



ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT *ESPRIT*

Vol. 46 No. 1

www.mvs.usace.army.mil

January 2007



Dr. Michael "Sonny" Trimble testifying November 30 against former senior Iraqi Baath party officials, including Saddam Hussein, in the Anfal trial.

Press pool photo by Chris Hondros

Setting The Record Straight

"I sat in an anteroom, listening to a court official cry out the names of seven defendants as they entered the courtroom" said Dr. Michael "Sonny" Trimble, who testified in the so-called Anfal trial – judgment of allegations of genocide against the Kurds in northern Iraq.

Trimble recently told of a day he will never forget, November 30, 2006 when

he testified against former senior Baath Party officials, including Saddam Hussein, "Chemical Ali" and five others.

Trimble, a slender, intense archeologist who had led a team of experts into Iraq five previous times to excavate mass graves and their victims, told how he saw former Iraqi president Saddam for the first time. "I was fifteen feet from him. He looked right at me. He was a big

man. I had never given any thought to his size, but he was at least six feet tall. It seemed to me that he had lost weight compared to photos from his days as Iraq's dictator. He looked fit. But there was none of the fire that I expected in his eyes. He reminded me of individuals I have known as they approached death," Trimble reflected.

Setting the Record Straight Cont. page 3



Commander's Perspective



Col. Lewis F. Setliff III

District Team:

Having just returned from Washington, D.C., meeting with our elected representatives to answer their questions about various ongoing and possible projects, I wanted to report out to you on the results of that trip. I'll tell you first that our representatives in Washington all have deep, personal interests in what we are doing for their constituents and what lies ahead in the St. Louis District. They and their staffs are paying careful attention to what the District is doing and to our responses to their questions.

Many of you know that funding is very tight throughout the Corps, with priorities ranging from the Global War on Terrorism, to the Gulf Coast recovery, and even here within the St. Louis District. What we do is present the facts: what is on line and working already, what is not, and what we could do with more funding here within MVS. We cannot "campaign" for these projects, but we are obliged to answer

questions honestly. I believe our visit portrayed very well what we do best and where we'd like to focus our efforts in the future. With the expected passing of WRDA I remain optimistic that this District will have many opportunities in the future to challenge our workforce.

What I am hearing outside of the budget discussion however, is the very great respect and appreciation your elected representatives and their staffs hold for you, the District and its work. Your professionalism, work ethic and spirit are recognized as second to none. Your results are admired and appreciated by all. You set bench marks for others to reach out for.

As we move through the year, we must continue to be the best stewards of the authorities and money we have been allocated. We must continue to get the maximum results from these assets. We must at all times be prepared to take on any added assignments and projects and to maintain our readiness for any emerging situations. We need to watch for and seize regional work as well. All with the spirit and professionalism we're known for. We will of course.

So keep up the good work! Your reputation and ability to "deliver" is the best solution to having work and opportunities continue to head our way.

Lastly, as we approach warmer weather I ask all of us to continue to be and act safe. Work is ramping up, such as on the main chamber of Mel Price Locks and Dam, and of course our recreation areas will see increased visitation. I ask everyone to stay alert, watch out for your buddy, and do the right thing each and every time. Think safety always!

Hooah!
Essayons!

In This Issue:

- Setting the Record Straight Cover Story
- Commander's Perspective Page 2
- Night in a Museum Page 6
- Micro Modeling Page 7
- A New River Navigator at the Helm Page 8
- Wappapello Upcoming Events Page 9
- District Lauded for Tourism Support Page 10
- Agencies Combine Efforts for Environmental Support ... Page 12
- Leadership Development Program Page 13
- New Recreation Passes .. Page 14
- District Golf League Page 14
- Army Announces New Crime Prevention Programs Page 15
- Please Listen Carefully Page 15
- Honoring Dr. King Back Cover



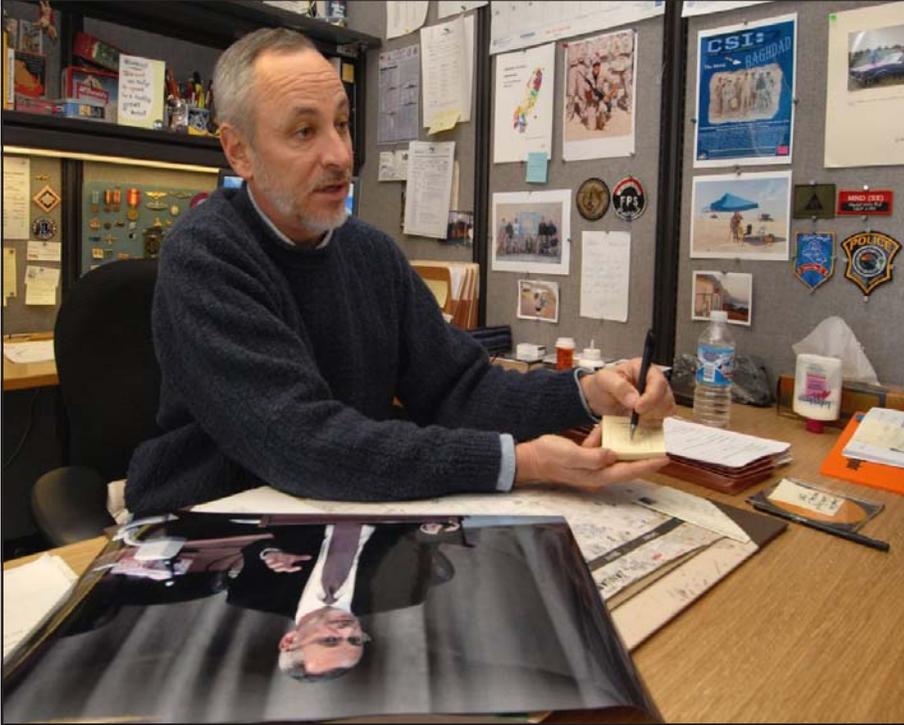
ESPRIT is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published monthly, by contract, in 550 copies, by the Public Affairs Office, US Army Engineer District, St. Louis. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

District Commander ----- COL Lewis F. Setliff III

Chief, Public Affairs ----- Alan J. Dooley
314 331-8002

Editor ----- Russell A. Elliott
314 331-8644

Address mail to: US Army Engineer District, St. Louis,
ATTN: CEMVS-PA, 1222 Spruce, St. Louis, MO 63103-2833,
Phone (314) 331-8002/8068/8644

**Setting the Record Straight cont.. from page 1**

Dr. Trimble sketches the courtroom layout to emphasize his proximity to Saddam Hussein and other defendants in Baghdad. The foreground photo of his testimony in Baghdad is a powerful reminder of that day.

