
IDES

(Integrated Disability Evaluation System)

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

The Coast Guard 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. Coast Guard Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officers (PEBLOs) and VA Military Service Coordinators (MSCs) guide Service members through the IDES. Legal counsel is also available at no cost to the Service member.

References

- Title 10, United States Code, Chapter 61
- Military Separations Manual, COMDTINST M1000.4 (series)
- Veterans Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD)

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HAVE QUESTIONS? ASK US!

For questions regarding IDES, send an email:
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United States Coast Guard

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What does this mean for the clinic?

Submitting a case to IDES will be very similar to the legacy process. The MEB portion starts at the clinic for the initial NARSUM. A MEB package will still need to be created of the DQ conditions. The addition of three forms, and a complete copy of the medical record are the only changes at the clinic level. One form is completed by the member, a SHA Part A, similar to the DD 2807-1. The others, a VA-21-0819 that states the potential DQ conditions, and a MEB and Counsel form that notifies the member of their diagnosis and rights to legal counsel.

The IDES Process

The IDES process focuses on determining whether a member is fit or unfit for retention in a non-adversarial manner. Once the MEB report is forwarded to PSD, each medical condition will be evaluated as to whether it is unfitting in conjunction with the VA. This allows the member to receive benefits delivery at discharge and start receiving VA compensation shortly after the separation date. The member will receive VA ratings and CG ratings at the same time.

Stages of the Process

1

MEDICAL EVALUATION BOARD (MEB)

Member is determined to have a disqualifying condition. An MEB package and referral is generated by clinic and sent to PSD. A PEBLO and a VA Military Service Coordinator (MSC) contacts member to schedule and complete VA Exams. Member may request a Rebuttal and/or an Independent Medical Review (IMR) if they disagree with the MEB Results.

2

INFORMAL PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARD (IPEB)

Member is rated with VA and CG at the same time. Ratings presented to member for CG and VA. Member may submit an IPEB rebuttal. Legal review completed. Send to EPM/OPM/RPM for determination or proceed to formal board. If MEB ends in separation, a 90 day SEP AUTH will be given for those on AD orders and 30 days for Reservists not on AD orders.

3

FORMAL PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARD (FPEB)

A three-person board holds an administrative hearing to re-evaluate fitness for duty and make recommendations consistent with the findings. Member has the right to appear in front of this fact-finding body. Member can submit an FPEB rebuttal.

Possible Outcomes

