



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers.**  
Construction Engineering  
Research Laboratory

# Fact Sheet

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## **DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE (DENIX)**

### **The Problem**

Inability for Department of Defense (DOD) environmental managers to effectively communicate with each other and receive environmental policy and guidance in a timely fashion hinders DOD compliance with constantly changing environmental laws and regulations. The lack of a coordinated, DOD-wide developmental effort resulted in a large number of fragmented, often duplicative, support systems. Defense Management Review Directive 920 mandated a DOD-wide initiative to study the existing technologies and to effect complete "a business process improvement" for environmental compliance systems. In 1993, the DOD Defense Environmental Security Corporate Information Management (DESCIM) program established a DOD working group to define requirements and needs for a DOD-wide electronic environmental bulletin board system.

### **The Technology**

The U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) developed the Defense Environmental Network and Information eXchange (DENIX), an electronic bulletin board accessible throughout DOD. DENIX was the first DESCIM migration system to be fielded. It was based on the Army's Defense Environmental Electronic Bulletin Board System, which was also developed at CERL. DENIX went online in August 1993. This bulletin board system allows users to: 1) read online environmental publications (proprietary or DOD-specific); 2) send and receive mail electronically on the DENIX host computer or across the Internet; 3) exchange environmental information via managed discussion forums based on a subject area; 4) send and receive required reporting data through the chain of command; 5) peruse and request environmental training courses and seminars; 6) access the DENIX directory service data base; and 7) upload and download files from DENIX to and from a personal computer.

### **Benefits/Savings**

DENIX provides DOD environmental managers with a central communications platform from which to obtain timely access to environmental legislative, compliance, restoration, cleanup, and DOD unique information. Easy access to this information will help these managers ensure compliance, avoiding costly fines and protecting DOD's training and operating missions. DENIX also offers DOD users access to proprietary subscriptions to periodicals and datasets.

### **Status**

DENIX on the WEB (<http://www.denix.osd.mil>) resides on a host computer (OSIRIS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. DOD personnel can access DENIX through the Internet. Use for the first month of operation (Aug 93) saw more than 425 different users participating. In 1998, DENIX was accessed by over 6,200 DOD environmental managers. CERL Staff handles login requests and provides online assistance. DENIX on the Web became available to the DENIX user community in

May 1995. DENIX was re-configured in November of 1996 to accommodate PUBLIC, STATE, and INTERNATIONAL information areas on DENIX. The general public has access to the PUBLIC area of DENIX. The state DENIX user has access to the STATE and PUBLIC access of DENIX. The international user has access to the INTERNATIONAL and PUBLIC areas of DENIX. CERL is coordinating this work with the DESCIM Program Office and the U.S. Army Environmental Center.

**Points of Contact**

CERL POCs are Mr. Calvin Corbin, COMM 217-373-6731, e- mail [http://www.c-corbin@cecer.army.mil](mailto:calvin.corbin@cecer.army.mil) and Mr. Steve Luzzi, COMM 217-352-6511, e- mail [http://www.s-luzzi@cecer.army.mil](mailto:steve.luzzi@cecer.army.mil) . Both can be reached toll-free at 800-USA-CERL; or CERL, ATTN: CECER-CF-N, P.O. Box 9005, Champaign, IL 61826-9005. For a login to DENIX, contact Ms Kim Grein at 1-800-USA-CERL, ext 6790.

Visit the CERL homepage at <http://www.cecer.army.mil>