



Department of Navy Disability Evaluation System (DES)

Multi- Disciplinary Briefing (MDB)



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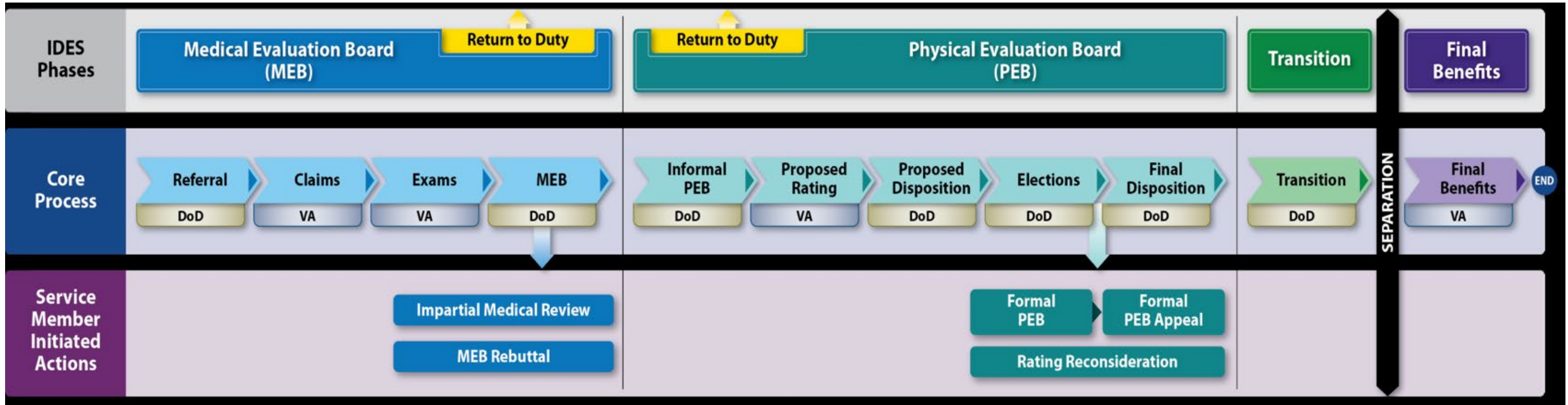


Purpose of DES

- To act on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) to make determinations of Fitness to continued Naval service, entitlements to benefits, disability ratings, and disposition of service members referred to the DES.
- Service members undergoing disability evaluation can expect three potential outcomes: Return to Duty, medical separation, medical retirement (temporary or permanent).



IDES Process Map





LDES Process Map



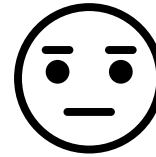
Referral



Legal Brief



Initial Counsel



Sign & Send



Findings



Separation



The Disability Evaluation System (DES)



- Initiated when one or more medical conditions (aka referred conditions) are identified, and a Medical Board Approving Authority (MEBAA) has determined that Medical Retention Determination Point (MRDP) has been met requiring referral into DES.
- The DES has two sets of pathways (LDES/IDES) designed to evaluate whether a Sailor or Marine's medical condition(s) will prevent them from reasonably performing the duties of their office, grade, rank, or rating.
- During the process- DES stakeholders provide Sailor/Marine counseling and advice on how to contribute to the development of their case as well as rights and responsibilities applicable when presented with the results of various stages of the process.



PEBLO's Role



- Your PEBLO will:
 - Guide and advise you throughout the medical board process
 - Keep you informed of the status of any changes in your case (One phone call a month from SM to get update)
 - Inform you of the MEB decision to include referred condition (s); MEB Narrative Summary (NARSUM), VA Exams, and Command Non- Medical Assessment (NMA)
 - Construct the MEB case file for submission to the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB)
 - Provides your informal PEB findings and counsel you on your options in response to the findings.



Will my PEBLO do everything for me?

- No. They are intended to be a resource and assist during the process, but it the service member's responsibility to make sure that everything is correct and complete.



DES Attorney



- The DES Attorney is a very important advocate throughout the DES. They are dedicated attorneys specially trained in the DES process.
- Upon referral to the DES, you will meet a DES attorney to make your IDES/LDES decision.
- The DES attorney is available to provide legal assistance throughout the DES process regarding your rights and elections (choices).
- You have the right to consult legal representation of your choice, keeping in mind that civilian representation is at your own expense.



VA MSC Coordinator

- You will be assigned a Military Service Coordinator (MSC) to guide you through the VA portion of the IDES process. LDES cases do not navigate any VA activities during the DES process.
- The MSC is an VA employee who is the link between you and the VA for the IDES Process.
- You are responsible for ensuring all your medical records (civilian and military) are given to your PEBLO prior to meeting with your MSC.
- You must attend all scheduled C&P appointments- these are your place of duty and have priority over anything else.
- If an appointment must be rescheduled due to emergency circumstances, contact your MSC and PEBLO immediately. Unit escort will be required before no- showed appointments can be rescheduled. Missed appointments not associated your referred condition will NOT be rescheduled.