“Did he scare me or intimidate me? No. I looked at him, said to myself, ‘That’s it’ and I proceeded,” he said.

Of the other defendants, Trimble was most troubled by Ali Hassan al-Majid, better known as “Chemical Ali,” for his use of chemical weapons in the Iraq-Iran war in the 1980s and for gassing Kurds in a crime not under consideration at the Anfal trial.

Trimble remembered him as short in stature, but possessing a menacingly evil stare. “My eyes were drawn to him. He stared straight back. He was not a person I’d wish to be alone with because I could see in him, absolutely no remorse or qualms about killing.”

“The remaining five looked like thugs who had run out of gas,” he said. They had long maintained that they were simply soldiers carrying out orders.

Trimble paused for awhile after telling of his first and only face to face meeting with Saddam Hussein, a man compared by some with the likes of Hitler and Stalin, if not in numbers killed, at least in vicious intent.

As the interview started with the St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers archeologist, Trimble told of his preparations for the momentous day that would see him stand and testify for four and one-half hours without a break.

“I spent a month working with team members Nancy Brighton from North Atlantic Division and Susan Malin-Boyce, Caroline Steele and Wade Ricard from St. Louis District preparing for the trial. I wrote, rewrote and sought team members advice on the presentation. I practiced my testimony only one or two times though. I don’t like to go over a presentation more than that or I lose spontaneity which is important in any trial presentation. I just wanted to do a good job for the Kurds and my teammates.”

Trimble went on, “I thought of all the people who had worked so hard, who had dedicated major parts of their lives to gathering and assembling the evidence I was privileged to present. I was going to represent their research. Much more importantly, I was going to represent the

lives – and deaths – of 301 individual human beings, and tell their story through 17 of the 301.

“We had started to prepare for the trial five months earlier. The team, had spent countless hours developing data. They had pulled remains from storage. If necessary some remains had to be re-photographed, perhaps subjected to another round of x-rays and reviewed to ensure that we had crisp images,” he went on.

“Then one night during this process while working on another site in the desert, I sat bolt upright in bed and knew we had to start over,” he told. “I called Nancy Brighton, my Deputy Director, at the forensic facility in Baghdad. When I told her I wanted to make some changes she probably thought I had lost my mind. But I realized that we could not simply present 17 stories. Rather, I felt and she concurred that it would be much more powerful to present a demographic sample of what we had found. The proper age distribution, the proper male to female ratio would not only be the truth, but would allow us to convey to the court the horror of what we found in those graves across Iraq. In short, we could not present 301 cases but had to present an accurate, irrefutable demographic reflection of exactly what we had observed,” he affirmed.

The team went back to work.

“We had to ask ourselves: which 12-year-old (Sixty percent of the exhumed victims were 12 and younger) best represented the 12-year olds?”

“I know it irritated my team at times. They had poured their energy into getting ready and had to go back to square one. But in the end I think everyone realized the value of redirecting our energy,” Trimble said.

Trimble described the format of the testimony.

“I started by describing my credentials, my academic and experience basis for leading this work. Iraqis have a great respect for learning and academic preparation. But before I had gone far I grew weary of this line of reasoning and asked the judge if I could continue to my



prepared material. I think he grunted yes, and that's what I did.

"I set the context of our work first. I described in great detail who we were, where we worked, how we did our work and the systematic steps we followed. I showed maps and diagrams of our camp and each facility within it.

Dr. Trimble showed maps, disclosing that the Kurdish victims had been taken from the far north of the country and transported some 800-900 kilometers (500 to 550 miles) to, locations only 40 to 45 miles from Saudi Arabia.

At each place the victims were taken to remote locations where large pits had been excavated with heavy machinery. It was the same each time: people were transported a long distance, to a remote, shielded location. "I wanted to show that this was systematic, methodical, that it was state sponsored genocide," Trimble said.

"We showed graphics and photos of how each of the 17 individuals looked when they were found. Using GIS technology we were able to show precise locations and relationships between final resting places of all the victims. Then we showed the remains in the forensic laboratory. We used x-rays to show internal bone trauma from projectiles. We told how small arms trauma led to each person's death. We placed the victim's clothing on mannequins and showed where they had been shot and from which direction.

"Each presentation ended with the same identical statement: 'This is the way this individual looked before they were taken and murdered.'" It became drum beat, a mantra Trimble said as he stared intently.

It didn't take long before Trimble felt he was striking the right tone, that he was making his case.

Every word Trimble said was translated into both Arabic and Kurdish. "But we wanted the graphics, the images, to tell the story in case any words were not conveyed accurately."

He said that the testimony had a visible impact on most of the defendants.

"These weren't the troops who had shot



Dr. Michael "Sonny" Trimble points out details and procedures at a mass graves excavation site near Ninawa, Iraq to members of the Regime Crimes Liaison Office and Iraqi investigatory judges preparing materials for judges who will preside over various trials of former Iraqi government officials charged with crimes against the people of Iraqi.

the people or the junior officers who had supervised the deaths. These were the people who had signed the orders. It was possible to look at "chop chains" on each death order to see who had personally acknowledged that he had approved the order. The Iraqi prosecutors told me that these individuals saw promotion potential in being included on the execution order and not that someday their initials and signatures would be presented in a trial against them," Trimble indicated.

He added, "The Baathists kept meticulous records. Our U.S. attorney advisors, initially were shocked at the thorough, detailed nature of these records of crimes. But they shouldn't have been. As archaeologists we knew that keeping detailed records and data has been part of the Mesopotamian culture for 5,000 years," Trimble said.

It was eerie, Trimble told. "I think these big guys were actually shocked when they were confronted with the results of their decisions. They were fascinated with the technology and science they were seeing, but they were clearly shocked with the content."

In the end Trimble testified for four and one half hours without a break.

"They don't take breaks in Iraqi courts," he told. One defendant asked to go to a restroom and was led from the courtroom. The trial didn't pause for a second.

Trimble said that he never grew tired during the testimony. "I felt great. My senses were very keen. Adrenaline certainly has that effect.," he said.

At the end of the testimony, the defendants were allowed to ask their own questions. For 30 minutes Saddam Hussein and the others asked a series of detailed, but largely irrelevant questions. After this half hour of questions the judge pointed to them, asked if they had any substantive or relevant questions and then told them the trial was adjourned. As the defendants were led out one door, the court room emptied through another.

