

Some of you may be aware that the Corps has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). I have attached a copy of that agreement for your information. PVA is a nonprofit organization chartered by the United States Congress in 1946. The PVA has more than 40 chapters and subchapters and 20,000 members in the United States and Puerto Rico. The PVA has created numerous programs and activities to meet the needs of paralyzed veterans and all other Americans with disabilities.

PVA is greatly expanding their outreach program to the rest of the disabled community throughout the United States. Their partnerships with organizations like Duck's Unlimited and Quail Unlimited are greatly assisting in these efforts. Through their work with the National Shooting Sports Foundation and others they have established Step Outside events all over the country. Step Outside events are days or weekends when others in the community are invited to Step Outside and learn about shooting, hunting, fishing etc. In 2003, most of their chapters are participating by sponsoring at least one of these events.

As a result, the PVA is looking for suitable areas on Corps lakes and projects to hold special disabled hunts. The purpose of these hunts is to provide a unique recreational opportunity for individuals who have a permanent physical condition, which severely impairs their mobility. These individuals are fully capable of using a firearm to hunt game, but have restricted ability to access areas for a quality experience. These hunts are intended to provide proper access, facilities and other needed resources so these individuals can enjoy a safe and quality recreational experience.

I know that many Corps projects regularly conduct these types of hunts. They offer a significant opportunity to form local partnerships with PVA and other organizations. I ask that each division consider nominating new areas where these hunts are appropriate. Please pass along your consolidated division nominations us and we will forward them to the appropriate contacts at PVA who will make contact at the local project level.

Nominations should include:

- ?? Project name and address
- ?? Name of the area if appropriate
- ?? Name of a local project point of contact
- ?? Phone number for the local project POC
- ?? E-mail address for the local project POC

We would appreciate having your nominations by January 10 for the coming year. The HQ POC for this effort is Mr. Frank Lands who can be reached via e-mail or by phone at 202-761-4717.

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