



SAN ANTONIO MILITARY MEDICAL CENTER

Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)





Purpose of this briefing

To provide an overview of the Integrated
Disability Evaluation System
(IDES)



Agenda

- Our Mission
- Purpose of the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)
- Basic Terminology
- PEBLO and VA MSC
- DoD MEB Process
- DoD PEB Process
- DoD Disability Ratings
- Misc Information





Our Mission

- *To provide the Service Member and their families the best care while going through the Medical and Physical Evaluation Board process*
- *To provide information that allows informed decisions throughout the MEB/PEB process*
- *To process cases in a timely and efficient manner*





Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)

- *Based on the fact that a military medical care provider has identified **potentially** military unfitting medical condition(s), a Service Member is referred to the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)*
- *Originally called DES Pilot, the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) is a new disability process implemented in 2007. It brings together the resources of the two agencies to evaluate both **referred** and **claimed** medical conditions.*
- *The process is intended to quickly deliver a finding regarding fitness for continued military service and if determined to be unfit provide a single sourced disability rating determined by the Department of Veteran's Affairs*



Seamless Transition

The immediate benefits include the fact that a Service Member will **NOT** have to undergo examination and evaluation through two separate systems (Army and VA), and will experience a seamless transition to the benefits and compensation available through the DVA immediately upon separation or retirement, if determined to be unfit for continued military service

**** NOTE: The IDES process does not include IET soldiers ****



Basic Terminology

- **ADDENDUM** - Summary on additional condition(s) not included in Narsum
- **APDAB** - Army Physical Disability Appeal Board
- **COMPENSABLE** – An unfitting disability that is determined to be service connected or permanently aggravated in the line of duty
- **DCCS** - Deputy Commander for Clinical Services
- **DES** – Disability Evaluation System
- **DVA** – Department of Veteran Affairs
- **ERB** – Enlisted Review Brief
- **EPTS** – Existed Prior to Service
- **FFD** – Fit For Duty
- **FPEB** – Formal Physical Evaluation Board
- **HRC** – Human Resource Command
- **IDES** - Integrated Disability Evaluation System
- **IPEB**- Informal Physical Evaluation Board
- **MEB** - Medical Evaluation Board
- **MMRB** - MOS/Medical Retention Board
- **NARSUM** – Narrative Summary
- **MSC** – Military Service Coordinator (VA representative)
- **ORB** – Officer Review Brief
- **OSC** – Office of Soldier's Counsel
- **PDA** – Physical Disability Agency
- **PDR** – Permanent Disability Retirement
- **PEB** – Physical Evaluation Board
- **PEBLO** – Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer
- **PQR** – Personnel Qualification Record
- **PSB** – Personnel Service Branch
- **RC** – Reserve Component
- **PEB** - Physical Evaluation Board
- **SFAC** – Soldier's Family Assistance Center
- **SMEBC** – Soldier's MEB Counsel
- **SWSP** – Separation with Severance Pay
- **SWOB** – Separate without Benefits
- **TDRL** – Temporary Disability Retired List
- **USAPDA** – United States Army Physical Disability
- **VA** – Veteran's Administration
- **VASRD** – Veteran's Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities



A Medical Evaluation Board is **NOT**...

- A MOS reclassification Board:
 - reclassification is considered by the MOS/Medical Retention Board (MMRB) for Soldiers with P3 who meet retention standards
- Service Member **DOES NOT** sit in front of a panel of board members for the MEB.
- The MEB is an **informal** process comprised of at least two physicians who compile, assess, and evaluate medical history to determine if duty is affected by the medical condition(s).





Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) Purpose

- *The MEB Process begins when Medical Retention Determination Point (MRDP) has been reached or when the physician determines a SM will not be able to return to duty.*
- *Service members are referred within 1 year of being diagnosed with a medical condition that does not appear to meet medical retention standards.*
- *Designed to evaluate medical condition(s) to determine if **'Do' or 'Do Not'** meet the Medical Retention Standards IAW AR 40-501, Chapter 3.*
- *Documents medical condition(s) and duty limitations.*
- *Refers SM to the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) when the findings and recommendations stipulate retention standards are not met or when referred directly from an MMRB.*

Note: Does not mean a SM will be found Unfit by the PEB or discharged from military service



