



DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM (DES)

PLAYBOOK FOR NAVY & MARINE CORPS SERVICE MEMBERS



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DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM PLAYBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

The Navy and Marine Corps DES Playbook is intended to provide overview information to help Service members, and their families navigate DES processes. This playbook's primary purpose is to ensure Sailors and Marines understand the basic components of the DES and where to go for help. Specific processes and procedures may vary depending on your location, timeframe for referral into the system and/or the site administrators' availability to resources.



The Department of the Navy (DoN) Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer (PEBLO) and the VA Military Service Coordinator (MSC) are non-clinical case management specialists who provide aid and information to you and your family and/or representative. Both specialists know the unique issues surrounding your case and will coordinate medical appointments and liaison with all government agencies (Department of Defense (DoD) and Veteran Affairs (VA)) to ensure you and your family are aware of all processes and procedures.

We hope you find this reference to be useful. Should you have questions, regularly refer to the persons identified as the subject matter experts (SME) in these pages. Additionally, take advantage of information you will find within the web-sites provided.

Please note that there are limited references to the DoN DES in this playbook. This is due to the fact that Service member fitness for duty is evaluated by Navy representatives assigned to the DoN Physical Evaluation Board (PEB).



LETTER TO THE READER

Service in the United States Military is a physically demanding and stressful occupation that often requires individuals to perform a variety of rigorous and potentially dangerous activities in many different and inhospitable operating environments. Whether serving in combat operations or in training evolutions, Service members can incur wounds, injuries, or illnesses that may have long-term impacts on their lives and their ability to continue their military career.



With the aid of exceptional medical care and adequate time to heal, most Service members recover and return to full and unrestricted duty. Unfortunately, some Service members cannot. In cases where continuation of service is questionable due to a disability, Service members may be referred to the DES process to determine their fitness for continued military service.

The Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), in accordance with Public Law and DoD regulations, is responsible for establishing a process to determine a Service member fitness for duty and for separating or retiring those determined to be unfit due to medical disability. The law provides benefits for eligible Service members whose career is curtailed due to a medical disability incurred in the line of duty. The DoN PEB manages the DoN DES process and acts on behalf of the SECNAV in making fitness for duty determinations and eligibility for benefits.

The DoN DES is a part of the DoD's DES process. As you read this playbook you may notice that there have been dramatic changes to the DoD DES process. The changes are intended, within the provisions of current law, to bring about improvements to both the DoD and VA DES processes.

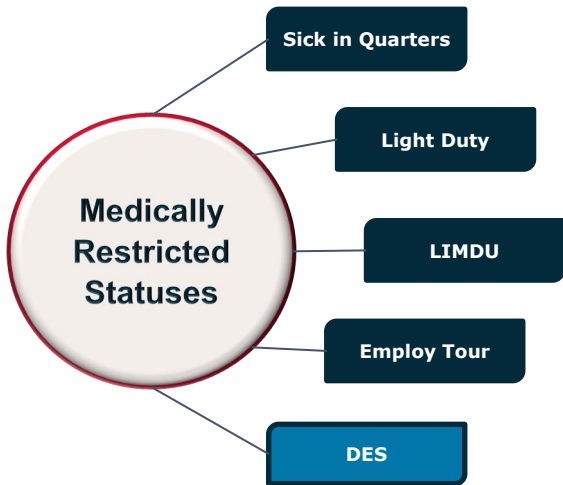


GETTING STARTED

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW IF I HAVE BEEN INJURED OR BECOME ILL?

First and foremost, Navy Medicine is very concerned for your health and welfare and dedicated to you making a full recovery.

The first objective is to treat your immediate medical condition(s) and then establish a treatment and recovery plan that will return you to a full duty (medically unrestricted) status. Second, in order to protect you from aggravating your medical condition(s) there are a variety of administrative actions that will be taken, as necessary, to place you in one of the medically restricted statuses, listed below.



Note that every medical condition may vary and some may require immediate referral into the DES process and forgo the prior statuses. Not all statuses are required and duration/use of each will vary depending on the condition and the Service member.



Before DES: LIMDU

WHAT IS LIMDU?

LIMDU is a temporary status, granted for Service members who have a medical condition, which limits their ability to perform duties of their office, grade, rank, or Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), or when performance of their duties would compromise recovery from a medical condition. In essence, it allows Service members time to heal and rehabilitate while remaining in the Service.

While on LIMDU, Service members are assigned duties within their medical capabilities.

Service members may be placed on LIMDU if:

- They are recovering from surgery or injury.
- They are awaiting further treatment or evaluation.
- They need time to meet medical retention standards.
- **Are expected to return to full duty within a year or less** (extensions may be approved by Service Headquarters).



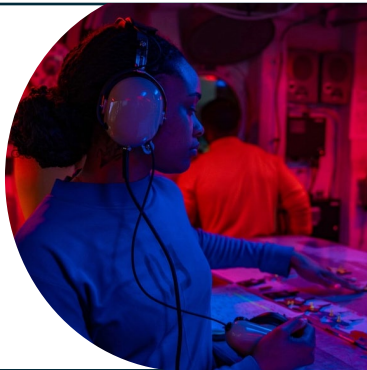
If you are assigned to LIMDU you will be assigned to a LIMDU Coordinator (for Marines) or Command Deployability Coordinator (DC) (for Sailors). You may either remain attached to your current command or be placed in a shore command. You may not deploy or go Temporary Additional Duty (TAD) unless specifically cleared by your medical provider. A medical provider will periodically assess your progress and may either return you to duty, assign additional LIMDU, consider an Employ nomination or refer you to the DES.



Employ Program

WHAT IS EMPLOY?

Employ is a voluntary program managed by PERS-454, that provides an opportunity for continued service for non-deployable Sailors (officer and enlisted) who have prolonged medical condition(s) and are still capable of completing all duties required of an in-rate or designator shore-duty role. Employ helps retain Sailors' valuable knowledge, skills and experience to meet the warfighting mission.



- Medical providers make Employ nominations.
- PERS-454 makes the retention determinations.
- Employ tours are 24 months minimum.
- Employ nomination and acceptance of proposed orders is voluntary.
- Service members are reassessed during each Employ tour to determine fitness for full duty, second Employ tour or referral to DES.
- Service members may request regular retirement/separation during Employ tour IAW community timeline requirements.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ Must be Navy Active duty or Training and Administration of the Reserve (TAR).
- ✓ The Service member's deployment limiting condition(s) must be stable.
- ✓ Must have been on LIMDU to be nominated.
- ✓ Command assessment; completed by CO or Officer in Charge (OIC).
- ✓ Sailors in communities that require special duty screenings must complete their screening and de-screening process prior to being considered for Employ (i.e., Submariners, Nuclear).



WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT MAKE A FULL RECOVERY?

Despite the advances in modern medicine and the best efforts of Service members, some individuals cannot be returned to a medically unrestricted status. In this event a Service member will be referred to the DES via a MEB.

This playbook provides a quick synopsis of the two DES processes, Integrated DES (IDES) and Legacy DES (LDES) and contains most of the information you will need to know. It is very important for you to be actively engaged in every step and seek out SMEs to assist you. Additionally, your military chain of command is your best resource for assistance if you feel that you are not getting the information you need.

Do not hesitate to ask questions.



Decisions you make as you go through the process will impact you and your family in the future. If you are the spouse, parent, sibling, or guardian of a Service member who lacks the capacity to make their own decisions use this playbook to receive the assistance you need to support your Service member.



