

TRIP REPORT
EMERGING/SENIOR LEADERS CONFERENCE - CHICAGO, IL
AUGUST 3-10, 2001

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Date: 26 August, 2001

EMERGING LEADERS CONFERENCE:

It was a real honor and pleasure to work with 35 emerging leaders that represented USACE districts and divisions near and far. In the short time that we spent together I think I have learned more about these 36 people (myself included) than I have learned in the past years of some of my co-workers. This is a fact that I do regret, but at least I am aware of it now and I can do something to change that dismal fact.

A number of factors contributed to my sense of heightened awareness during the ELC. These factors include Dr. Nap C. DuFault who facilitated the conference and fascinated us with his learning “nuggets”. Other factors that Dr. DuFault presented include: Herrmann Brain Dominance Indicator, Fundamental Interpersonal Relationships Orientation-Behavior (FIRO-B), and the Myers-Briggs tests.

We were not just students of behavior and personality - there was also work to do. Some of that work included our “Just Do It” plan. I plan on resubmitting my “Just Do It” plan to something that I can do within the next year instead of something within my lifetime. We also produced commercials to the themes of People, Process, and Communication.

SENIOR LEADERS CONFERENCE:

When I returned back to Albuquerque from the ELC/SLC I remember telling someone that we (EL’s) had the privilege of attending some of the SLC sessions, and that we were flies on the wall. Well the truth is that we were never flies on the wall, we participated, we asked questions, we answered questions, we were engaged. The Chief listened, the SL’s listened and we listened. It was very uplifting and inspiring.

I was impressed to see the Chief “walk the talk” and facing one of the Corp’s most critical critics. He is setting an example for us all to follow.

The Chief emphasized the importance of the Project Management Business Plan which will soon be implemented. Other topics of importance include the Strategic Vision, the Campaign Plan, with focus on people, process, and communication.

The highlight of my experience at the SLC was being presented with a book from LTG Flowers and practicing a little humility when I received it.