 Streamer Program will be updated version of 2025.





# Resources Continued

IGE webpage

- <https://www.same.org/events-programs/ige/>

Post Operations Manual + Post Resource Center

- **IGE Workshop Model**

Current and Past IGE Project Teams

This slide deck!

SAME National Office Programs team

COIs

Other Posts that have done IGE

Surveys already completed – use as model

**Bringing folks  
together for  
open and  
transparent  
dialogue is an  
IGE success.**

*“The goal of this event is to garner feedback from all participants to help inform processes and procedures related to the issue and to strengthen the partnership between government and industry. It's okay to realize that changes are not possible immediately or that changes require additional advocacy outside your group.”*

- Barry Forbes, Chief Engineer, NAVFAC EURAFCENT