



# News Release

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## **Army Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service goes to St. Louis Corps of Engineers employee**

Dr. Michael K. “Sonny” Trimble, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis was announced as one of 26 Army Civilians receiving the Army’s top awards to civilian employees for 2008. Trimble received the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service from Army Secretary Pete Geren in a Pentagon Ceremony Tuesday, April 15.

Dr. Trimble was cited for his leadership of a team of experts that performed forensic mass-grave exhumations and analyses in Iraq following Gulf War II. Travelling to Iraq for seven extended periods, Trimble personally testified against Saddam Hussein, “Chemical Ali” and several other former Iraqi government officials in the Anfal Trial in Baghdad.

In announcing the honor accorded to Trimble, the Army said that his work demonstrates America’s support to the Global War on Terrorism by emphasizing our resolve to bring to trial those individuals accused of unthinkable crimes against other human beings.

Trimble and his hand picked teams applied proven techniques and technologies of archaeological and anthropological investigations, as well as specially adapting methods to curate and preserve information in forms that would stand up in court trials against war criminals.

The teams spent a series of lengthy periods in Iraq identifying and selecting mass grave sites, and then excavating remains from these graves before assembling a body of evidence and data that has been used in a series of trials of former Baath Party officials accused of numerous atrocities against the people of Iraq. Trimble’s teams also worked closely with Iraqi colleagues to help them to develop their techniques so they can continue to bring justice to victims after U.S. involvement in this program ended.

In St. Louis, Dr. Trimble is the Chief of the Curation and Analysis Branch for the District and Director the Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers worldwide.