

2001 Emerging Leaders (ELC) & Senior Leaders Conference (SLC)
Trip Report
Pete O'Connell CELRP-OR-BB

I had the honor of attending the Emerging Leaders Conference and Senior Leaders Conference in Chicago Illinois from 3 August to 10 August 2001. The following is brief synopsis.

August 3rd started of with an evening Icebreaker, where our class was broken down from a group of 36 participants, to 6 groups of 6, with a Team Leader, who was a graduate from last year's class. I became a member of the "Red Team". Our Team Leader, Cynthia Kitchens, led us through a Team Building Activity, which was presented to the other ELC's, Leaders and Course Managers. It was a success! We all learned about each other, started our Team Building Process, and had fun. Each member of the Red Team was asked to write down our expectations for the Week. Mine was: "My expectations for the ELC/SLC are to meet other Corps Team Members from all facets around the globe. Continue personal growth, through exposure to new concepts and old, perhaps presented in a different way. Learn from new informal mentors and Senior Leaders who I am exposed to this week. See a new Vision for how I can contribute to the success of the Corps Vision". **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!**

Throughout the rest of the week, the ELC's learned more about ourselves through analysis of the battery of personality tests we completed, reflection, and team building activities. Numerous opportunities for interaction with Senior Leaders and General Officers were provided through attendance at joint ELC/SLC training sessions, and various luncheons. On 6 August, we attended the Annual USACE Awards Banquet, where along with other deserving individuals, David Rieger and Paula Johnson-Muic of the Pittsburgh District, were honored.

Completion of the ELC has had a tremendous impact. The way I view other team members, the Corps, and myself has changed. The Course Managers, Team Leaders, Contract Instructors, and the entire class have had a positive impact on my life. This, coupled with participation in the SLC, where Senior Leaders, General Officers, Instructors, and General Flowers generated both a positive, and inspirational learning culture. I have returned home inspired, striving to evolve to Level 5 Leadership. I clearly see and embrace the Vision, will strive to stay the course, walk the talk and help LTG Robert B. Flowers accomplish his priorities towards fulfillment of his vision.

Pete O'Connell

