



The Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) are working together to make disability evaluation more simple, seamless, fast and fair with the Integrated **Disability Evaluation System (IDES)**.

DoD uses the IDES to decide if Service members who have been wounded, ill, or injured are still able to serve. If they are not, the IDES gives them a VA disability rating before they leave the service. This tells the Service member the amount of compensation and benefits they will receive from the VA. The IDES also helps them file their VA benefits claim before they leave the service so they get their benefits quickly.

To make the system fast and fair, there are shortcuts, such as informal boards, and longer processes a Service member can choose, such as chances to get decisions reviewed along the way. DoD Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officers (PEBLOs) and Military Service Coordinators (MCSs) from the VA guide Service members through the IDES. Legal counsel is also available at no cost to the Service member.

Contact Information:

My Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer (PEBLO)

NAME:	
PHONE NUMBER:	
EMAIL:	

Integrated Disability Evaluation System

A seamless and transparent Disability Evaluation System, administered jointly by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs

My Military Services Coordinator (MSC)

NAME:
PHONE NUMBER:
EMAIL.

Other Points of Contact				





For more information on the IDES, visit www.WarriorCare.mil

A Proven Solution

In designing the IDES, DoD and the VA examined the recommendations of several commissions and task forces established to improve the delivery of benefits to wounded, ill and injured Service members and Veterans.

A Pilot program of the IDES was launched November 26, 2007 at three Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs). The Pilot simplified the disability evaluation process by eliminating duplicate disability examinations and ratings, and placing VA counselors in MTFs to ensure a smooth transition to Veteran status. Continuous improvement processes were also built into the system. Quarterly assessments of the Pilot and regular surveys of Service members in the system helped identify areas for improvement.

The Pilot was expanded to 27 locations to thoroughly test it. In thousands of surveys, participants of the Pilot and their families consistently reported higher average satisfaction with fairness, customer service, and the overall DES experience, than did participants in the non-integrated legacy system. They also completed the Pilot faster than the legacy systems, and separated with VA claims in place.

Based on the success of the Pilot, the integrated process is expanding to all remaining locations worldwide as the Integrated Disability Evaluation System, and will be available to all Service members.

Commonly used Acronyms:

DES – Disability Evaluation System

FPEB - Formal Physical Evaluation Board

IDES – Integrated Disability Evaluation System

IPEB - Informal Physical Evaluation Board

MEB – Medical Evaluation Board

MSC – (VA) Military Service Coordinator

PEB – Physical Evaluation Board

PEBLO – (DoD) Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer

Coordinated Case Management, From Referral to Receipt of Benefits

When a physician refers a Service member into the IDES, DoD and VA disability case managers work together to provide Service members efficient and timely care.

The DoD PEBLO coordinates all IDES actions between the Service member and his or her commander, and disability evaluation appointments for the Service member. The PEBLO is the Service member's liaison from the point of referral into the IDES until the Service member's return to duty or separation from military service.

The VA MSC is assigned immediately after the PEBLO is assigned to the case. The MSC is the link between the Service member and the VA, keeping the Service member and the PEBLO informed of VA processes and results. Working through the MSC, a Service member can file a disability claim with the VA before separating.

Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) Timeline Physical Evaluation Board Phase (PEB) Reintegration Medical Evaluation **Treatment** Transition Phase Board Phase (MEB) Phase DoD VA Unfit Return to Referral Finalize DES Informal Physical Service member Duty becomes wounded, AC 10 days Disposition **Evaluation Board** Preliminary Rating RC 30 days ill or injured (IPEB) Board 15 days 15 days OR Claim Development Service member AC 10 days Service member Separate can rebut IPEB Physician assesses RC 30 days Assign to unit or can request rating VA benefits letter decision and treats Service process for separation reconsideration one month following member separation Medical Formal Physical Evaluation Evaluation Board AC 45 days Rating (FPEB) RC 45 days 30 days Reconsideration 15 days Veteran can MEB Stage appeal VA Service member benefits AC 35 days can rebut FPEB RC 35 days decision The 45 day goal may be Service members are referred exceeded to allow the within 1 year of being Service member to take **VA** Appeals diagnosed with a medical FPEB Appeal Service member authorized leave and condition that does not 30 days can appeal MEB permissive temporary appear to meet medical duty (TDY) decision retention standards. Administrative and record transit 15 days 30 calendar days = 100 calendar days Active Component (AC) 120 calendar days 45 calendar days 295 calendar days 45 calendar days = Reserve Component (RC)¹ 140 calendar days 120 calendar days

¹ Reserve component member entitlement to VA disability begins upon release from active duty or separation

Service Member Decision Points

IDES Stages