Suddenly it was over.

"I had taken an oath at the start of the trial, swearing it on a Bible, not the Quran. In my notes I had reminded myself to keep my hands down. I was horrified to notice as I finally lifted my hand that it had rested on that Bible for at least an hour. There was a perspiration stain from my hand. And the green ink of the cloth cover had stained my hand!



Laser measurement equipment, Graphic Information System (GIS) technology and meticulous attention to detail were key elements of forensic documentation of mass grave sites investigated in Iraq by a team led by Dr. Michael “Sonny” Trimble (L)

“I went into a side room off the main court and sat down. Almost immediately I was exhausted. It was physically hard to get up. My mouth was parched.

“I had come to Iraq five times before. This was my sixth trip. The trial was over. I was done.”

These and a dozen other thoughts coursed through Sonny Trimble’s mind as he sat in silence while those around him talked quickly and loudly. “What was important started to wash over me,” he said. “I had represented a great team’s hard work. I was privileged to tell

their story, and most importantly the story of 17 of the Kurds out of 301 we had examined, and out of the one hundred thousand or more who had died simply because they were Kurds.”

Trimble’s mission is not over yet.

His team has to prepare their voluminous reports for public release. In this way the world will come to know what happened: who did it and to whom.

“I think we all want final rest and resolution for the victims and their families too. We want to see their remains repatriated to their homes. We want to see their families reunited,” he said quietly, staring intently.

But perhaps the Kurdish region of Iraq has bigger plans. “They want to build a memorial to these and the hundred thousand or more victims. They want to bring them all home and rebury them on the side of a mountain. They want to put the clothes they died in back on the mannequins we used to illustrate how they looked when they were murdered,” Trimble related.

The impetus behind such a move may have gained strength when for still unexplained reasons the presiding judge in the Anfal trial struck Saddam Hussein from the list of defendants after he was hanged on December 30. “That cut across the feelings of many of the Kurdish people, who are concerned that history should never forget Saddam Hussein’s role in the effort to eradicate the Kurds in Iraq. They wanted to be part of his execution.”

On Hussein’s demise at the hands of the Iraqi people, Trimble was reminded that while some may question the execution’s timing and others the validity of capital punishment under any circumstances, Saddam Hussein and his close followers were certainly evil people whose crimes set modern day precedents. “He earned his punishment,” he said.

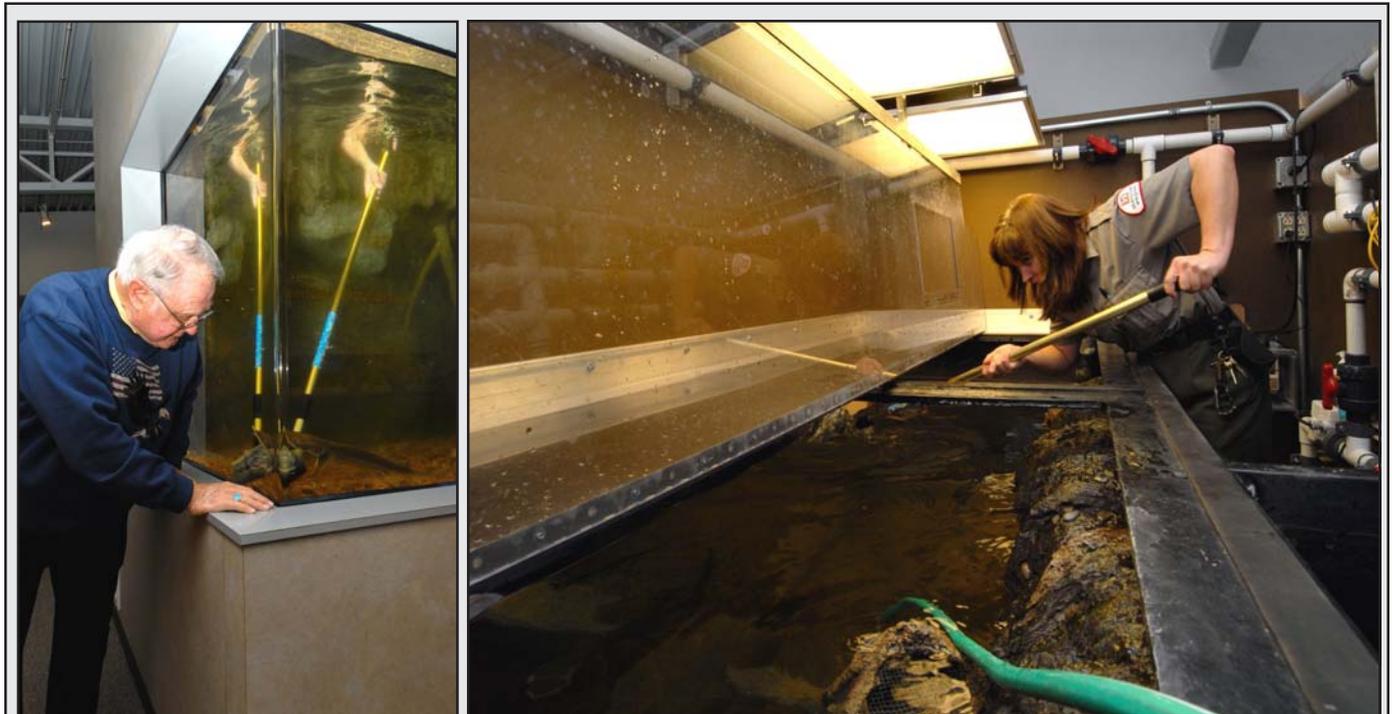
Trimble recently returned to Iraq for yet a seventh time. “We need to wrap up the camp, to make disposition of the gear. I think we should retain it for a possible future mission of this nature. But that’s not going to be my decision.”



The harsh terrain and tortured history of the last two decades in Iraq make it a challenging place for the seeds of justice to take hold and flourish. But the Mass Graves Investigation Team led by Dr. Michael “Sonny” Trimble has moved literally tons of soil and watered it with gallons of sweat to give this opportunity to the Iraqi people and the world.

The mission, along with the world’s hopes for a brighter future is now in the Iraqi people’s hands.

“This is the way this individual looked before they were taken and murdered,” Dr. Trimble intoned at the end of testimony focusing on 17 of some 300 individuals exhumed. The impact on trial witnesses, the judges and even the alleged perpetrators was visible.



