



Luke Horizons

[Register NOW for the Luke Horizons Event - Jan. 30, 2025](#)

Registration Link

The event will be at the Wigwam Hotel in Litchfield Park, AZ.



Sponsorships are still available!

Go to the registration link for more information on how your company can help support this well-attended annual event. .

At the event, we will also induct our Post's 2025 Officers and Board of Directors.

Learn what is on the horizon at Luke Air Force Base

Join us for our annual, much anticipated Luke Horizons Event on January 30, 2025!

Base Commanders Lt. Col. John Marshall, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Lt. Col. Christopher James, 56th Contracting Squadron, will speak about everything new at Luke Air Force Base for 2025.



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN W. MARSHALL

Lieutenant Colonel John W. Marshall is currently the Commander, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. As the Base Civil Engineer he commands 370 military and civilian engineers providing engineering expertise and operational support to the 56th Fighter Wing's two F-16 Squadrons and 5 F-35 Squadrons, the 56th Training Squadron, and the 607th Air Control Squadron. His program management responsibilities include an annual budget of \$40M to support operations, maintenance, repair and construction of real property and infrastructure worth \$3.4B, across 5.8M acres, 1,000 buildings, and 500 family housing units. Further, he is responsible for fire protection, environmental protection, explosive ordnance disposal, disaster preparedness and emergency management for Luke AFB.



Lt Col Marshall joined the Air Force in 2006 and was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corp at the University of Portland, in Portland, Oregon after graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Lt Col Marshall is a Senior Air Force Civil Engineer Officer and has served in various Civil Engineer Squadron assignments with experience in design engineering, construction project and portfolio management, asset management, contract oversight, construction programming, civil engineer readiness, energy management and has served in roles at the Installation, Major Command, Combatant Command, and Headquarters Air Force levels. He has deployed 5 times in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, RESOLUTE SUPPORT and INHERENT RESOLVE.



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHRISTOPHER C. JAMES

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher C. James is the Commander, 56th Contracting Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. He leads a team of 44 mission-focused military and civilian business leaders in the annual execution of service, supply, construction, and specialized contracts totaling \$91 million in support of the Air Force's Largest Fighter Wing, the 944th Fighter Wing, and the Barry M. Goldwater Range. The squadron also trains and equips mission-ready joint Contingency Contracting Officers for world-wide deployment. Lieutenant Colonel James is a key member of the wing's senior staff and principal business advisor to the Wing Commander.

Lieutenant Colonel James entered active duty in 2009 after commissioning through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California. Shortly after entering the Air Force, he earned a Master of Business Administration degree from National University, La Jolla CA, in 2010. Before entering the Contracting career field in 2014, Lieutenant Colonel James served in the nuclear enterprise. Positions held include: Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Combat Crew Commander, ICBM Combat Crew Instructor, and Assistant Flight Commander.



As a contracting professional, in 2020, Lieutenant Colonel James deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan as the Chief of Contract Integration for the Combined Security Transition Command as a member of NATO forces in support of OPERATION RESOLUTE SUPPORT. He's held an unlimited warrant and served as a Contracting Officer and Contracting Division Chief on orbital and ground based offensive counter space weapon programs as a part of the Space Systems Center, Los Angeles Space Force Base, CA. In addition, Lieutenant Colonel James was the Director of Operations and Chief of Policy for the 502d Contracting Squadron, executing a \$1.1B portfolio in support of 266 mission partners and the largest joint base in the Department of Defense. Prior to his current assignment, he was a graduate student in Air Command and Staff College with a concentration in space strategy as a member of the Schriever Space Scholars. Following graduate studies, his research on the effects of over classification on space weapon system procurements was published by a peer reviewed journal in 2023.

**Thank you to our Luke Horizons
sponsors!**

Event Sponsors

NICKLAUS
ENGINEERING, INC.



Food Sponsors

Spur*



Board of Direction

The banner for the Board of Direction has a blue background with a pattern of white stars on the left and red and white stripes on the right, reminiscent of the American flag.