Meeting the DES Team

PROVIDER ROLES

Medical Evaluation Board (MEB-1) Referring Provider: Provider who recommends a Service member to DES

Medical Evaluation Board Approval Authority (MEBAA): Provider who initiates the DES process. They review DES recommendations, finalize the Narrative Summary (NARSUM), and determines if the Service member meets the requirements for DES referral

Convening Authority (CA): Provider who serves as final certification for MEB processes



ADMIN/LEGAL SUPPORT ROLES

Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer (PEBLO): Submits all DES paperwork on behalf of the Service member while updating and informing the Service member throughout the DES process

VA Military Service Coordinator (MSC): Coordinates VA examinations and benefits

Command Deployability Coordinator (Sailors) or LIMDU

Coordinator (Marines): Members of the parent command who monitor medically restricted Service members

Recovery Care Coordinator: A Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment specialist who supports Service members throughout every stage of recovery

DES Counsel Program: Attorneys who provide legal advice to the Service member





IDES vs. LDES

- The **IDES** is a joint program between the DoD and the VA that provides a streamlined and transparent process for evaluating and compensating Service members who may be unfit for continued Service due to a medical condition.
- IDES processes fitness for continued military service *and* VA disability rating determinations simultaneously.

- In the **LDES** process, evaluation of fitness for continued Service is based on military treatment record only.
- VA rating is determined after separation. The Service member must file a separate claim with the VA.
- On average, it is faster to process through LDES because VA rating is not done concurrently.

- Your PEBLO is responsible for **explaining** the differences between IDES and LDES but should **not** influence or advise you on which process to choose. A Disability Evaluation System Counsel Program (DESCP) attorney will advise you on the appropriate choice for you.
- You will complete a DES enrollment form to select your DES path.



LDES

Common reasons Service members and their COs may select LDES:

- The Service member is an Initial Entry Trainee (IET).
- The Service member is starting school or a new job and needs their separation documents (i.e., DD-214) quickly.
- The Service member may be Reserve Component (RC) and pursuing a medical retirement.



If you select LDES, you must file a separate claim with the VA post-PEB and will most-likely experience a gap between separation and when you begin to receive VA benefits.






IDES


The IDES process is a joint DoD and VA program in which DoD determines whether an ill or injured Service member is fit to fulfill the duties of their office, grade, rank, or rating and, if unfit, determine appropriate disability rating(s) and compensation for a Service member who is separated or retired for their unfitting duty-related conditions.

The VA provides examinations, proposes disability ratings, and determines entitlement to veterans' benefits for all service-connected disabilities.


WHY DOES IDES MATTER?




It reduces the total number of medical exams and processing steps, streamlining care and decision-making.



It provides clear timelines and expectations for all parties involved – especially the transitioning Service member.



It allows faster access to VA benefits after separation or retirement.



The Service member remains on active duty and continues to receive military pay and entitlements while their case is being processed.



Key Elements of the IDES Process

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE IDES PROCESS:

- The MEB reviews the Service member's condition(s) and forwards the case to the PEB to determine fitness for continued military service.
- The Service member is guided through the process by a PEBLO.
- A single set of Compensation and Pension (C&P) exams, conducted by the VA or contracted providers, support both the ultimate fitness determination and the VA disability rating.
- If the Service member is found unfit by the PEB, the VA assigns disability ratings for all referred and claimed conditions using the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD).
- The process concludes with the Service member receiving both a DoD disposition and a VA disability rating decision before separation or retirement.



This process will require an investment of time on your part. However, it is important to remember that while processing through the IDES you will continue to receive full pay and allowances and the support of your commanders while the entire process is being completed.



DESCP

The DoN has dedicated attorneys to assist you throughout LDES and IDES and it is highly recommended that you obtain legal counsel, as you navigate the process.

Reference the table below to contact your DESCP representative.

REGION	PHONE NUMBER
Western / Pacific	(619) 532-6575
Southern / Midwestern	(301) 291-5962
Eastern / Europe / Africa	(301) 291-5962
Southeastern	(202) 573-4519



For more information on the DESCP visit the Judge Advocate General's Corps page, linked below:

<https://www.jag.navy.mil/legal-services/descp/>

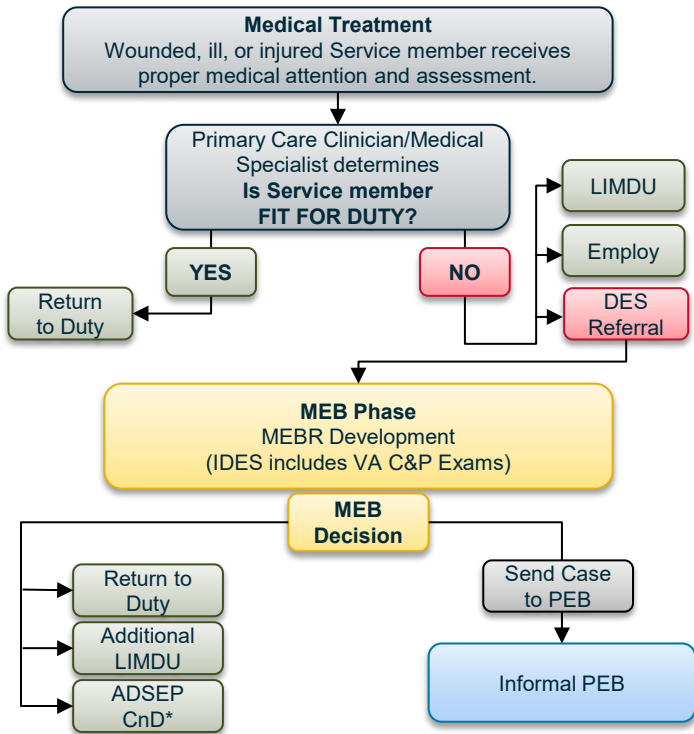
Legal Tips from DESCP:

- There are various points throughout the process that allow you the opportunity to appeal.
- You have a legal right and a need to know all information entered into your official records. Carefully review all documents before signing. You can and should request a copy of these records.
- ***You should not sign anything without a complete understanding of what you are signing and the ramifications.***
- In addition to legal assistance, if your MEB Report (MEBR) is referred to the PEB for a fitness for duty determination, you may request an Impartial Medical Review (IMR). This review is independent of the MEB and can provide feedback on whether the findings reflect the complete spectrum of your injury or illness.



