Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)

Medical Evaluation Board/Disability Evaluation System Clinic
Fort Hood, Texas

UNCLASSIFIED
Agenda

• IDES Mission
• IDES Process
  – Medical Evaluation Board Process
  – Physical Evaluation Board Process
  – VA-DRAS
• Other Important Information

http://www.crdamc.amedd.army.mil/meb/
IDES Mission

• To provide Soldiers and their families the support they need while going through IDES.

• To provide information that allows informed decisions by Soldiers throughout the process.

• To process Soldiers’ cases in an accurate and efficient manner.
Introduction to IDES

• Integrated Disability Evaluation System

• Joint Army and Veterans Affairs Process

• Evaluates Soldier’s medical conditions to determine fitness for duty.
  – If determined to be unfit, provides disability rating prepared by the VA to be used to determine Soldier’s benefits.
## Army and VA Differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions Assessed</th>
<th>Army</th>
<th>VA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Referred Only</td>
<td>Referred and Claimed</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Determination</th>
<th>Fit or Unfit for Duty in PMOS</th>
<th>Conditions are Service-Connected and a Disability</th>
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<tr>
<th>Rating Permanence</th>
<th>Permanent except for Unstable Conditions</th>
<th>Can Change Over Time</th>
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**IDES Process**

**Treatment**
*Wounded, Ill, and Injured Soldiers receive treatment before referral to IDES.*

**Medical Evaluation Board Phase (MEB)**
*Extent of injury/illness is documented and compared to retention standards and Soldier’s duties.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referral</th>
<th>Claim Development</th>
<th>Medical Evaluation</th>
<th>MEB</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soldier is referred to and introduced to the IDES process.</td>
<td>Soldier fills out VA Claims Form and other forms.</td>
<td>Soldier attends necessary medical exams.</td>
<td>NARSUM is finalized and Soldier concurs/non-concurs with decision.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key Personnel: PEBLO/Unit</td>
<td>Key Personnel: VA MSC</td>
<td>Key Personnel: DoD/VA Provider</td>
<td>Key Personnel: PEBLO/SMEBC</td>
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**Physical Evaluation Board Phase (PEB)**
*Soldiers are found fit or unfit for duty and given VA Rating if unfit.*

- **Informal PEB / Formal PEB**
  *DoD makes final determination of fit or unfit for each medical condition.*

- **Preliminary Rating Board**
  *VA determines proposed rating percentage based on referred and claimed conditions.*

**Transition and Reintegration Phases**
*IDES disposition is finalized, and Soldier is separated or returned to duty.*
MEB: Referral Stage

- Soldier is referred to IDES by a medical care provider.

**Key Personnel:** Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer (PEBLO)
- The link among Soldier, Commander, and IDES.
- Counsels Soldier through the IDES process.
- Compiles Soldier’s case file and helps Soldier fill out required forms, including first section of VA Claims Form.
- Provides copy of health record to Soldier.
MEB: Claim Development Stage

- Soldier compiles Soldier’s medical conditions in the VA Claims Form.

- **Key Personnel: Military Service Coordinator (MSC)**
  - The link between Soldier and the VA.
  - Conducts Initial Claims Interview.
  - Assists Soldier in Completing Claims Documentation.
  - Provides Veterans Claims Assistance Act (VCAA) Section ($7) 5103 notice.
  - Requests Compensation & Pension (C&P) Examination.
Important Things To Consider

• Review all of your medical records prior to meeting with the MSC.

• Bring birth, marital, and/or divorce documentation and banking information.

• Make sure circumstances regarding how any injuries occurred are documented.
• Soldier attends Compensation and Pension (C&P) exams and meets with MEB Provider.

• **Key Personnel:** VA Provider
  – Reviews all referred and claimed conditions.
  – Conducts C&P examinations.
  – Orders additional examinations as needed.
  – Finalizes and signs off on C&P exam results.
  – Provides diagnoses in regard to referred and claimed conditions.
**Key Personnel: MEB Provider**

- Reviews and summarizes Soldier’s medical and administrative data into MEB Narrative Summary (NARSUM).
- Meets with Soldier to review medical history and discuss active medical conditions.
- Documents all of Soldier’s medical conditions.
- Answers any questions Soldier may have.
- Does not make determination of fitness or provide disability rating percentages.
Important Things To Consider

• MEB Providers do not determine “fit” or “unfit” because this is determined by the PEB.