Service Member Involvement Expectations



- Your DES process is your first priority
- Attend all examinations and appointments
- Work with your PEBLO and Provider to ensure medical conditions are documented and all medical records are available.
- Read over entire eMEBR case file and all records carefully before making election(s).
- Remember, if you do not make your MEB or PEB election within the prescribed timeframe, your case will continue to process forward; if you need an extension, contact your PEBLO right away!
- Make sure your PEBLO is aware of any changes to your contact information.
- Inform your PEBLO of any periods of unavailability (leave, surgery, TAD, etc.) Once the medical board starts you **MUST** be available for the first 45 – 60 days for VA appointments.



Personal Conduct of Service Member



- You are in DES until the day you separate or are found fit for duty.
- You are in the military until you separate.
- Committing UCMJ or civil/criminal offenses while in DES (even on terminal leave) can result in your board being suspended and/or terminated.
- Your Separation Authority (SA), usually the General Officer with court martial convening authority over you, may direct separation prior to completion of the DES process.



Medical Evaluation Board (MEB)



- The MEB is the medical portion of the DES process. THE MEB does not determine fitness for continued service nor disability determinations.
 - Uses examination results and other medical evidence to determine whether you have a medical condition (s) that prevents you from reasonably performing the duties of your office, grade, rank, or rating. This has recently expanded to include ability to pass PRT (Navy) and PFT & CFT (Marines) and the ability to deploy in current or future assignment.
 - The mere presence of a diagnosis is not synonymous with disability.
 - It must be established that the diagnosis/ medical condition (s) prevent the Service Member from performing their duties. Your MEB findings are annotated in your electronic Medical Evaluation Board Report (eMEBR).
- Your electronic Medical Evaluation Board case file will consist of:
 - Complete service and civilian treatment records.
 - A narrative summary (NARSUM) of your referred medical condition(s).
 - VA Compensation and Pension Exams (IDES only)
 - Command Non-Medical Assessment (NMA) describing how the injury/illness impacts our ability to perform your military duties.
 - eMEBR



PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARD (PEB)



The Department of the Navy (DON) Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) manages the Department of the Navy DES process and acts on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy in making fitness determinations and determining eligibility for Sailor and Marines, due to a mental or physical disability incurred in the line of duty.

Informal Board- conducts records review only

Formal Board- conducts records review and personnel interviews



INFORMAL PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARD (IPEB)



- The PEB convenes an Informal PEB (IPEB) to adjudicate the case via complete and thorough review of all medical and non-medical evidence contained in the MEBR case file.
 - If SM is found Fit to Continue Service, notification is sent to the PEBLO
 - If SM is found Unfit to Continue Service, the case file is forwarded to the VA Rating Activity Site (D-RAS) for assignment of disability rating for both referred and claimed medical conditions which the D-RAS determines are the result of injury or illness incurred or injury or illness aggravated in the line of duty.
 - The D-RAS decision is included in the case file and returned to the PEB
 - Completed IPEB findings are then sent to the PEBLO
- Election of Options
 - Accept IPEB findings
 - Request a Formal PEB Hearing if you contest your IPEB findings
 - One-time DVA rating reconsideration of only the referred condition (s) the PEB has determined unfitting



FORMAL PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARD (FPEB)



- Service Members found Unfit, may request a FPEB hearing
 - The PEBLO will receive a Formal Hearing notification with your scheduled Formal hearing date.
- Service Members found Fit, may request the PEB to exercise its discretion to grant FPEB hearing.
 - The PEBLO will receive a Formal Hearing notification stating whether your request was approved or denied.
- You have the right to be represented by Government DES counsel provided by OJAG. Legal counsel will contact you at least two weeks prior to your scheduled FPEB hearing.
 - The PEBLO will deliver your FPEB findings.



Resources

- Secretary of the Navy Council of Review Boards: <https://www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/CORB?Pages?default.aspx>
- VA: www.va.gov
- eBenefits: www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage
- VA Disability: <http://www.va.gov/disability>
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program (DTAP): www.dol.gov/vets
- TRICARE: <https://www.Tricare.mil/LifeEvents/Seperating>
- USMC Wounded Warrior Regiment: <http://www.woundedwarriorregiment.org>
- Social Security Disability Insurance Program: www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors
- Servicemember's Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI): provides short-term financial support to help eligible service members recover from a severe injury <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/tsgli>
- National Resource Directory: searchable database of resources vetted for Service Members, Veterans, Family Members and Caregivers <https://nrd.gov/>



Questions?