The new hit action comedy, *Night at the Museum*, in which an ancient curse brings museum exhibits to life at night has nothing on the National Great Rivers Museum for behind the scenes drama. (L) Here, museum volunteer Dick Oliver helps steer Janet Mifflin’s disembodied arm to clean the corners of the huge aquarium featuring Mississippi River aquatic life. (R) Shows the view from behind and above as Janet stretches to clean the aquarium so visitors can enjoy unimpeded views of the gar, shovel nose sturgeon and bowfish currently featured in the exhibit.



Micro Models Find Full-Size Hydraulic Engineering Solutions

Story and Photos: Nicole Dalrymple, PA

Partners from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the American Land Conservancy came to the Applied River Engineering Center last year to view the results of two hydraulic sedimentation models, formerly known as micro models, examining alternatives that could add environmental benefits along two stretches of the Middle Mississippi River. Partners who were unable to attend include the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the River Industry Action Committee.

Hydraulic engineers Mary Miles and Eddie Brauer constructed and studied models of the Upper and Lower Jones Chute (River Miles 98.4 and 95.0) and Cliff Cave – Kimmswick (River Miles 166.4-156.7) respectively.

Jones Chute is located 10 miles downstream of Chester, Illinois on the Missouri side of the Mississippi River. During periods of low water, which have been prevalent the last six years, the chute silts in.

Using the model, Miles was able to evaluate 13 different alternatives to alter an existing dike field to provide environmental benefits to the chute. The goal was to increase and diversify depth and flows in the two side channels, conditions that riverine fish thrive in.

While doing this though, it was crucial to ensure that flows in the navigation channel were not impacted by flow being diverted to the side channels.

A successful solution was found in the notching of two dikes, the removal of portions of two dikes and the construction of two closure structures. The changes provide a variety of water depths, don't interfere with flows in the navigation channel and provide conditions that allow the lower end of the chute to clear itself out.



Hydraulic engineer Mary Miles discusses surveys of the Mississippi River's depth in reference to the low water reference plain. The surveys are used to calibrate the models to simulate river conditions. Dawn Lamm (L) and Dave Gordan (R) look on.

"It is very encouraging to see this type of flow going through the side channel," said Dave Gordon, senior river engineer at the AREC.

Working alongside Miles in the AREC has been Eddie Brauer, modeling Cliff Cave – Kimmswick, a 12 mile stretch of river just 15 miles south of St. Louis.

"This stretch of river is typical of the St. Louis Harbor," Brauer explained. The river has very little diversity in flow there, and there are few places for fish to move out of the fast-moving current and rest.

An added incentive to introducing more ecological diversity to this stretch of river is the fact that the federally-endangered pallid sturgeon has been found there.

Through trial and error, Brauer experimented with 21 different alternatives that removed dikes, shortened dikes and placed other structures in the river in order to find a design that would provide environmental benefits while maintaining a dependable navigation channel.

A combination of two alternatives that would trim seven existing dikes, install

one new dike and install seven chevrons proved to be the preferred solution.

In the model these alterations created two sand bars surrounded by side channels and scour holes. Upon construction, these conditions would provide fish a variety of ideal conditions, such as slack water, shallow channels, deep pools and bar formations.

Funding and the continued cooperation of project partners will ensure that these conceptual alternatives one day take physical form in the river.



Miles discusses the hydraulic sedimentation model with partners from the Fish and Wildlife Service and the American Land Conservancy.



New River Navigator At The Helm

By Nicole Dalrymple, PA

Owen Dutt, recently retired Chief of the Environmental Analysis Branch and Upper Mississippi River Navigator, has passed on River Navigator duties to St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Strategic Initiatives Coordinator Deanne Strauser. Both agree that the community outreach and partnership-building aspects of her job make Strauser a natural choice for the new assignment.

A River Navigator, as designated through the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, is not a river navigator in the sense of Mark Twain or present-day river boat captains. Rather, it is an ambassador of sorts for rivers around the country, designated as American Heritage Rivers. The Navigator's mission is to aid associated river communities in navigating the often tumultuous and confusing waters of the federal bureaucracy.

The initiative was established by Executive Order 13061 in 1997 and was created to recognize and support local efforts to restore and protect America's rivers and revitalize river communities and waterfronts.

A call went out in 1997 for communities to submit rivers for nomination. If selected, their river would be assigned a Navigator. One hundred and twenty-six communities submitted nominations. Fourteen were selected. "It was a great response," Dutt recalls.

The fourteen rivers are found throughout the United States, although a majority of them are east of the Mississippi River. Some are in cities and others are in rural areas. Some were selected for their historical significance and others for their cultural importance. Dutt explained that the selection committee worked hard to select rivers that were a good representation of the entire United States.

Dutt remembers how four separate nomination packages were received for the Mississippi River from representa-



Owen Dutt and Deanne Strauser look over American Heritage Rivers Initiative paperwork in preparation for the transfer of River Navigator duties.

tives in New Orleans, St. Louis, Quad Cities and St. Paul. The committee realized that one river navigator could not meet the needs of the entire Mississippi River, stretching over 2,300 miles. It was decided the river would be split geographically into upper and lower reaches.

The three communities on the Upper Mississippi River were approached and asked to either join forces or only one would be designated. The communities decided to combine their nominations and started a telephone campaign to draw in other river communities. Ultimately, over 50 communities joined the nomination package for the Upper Mississippi River.

The communities are not in a contiguous section, Dutt explained. Some chose not to participate. The Upper Mississippi River communities that are part of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative are "a string of pearls connected by the river," Dutt said.

Dutt was designated River Navigator in 1999. He was only the second U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigator assigned to the program and has been the only Upper Mississippi River Navigator until now.

USACE sponsored two of the original

navigators, but many of the other agencies who originally sponsored navigators, such as the EPA and Department of Interior, have chosen not to extend the appointments of their navigators, many are looking to the Corps to expand their role in the program, Dutt explained.

The benefit to the river communities of having a navigator, Dutt said, is having a federal liaison who can navigate the maze of federal bureaucracy to find programs that support the communities' initiatives.

During initial visits following his appointment, Dutt explained to the communities that he didn't have a magic wand or a pot of money. He could provide them assistance in finding programs and champion them in getting technical assistance.

"The picture I would paint for the communities was if you tell me of a need, I will go out and try to find something. It is up to you whether you follow it through," Dutt explained. "I'm just turning over rocks and linking you up with resource providers that may help you."

One of the referrals Dutt recalls was the City of Little Falls in Minnesota. The city had an old paper mill that went



bankrupt and the owners walked away, leaving it as an eye sore and environmental issue for the community. Dutt got the community linked up with the EPA's Brownfields program and the program played a significant role in the removal of this plant.

