

EAS IV Repository

1. EAS IV Repository Environment. The EAS IV Business Objects Repository resides on a Microsoft Windows NT client/server system. Utilizing Informix databases, which reside on a Hewlett-Packard UNIX (HP-UX) server and the Windows NT server, the EAS IV Repository is accessed through user workstations via Informix Client Connect, Version 9.1.4 or greater, connectivity software. Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) allows Business Objects, a Windows-based graphical user interface (GUI) query tool, to access all EAS IV Repository data. The HP-UX server with the Informix database stores all MEPRS data, which are received from MTFs through an automated transfer and data load process. Instead of having an EAS IV Repository server at every site, MTFs connect through TCP/IP to the HP-UX server.

2. Populating the Repository. Each facility will begin transmitting their EAS IV data to the repository following completion of their first allocation of data in EAS IV; allocation to EAS IV is what computation is to EAS III. Each facility will begin using EAS IV after attending the EAS IV Functional Training.

a. Prior months of data previously processed in EAS III and transmitted to MEQS will require conversion from EAS III format to EAS IV format and retransmission to the EAS IV Data Repository. The only method available to complete this action is for each MTF to convert their data on a month-by-month basis and transmit to the EAS IV Data Repository. Specific procedures to follow when converting EAS III data to EAS IV can be found in the EAS IV Software Installation Plan (SIP), Appendix E. The following data groupings are included as part of data conversion, Account Subset Definition (ASD), financial (STANFINS) data, personnel (UCAPERS) data, data set data, respiratory therapy/pulmonary function data. Adding patient acuity data, ADS and DRG data must also be accomplished prior to allocating the data.

(1) Generally the method to complete the conversion is to create a flat file in EAS III, ftp the created file, and import the file for the each of the necessary data groupings. Once each file is imported review the data received to ensure it is complete and accurate; with the personnel data, it will be necessary to run the data through the Error Correction Unit (ECU), and make necessary corrections. After all data has been confirmed to be accurate, it will then be necessary to allocate and transmit the data.

3. The EAS IV Repository Database Load. The EAS IV Repository server receives data directly from individual MTF EAS IV servers through the transmission function. At the scheduled transmission time, allocated data are sent to the EAS IV Repository server. The server polls hourly to take in all received transmissions but then holds the transmissions until a nightly automated database load. The database load collects all the data and loads the data into the EAS IV Repository server. Because there is no required date and time to transmit data, the EAS IV Repository can house new, updated data every day depending on when site personnel transmit their monthly data. The time the EAS IV Repository displays updated data also depends on the MTF's time zone and location in relation to the server's time zone and location. For example, if a site in

Japan transmits data at their local time close of business on Monday the first, the data misses the EAS IV Repository server data load because Japan is 14 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST). By EST, the server would receive the Japan site data at 3 a.m. on Tuesday the second. The server would have already processed data for the first. Therefore, the Japan site data may not be available to the Japan site until the afternoon of the second or the morning of the third.

4. What is Business Objects 5.0.2?. The EAS IV Repository uses Business Objects 5.0.2, a Windows GUI commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) software application, to provide query and reporting capability for MEPRS data. Business Objects 5.0.2 is software that resides on the client workstation and displays the data that are retrieved from the EAS IV Repository server and transferred by Informix Client Connect. Just as with MEQS III, the Business Objects software is merely a tool that enables the end-user to search through MEPRS data and format the data in a variety of meaningful ways that allow for data integrity checks and decision support. There may be some confusion concerning the versions of Business Objects being used by the EAS IV application and the EAS IV Data Repository. Business Objects Version 4.1.4 is being used by the EAS IV application as an embedded tool for providing the standard reports retained on the MTF's EAS IV server. The EAS IV Data Repository and MEQS III use Business Objects Version 5.02 for query and reporting capability, enabling an end-user the ability to retrieve specific data and construct customized reports.

5. EAS IV Workstations. Many facilities have expressed a concern and desire for additional EAS IV workstations. As previously stated additional hardware will be the responsibility of the facility to obtain. The EAS IV application software for the workstations and servers will be provided each facility following deployment of EAS IV Release 2.2; expected to be released prior to the new CY (Jan01). Currently each facility is being deployed with EAS IV Release 2.1. Once received it will be the responsibility of the System Administrator to install and or upgrade the software on the workstations.

a. The main obstacle to providing additional workstation access at this time is a Business Objects licensing issue. For those workstations that will only be used for data entry and not require access to the standard reports, available in the EAS IV application and residing on the MTFs EAS IV server, additional licensing for Business Objects is not necessary. The EAS IV application can be installed without the Business Objects and still be operational for data entry only (Respiratory/Pulmonary Therapy).

b. It will be the responsibility of the Army MEPRS Program Office to distribute the copies needed for each facility. If there are additional workstations added after the release they will need to the complete EAS IV Release version, not just the upgrade, both of which will be forwarded to each MTF. In addition, when ITC deployed the hardware they trained site personnel on how to add more workstations, per the SIP, so the sites are expected to configure additional workstations themselves. Facilities that require additional copies will be able to get them at the beginning of FY01, in the quantities previously provided the Army MEPRS Program Office.