DES PROCESS CHART

REFERRAL and MEB DECISION

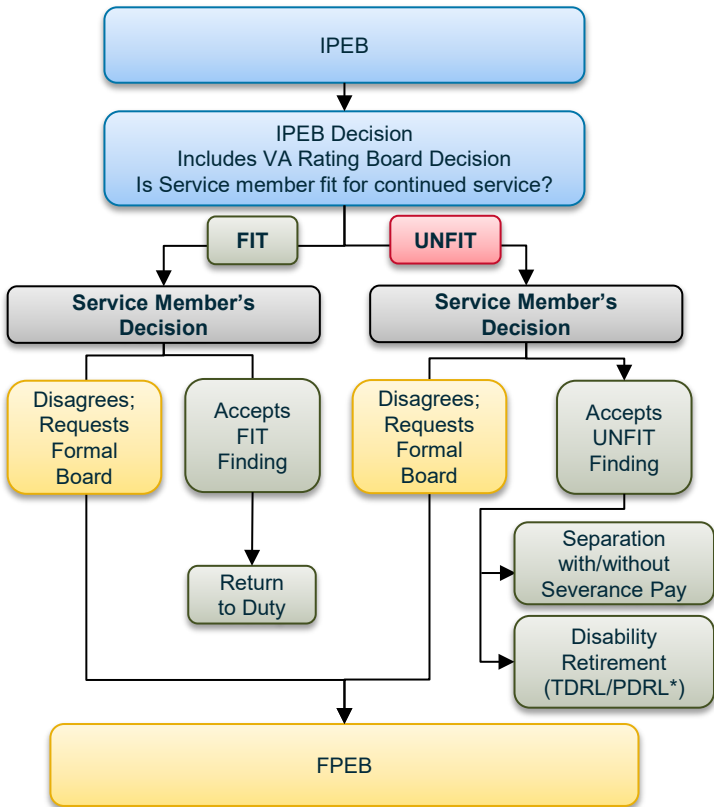


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DES PROCESS CHART

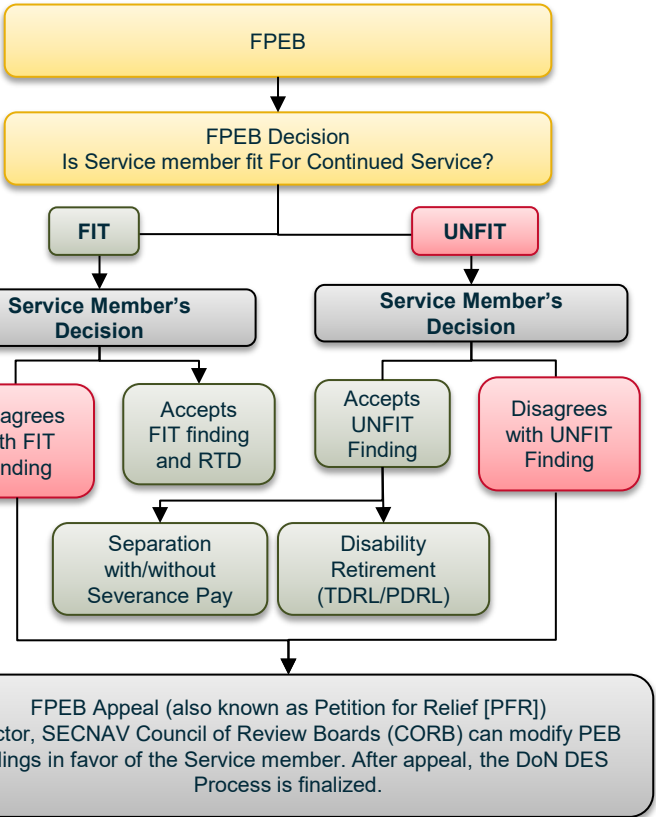
IPEB





DES PROCESS CHART

FPEB

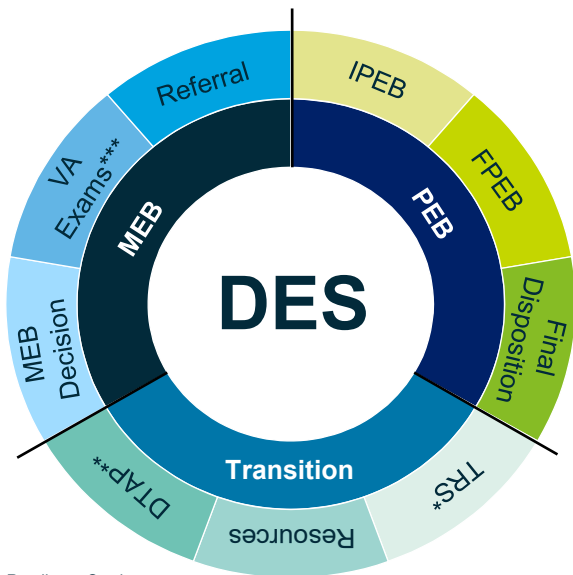




IN-DEPTH LOOK AT EACH DES PHASE

As we take a closer look at each phase we will identify the principal contributors of the IDES process, discuss their specific role, and help you understand how you can work with them to facilitate the process.

Depending on the seriousness of your injury or illness you may be appointed a Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC) to assist you and your family as you transition through all phases of recovery. If you are assigned to or are being supported by the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) Wounded Warrior Regiment (or one of its subordinate elements), you will most-likely have an RCC. The RCC is an additional resource to help you understand and navigate through the IDES process.



*Transition Readiness Seminar

**Disabled Transition Assistance Program

***IDES Only



MEB PHASE



Principal Contributors:

- Referring Provider
- MEB Approval Authority (MEBAA)
- Convening Authority (CA)
- Medical Specialist (e.g., Neurologist, Cardiologist, Orthopedist)
- PEBLO
- VA MSC
- Limited Duty Coordinator / DC
- DESCPC
- Case Manager
- RCC

MEB Phase Steps:

- Provider refers the Service member to DES.
- Service member selects IDES or LDES with DESCPC advisement.
- VA Claim is developed by the PEBLO in coordination with the SM.
- VA physical examination, specialty examination, diagnostic testing, laboratory tests coordinated by the VA MSC (IDES only).
- MEB convenes to review MEBR documentation and determine a disposition of the case.
- Service member reviews and certifies MEB findings.
- Service member is RTD or the PEBLO submits the MEBR to the PEB.



MEB PHASE - REFERRAL

Once a treating physician determines that a Service member cannot be returned to a 'fit for full duty' status or is unlikely to be able to do so within 12 months, and/or Employ was disapproved, the Service member is referred to the DES via a MEB.

Referral to DES is a very consequential decision. Most physicians will exhaust all treatment options and fully discuss DES with their patient before making the referral.

The MEB is the first formal stage in the DES process and is conducted at the Military Treatment Facility (MTF). The MEB is a clinical, performance-based process, not an administrative process. Its role is to document the medical status and limitations of the Service member, not to determine fitness for continued naval service.

The mere presence of a medical condition is not enough to decide that a Service member is unfit for continued service.

- DIAGNOSIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY EQUAL A DISABILITY -

The Service member must demonstrate a cause-and-effect relationship between their medical conditions and the inability to adequately perform military duties appropriate to their office, grade, rank or rating.

The inability to deploy, to perform Physical Fitness Tests (PFT), to perform duties world-wide, or continue to serve in specialized duty communities (i.e., aviation, submarine, diving, parachute, etc.) are factors considered by the MEB. However, within the DoN adjudication process, they are not often used as the sole basis for determining unfitness.



MEB Phase – PEBLO Responsibilities

If a DES referral is determined to be the best course of action, your case must be tasked to a PEBLO, who is primarily responsible for the development and processing of all documentation that makes up the MEBR.

PEBLO RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER REFERRAL

- Meet with the Service member or representative, initiate IDES intake and schedule the mandatory Multidisciplinary Brief (MDB).
- Discuss available support resources, including legal counsel through the DESCP and VA Benefits Counseling.
- Relay step-by-step guidance on the MEB process and provide command-specific resources.
- Explain the possible MEB outcomes.
- Explain and consider Employ (Sailors only). (You may still be nominated for Employ before your case is sent to the PEB.)
- Initiate coordination with VA and the assigned VA MSC (IDES only).
- Explain appeal procedures, such as IMR and Rebuttal.
- Obtain signed authorization forms, demographics sheet and assist with gathering relevant medical records.
- Track the case using the LIMDU Sailor and Marine Readiness Tracker (SMART) system, the Veterans Tracking Application (VTA) and the Navy Disability Integrated Tracking System (NDITS) to ensure timeline compliance and documentation completion.



MEB PHASE – VA CLAIM DEVELOPMENT (IDES only)

If you are processing through the IDES, once the PEBLO has completed their counseling requirements (including the MDB) and Part I of VA Claim Form 21-0819, you will be scheduled to meet with the VA MSC.

The PEBLO will provide the VA MSC with your complete Service Treatment Record (STR) and Part I of the VA Claim Form 21-0819.

The VA MSC will counsel you on the VA's portion of the IDES, help you with their claim development, including the completion of VA Form 21-0819 (Parts II-IV), and determine what specific examinations and consultations will be required to fully examine and document the referred and claimed medical condition(s).