"Navigators are really facilitators," Dutt said. "If I have been successful in introducing communities to a program, they are the ones who have moved forward with the initiative and they should get all of the credit."

The Upper Mississippi program encompasses five states and 1,200 river miles. As navigator, he has had visibility on what the different communities were doing and saw opportunities to leverage everyone's efforts.

"It is important for communities to know what each other is doing," he said. "There are a lot of hard working, well

intentioned people in these communities trying to do good things for the river, their community, and the watershed."

Over time things have changed.

The program's original appointment for river navigators was five years and some agencies have chosen not to renew those appointments as federal funds have continually decreased.

"A lot of agencies can stop and go back to their regular duties and missions," Dutt said. "We [the Corps] don't want to step away. We won't walk away from the river. It is our life blood. We want to maintain and foster relationships with river communities."

Strauser added, "It is key that the Corps stay involved. It is a network we are woven into."

"Things are alive and well in the program," Dutt said. "Things may be changing but they are still moving

forward."

In fact, the next American Heritage Rivers Initiative national meeting is scheduled in Washington D.C. on March 27-29. Strauser is looking forward to the meeting.

"At the meeting I'll have a chance to meet with all the current river navigators, as well as the Interagency Task Force on American Heritage Rivers," she said. "One of the main focuses this year is the future – future initiatives, the possibility of adding rivers to the program, and assigning replacement river navigators."

"Owen did a great job with the program on the Upper Mississippi River, and I'm looking forward to carrying on his legacy and helping the program grow. This is definitely an exciting time to be working on the river and with river communities."

Wappapello Lake Invites You To Visit, Now and All Through The Year.



Beautiful Wappapello Lake basks in the late summer sunshine.

This time of the year many individuals make New Year's resolutions to achieve a positive goal in their life, whether it is to lose weight or live a more stress-free life. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Wappapello Lake offers a variety of opportunities to help you achieve your goals!

Wappapello Lake offers unique trails to explore the beautiful Ozark woodlands while relieving stress and enjoying a healthier lifestyle. The National Recreation Trails (Pine Ridge, Lost Creek, Johnson Tract, and Memory Lane) are as individual as those who enjoy them offering walks through nature or through the rich historical past

of Old Greenville respectively.

The Wappapello Lake section of the Ozark Trail provides 33 miles of Ozark richness for hikers, non-motorized bikes and equestrians. A trail guide is available for these trails at the Wappapello Lake project office.

Wappapello Lake allows visitors the freedom to enjoy modern and primitive camping, fishing, boating, hunting opportunities, swimming, playgrounds, picnicking, and more. Families can relax and enjoy quality vacations and time together close to home.

This year Wappapello Lake has lined up these great special events that are sure to please a wide variety of tastes. Whether individuals enjoy volunteering opportunities, living history events, or a chance to celebrate the different seasonal activities, you will want to mark your calendars for these!

- Spring Roadside Cleanup April 7
- Black Powder Rendezvous . April 21-22
- W.O.O.D.S. May 5 (Wappapello Outdoors Opportunity for Disabled Sportsmen)

- National Drag Boat Races ... May 19-20
- COE Birthday and Military Celebration June 9
- Kid's Fishing Derby June 16
- 4th of July Festival and Waterfest June 30
- Labor Day 25-Mile Yard Sale August 31- September 2
- Old Greenville Days .. September 15-16
- Octoberfest October 6
- Festival of Lights Christmas Auto Tour November 23- December 25
- Mobility Impaired Deer Hunt .. Late fall

Come and explore beautiful Wappapello Lake where the sun always shines!

For more information, please contact the Wappapello Lake Project Office at (573) 222-8562, or write to 10992 Highway T, Wappapello, Missouri 63966. For updated lake information contact the information hotline at (573) 222-8139 or toll free at 1-877-LAKE INFO (1-877-525-3463).



District Lauded for Tourism Support

By Alan Dooley, PA

Godfrey, Ill. – The St. Louis District has been recognized by the Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau for its body of work supporting the growing phenomenon of “nature based tourism” in the region.

District representatives were among more than 70 businesses and 29 sponsors who came together in Godfrey, Ill., at a dinner at the campus of the Lewis and Clark Community College, Thursday, Jan. 29.

Brett Stawar, director of the bureau presented the award, which was accepted by Deputy District Commander Lt. Col. Greg Raimondo, Riverlands Area Manager Pat McGinnis and Rivers Project Manager Andy Schimpf.

In making the presentation, Stawar praised the Corps partnership efforts throughout the region.

The Corps conducts a variety of environmental programs that promote public understanding of the natural and cultural importance of our nation’s rivers; these programs provide valuable content enriching the overall visitor



The Corps’ Environmental Demonstration Area is a haven for migratory waterfowl. It sits a world away and just across the Mississippi from busy Alton, Illinois.

experience while raising mission awareness of the Corps’ water resource development programs. But a major effort is focused on enhancing public open space that is safely accessible to people. This effort is especially valuable near large metropolitan areas where citizens otherwise see open land and its wildlife inhabitants only infrequently.

The Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary is located only a dozen miles from much of St. Louis. It has been officially designated by the National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area (IBA) and is so-designated by signage. The IBA designation is important to travelers seeking unique birding experiences since it calls attention to the area as a premier area in which to view a diverse variety of birds that migrate along the Mississippi River flyway. In recent years, new state records and a number of extremely rare birds, seldom seen in the United States, have been recorded there. In addition, several endangered plants thrive in the sanctuary.

Pat McGinnis echoed Stawar’s comments when the award was presented, saying “More and more people are seeking natural, unique experiences that celebrate our nation’s culture and natural heritage. The river is a big part of that in this region.”

He also noted that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the number one provider of water-based recreation in the nation. McGinnis pointed out that water and history are common threads sought out by many of today’s leisure travelers.



(L) Deputy District Commander Lt. Col. Greg Raimondo, Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau President Brett Stawar, Riverlands Area Manager Pat McGinnis and Rivers Project Manager Andy Schimpf pose with an award presented by the Alton group to the U.S. Army Corps of engineers for support to nature tourism in the region. Convention and Visitors Bureau Photo



One example of support to nature based tourism was last year's First Annual Wings of Spring Confluence Birding Festival. The birding festival is a multi-agency, multi-organization collaborative staged on the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary and sponsored by the Missouri Audubon Society. The event is anchoring awareness activity that promotes the nature based opportunities that visitors can enjoy while visiting the area. Even though the two-day event, which brought state, local and non-governmental groups together was hampered by a windy, cold rain in 2006, more than 1,600 people came for exhibits, presentations, demonstrations and a general opportunity to view first hand the birds that are seen during the spring every year. A second round of this festival is on the calendar for May 4-6 this year and has been greatly expanded.

