DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

28 JAN 1997

CECW-ON

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND DISTRICT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Universal Access to Recreation Facilities and Programs

1. Recreation use associated with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resources projects provide vital benefits to society and contributes greatly to the economic prosperity of our Nation. The Corps is committed to ensuring these benefits are universally available to all Americans, to include persons with disabilities.

2. Nearly 60 percent of our population experiences a temporary or permanent disability at some point in their lives. People may encounter difficulty walking a quarter of a mile or going up a flight of stairs without resting. Others may live with mobility, vision, hearing, and/or learning impairments. Virtually all of us will experience activity limitations that increase with age. **It is the policy of the Corps to provide universally accessible recreation opportunities for all people. The Corps will ensure that all new and existing facilities and programs meet or exceed current guidelines.**

3. A national task force has been commissioned to address universal accessibility for Corps recreation programs and facilities. This work group will propose comprehensive guidance to assist in the assessment and compliance process. The task force will also recommend a work plan to address training, self assessments, transition plans, partnerships, public involvement and other actions associated with recreation access.

4. Corps recreation opportunities and experiences are intricately woven into the fabric of American life. It is our legal and moral obligation to ensure that universal design is fully integrated into our facilities and programs. I challenge each of you to embrace this obligation and expeditiously comply or exceed existing access guidance.

JOE N. BALLARD
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding