



FAQs Concerning DEERS Dependent Suffix and Family Member Prefix

Question: What does DDS in RAPIDS stand for and why isn't it the same as FMP?

Answer: The DEERS Dependent Suffix (DDS) is part of the key field on the DEERS dependent records. It identifies all entitlements associated with that record. If a DDS were to be purged, then all history would be lost. Therefore, once DEERS assigns a DDS, it can never be reused. For example, if a sponsor divorces his or her spouse, the former spouse may become eligible for benefits as an unremarried former spouse. The former spouse remains listed on DEERS with a DDS of "30". If the sponsor remarries his or her new spouse will be assigned a DDS of "31" on DEERS.

The DDS is a restricted field in DEERS and is not accessible to RAPIDS users and can only be changed by the DEERS Support Office (DSO). For example, if DEERS reflects a DDS code of "40" (parent) for a dependent spouse instead of one of the proper DDS codes of "30-39", correction is required by sending written correspondence to the DSO.

DEERS assigns a DEERS Dependent Suffix (DDS) to dependents in the order that they are enrolled on the data base. If the sponsor enrolled his or her dependent children in DEERS and provided the three-year old information first, then the three-year old would be assigned a DDS of "01" and the seven-year would be assigned a DDS of "02".

The Family Member Prefix is used at Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs) to assist in identifying health records of military sponsors and dependents. MTFs state that an FMP is assigned by chronological age or currency. For example, assume a sponsor has two children, ages seven and three. The seven-year old would have an FMP of "01" because he or she is the oldest child. The three-year old would have an FMP of "02". If the sponsor has a current spouse, the FMP is always "30". If the spouse becomes eligible as an unremarried former spouse (URFS), he or she is assigned an FMP of "31" and the current spouse is assigned an FMP of "30".