McGinnis told *Esprit* that the Rivers Project and other St. Louis District operational projects partner with numerous state and regional groups to play a strong role in making the region a popular destination for travelers.

He calls the natural heritage priceless, but says, "If you want to put a dollar value on tourism, the travel industry in

St. Clair and Madison counties alone employ more than 7,000 people and generates a payroll of \$165 million annually. That number is growing at a rate of 4-5 percent each year. Certainly the unique opportunities to see, hear and touch so many unique elements of our environment are powerful draws to the region."

The wildlife found on Corps administered public lands and waters are assets that, if managed properly, can foster sustainable tourism. For example, right now in the dead of winter, during what could be considered an otherwise slow period for tourism in this region, the Riverlands sanctuary is hosting large numbers of White Pelicans, over 200 Trumpeter Swans, and approximately 80-100 Bald Eagles. These big showy birds are considered the "Big Three" by local tourism promoters and are regularly drawing large numbers of families and bus tours to the area for heavily marketed viewing opportunities.

Other St. Louis District projects attract their share of visitors to take part in recreation activities from swimming, camping, boating and hunting, to simply slowing their pace to drink in the wonders of nature – nature-based tourism.

More than 15.9 million visits were recorded in the District last year, more than four times as many people as the number who crowded into the new Busch Stadium to see some other birds, the World Champion Baseball Cardinals, in their inaugural season in their new stadium.

Nationwide the Corps notched more than 368 million visits last year, with many opportunities being available near population centers east of the Mississippi River. These natural wonders are accessible to visitors who don't want to or cannot afford to travel long distances to sample nature at its best.

While tourism is not all about visiting nature, a growing segment of it is. In Illinois, last year tourists spent more than \$44 billion and employed 581,000 people meeting their needs. Nationwide those numbers are more than \$653 billion and 7.5 million people employed by tourism.

The end result of the hard work of all of the nation's U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts in the recreation arena is a win-win-win for America. The projects help restore clean air and water nationwide. They enhance the ecosystem of our nation, making life better for the flora and fauna that are rich parts of our heritage. And finally they make large parts of this system accessible to the public so that they can both enjoy and appreciate nature and see their tax dollars hard at work for everybody's benefit. Overall the Corps is able to show visitors a balanced watershed based approach to water resource development.

In a capsule, seeing a mature Bald Eagle fly close overhead and then dive into the river to catch a fish dinner is a priceless opportunity that is available to the 2.5 million people who live here and everyone who visits here. And that's just a small part of what awaits Corps visitors, here and nationwide.

To paraphrase Motel Six's motto, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is "leaving the light on" for visitors from all over the world at accessible sites nationwide.



(R) Bob Dickerson, of Columbia, Ill. holds his son Cole up to offer a donation to Lenore, a white-necked raven from Africa at a Masters of the Skies program at the National Great Rivers Museum at the Mel Price Locks and Dam. The skilled donation-collecting bird deftly drops contributions into the Plexiglas box at her feet. This is one of many programs offered in the region by the Corps of Engineers that attract hundreds of tourists every year.



Three Agencies Partner for Environmental Progress in Missouri

By Nicole Dalrymple, PA

The States of Missouri and Illinois are unique in the sheer number of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts that have jurisdiction over sections of the state. Once a year, Corps representatives attend state partnering meetings that are structured to help keep lines of communication open, introduce the various issues each District is working on and coordinate efforts within the states.

The agency meeting for the State of Missouri was held in December at the Hyatt Regency Union Station in downtown St. Louis. Representatives from the Missouri Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources attended, along with staff from seven Corps Districts – Kansas City, Little Rock, Memphis, Omaha, Rock Island, St. Louis and Tulsa.

Col. Lewis F. Setliff III, St. Louis District Commander, welcomed the group the morning of December 6.

Following opening statements and staff introductions, agency overviews were given. Those were followed by special issue briefings that included regulatory, stream bank protection, Restoration of Abandoned Mines Sites (RAMS), Mississippi and Missouri Rivers initiatives, Planning Assistance to States, levee certification, and legislative updates.

John Hoskins, Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, stressed the importance of focusing the efforts of the multiple districts and two state agencies and working together.

“We need to work from the big picture perspective,” he said. “We have created a strong partnership. The many unknowns of the future can be viewed as opportunities or obstacles. I’d like to see them as opportunities and only through partnerships can we accomplish our individual goals.”

Director Doyle Childers of Missouri Department of Natural Resources echoed Hoskins’ comments. “Partnership is the key to deal with [state] issues,” he said.



Representatives from seven Corps Districts and two state agencies came together in St. Louis December 6 to discuss issues and opportunities in Missouri.
Photo by Natalie Eschmann

“I’ve been impressed with the leadership and willingness of the Corps to come to the table and talk about difficult issues. There are no easy solutions, but there are things we can work on together.”

“Another thing I want to talk about is what we can do in the future,” Childers went on to say. “I think this meeting is critically important to lay the foundation. We have the maximum number of staff possible here. We want to have this interaction. We think the more we interact and communicate the more likely we are to resolve a lot of the issues mentioned today.”

Colonel Setliff echoed these sentiments during his overview of the St. Louis District.

“I took to heart what MDC brought up about the big picture, and particularly what MDNR said about how we work together,” he said. “You put those two themes together and you realize we are all in this together. How we cooperate is different from how do we cooperate together, making sure our strategic, big picture visions for the State of Missouri align. Today is a good way to further how we do in fact cooperate together.”

Aligning the needs and goals of a state with two natural resources agencies; seven Corps of Engineers Districts that have varying levels of jurisdiction and

management of 14 Corps lakes; two major watersheds – the Mississippi and Missouri; and a diverse terrain that includes farmland, forested hills, low mountains and plains; can only be accomplished through the continued cooperation of all those who take an interest in protecting and sustaining the state’s many water and natural resources.

This annual meeting and regular coordination between the Corps and the State is vital to getting support for programs within Missouri. Discussion during the meeting turned to the possibility of developing a comprehensive plan for the entire state, rather than several based on individual Districts and their projects.

It was suggested that to get the best projects, consensus should be developed on the top priority projects in Missouri. This would unite the efforts of individual Districts, and the state’s initiatives.