The VA MSC, depending on local arrangements, will schedule your appointments for the necessary VA C&P examinations.

SERVICE MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- ✓ Attend and participate in care
- ✓ Do not take leave
- ✓ Do not miss appointments
- ✓ Do not have elective surgery during the IDES process



Claimed conditions may be dropped for non-compliance!

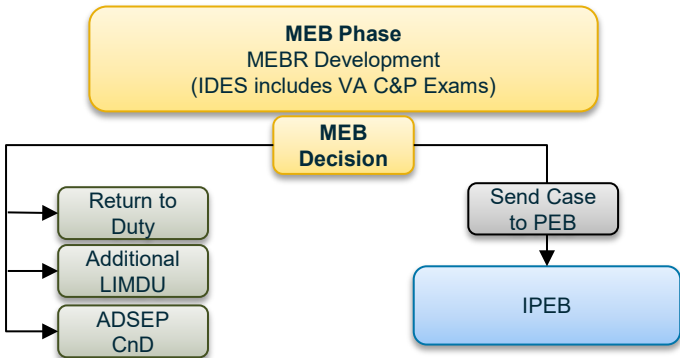


MEB PHASE - FINDINGS

If you are processing through IDES, upon completion of the VA C&P exams, the VA MSC will send the examination results to the PEBLO to finalize your MEBR.

In both processes, the MEB will review the MEBR and determine whether you will be RTD, assigned additional LIMDU, be considered for Employ or ADSEP CnD or proceed to the PEB for a fitness for duty determination.

The PEBLO must notify you of the findings and provide the MEBR to you for review. You will have five (5) days to sign and date the MEB election form indicating whether you accept or disagree with the MEB findings.





MEB PHASE - APPEALS

IF YOU **AGREE** WITH THE MEB FINDINGS

The PEBLO will coordinate with you to complete the 'Service member Certification' section of the NAVMED 6150/50 form.

IF YOU **DISAGREE** WITH THE MEB FINDINGS

You have two (2) appeal options:

Request an IMR:

An impartial medical health professional advises you on whether the MEBR adequately reflects your complete spectrum of injuries and illness(es).

After the IMR, you have five (5) additional days to either concur or submit a written Rebuttal to the MEB's findings.

Submit a Rebuttal:

When a rebuttal is submitted to the MEB, the MEB must perform a surrebuttal before forwarding the case to the PEB.

HOW CAN YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF?

- You will be offered a chance to complete a personal impact statement which allows you, in your own words, to explain how your ability to work or live is or is not impacted by your medical condition(s) or provide inputs on the MEB recommendation/decision. Take advantage of this opportunity.
- Consult with a DES attorney for assistance (see page 14).
- You may request a brief extension to prepare for the IMR or MEB Rebuttal, which must be granted by the MEB CA when good cause is shown.



MEB PHASE – SUBMISSION TO THE PEB

Once the Service member has signed or rebutted and the case is finalized, the PEBLO will transmit the MEBR to the PEB, notify the Service member's CO and update VTA if applicable.

DOCUMENTS CONTAINED IN THE MEBR

Medical Evidence

- A narrative summary (NARSUM)
- History and treatment of the specific injury or illness
- Laboratory results
- All referrals to doctors and sick call are in your STR
- Type and frequency of medication
- Results of physical exams completed within past six months
- All addendums from specialty clinics

Non-Medical Evidence

- Personal impact statement
- CO Non-Medical Assessment (NMA)
- Personnel records including evaluations and awards
- Line of duty (misconduct) investigations
- Personnel Casualty Report (PCR)
- Line of Duty Benefits Letter (Reservist only)
- Medical Hold orders (Reservist only)



MEB PHASE – HELPFUL TIPS



Attend the mandatory MDB.

- The MDB consists of briefs from, at a minimum, PEBLOs, VA MSCs, and military legal counsel, to prepare you for each stage of the IDES process and establish expectations.

DON'T ASSUME—ASK QUESTIONS AND SEEK ASSISTANCE!



When you meet with the PEBLO you should consider:

- Ensure completeness of your STR and your personal information in the Separation Health Assessment (SHA) Part A.
- If you have ever been treated outside of the military medical system, ensure your PEBLO is made aware and ensure those outside treatment records are included in your STR.
- Inform the PEBLO of all your medical specialists. They may consult with them and confirm with the Medical Evaluation Board Approval Authority (MEBAA) to determine whether any other conditions should be added to Part 1 of VA Claim Form 21-0819 (IDES Only).



When you meet with the VA MSC be prepared to (IDES only):

- Discuss ALL medical conditions that you've been treated for during your active-duty service.
- Bring a list of all medical conditions with you. Do Not assume that every condition you have will be identified during the exams.
- Provide a list and dosage of any medications you are currently taking.
- If you have dependents, complete the Declaration of Status of Dependents, VA Form 21-686c, to ensure you and your dependents receive compensation.



PEB Phase



Principal Contributors:

- PEBLO
- VA MSC
- PEB
- DESCP
- Veterans Service Organization (VSO) appointed advocate
- VA D-RAS
- RCC

PEB Phase Steps:

- PEBLO sends the Service member's case file to the IPEB.
- The PEB will receive the VA's Proposed Ratings from the Disability Rating Activity Site (D-RAS) (IDES only).
- VA Decision Review Option.
- The PEBLO assists with completion and submission of the **Receipt of Findings Forms** and **Election of Options Form**.
- Service member is either RTD, medically separated or slated for medical retirement eligibility (TDRL or PDRL).
- If Service member rejects IPEB findings, the PEBLO sends the Service member's case file to the FPEB (as necessary).
- FPEB Appeal Process also known as PFR (as necessary).



PEB Phase - IPEB

The IPEB is an internal board that conducts a paper review of the case without the Service member present.

The IPEB consists of a Medical Officer, a Line Officer, and a second Line Officer in case of a tie. A senior legal advisor may advise if the IPEB has legal questions. Each board member votes independently, and the result is based on a majority.

IPEB members will thoroughly review all evidence contained in the MEBR, to include the complete medical record, the results of the VA C&P examination (IDES only), the Narrative Summary (NARSUM) and all medical addendums, personnel evaluations, your personal impact statement, and the CO NMA.

The IPEB will record their findings on the following:

- If the medical condition(s) was incurred in the line of duty.
- If the Service member is fit or unfit for continued service.
- If found fit, recommend the Service member RTD.
- If found unfit:
 - Identify the military unfitting medical condition(s).
 - Recommend separation from active duty. For IDES, final disposition will be based on the degree of disability granted by the VA D-RAS for the military unfitting medical conditions.
 - Determine if the military unfitting conditions were incurred due to a combat related event, and/or in a combat zone.



PEB Phase – IPEB (cont.)

WHETHER FOUND FIT OR UNFIT, YOU HAVE FOUR (4) OPTIONS:

Accept the findings

Accept the UNFIT findings and request to remain on active duty in a PLD status

Accept the UNFIT findings and request a VA Decision Review

Disagree with the findings and request a FPEB

IF YOU ARE FOUND **UNFIT**, THE PEBLO WILL:

- Schedule a counseling appointment with you that will address all findings and include assistance in completion of the **election of options form** to accept the findings or request a FPEB.
- You will have 15 calendar days from notification to complete the election of options form. If you do not return it within the timeframe, the PEB will presume you accept the findings.
- The PEBLO will inform the PEB of your decision and return the election of options paperwork.

