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ERDC - TEC  
13 August 2001

### Trip Report for ELC 2001

I attended the Emerging Leaders Conference (ELC) in Chicago 3 – 10 August 01. I found this Conference to be a beneficial learning experience and an opportunity to interface on a one-to-one basis with the Senior Leaders of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). I observed in evidence a strong Chief of Engineers with a positive, let's get it done attitude and observed the Corps to be a very professional, world-class organization serving the nation in many ways.

The first three days were occupied with the leadership development portion of the program. After three days of Emerging Leaders work sessions (led by Dr. Nap DuFault) which included situational leadership, psychologicals, team development, goal setting, project planning exercises, synergistic decision-making, and inter-personal/leadership skills, we joined the Senior Leaders Conference (SLC) and interacted with them while continuing Team project assignments. I had occasion to meet and talk with many Senior Leaders, including LTG Flowers - Chief Corps of Engineers, Dr. Houston - Director ERDC, Dr. Link - HQ USACE, Mr. Vining – HQ USACE, COL Morris – Commander ERDC, Mr. O'Connor – Director GSL, etc., as well as many of the Division, District, HQ, and Lab personnel. I was able to personally interact with the Emerging Leader personnel all week: talented people with whom I would not otherwise had contact throughout our careers.

During the course of the week in Chicago, we attended the National Awards Ceremony and Banquet, an ELC/SLC luncheon, and numerous team-building events. We attended portions of the SLC throughout the week, sitting in for various speaker presentations and other SLC sessions. We presented a final project program to the SLC addressing People, Process, and Communication.

The ELC provided an opportunity to identify and enhance our leadership competencies and interact with others to improve these skills. Attendance at the SLC has given me a broader perspective on the spectrum of command-wide responsibilities, vision, and issues being addressed at the executive level of USACE. The conference also provided an opportunity to establish relationships and exchange ideas with all in attendance. The Emerging Leaders provided the SLC with a list of topics we believe should be addressed for the betterment of the Corps as a whole. Each individual from the ELC also provided a JDI (Just Do It) Plan for the achievement of goals in the near future. I enjoyed the week, learning much about teamwork, the Corps, and myself and came away revitalized to make improvements and to continue service in the world's premier public engineering organization.