“This is often the only time I get situational awareness on what the other Districts are doing,” said Col. Mike Rossi, District Commander in Kansas City District. “There are scarce national resources and partnership will help us better compete for those resources at the national level. We share many of the same goals and we need to work together.”



St. Louis District Leadership Development Program

By Nicole Dalrymple, PA

District Leadership Development Programs (LDP) select young Corps employees who show promise for future leadership and expose them to opportunities to assess themselves and to observe first hand, other proven leaders and their methods and principles. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to visit and learn from the best of the best of our nation's business leaders.

LDP participants from Rock Island and St. Louis Districts joined to visit one of the nation's premier defense contractors here in St. Louis, the Boeing Corporation, in January.

Two of Boeing's military divisions, Airlift and Tanker in 1998 and Aerospace Support in 2003, have been awarded the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, an award given by the President of the United States.



St. Louis LDP participant Tan Gates listens to the discussion at Baldrige

The award was created to recognize those organizations that are continually improving and striving for higher quality and professionalism and have the results to prove it.

Part of the Baldrige process includes an in depth scrutiny of seven categories, each having to be assigned a champion in the organization: leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; human resources; process



Boeing's Doug Stuart (L) talks to Roger Brown and Hank DeHaan, both from Rock Island District, during a break.

Photos by Heather Bishop, Rock Island District.

management; and business results.

Doug Stuart, business excellence manager for Boeing's Integrated Defense Systems, told Leadership Development Program participants that improvements were seen as soon as the divisions started to adopt the criteria. It wasn't a short process though. But within six years there was a marked and noticeable improvement.

One of the hallmarks of Baldrige awardees is that they continually seek improvement. Boeing's task in achieving the Baldrige Award was complicated by the size of the defense sector of the firm. Just the Aerospace Support section alone has 12,000 employees and is in 131 locations.

Leadership from the top down and the bottom up was key to the organization's success, Stuart said.

One of the expectations of being a Baldrige Award winner is to share lessons learned with other organizations and to host site visits. So Boeing was eager to help potential future leaders in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to realize their potentials.

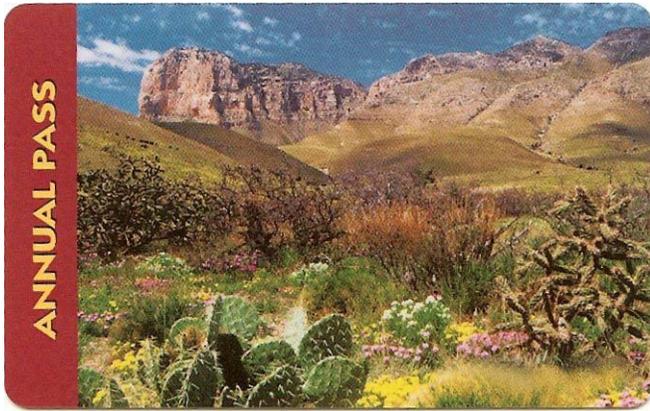
Stuart said one of the major lessons learned from going through the Baldrige process is the absolute necessity of leadership's commitment — a point well taken by individuals who are all currently going through a program that is intended to develop leadership skills.

LDP members from St. Louis and Rock Island comprise a group of people that the Corps hopes will play significant roles in the organization's future. If opportunities they are offered to learn firsthand about leadership examples predict success, the Boeing visit will surely be near the top of this group's learning experiences.

This visit was part of Rock Island District's LDP's mid-year retreat that included a site tour at Chouteau Island, the Boeing visit and a sit down session with Lt. Col. Greg Raimondo and Joe Kellett, to discuss the St. Louis District's strategic planning processes.



Operations Division's Lynn Neher considers several points on leadership.



Corps Honors New Recreation Passes

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will honor new federal recreation passes at all of its recreation areas as of January 2007.

The new passes – America the Beautiful – the National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands passes – are a result of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004. The new passes being honored by the Corps are the Senior and Access passes, which duplicate the benefits of existing Golden Age and Golden Access Passports at Corps of Engineers facilities.

While the legislation does not authorize the Corps to sell the new passes, Corps officials have determined that previously issued Golden Age and Golden Access Passports, as well as the new passes, will be honored at all Corps recreation areas.

New passes may be obtained in person at USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service facilities. The new and old passes provide a 50 percent discount to authorized users for day use and camping fees. Although the new passes indicate that they are not honored for camping discounts, the Corps will honor them at Corps recreation facilities for this purpose immediately.

The new passes are available for citizens and permanent residents age 62 or over, or who have qualifying estab-

lished medical disabilities.

Existing Golden Age and Golden Access paper passes may continue to be used at Corps recreation facilities or may be exchanged for free for the new plastic passes at the other listed facilities.

Additional information about the new recreation passes is available at: <http://www.recreation.gov/recpass.jsp>

The Corps, which is the largest federal provider of outdoor recreation opportunities, encourages all Americans to enjoy the nation's public lands and waters. The Corps operates more than 2,500 recreation areas at 456 projects (mostly lakes.) It also leases some 1,800 additional sites to state, local authorities or private interests.

Each year more than 25 million Americans visit Corps projects. Many visit more than one area on each visit and more come several times each year. In total, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers records about 375 million uses of recreation facilities annually.

More than fifteen million of those visits in 2006 took place in the St. Louis District.

More information about U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation projects nationwide is available at: <http://www.corpslakes.us>

Editor's Note: In the St. Louis metro area passes can be purchased from the Jefferson National Parks Association by visiting the Arch or Old Court House in St. Louis, Mo., or by calling 314-231-5474 or 1-800-537-7962.

CORPS GOLF LEAGUE - 2007

Preparations are underway for the 2007 Corps of Engineers Golf League. The league plays a handicap team format. Teams consist of six to eight players, four of whom play each week. The league begins in mid-April and goes into August. We will again be playing at Clinton Hill Country Club in Belleville every Tuesday at 4:00 pm.

For additional information concerning the league, contact League President Wally Feld (wfeld@charter.net), or Secretary Ken Koller (314-331-8422 or ken.r.koller@mvs02.usace.army.mil). Any golfer interested in joining the league should contact Ken soonest.





Army Announces New Crime Prevention Programs

FORT BELVOIR, Virginia — The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation

Command (USACIDC), commonly known as CID, has announced its new Army-wide crime prevention and awareness program dubbed “CID Lookout.”

The program is a CID initiative to partner with the Army community by providing a conduit for members of the Army family to help prevent, reduce and report felony-level crime. CID simultaneously announced its related “CID Cyber Lookout” program initiated by the Computer Crime Investigative Unit (CCIU). The CID Cyber Lookout is



designed to promote Internet safety by educating the Army community about the dangers posed by cyber-criminals on the Internet.