IF YOU ARE FOUND **UNFIT AND PROCESSING IDES**:

- The PEB will refer your case to the appropriate VA D-RAS.
- The D-RAS has a 15-day goal to complete their rating action.
- Once the IPEB receives the D-RAS rating determination, it is combined with the DoD rating and transmitted to the PEBLO for delivery to you, the Service member.



PEB Phase – FPEB Overview

The FPEB is a formal hearing that includes the Service member and their legal representative, a voting panel of three PEB members (Medical Officer, Line Officer, Legal Member), witnesses and subject matter experts.



Although the board is referred to as “formal” the intent is to create a non-adversarial environment in which you can openly and honestly discuss your position.

Once the FPEB presiding officer opens the proceedings the previous IPEB findings are no longer valid. The decision of the FPEB will become the decision of record unless the Director of Secretary of the Navy Council of Review Boards (SECNAV CORB) modifies the decision by subsequent action.

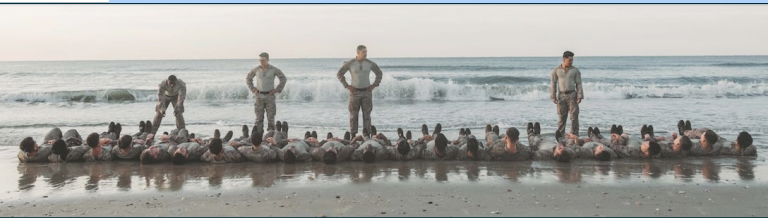
Typically, Service members who participate in an FPEB are:

1. Requesting a formal review of their case in an attempt to prove that they are able to perform appropriate duties and should be determined to be fit.
2. Requesting that other medical conditions be added to the list of specific military unfitting conditions.

Adding other conditions could result in higher Combined Disability Rating (CDR) that could qualify you for a disability retirement vice a disability separation.



PEB Phase – FPEB Preparation



Upon approval and scheduling of a FPEB, the Navy will assign a DESCOP attorney to help you prepare your petition, gather evidence, and present your case.

- ✓ Service members typically do not meet their FPEB counsel for the first time, until a day or two before the formal hearing date.
- ✓ Most of the pre-hearing preparation is accomplished via telephone, e-mail, or through other correspondence.
- ✓ You may choose to be represented by a civilian attorney or a representative from a VSO. However, you will be responsible for any costs associated from using a non-military attorney.
- ✓ You have the opportunity to request to attend the board in person or to send information to the board through legal counsel.
- ✓ If you do not wish to personally appear you may choose to be represented by legal counsel.

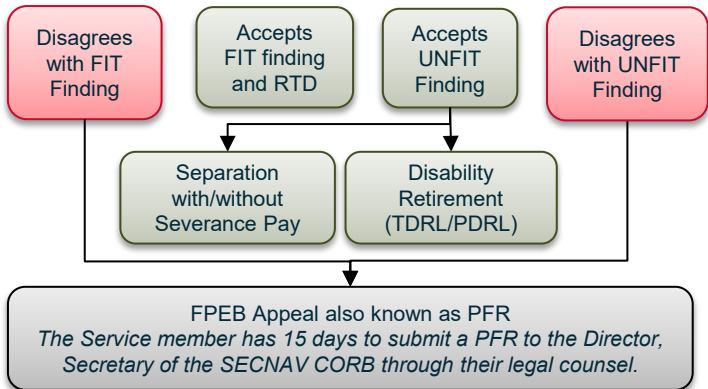
All FPEB hearings are conducted at the Navy Yard in Washington, DC. Service members travelling to appear before a FPEB will be provided temporary active duty (TAD) orders funded by the SECNAV CORB.

Information on transportation and lodging in Washington, DC along with instruction on when and where to report will be provided by the DoN PEB Administrative Staff or your appointed legal counsel.



PEB Phase – FPEB Process

- You are not required to testify on behalf of your case. However, if you choose to do so, you will be placed under oath and the board members will ask questions about your condition and the effect it has on your duty performance.
- Witnesses may appear and testify or send written affidavits to be introduced as evidence.
- Once you and your counsel declare that you have presented all aspects of your case, the presiding officer will close the proceedings.
- The board member's will deliberate the case, independently vote, and render their decision. Only FPEB members are present during deliberations, and their decision is not available until approved by the PEB President.
- The FPEB members prepare a findings letter along with written rationale to support their findings. The letter and rationale are subject to a legal sufficiency and medical quality assurance review before approval by the PEB President and release to you and your counsel.





PEB Phase – PDRL / TDRL

PDRL

If you are found **unfit** for duty due to a stable and permanent condition with a DoD disability rating of at least 30%, you will be placed on Permanent Disability Retirement List (PDRL) and medically retired with benefits based on service.

TDRL

If you are found **unfit** for duty, but your condition is not considered stable enough for a permanent disability rating, you may be placed on Temporary Disability Retirement List (TDRL).

On TDRL, you receive temporary benefits and are re-evaluated every 18 months for up to three years.

Reevaluation of the unstable and **unfit** conditions must occur no later than 18 months after placing a Service member on the TDRL or after the Veteran's previous reevaluation.



PEB Phase – VA D-RAS

As indicated earlier, the VA D-RAS will receive the IDES case file once the PEB has determined that the Service member is unfit for continued military service.

The D-RAS thoroughly evaluates the Service members' referred and claimed conditions and produces a rating decision letter that explains the basis for the disability rating percentage applied to the specific military unfitting conditions and other medical conditions that were incurred or aggravated during a period of active duty.

The D-RAS uses the VASRD to determine the appropriate disability rating. Depending on the severity of the medical impairment, the D-RAS rates EACH condition from zero to 100%.



RECONSIDERATION OF THE VA D-RAS DETERMINATIONS

If you believe that an error was made in determining your rating, you may notify your PEBLO and request a one-time reconsideration by the VA. The rating reconsideration will be processed through the PEB.

The VA D-RAS will only reconsider a rating if new medical evidence is received, or you are able to provide sufficient evidence of an error to warrant reconsideration. Only one reconsideration is made for each military unfitting condition.

If a new condition is found to be unfitting, during the FPEB phase, reconsideration can be requested; even if other conditions have been previously reconsidered. If the reconsideration is not requested by the VA, it must be initiated by a Veteran through the VA appeals process.



PEB Phase – CDR

In the IDES process, the final CDR is *not* the result of adding together all the individual disability ratings.

When the evaluation begins, you are considered to be 100% functional. If there are two or more medical impairments rated as disabling, the CDR is computed as follows:



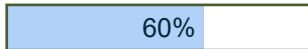
If condition one is rated at 50% disabling, then 50% function is subtracted from 100% capability leaving a balance of 50%.



If condition two is rated at 20% disabling, then 20% of the remaining 50% equates to 10%.



The remaining capability is 40% and the CDR is 60%.



- Disability ratings are issued in 10% increments. Final computations are either rounded up or down to the nearest 10%.
- Regardless of the number of conditions rated, the maximum degree of disability is 100%.
- To qualify for disability retirement the DoD CDR must be 30% or greater.
- A Service member may receive a DoD CDR of 20% and a VA rating of 80% because DoD can only compensate for conditions that make a Service member unfit for military service.
- The common terminology for CDR is explained in detail on the VA.gov website at the following link: <https://www.va.gov/disability/about-disability-ratings/>



PEB Phase - FAQ

“I was severely injured by an ordinance training accident. I lost a kidney, my spleen, suffered facial burns, and ruptured a disk in my lower back. The PEBLO just informed me that my CDR from the VA D-RAS is 80% but my DoD outcome is based on just 20%. How could this be? Didn't the PEB consider everything?”

- The Service PEB did consider everything. However, the only condition referred and claimed that causes you to be unfit for continued military service is your back injury. The other conditions, although present, do not prevent you from performing duties appropriate to your office, grade, rank, or rating.

