

Trip Report, Emerging Leaders Conference
Aug. 3-10, 2001

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On Aug. 3, I joined 35 other Emerging Leaders from around the Corps in Chicago to gain insight about our personal strengths and weaknesses in leadership and other areas. We worked in teams on group exercises and group projects. We learned how to best create, lead and work within teams.

Our deliverable projects included:

- Three video commercials—one each on People, Process and Communication
- A booklet of all of our Just Do It plans (what each individual will do to support the Vision once the individual returns to his or her District/Division/Center) and a list of actions we request from senior leaders to support our actions.
- A pamphlet aimed at Corps employees to explain how they can just Do It

Along with the ELC program, we gained an opportunity to sit in on meetings with the Senior Leaders and to interact with them at lunches and informal events. My experience was that the Corps' senior leaders are very interested in what their rank and file thinks and cares about.

Noteworthy presentations for me included:

- Presentations by Lt. Gen. Flowers both opening and closing the conference—very inspiring, motivating and affirming—as well as an hour of Qs & As with just him and the ELCers.
- A speech by Washington Post reporter Michael Grunwald – great to see our critics at the table with us. Even though we may disagree, we're listening.
- A presentation by Gen. Keane, Vice Chief of staff of the Army—tidbits I caught:
 - Involve customers in creating specifications
 - Don't be dependent on your staff to keep you informed
 - Listen to your critics and learn from them. Listening brings learning.
 - Selfless service comes from shared experience
 - Translate your energy to your workplace
 - Gen. Keane also gave the best Transformation explanation I've ever seen
- A presentation about the learning organization by BG Madsen
- And a speech by Deputy ASA-CW Dominic Izzo

I am working to implement my "Do It" plan, and look forward to sharing the SLC presentations with the rest of the Seattle District as soon as the presentations are made available on-line. Overall, the experience was inspiring, motivating, overwhelming and extremely beneficial to me and for my job. I very much appreciate the investment made in me as an Emerging Leader.