**At our upcoming Luke Horizons event, we will be
inducting our 2025 Board of Officers and Directors**

President - Julie Hamilton

President-Elect - Open

1st VP Programs - Neil Wentz

Assistant Programs - Chad Brossman

2nd VP of Membership - Zef Banda III

Secretary - Ryan Gibson

Assistant Secretary - Allison Gibson

Treasurer - Iain Olness

Assistant Treasurer - Ed Mears

Director, Past President - Sam Groves

Director, Communications - Teresa Howell

Director, Small Business Liaison - Vickie Maranville

Director, Public Agency Representative - Venessa Gleich

**A big THANK YOU to all our officers and directors for all
your time, effort, talent and dedication to making the
Phoenix Post awesome!**

Call for Volunteers!



We are looking for members who would like to help support these upcoming events by volunteering to be on the planning committees. If you are interested and able to help out, please send an [email to the Post](#).

Upcoming Events

[Save the date for Phoenix Post future events](#)

Jan. 30, 2025 Phoenix Post Luke Horizons event
 Apr. 17, 2025 Phoenix Post IGE Event
 Apr. 18, 2025 Phoenix Post Golf Tournament
 Aug, 2025 SAME Post Leaders Workshop, Phoenix, AZ
 Nov. 18, 2025 SAME Phoenix Post Pre-SBC Golf Tournament
 Nov 19-21, 2025 SAME SBC, Phoenix, AZ

[Upcoming Other Events:](#)

Jan. 14, 2025 Career Transition Workshop Virtual Training [Registration](#)
 Jan. 17, 2025 SAME LA Post USACE Breakfast with the Chief [Registration](#)
 Jan. 29, 2025 USACE Omaha District/SAME Rocky Mountain Region Industry Day - Colorado Springs, Colorado ([see details below](#))
 Feb. 12-14, 2025 Career Transition Workshop Onsite Training - Linthicum Heights, MD [Registration](#)
 Feb. 20, 2025 Tucson Navy Week [Registration](#)
 Feb. 20, 2025 USACE Albuquerque District BOOH - Albuquerque, NM [Info](#)
 Feb. 24-25, 2025 NAVFAC SW Industry Forum - San Diego, CA [Registration](#)
 Mar. 5-6, 2025 SAME LA Post Industry Day & USACE LA District BOOH - Montebello, CA [Registration](#)
 Mar. 11, 2025 USACE Sacramento District BOOH - Sacramento, CA [Register](#)
 Mar. 18, 2025 SAME Fort Worth Post Industry Day [More info soon](#)
 Apr. 8-9, 2025 SAME San Antonio Post Small Business Market Research Fair
 May 13-15, 2025 SAME JETC - Louisville, KY [Information](#)
 May 28-30, 2025 SAME Omaha Industry day - Omaha, NE [Info](#)
 Jun. 22-28, 2025 SAME USAFA STEM Camp - Colorado Springs, CO [Applications are now being accepted](#) (see more info below)
 Aug 6-8, 2025 Albuquerque Post Industry Day/Golf - Alb, NM [Info](#)

future City COMPETITION

Future City Competition is coming up!

SAME Phoenix Post is once again participating in Arizona's regional Future City Competition, sponsoring an award for Best Demonstration of Teamwork, and we need your support! For those not familiar with the Future City Competition, here's a great summary from their [Website](#).

Future City starts with a question—how can we make the world a better place? To answer it, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future that showcase their solution to a citywide sustainability issue. Past topics include stormwater management, urban agriculture, public spaces, and green energy. The 2024-2025 theme is Above the Current. Teams will design a city and provide two innovative examples of how their floating city works and keeps its citizens healthy and safe.

Participants complete five deliverables: a 1,500-word city essay; a scale model (or multiple model segments) built from recycled materials; a project plan, a presentation video, and a Q&A session with judges. Regional winners represent their region at the international Finals. After completing Future City, student participants are not only prepared to be citizens of today's complex and technical world, but also poised to become the drivers of tomorrow.