“I've been rated 20% disabled for my military unfitting conditions and my PEBLO told me because I was wounded in combat, that I will be getting Enhanced Disability Severance Pay (EDSP). Is there any way I can figure out how much I will receive? Will it be tax free?”

- Because the PEB has determined that you were combat wounded, your EDSP will be tax free. EDSP is computed using the following mathematical formula:

2 x Monthly Basic Pay x Years of Active Service (*not to exceed 19 years*)

- One of the advantages of EDSP is that six (6) years will be the minimum number of years of active service used in the formula for those who qualify for the combat related provision and three (3) years for all others despite their actual number of years in service.
- Additionally, those entitled to EDSP will **not** have the dollar amount of their EDSP deducted from their VA disability compensation.

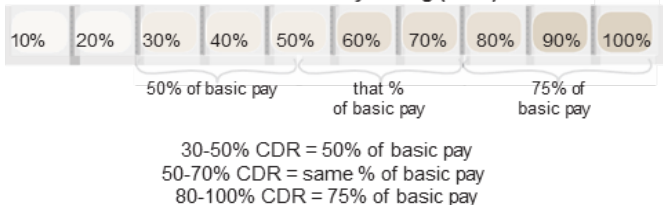


PEB Phase - FAQ

“How is disability retired pay computed if I’ve been placed on the TDRL or PDRL?”

- Service members with 20 years or more of active military service and a DoD disability rating or a Service member with less than 20 years of active military service and awarded a DoD CDR (for military unfitting conditions) of 30% or more, receive disability retirement.
- Disability retirement, is either temporary or permanent depending on whether the Service member’s medical condition is considered to be permanent and stable for disability rating purposes.
- The PEB will make the decision to place a Service member on the appropriate list.
- The formula below demonstrates how TDRL retirement pay is computed if the Service member has less than 20 years of active-duty military service. It is a summary of a very complex calculation, and individual cases vary based on many factors. Consulting with DESCOP is recommended for a detailed analysis.

Combined Disability Rating (CDR)



- For those placed on the PDRL, disability retired pay is computed using the actual percentage of the CDR (i.e., 40% CDR = 40% basic pay) up to a maximum of 75% of basic pay.



PEB Phase - FAQ

“If I am placed on either the TDRL or PDRL, is my military disability retired pay tax free?”

- Military Disability Retirement Pay received as a pension, annuity or similar allowance for personal injury or sickness resulting from active service in the armed forces should not be included in taxable income if you entered the Service on or after September 25, 1975
- There is an exception for any Service member receiving separation or retired pay as the result of a disability incurred in a combat-related event. The PEB is responsible for making a combat-related determination during their adjudication of all cases considered and your PEBLO will explain the PEB's decision on your case when you are presented your initial IPEB findings. You will also be advised as to how you can appeal the PEB's combat-related determination.

“My PEBLO says that my unit commander will be required to provide a NMA that will be included in my MEBR. Why is this required and what is it?”

- The DoN DES is a performance-based process. Just because a Service member has a medical condition it does not necessarily mean that the Service member is unfit for continued service.
- It is important for the PEB to understand how your medical condition truly impacts your ability to serve. The NMA is the mechanism your commander will use to convey that information.
- You may submit a personal impact statement or letter to the PEB to discuss your own perception of your fitness for Service. Your statement will be included in your MEBR for review by the PEB.
- Talk to your PEBLO or your LIMDU coordinator or DC for more information on the NMA and your personal statement.



PEB Phase - FAQ

“How will I know what my VA disability compensation payments will be?”

- The method for computing VA disability compensation is complicated and varies with the degree of disability and the number of the Veteran’s dependents. Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation. The VA disability benefits are *not* subject to federal or state income tax.
- Additionally, payment of military retirement pay, disability severance pay, and separation incentive payments known as Special Separation Benefits (SSB) and Voluntary Separation Incentives (VSI) may affect the amount of VA compensation paid to disabled veterans.

“Do I have any recourse if I am still not satisfied with my final DoD disability rating?”

- If you have exhausted your appeal rights within the DES process you can, regardless of the outcome, appeal to the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR). Service members separated with a DoD combined rating of 20% or less may appeal to the BCNR.

For more information speak to your VA MSC or visit the following VA website:

www.va.gov/disability



Transition Phase



Principal Contributors:

- PEBLO
- VA MSC
- VSO
- Limited Duty Coordinator/DC
- Hometown VA Office

Transition Phase Steps:

- PEBLO provides transition support for DES out-processing.
- VA MSC enrolls the Service member in the VA Healthcare System.
- Service member out-processes from their current installation.
- Service member is discharged.
- For IDES, VA benefits are delivered 30 days after discharge.
- For LDES, the Service member will submit their VA claim following discharge.



Transition Phase – Out-Processes DES

IF YOU ARE FOUND *FIT*

The PEBLO will direct you to request completion of a NAVMED 1300/3 by either their PCM or specialist and provide it to their LIMDU Coordinator or DC for submission.

IF YOU ARE FOUND *UNFIT*

The PEBLO will inform you and your command of the disposition and will inform you separately of your final DoD disability rating and disposition, the VA's CDR (if LDES) and monthly compensation, separation or retirement benefits.

The PEBLO's final briefing should include resources on the following topics:

- TRICARE eligibility.
- VA Healthcare enrollment.
- Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), if applicable.
- Final medical treatment options and transition care coordination.
- Medical records transfer.
- Separation/retirement orders.
- If entering TDRL, they will ensure you understand your 18-month reevaluation requirements and encourage you to keep your contact information updated with PERS.
- PLD. PLD is a personnel management tool used to retain Service members who are found unfit and allows them to remain in the Service to receive full pay, benefits, and healthcare for a definite period of time.



Transition Phase - VA

If you processed through IDES:

- The VA will receive your final disposition, a copy of your separation order and your DD Form-214.
- The VA MSC will conduct a final interview with you, your dependents, or other representatives to determine entitlements to benefits, gather supporting documentary evidence, and file claims on your behalf for benefits allowable under state and federal law.
- The VA MSC will explain your options and what you should expect from the VA upon separation.
- It may be suggested to separate prior to or as close to the last day of the month as possible. Entitlements to VA disability compensation accrue beginning the first day of the first full month following separation and are paid the first day after the first full month following separation.





Transition Phase - Assistance

Transition from active duty to civilian life is often a difficult and confusing time for Service members and their families.

DISABLED TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DTAP)

- Separating Service members should attend the Veteran Readiness and Employment Program (VR&E) (previously known as the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program) brief upon entering the DES. They should be prepared to take notes and absorb a lot of valuable information. Spouses, parents, or guardians should be invited to attend with their Service member.
- The Transition Readiness Seminar (TRS) offers training on resume writing, interviewing skills, job market analysis. It helps determine job readiness and addresses the special needs of disabled veterans. The training helps to ensure a seamless transition.
- Service members should be prepared to attend any other TRS that may be offered locally, even if the training is offered by another Service.
- While TRS is required of all transitioning Marines and Sailors, whenever possible, spouses should be invited to the training as well.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP A SMOOTH TRANSITION

Ensure that **all** your out-processing actions are completed and that you have provided all the information necessary for the timely issuance of your DD Form 214.



VA Benefits

Disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of dependents and is paid monthly. Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation and often benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax. Service members and their families should ensure that they are aware of all entitlements and benefits.

**To locate your local VA Veterans Service Representative call:
1-800-827-1000**

WHAT YOU CAN / SHOULD DO

The DD Form 214 is one of the most important documents a veteran will receive. The DD Form 214 is necessary to be able to participate in all VA programs as well as other state and federal programs. Veterans should keep the original in a safe fireproof place and have certified photocopies available for reference.