MEB Process

- *The PEBLO will schedule an initial counseling with the SM to complete Part 1 of VA Claim Form 21-0819*
- *SM will turn in their **ALL their medical records** to the PEBLO at this time*
- *Please ensure we have a copy of your original MEPS physical. It should be available in your records or iPERMS via AKO (AKO search for 'iPERMS')*
- *The VA MSC will schedule a meeting with the SM to complete Part 2 of the VA Claim Form 21-0819*
- *The MSC will forward the form to the VHA (Frank Tejada Outpatient Clinic), who will schedule the Comprehensive Physical Examination*
- *The PEBLO will notify the Case Manger/Unit of all of SM appointments and continue to process the MEB*
- *Your PEBLO will refer the SM to other resources as required (e.g. Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP), Army Wounded Warrior (AW2) Program, etc.) prior to any separation or retirement*
- ***PEBLO will keep Service member informed throughout the IDES process***



VA Military Service Coordinator (MSC)

** MSC is the link between the Service member and the VA **

Within 10 days of notification from PEBLO:

- *MSC counsels on the DVA disability process*
- *Assists in completing VA Form 21-0819 Sections 2-4, identifying all MTF referred, SM claimed, and chronic medical conditions revealed by review of the STR*
- *Enters and requests appropriate medical examination appointment(s) using VA templates (single comprehensive physical examination)*
- *Counsels/explains the VA rating decision in detail*
- *Counsels in detail on appeal rights and VA benefits prior to transition.*
- *Exit interview with the MSC*



What is in an MEB Packet

- *Medical Data and Documents created in the support of the MEB*
- *Complete Health Record*
- *Personnel/Performance Data*





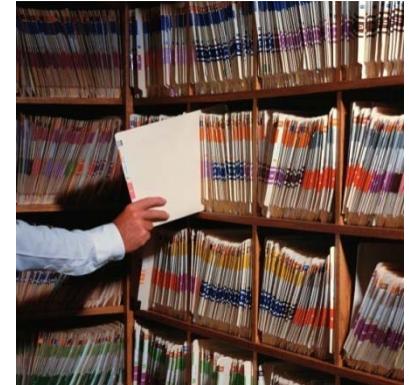
What is in a MEB Packet?

- **Coversheet** (DA Form 3947) – Lists all medical conditions stating whether you do/do not meet retention standards of AR 40-501, Chapter 3
- **Narrative Summary (NARSUM)**
- **Addendum** – is an addition to the MEB if something was not included in the original NARSUM
- **Consults** from clinics visited.
- Copy of **Permanent Profile**.
- Copy of the **Comprehensive Physical Examination** done by the VA
- Copy of **medical records**



What is in a MEB Packet?

- *ERB/ORB (or PQR for Reserve/National Guard)*
- *DA7652 Commander Performance and Functional Statement*
- *NCOERs/OERs (E-5 And above) (Last 3)*
(E-4 and below Developmental Counseling Forms)
- *LES (Current End of Month)*
- *ACAP Pre-Separation Counseling checklist (DD2648 or DD 2648-1)*
- *DA Form 4187 (Name changes, loss of rank, promotions, etc)*
 - *If UNDERGOING UCMJ – please inform your PEBLO ASAP*
- *Combat Awards, Purple Heart – DD214's*



***RC Soldiers have additional requirements (see next slide)*



Reserve Component Personnel/Performance Data

- Orders for all active duty periods, especially where injury/illness incurred
- Reserves – Chronological Statement of Retirement Points
(ARPC 249-2-E) (commonly known as RPAS)
- National Guard – Retirement Points History Statement
(NG Form 23) (commonly known as RPAM)
- Approved Line of Duty (LOD) (if necessary)
(Must have at least an informal LOD for all car/motorcycle accidents)
- 20 Year Letter if applicable





Comprehensive Physical Examination done by the Department of Veteran Affairs

- *Service Member receives one (1) comprehensive physical from the VA*
- *It is imperative that SM list all medical conditions known, as this is their opportunity to have all medical conditions addressed by the MEB to determine whether they do or do not meet retention standards and to ensure the VA review for possible compensation for all claimed conditions.*





Narrative Summary (NARSUM)



The NARSUM is the heart of the MEB

This comprehensive report, written by the health care provider, provides a “word picture” of condition(s), history and status.

