

RAID retires: Web takes over New online reporting system ready for use

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. – The Rapid Access to Information in Defense Logistics Agency, (RAID), was replaced earlier than expected by the new web-based Environmental Reporting System (ERS). RAID was deactivated Feb. 16, and the new system went online.

Although ERS was still in its final testing stages, it was decided to put the system in full production when a software problem appeared in RAID. It was not cost-effective to repair the system, and because ERS was nearly ready for use, DRMS was able to convert to ERS and discontinue RAID successfully.

The three month early retirement of RAID allows users to benefit from the new time-saving system. DRMOs and military installations can directly access and search for information within the system. Prior to ERS, it was necessary to contact DRMS headquarters in Battle Creek, Mich., to do searches. The process sometimes took days, and results were mailed back to the field. If the results did not contain the needed information, the search would have to be redone and the process started all over again. With user-friendly ERS, access is now at the user's fingertips and several searches can be done in minutes. Users are also no longer required to obtain passwords and user names from DRMS headquarters.

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By entering different parameters, users of ERS can access a variety of hazardous waste disposal information such as cost of disposal per hazardous item, number of times a disposal service has been used, or the types of items disposed of by different military services.

Created in 1990, RAID was one of the fastest developed systems in DLA history. The initial system was functional in a few weeks and operational in three months. Using tools and techniques considered innovative for its time, DLA created a product that has been a successful and important asset for DRMS for the past nine years. The system could access, or “raid” a database retrieving only the specific information needed and not the entire database.

Like RAID, ERS contains hazardous property disposal data including: finance, shipping and receiving, and contracting information. The information is supplied from a larger database, Base Operations Support System, which tracks hazardous items and property such as flammable paints, oils or detergents.

The data retrieved by ERS can still be used to compile environmental reports requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as well as for state agencies and the Environmental Protection Agency. RAID was used to produce the annual Resource Conservation and Recovery Act report plus more than 2,000 reports for the public under FOIA last year.

All of the advantages of RAID are available in the new ERS in a quicker, easier to use format on the Web. ERS can be accessed at the DRMS Home page. Choose Environmental and select “ERS database” under “Hazardous Waste Disposal Quicklinks”. Access can also be gained by entering: http://drmst1.drms.dla.mil:8000/forms_cart .