



SOLDIERS' MEB COUNSEL OFFICE AND OFFICE OF SOLDIERS' COUNSEL

Fort Hood Soldiers' MEB Counsel Office: To make an appointment with one of our office attorneys or to speak with one of our paralegals, come to Building 13 (across the street from the III Corps HQ Building on 52nd Street) and check in at Room 109 or 164. Office hours for screening are 0900-1130 and 1300-1530 M-W and F. On Thursdays the office is open for screening from 1300-1530. Appointments with the attorneys are made on an individual basis. To contact one of our paralegals by telephone please call 254-287-9409 or 254-287-4904.

NOTE: TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT YOU MUST COME TO OUR OFFICE DURING SCREENING HOURS SO THAT THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS CAN BE OBTAINED FOR REVIEW BY THE ATTORNEY PRIOR TO YOUR APPOINTMENT. BRING ALL DOCUMENTS YOU HAVE RECEIVED REGARDING YOUR MEB AND/OR PEB CASE WITH YOU WHEN YOU COME TO MAKE THE APPOINTMENT.

Office of Soldiers' PEB Counsel: This office is located at Joint Base San Antonio. An attorney from this office will be assigned to represent you if you request a formal PEB hearing. Your Soldiers' MEB Attorney will be able to assist you in finding out who is assigned to be your attorney from this office.

Frequently Asked Questions about the MEB/PEB Process:

Is an attorney available to me throughout the MEB and PEB process? Yes. A Soldiers' MEB Attorney can answer questions regarding your legal rights throughout the MEB and PEB process. If you request a formal PEB hearing, then an attorney from the Office of Soldiers' PEB Counsel will be assigned to represent you at your hearing. These attorneys represent the Soldier during this process, not the MEB, PEB, WTB, MEDCOM, or any other command.

What can my attorney do for me? Your attorney can provide general legal advice and assistance about the disability process while you are waiting for the results of the Narrative Summary or MEB findings for your case. As the MEB and PEB process continues, your attorney can give specific legal advice regarding the medical findings in your case and help you prepare written inquiries, statements, and responses as needed.

Can my attorney make my doctor change the medical notes or my Narrative Summary? No. Your attorney is not a doctor and cannot require a doctor to change the medical opinion written in the doctor's notes. However, if you disagree with the medical findings on the DA Form 3947 (MEB Report), your attorney can assist you in submitting an impartial medical review or a rebuttal.

What can I do now that will help me later during the MEB and PEB process? Get copies of all your medical records, including your records from off-post civilian providers, and make sure these records are provided to your PEBLO. You also can decide what your goal is during this process. For example, do you want to be found fit so you can return to duty? Or do you want to be separated from the military with an appropriate disability rating?

I want to be found fit for duty. What can I do to help make that happen? You can begin by talking with your doctor about possibly changing your permanent 3 profile to a permanent 2 profile and limiting the amount of restrictions imposed for that condition. Even absent a





permanent 2 profile, your doctor may indicate that you can perform your PMOS duties. If so, make sure your command is aware of your performance. If you cannot perform your PMOS duties, then perform duties that are as close as possible to your PMOS. Also, coordinate with your supervisor in performing as many basic Soldier functional skills as possible (listed in block 5 of your profile). If possible, take and pass a record APFT. Ensure your supervisor documents all of your efforts. This can include a letter from your chain of command supporting a finding of fit for duty. If the MEB decides that you do not meet medical retention standards, keep in mind that the PEB still can find you fit for duty depending on the circumstances in your case.

I received my DA Form 3947 (MEB Report) and am wondering if I should agree with it. Can I see an attorney to discuss this? Yes. If you want an attorney to review your MEB packet, come to Building 13 as soon as possible after your PEBLO has counseled you about the DA Form 3947. The attorney will review your documents and discuss your MEB findings with you. You only have five calendar days from the time you receive the DA Form 3947 to make your decision about whether you agree or disagree with the MEB Report. Make sure you bring your MEB documents with you when you come to make the appointment.

My case was sent by the MEB to an informal PEB. I have received a DA Form 199 (PEB Proceedings) and disagree with the findings of fitness. What can I do? You can come to Building 13 to meet with one of our paralegals to schedule an appointment with a Soldiers' MEB Attorney. When you meet with the attorney, that attorney will discuss your case with you and will review the documents to ensure that the decision was based on appropriate factors and applicable regulations. Come to our office to schedule your appointment as soon as possible after receiving the DA Form 199 because you only have ten calendar days to respond once your PEBLO counsels you on the PEB results. Make sure you bring your MEB and PEB documents with you when you come to make the appointment.

I received a DA Form 199 (PEB Proceedings) and disagree with the VA ratings for my unfitting conditions. What can I do? You can come to Building 13 to meet with one of our paralegals to schedule an appointment with a Soldiers' MEB Attorney. When you meet with the attorney, that attorney will discuss your case with you and will review any new documents you have to show that the rating assigned by the VA is incorrect. Come to our office to schedule your appointment as soon as possible after receiving the DA Form 199. You only have ten calendar days from the date your PEBLO counseled you to submit a VA Reconsideration Request to have the VA re-look the assigned rating.

I've requested a formal PEB hearing and want to be represented by an attorney. What should I do next? Coordinate with the Soldiers' MEB Counsel Office. If you have never been to the office, one of the paralegals there will find out who will be assigned to represent you from the Office of Soldiers' PEB Counsel if you want to be represented by a Government attorney. However, you may waive your right to be represented by a Government attorney and choose to be represented by a private attorney you hire at your own expense.

Can I appeal the formal PEB? Yes. Your Soldiers' PEB Counsel can help you identify whether there are grounds to appeal and whether doing so is in your best interest.



Fort Hood, TX

Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center



Remember that the MEB and PEB process has timelines that you must meet to ensure you submit your documents in time. The Soldiers' MEB Counsel Office located at Fort Hood can assist you throughout the majority of this process.