The NARSUM provides a recommendation, such as Medical Condition “XYZ” is medically unacceptable IAW para 3-___, AR 40-501 and case is referred to the PEB for further adjudication



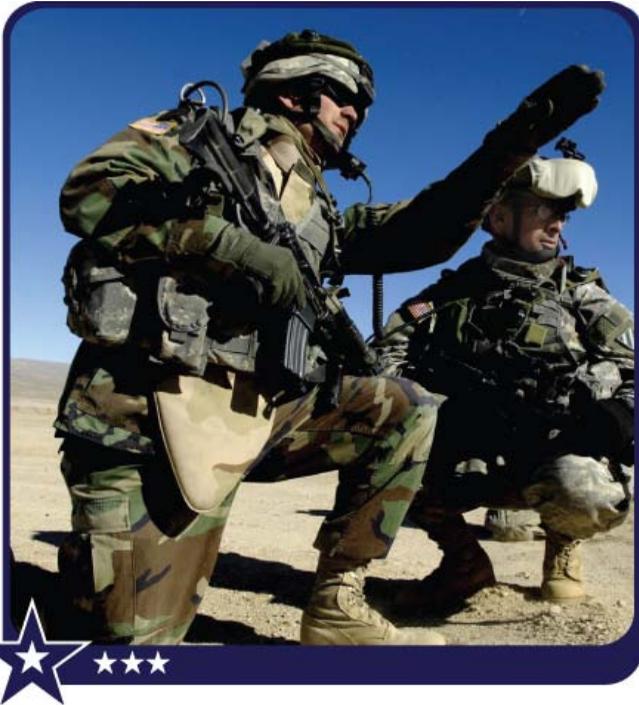
MEB Process

- *After completion of the MEB, the SM will be counseled and review the Board's findings and recommendations*
- *The MEB will state whether **or you 'DO' or 'DO NOT' meet retention standards** IAW AR 40-501, Chapter 3*
- *The SM will receive a copy of the MEB and supporting documents for their files*





MEB DISPOSITIONS



- *Generally, if retention standards are met within the limits of the profile the SM is returned to duty in their Primary MOS*
- *If retention standards are not met, the case will be referred to the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) for further disposition*
- *If the MEB is a MOS/Medical Retention Board (MMRB) directed MEB, the case is forwarded to the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB), even if retention standards are not met. If the profile is upgraded to a P2 and retention standards are met, the SM is Returned to Duty (RTD).*



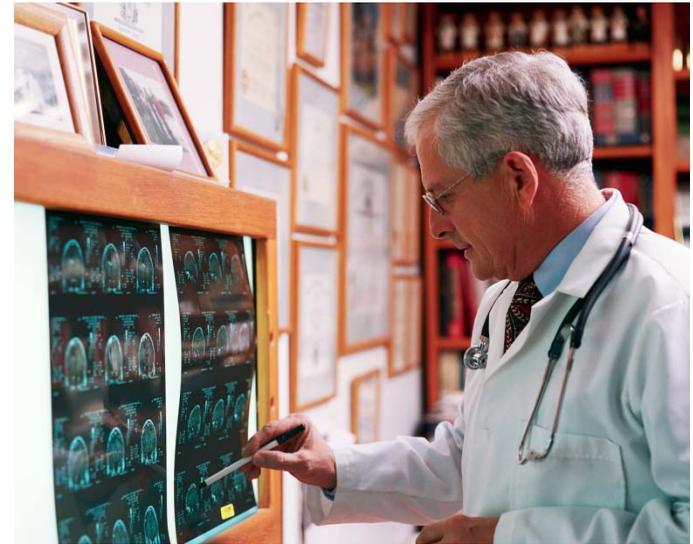
Can the MEB be appealed?

- **YES** - *If the SM disagrees with any portion of the Medical Board, they maintain the right to appeal it*
- *The SM is entitled to an Impartial Medical Review (IMR). The IMR will have no more than 5 calendar days to comment on whether the findings of the MEB adequately reflect the complete spectrum of the condition(s).*
- *The SM has 7 calendar days to request and prepare a written appeal stating why or what they disagree with on the MEB to the BAMC Deputy Commander for Clinical Services (DCCS)*
- *The Soldier's MEB Counsel (SMEBC) can assist the SM with their appeal*
- *The written appeal is submitted to the BAMC Deputy Commander for Clinical Services (DCCS) for further consideration and becomes part of the MEB Board*



MEB Appeals

- *The DCCS will review the appeal and make one of the following recommendations:*
 - *MEB stands as written*
 - *Can send back to health care provider for further information*
 - *Can forward to PEB with attachments or additional notes*





If found 'UNFIT' by the PEB is there any way to stay in?

