



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

11 JUN 2001

CECI-TA (25-1)

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders/Directors, Major Subordinate Commands, Field Operating Activities, and Headquarters Staff Principals

SUBJECT: Web Site Accessibility for People with Disabilities (Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act)

1. References.

a. Enclosed Memorandum SAIS-IIAC, 6 March 2001, subject: Guidance for Implementation of Congressionally Mandated Requirements Concerning Access to Federal Information Technology by Members of the Public and Federal Employees with Disabilities (Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act).

b. Engineer Regulation 25-1-99, Management and Use of CorpsWeb, 30 July 1999.

2. This memorandum provides important guidance issued by the Army, cited in 1a, above, and requests that commanders/directors at all levels take action to comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.

3. Procurement of information resources, pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act, is addressed in Enclosure 2, Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR); Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) Accessibility, 66 FR 20894, published in the Federal Register on 25 April 2001.

4. Reference 1a focuses on the Act's requirements and the need for web page and equipment/software accessibility by employees and members of the public with disabilities. To assist in meeting these requirements, the Internet/Intranet Center of Expertise (ICE) has published material at <http://corpsinfo.usace.army.mil/ice/accessibility.html>, and will furnish web operational/technical guidance and help, as needed, upon request. Point of contact for this assistance is Ms. Laura Lewis, ICE contractor at 703-247-5462. Also, as indicated in paragraph 9 of Reference 1 a, initial consultant assistance and support for access by persons with disabilities to the information environment is available from the Department of Defense.

5. Failure to meet Section 508 requirements can result in administrative claims and compliance actions against USACE. Because the new law permits members of the public and USACE employees to file administrative claims or lawsuits for non-compliance, you should promptly coordinate any Section 508 complaint with your legal counsel.

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6. Exemption from Section 508 compliance exists for several areas, one of which is an organization's existing or established base of EIT, installed prior to 21 June 2001 (See paragraph 6, Reference 1a).

a. Since Section 508 is not retroactive but is forward looking, beginning 21 June 2001, only changes, additions, and/or newly deployed/installed CorpsWeb EIT must be in compliance with the subject law and the accessibility standards provided in the enclosure (Reference 1a).

b. On and after 21 June 2001, USACE web staffs (web site managers, webmasters, and pagemasters) providing web support/services must ensure that requirements stated in paragraph 6a, above, are upheld.

7. Reference 1b, ER 25-1-99, is being amended to incorporate Section 508 requirements of the Rehabilitation Act and the enclosed Army guidance. Consequently, annual reporting to be provided in October 2001, as called for by paragraph 7.10 (and its subparts) of ER 25-1 -99, will address Section 508 compliance for CorpsWeb site accessibility by people with disabilities.

8. My contact for this correspondence is Mr. Michael Henderson, CECI-TA. You may direct questions or comments concerning this memorandum to him at 202-761-0468, or e-mail: gerald.m.henderson@usace.army.mil.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



WILBERT BERRIOS

Director of Corporate Information

2 Encls

CF:
District Commanders
Directors/Chiefs of Info Mgt
Web Site Managers
Webmasters/Pagemasters
CEERD-IM-H (ICE)