The USACIDC is an independent criminal investigative organization that investigates serious, felony-level crime such as homicide, rape, sexual assault, robbery, arson, contract fraud, and intrusions into Army networks.

“Solving and preventing crimes of this nature takes community involvement and cannot be achieved solely by CID Special Agents. Together, professional law enforcement officers and the Army community must work hand-in-hand to fight serious crime,” said the Provost Marshal General of the Army and Commanding General of CID, BG Rodney Johnson.

Part of the new CID Lookout initiative will be disseminating topical and useful crime prevention and crime awareness information to the U.S. Army via the internal Army media, according to Chris

Grey, CID’s chief of Public Affairs,

“The information will cover topics such as identity theft, logistics security, preventing sexual assault and robbery – anything that prevents our Soldiers and their families from becoming victims,” said Grey.

CID Lookout also asks Soldiers, family members, and employees to “Be On The Lookout” and to report crimes and suspicious activity.

“We want people to know who we are, what we can do for them, and what they can do for us to make our Army even more Army Strong and safe,” said BG Johnson. “The new CID Lookout program provides that two-way communication mechanism for members of the Army family to get involved.”

For more information on CID or to report a felony-level crime or provide information concerning a serious crime, contact your local CID Office, the Military Police, or visit www.cid.army.mil

Please Listen Carefully...

“Please listen carefully, as menu options have changed recently...” Welcome to telephone tree purgatory.

If the growing use of phone trees and declining ability to talk to a human being until you finger walk through five layers of seemingly irrelevant questions gets your goat, visit the website: www.gethuman.com.

This is a non-profit consumer group dedicated to improving telephone customer service.

Their goal is to convince companies (and someday probably the government) to answer the phone vice sending callers down an electronic rabbit hole seeking the comfort of talking to a human being to solve their problems.

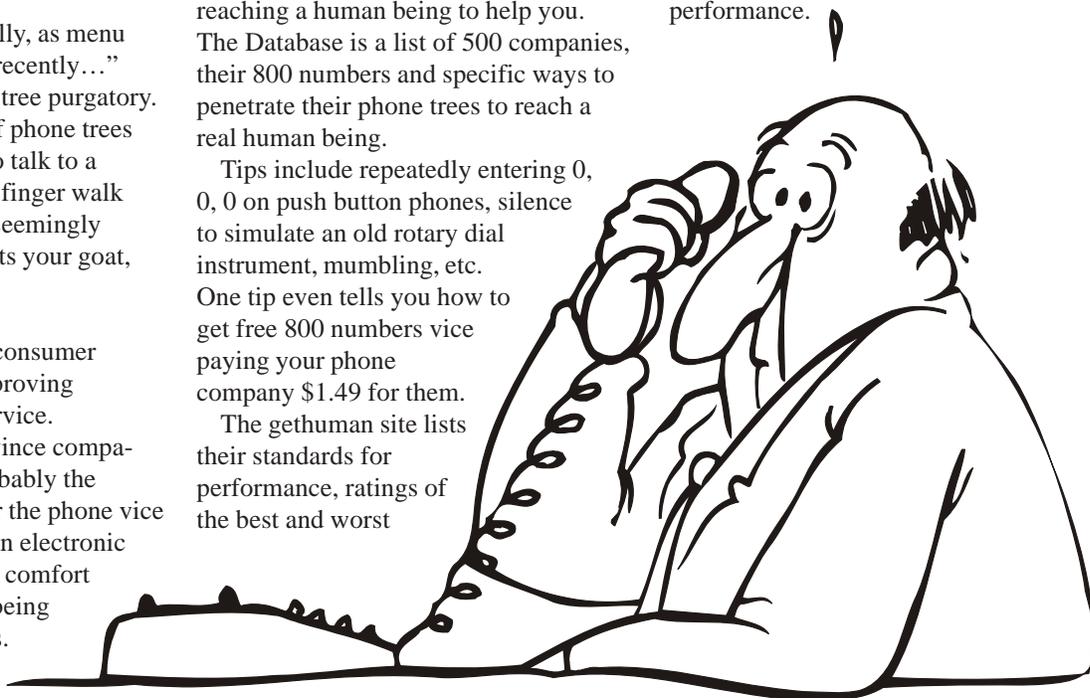
At gethuman, two especially useful links are Tips and Database.

The Tips link gives a page of hints for reaching a human being to help you. The Database is a list of 500 companies, their 800 numbers and specific ways to penetrate their phone trees to reach a real human being.

Tips include repeatedly entering 0, 0, 0 on push button phones, silence to simulate an old rotary dial instrument, mumbling, etc. One tip even tells you how to get free 800 numbers vice paying your phone company \$1.49 for them.

The gethuman site lists their standards for performance, ratings of the best and worst

companies and ways you can join in the effort to restore telephone customer service to a better level of performance.



The real Dr. King: A radical, a fighter, a hero

As we celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., one historian says the Nobel Prize winner is now frozen in time.

Are his heroism and humanity ever more distant from us? Michael Dyson, a professor at DePaul University, says they are. In his book, *I May Not Get There with You: The True Martin Luther King Jr.* (Free Press), Dyson says that three decades after his death, and on the 72nd anniversary of his birth, King's humanity and thirst for justice are not emphasized.

To many of us, King is far from a revolutionary. He is thought to be conservative, middle class, safe. Dyson says his radical legacy has been set aside. His challenge to both middle-

class complacency and irresponsible militancy is fading into the background of time.



Martin Luther King Jr.
Jan. 15, 1929 - Apr. 4, 1968

Only when we measure the moral and personal obstacles that Dr. King had to

overcome can we appreciate how great his accomplishments were. It's true that he had his flaws. But, says Dyson, his flaws prove that he was human. They show he was not an icon with no appeal to flesh-and-blood mortals.

If Dr. King could rise above his faults to help America become a better nation, then we can all overcome personal and societal barriers and create social change. That lesson, says the author, is important as we try to connect Dr. King's humanity to people today, especially young people. His vision of justice must belong to the nation and the world, says Dyson, not to activists with agendas of their own.

The Dr. King that we should celebrate on January 15 is the one who gave his life insisting that we honor truth, conquer evil, embrace love, and expand justice. That is the true Martin Luther King Jr.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

CEMVS-PA
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1222 SPRUCE ST
ST LOUIS MO 63103-2833

OFFICIAL BUSINESS