• The VA C&P exam is the exam of record.

• The number of referred and claimed conditions will largely determine the number of C&P exams a Soldier attends.
• Soldier receives MEB results and makes election.

• **Key Personnel: PEBLO / SMEBC**
  - “Medical Evaluation Board Proceedings” is completed and delivered to Soldier for election.
  - Soldier is counseled and informed of election rights.
  - NARSUM and Soldier’s Case File are completed and sent to PEB if medical retention standards are not met.
  - Soldier may consult with Soldiers’ MEB Counsel regarding MEB results before making election.
Soldiers’ MEB Counsel (SMEBC)

- Important advocate for Soldier throughout IDES.

- Mission: Provide legal advice to Soldiers regarding the IDES process and how it affects their disability case.

- Soldiers can seek SMEBC counsel at anytime during the IDES process.
Soldiers are encouraged to talk to Soldiers’ MEB Counsel (SMEBC) BEFORE asking for an IMR.
• Only board in the Military that can determine fitness for continued service.

• Informal findings
  • Fit for Duty
  • Unfit; case to VA for rating

• DA Form 199 (PEB Proceedings) to PEBLO to counsel Soldier.
PEB Dispositions

Upon receipt of Informal PEB (IPEB) decision (DA 199), Soldier may:

1. Agree with decision;
2. Agree with decision, but disagree with VA rating for unfitting condition and submit for VA reconsideration (one-time request while on Active Duty);
3. Disagree and submit written appeal (but waive the formal hearing); or
4. Disagree and request a formal hearing.

**Soldiers are encouraged to consult with SMEBC BEFORE asking for a PEB appeal or formal hearing.**
• Soldier can submit a request for COAD or COAR if found unfit for duty by the PEB

• PEBLO and SMEBC will provide you with specific criteria/details related to requesting this
• VA-DRAS determines the ratings for service connected conditions:
  – The unfitting conditions determined by the PEB.
  – The Soldier’s claimed conditions.

• What is the disability rating?
  – Based on the criteria in the Veterans Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD).
  – The ratings assigned for the unfitting conditions determine if Soldier is medically retired or medically separated from the Army.
  – The ratings assigned for all of the conditions (unfitting and fitting) determine Soldier’s overall VA rating but do not control Soldier’s benefits from the Army.
  – Soldiers can challenge the VA ratings only for the unfitting conditions during the IDES process. Soldiers can seek assistance with this from SMEBC.
Important Information

• Soldier must take ownership of Soldier’s IDES process.
  – Attend all examinations and appointments.
  – Work with PEBLO and SMEBC to ensure medical conditions are documented and all health records are available.
  – Read over entire MEB packet carefully before making election.

• Confidentiality is ensured throughout the IDES process.

• Ask questions!
  – Soldier’s MEB team can answer any questions Soldier has during IDES process.
## Important Locations and Phone Numbers

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<tr>
<th>POC</th>
<th>Office Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Business Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PEBLO</td>
<td>Building 36039 Wratten Dr.</td>
<td>Front Desk: (254) 553-7033 Fax: (254) 288-8907</td>
<td><strong>M–W, F:</strong> 0730–1630 <strong>Th:</strong> 0730–1130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSC</td>
<td>Building 36038 Wratten Dr.</td>
<td>Front Desk: (254) 287-2824 Fax: (254) 285-6790</td>
<td><strong>Intake:</strong> <strong>M &amp; W:</strong> 0900–1130; 1300–1530 <strong>T:</strong> 0900–1130 <strong>Th:</strong> 1300–1530 <strong>F:</strong> 0900–1030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMEBC</td>
<td>Building 13</td>
<td>Intake Paralegals: (254) 287-4904 or 287-2966</td>
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Soldier’s Rucksack


• This link contains important documents and information detailing the IDES process
QUESTIONS?