If a SM does not receive their DD Form 214 within two weeks of discharge or if the VA Compensation Check is not received within 30 days of discharge (for IDES only), SMs should contact their Command and/or Marines and Sailors in support of Marine Corps Units can contact Wounded Warrior Call Center for assistance at 1-877-487-6299.

Additionally, veterans must ensure that a copy of their DD Form 214 is delivered to the VA MSC and VA D-RAS as well as upload it to VA eBenefits (<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>) or VA.gov (<https://www.va.gov/>).

The DD Form 214 is required by the VA D-RAS to start VA disability compensation and verify healthcare coverage through the VA. To enroll, veterans must register with the nearest VA Regional Office.

A VA Veterans Service Representative can offer support through the compensation delivery process.



Conclusion

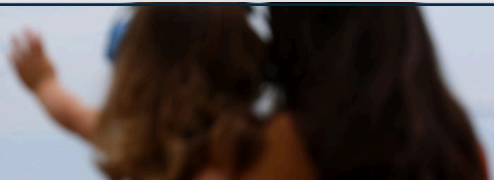


The DoN and VA strive to provide the best possible service across the continuum of care - from the point of injury through transition - and desire to support the highest quality of life possible for Service members and their families. Both are concerned with offering Service members a personal, hands-on approach to the IDES process.

The goal of the IDES process is to improve the timeliness, effectiveness, and transparency of the process by integrating DoD and VA procedures; eliminating duplication; and improving information provided to Service members and their families.

Yet even with the many benefits, the process from DES referral to separation to receipt of VA benefits can be confusing. It is important that Service members and their families going through the DES process establish a relationship with their PEBLO, VA MSC (if processing IDES), and other key players and inform themselves as much as possible. This includes attending all mandatory trainings and maintaining constant communication with their parent command who is the ultimate guide and advocate through this process.

Additionally, the Wounded Warrior Call Center is available 24/7 to answer questions or to offer referral to the best available resources (1-877-487-6299).





HIPAA Disclosure Statement

Disclosure Statement for Use and Sharing of Protected Health Information (PHI) in the DoD DES

Introduction

The DoD DES is committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of Service members' PHI. This disclosure statement outlines how PHI is used and shared within the DES, in accordance with DoDM 6025.18, which implements the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule in DoD Organizations, and SECNAVINST 1850.4E, which provides policy for the DES.

Use of PHI

PHI is used within the DES to evaluate and determine a Service member's fitness for continued military service. This includes:

- **MEB Process:** PHI is reviewed by medical professionals to document the medical status and limitations of the Service member.
- **PEB Process:** PHI is used to assess the impact of medical conditions on the Service member's ability to perform their duties.
- **VA Disability Rating Activity Site (D-RAS):** PHI is shared with the VA to determine disability ratings and entitlements for veterans' benefits.



HIPAA Disclosure Statement

Sharing of PHI

PHI is shared with authorized stakeholders involved in the DES process to ensure accurate and fair evaluations. Authorized stakeholders include:

- **Medical Professionals:** Physicians, specialists, and other healthcare providers involved in the MEB and PEB processes.
- **PEBLOs:** Non-medical case managers who assist Service members through the DES process.
- **VA:** The VA receives PHI to conduct examinations, propose disability ratings, and determine veterans' benefits.
- **Legal Counsel:** Attorneys from the Disability Evaluation System Counsel Program (DESCP) who provide legal assistance to Service members.
- **Commanding Officers and Non-Medical Assessors:** Commanding officers and designated non-medical assessors who provide input on the Service member's ability to perform their duties.
- **PERS 454:** Oversees retention determinations and processing of disability cases for Navy and Marine Corps personnel.



HIPAA Disclosure Statement

Privacy and Security Measures

The DES implements strict privacy and security measures to protect PHI, including:

- **Access Controls:** Only authorized personnel have access to PHI, and access is granted based on the need to know.
- **Data Encryption:** PHI is encrypted during transmission and storage to prevent unauthorized access.
- **Training and Awareness:** All personnel involved in the DES process receive training on HIPAA privacy and security requirements.

Conclusion

The DoD DES is dedicated to safeguarding the PHI of Service members throughout the disability evaluation process. By adhering to DoDM 6025.18, SECNAVINST 1850.4E, and the HIPAA Privacy Rule, the DES ensures that PHI is used and shared responsibly and securely with authorized stakeholders.

For more information on the use and sharing of PHI within the DES, please refer to DoDM 6025.18, SECNAVINST 1850.4E, and the DES Playbook.



Acronyms

ADSEP CnD	Administrative Separation for Conditions not amounting to a Disability
BCNR	Board for Correction of Naval Records
BUMED	Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (Navy Medicine Headquarters)
BVA	Board of Veteran Appeals
CA	Convening Authority
CDR	Combined Disability Rating
CO	Commanding Officer
CO NMA	Commander's Non-Medical Assessment
CORB	Counsel of Review Boards
C&P	Compensation and Pension
DC	Command Deployability Coordinator
DESCP	Disability Evaluation System Counsel Program
DFAS	Defense Finance Accounting System
DTAP	Disabled Transition Assistance Program
EDSP	Enhanced Disability Severance Pay
FPEB	Formal Physical Evaluation Board
IMR	Impartial Medical Review
LDES	Legacy Disability Evaluation System
LIMDU	Limited Duty
LIMDU SMART	Limited Duty Sailor and Marine Readiness Tracker



Acronyms

IDES	Integrated Disability Evaluation System
IPEB	Informal Physical Evaluation Board
MDB	Multidisciplinary Brief
MEB	Medical Evaluation Board
MEBAA	Medical Evaluation Board Approval Authority
MEBR	Medical Evaluation Board Report
MTF	Military Treatment Facility
NARSUM	Narrative Summary
NDITS	Naval Disability Integrated Tracking System
OIC	Officer in Charge
PCM	Primary Care Manager
PCR	Personnel Casualty Report
PDRL	Permanent Disability Retirement List
PEB	Physical Evaluation Board
PEBLO	Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer
PLD	Permanent Limited Duty
PFR	Petition for Relief (FPEB Appeal)
PFT	Physical Fitness Test
RCC	Recovery Care Coordinator
RTD	Return to Duty



Acronyms

SBP	Survivor Benefit Plan
SECNAV	Secretary of the Navy
SME	Subject Matter Expert
SOC	Statement of the Case
SSB	Special Separation Benefits
STR	Service Treatment Record
TDRL	Temporary Disability Retirement List
TRS	Transition Readiness Seminar
VA	Veterans Administration
VA BDD	VA Benefits Delivery at Discharge
VA D-RAS	VA Disability Rating Activity Site
VA MSC	VA Military Service Coordinator
VASRD	VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities
VR&E	Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program
VSO	Veterans Service Organization
VSI	Voluntary Separation Initiatives
VTA	Veterans Tracking Application



Glossary

Administrative Separation for Conditions not amounting to a Disability (ADSEP CnD) – Allows for the separation of Service members whose medical conditions interfere with their performance of duty but do not meet the criteria for disability compensation.

Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) - VA Form 9, also known as the Substantive Appeal Form, is used by veterans to appeal decisions made by the VA regarding their claims. It allows veterans to contest decisions made in the SOC and Supplemental Statement of the Case (SSOC) and to request a hearing with the BVA.

Case Management - Case management within Navy Medicine aims to support and develop the self-care capacity of beneficiaries with complex medical conditions and/or diverse support needs. An effective Case Management referral system aids in developing close relationships among all levels of the health system and helps to ensure patients receive the best possible care by the most appropriate service provider.