- **YES** - The soldier can submit a request application for **Continuation on Active Duty (COAD)** or **Continuation on Active Reserve Status (COAR)**

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/active/epord/coad.htm>

- The PEBLO will provide the SM with specific criteria/details related to requesting this
- The SM can also obtain information and counseling on COAD/COAR from the SMEBOC
- Generally, HRC is the approval authority for most requests.





Why does it take so long to complete a MEB?

- *Additional medical conditions are discovered during the MEB process*
- *Soldier has appeal rights to ensure due process*
- *Availability of specialty medical services or appointments*
- *Awaiting personnel/performance data from Command*
- *LOD investigations are not completed*
- ***Soldier misses appointments***
- *Soldier requests second opinion (IMR)*
- *MEB returned for additional admin or clinical input*
- *Case put on hold for additional surgery/rehab to ensure Soldier has reached Medical Retention Determination Point (MRDP)
(i.e. optimum medical care)*



How can this be made as painless as possible?

- **DO NOT** miss any appointments - Be on time, with ID card, in the appropriate uniform
- **No shows for any medical appointment are reported to the Commander** and will delay medical board proceedings
- Always provide accurate phone numbers
- If units or assignments change, please notify your PEBLO as soon as possible

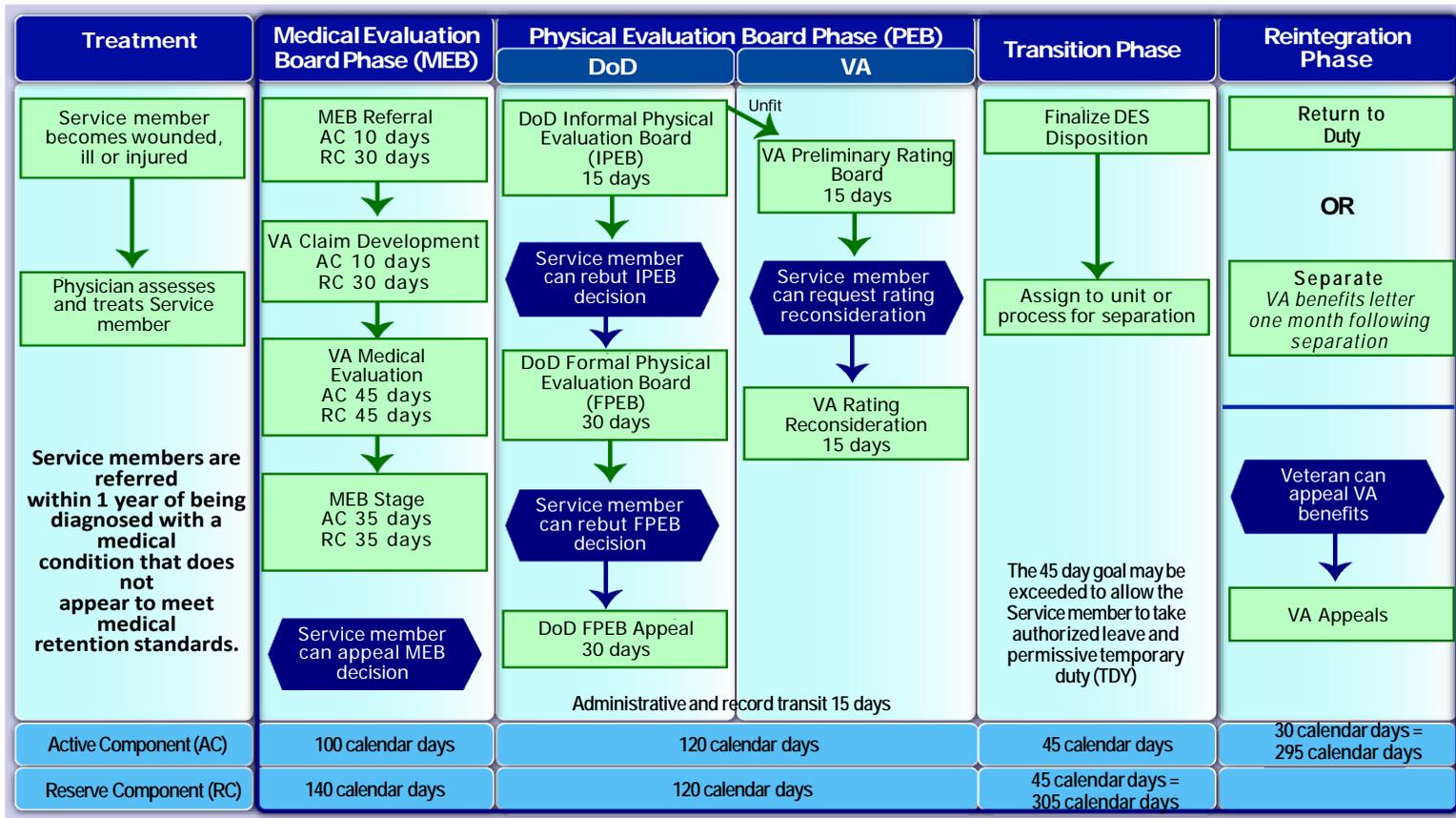




Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)



Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) Timeline



Reserve component member entitlement to VA disability begins upon release from active duty or separation

Service Member Decision Points (Blue arrow) IDES Stages (Green box)



What about confidentiality?

- A SM's medical board is personal and private
- **Limited information can be provided to the unit:**
 - ❖ The fact that their SM is undergoing disability processing
 - ❖ Where they are in the board process
 - ❖ Whether they were found fit or unfit
- Family members **do not** have automatic access to medical records/board status without the SM's written permission



****SM is encouraged to keep everyone concerned informed ****



Any Questions

About the MEB Process?





Physical Evaluation Board (PEB)

There are 3 PEBs - Located at the following locations

- *Washington DC PEB*
- *FT Sam Houston, TX PEB*
- *FT Lewis, WA PEB*