As a part of our sponsorship, ***SAME Phoenix Post is developing a team of volunteers*** to participate in reviewing competition essays as well as in-person judging of the models and presentations that the students have prepared about their models. The competition will follow the schedule below:

- Mid December, 2024 – January 11, 2025: List of teams applying for awards available are to be provided. Competition Essays will be made available to sponsors for review on their own time during this month. ~ 2 hrs
- January 11-16, 2025: Models will be available at the Burton Barr Library (Phoenix, AZ) for judging on your own time if your schedule allows. Volunteer input may be used to help narrow down the slate of presentations to be judged on the day of the competition. ~ 2 hrs
- January 18, 2025: Morning attendance at the competition event at Casteel High School in Queen Creek. This is a great chance to see the kids work very hard at their presentations and get really excited to meet people in industry! Opportunity around noon to hand SAME Phoenix award out in person to the winning team with a photo opportunity. ~ 5 hrs

Participating in this event is an incredibly rewarding experience and the kids gain so much from our attention and care to judge their work! If you are interested in participating in the competition this year as an SAME Phoenix Post representative, please email Ed Mears at ed.mears@hdrinc.com by January 7, 2025 for more details.



USACE/SAME Rocky Mountain
Region Industry Day

Jan. 29, 2025

Registration is now Open!

Early Bird Pricing ends 12/30/24!
(price increases \$100 after that)
Tickets & Sponsorships Available
Get more info at the link below

[Click Here to Register!!](#)

[See photos of USAFA's New Hotel Polaris!!](#)



Lots of exciting events coming to
Phoenix in 2025

[SAME IGE Event and Golf
Tournament](#)

IGE at Wigwam Hotel in Litchfield Park, AZ - April 17, 2025

[Golf Tournament at Falcon Dunes Golf Club - April 18, 2025](#)

[SAME Post Leaders Workshop - Scottsdale, AZ - August 2025](#)

[SAME Federal Small Business Conference - November 2025](#)
(including a pre-conference golf tournament)

Stay tuned for registration links and information



SAME Camps Program

Start Your STEM Journey Today! SAME's STEM/Engineering & Construction Camps offer high school students interested in a highly unique STEM experience the chance to spend a week at a military base learning engineering, construction and design, while developing leadership skills and discovering the potential of a career in STEM.

Led by SAME professionals and other volunteers from the military and

engineering community, for more than 20 years the SAME Camps Program has focused on practical, project-based learning that provides hands-on opportunities to explore STEM fields and to chart a course for future education and career opportunities.

SAME camps feature an impressive record of producing thousands of engineers and STEM leaders. They provide a rigorous experience for students interested in exploring STEM skills and careers. During the week, campers gain a sense of what it takes to become a STEM professional and learn what options exist to explore that interest from high school to college and beyond. Each camp has a unique curriculum that features hands-on activities conducted in competitive environments promoting teamwork, leadership, project management, and problem-solving.

Information on 2025 SAME Camps

Army Camp

June 8-14

Navy Camp (Jacksonville)

June 22-28

Air Force Academy Camp

June 22-28

Marine Corps Camp

June 22-28

Navy Camp (Port Hueneme)

July 20-26

Become a Camp Mentor

Join Camps Mailing List

SAME Membership Benefits

SAME ENGAGE!

Collaborate and network with A/E/C industry leaders in a joint service environment, on both local and national levels. (open to members).

Did you know that SAME has a **NEW** platform that is part of your membership which allows you join and participate in different networks, like Posts you are a member of, COIs you've joined, and more? This is a fairly new addition to SAME and you can access it with your regular log in.

This platform is included in your membership and you are automatically included in any networks you are a member of, for example, being a Phoenix Post member, you are already on our network. If you are a member of another post as well and you don't see a network for them, just reach out to SAME National and request one.

We will be posting information about events, Post hot topics, polls and Post documents in our page. You can also set your notifications for your ENGAGE! page to whatever works for you so you get just the right amount of communication. Once you are on our network page (link below), just click on Settings and then Email Notifications, it will give you all the options. And when you log in to your account, please make sure your profile is up to date so we have your correct contact information.

Please check out our Phoenix Post member ENGAGE! page (a new poll is coming soon) and get more engaged with SAME!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Teresa Howell, Director of Communications at thowell@tribal.one.

[Visit YOUR SAME Phoenix Post ENGAGE! page here](#)



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