Combined Disability Rating (CDR) – A final calculation of all of a Service member's disability ratings that represents how much their disabilities decrease their overall health and ability to function.

Command Deployability Coordinator (DC) – For Sailors, a member of the Service member's chain of command who proactively monitors medically restricted Service members' conditions and progression. Also known as a LIMDU Coordinator for Marines.

Commander's Non-Medical Assessment (CO NMA) – A report provided by a Service member's command that outlines how the Service member's condition impacts their ability to perform their assigned duties.

Compensation and Pension (C&P) Exams - Medical examinations performed by a healthcare provider to evaluate a veteran's disabilities and determine the level of disability compensation they may be eligible to receive from the VA.

Convening Authority (CA) – Senior medical officer who provides the final endorsement and signature for processes related to LIMDU, Employ, DES and ADSEP CnD.

DD FORM 214 - The official Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. It is issued by the DoD to Service members upon their retirement, separation, or discharge from active duty. This form serves as proof of military service.



Glossary

Disability Evaluation System Counsel Program (DESCP) – Dedicated military attorneys that assist Service members throughout DES.

Defense Finance Accounting System (DFAS) - An agency of the DoD that provides payment services for military and civilian personnel, retirees, and contractors.

Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP) - A program designed to support service members transitioning from military to civilian life due to service-connected disabilities.

Employ - Chief of Naval Personnel-directed program that provides an opportunity for continued service for non-deployable Sailors (officer and enlisted) who have prolonged medical condition(s) and are still capable of completing all duties required of an in-rate or designator shore-duty role. Employ helps retain Sailors' valuable knowledge, skills and experience to meet our warfighting mission.

Enhanced Disability Severance Pay (EDSP) – A one-time lump sum payment. The amount of the payment is twice the amount of monthly basic pay.

Formal Physical Evaluation Board (FPEB) – A formal hearing that includes the Service member and their legal representative, a voting panel of three PEB members (Medical Officer, Line Officer, Legal Member), witnesses and subject matter experts that determines whether the Service member's condition(s) make them fit or unfit for military service.

Impartial Medical Review (IMR) – A review of the MEB decision, requested by the Service member and conducted by a provider who is independent of the MEB.

Informal Physical Evaluation Board (IPEB) - An internal board, without the Service member present, that conducts a paper review of a Service member's MEBR and determines whether the Service member's condition(s) make them fit or unfit for military service.

Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) – A joint program between the DoD and the VA that provides a streamlined and transparent process for evaluating and compensating Service members who may be unfit for continued Service due to a medical condition.

Limited Duty (LIMDU) - A temporary status, granted for Service members who have a medical condition, which limits their ability to perform duties of office, grade, rank, or Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), or when performance of their duties would compromise recovery from a medical condition.



Glossary

Limited Duty (LIMDU) Coordinator – See Command Deployability Coordinator

Limited Duty Soldier and Sailor Readiness Tracker (LIMDU SMART) – The current system of record for all Sailor and Marine MEB activities.

Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) - A formal process used by the military to evaluate Service members who have medical conditions that may render them unfit for duty.

Medical Evaluation Board Approval Authority (MEBAA) - The primary overseer of all readiness processes related to MEB activities, including LIMDU, Employ, IDES, ADSEP CnD

Medical Evaluation Board Report (MEBR) - A document that results from the deliberations of MEB. It is used to evaluate a service member's medical condition and determine their ability to perform duties in a medically unrestricted status.

Narrative Summary (NARSUM) - A detailed medical report prepared by the Service member's provider that summarizes their medical condition(s), history, and treatment. It outlines how the condition affects the member's ability to perform their military duties and includes a determination of whether the condition is service-related or existed prior to service.

Naval Disability Integrated Tracking System (NDITS) – A PEB electronic system that tracks the PEB phase of DES cases, and provides regular status updates to PEBLOs, Service members and BUMED.

Permanent Limited Duty (PLD) - A personnel management tool used to retain Service members that are found unfit for continued military Service but allows them to remain in the Service to receive full pay, benefits, and healthcare.

Permanent Disability Retirement List (PDRL) – Service members found unfit for duty due to a stable and permanent condition with a disability rating of at least 30%, are placed on PDRL and medically retired with benefits based on service.

Petition for Relief (PFR) – Known as the FPEB appeal. Part of a Service member's election of options following a FPEB decision. If the Service member disagrees with the unfit finding, they can file a PFR with the SECNAV CORB.



Glossary

Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) – A formal body comprised of field-grade officers or civilian equivalents who evaluate the medical and administrative evidence to determine if a service member's condition makes them fit or unfit for duty.

Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer (PEBLO) - A non-medical case manager assigned to inform, assist, and update Service members as they progress through the IDES. The PEBLO ensures that SMs are aware of their rights and responsibilities and communicates and collaborates with the SM's medical provider, unit commander, the MEB, the PEB, and the VA MSC, to ensure the IDES process proceeds without delay.

Rebuttal – A course of action, requested by the Service member, to contest a MEB's decision.

Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC) – A non-medical professional who provides support to Service members going through DES process, ensuring a smooth transition to either full duty or civilian life.

Secretary of the Navy Counsel of Review Boards (SECNAV CORB) - An administrative body within the DoN that reviews cases, conducts hearings, and renders decisions on behalf of the SECNAV. The PEB is a board under the SECNAV CORB.

Special Separation Benefits (SSB) – A one-time payment offered to military members as an incentive to voluntarily separate from service, primarily during drawdown periods in the 1990s.

Service Treatment Record (STR) – A comprehensive record of a Service member's medical history during their military career.

Statement of the Case (SOC) – A document that explains the VA decision regarding a disability benefits case. It is prepared by the VA after receiving a NOD from a veteran. The SOC explains why the veteran was denied for their disability.

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) - Provides financial support to military spouses and/or children when a military member dies while on duty or after retirement.

Temporary Disability Retirement List (TDRL) - For Service members found unfit for duty, but their condition is not considered stable enough for a permanent disability rating.



Glossary

Transition Readiness Seminar (TRS) – a mandatory seminar for separating Service members that offers training on resume writing, interviewing skills, job market analysis and helps determine job readiness and to address the special needs of disabled veterans.

VA Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) – A program that allows Service members, who are not undergoing DES processing or who waive DES processing, to file for disability benefits before leaving military service, facilitating a smoother transition to civilian life and expediting access to benefits.

VA Disability Rating Activity Site (D-RAS) – The VA D-RAS thoroughly evaluates the Service Member's referred and claimed conditions to produce a rating letter that explains the disability rating applied. The IPEB and D-RAS findings are merged and submitted to the PEBLO for delivery to the Service Member..

VA Military Service Coordinator (MSC) - A VA employee and key member of the IDES team assigned to serve as a liaison for the Service member throughout the VA disability evaluation and claims process.

VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) - A published collection of medical requirements used by the VA to evaluate the severity of disabilities resulting from all types of diseases and injuries encountered as a result of, or incident to, military service.

Veterans Tracking Application (VTA) - A joint VA/DoD application to support the effective management and tracking of Veteran and Service member beneficiaries at all levels of the continuum of care.

Voluntary Separation Initiatives (VSI) – Special incentives paid to Service members to separate from the Service.



References

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- DoDI 1332.45
- IDES Pocket Guide (Fifth Edition, April 2021)
- LIMDU SMART eMEBR User Guide
- MCO 1900.16 CH 3
- MILPERSMAN 1160-050
- MILPERSMAN 1300-1401
- MILPERSMAN 1910-712
- MILPERSMAN 1900-120
- NAVPERS 1300/1401
- NAVMED 1300/3
- OPNAV 1300.20A
- SECNAV INSTRUCTION 1850.4F
- SECNAV M-1850.1