PEB MEMBERS:

- *President or Presiding Officer (generally a Colonel)*
- *Personnel Management Officer (field grade or Civilian Adjudication Officer)*
- *Physician (MC Officer or Civilian, generally with Army MC experience)*
- *If service member is Reserve Component (RC), a member will be RC*
- *Request for Enlisted, female, or minority member may be made through a*
 - request in writing through MEB Counselor*
 - If approved, Board expands to 5 members for enlisted representation*
 - May be 3 or 5 members for female or minority representation*



PEB Process

- *The PEB is the **only board** in the Military that can determine fitness or unfitness for continued Military Service.*
- *Once the Fit or Unfit determination has been made the PEBLO will notify the SM of the Preliminary PEB findings.*
- *If found Fit for Duty: the case will not be referred to the VA for a disability determination.*
- *If found unfit: the PEB will forward the case to the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) Rating Board for a determination of the appropriate disability rating for **all** of the medical conditions.*



PEB Process

- *The DVA Rating Board can return the case for additional information or clarification in order to make a determination of the appropriate disability rating.*
- *Only those medical conditions that render a SM unfit for further Military Service will be considered for determining the final disposition by the PEB.*

The DoD PEB rating is not to be confused with the Department of VA Ratings



PEB Process

- Once the DoD PEB and **Proposed** DVA ratings are in, the PEBLO will be notified and SM contacted
- The PEBLO will schedule a review and counseling session of the IPEB's findings and recommendations, usually within 24 hours but NLT three (3) calendar days upon receipt
- **The SM is given ten (10) calendar days to concur or nonconcur**
- The SM can also consult with an attorney from the SMEBC to determine how they want to respond to the PEB findings





DVA Rating Board

- *Determines the single disability rating, for both **referred** medical conditions and member **claimed** additional disabilities*
- *Issues veteran's benefits letter within 20 days after separation*
- *SM retains full VA appeal rights once separated*



Types Of DoD PEB Dispositions

➤ **Fit for Duty**

➤ **Unfit for Duty**

- **SWOB** (no % given) *(Separate Without Benefits)*
- **SWSP** *(Separate With Benefits)*
 - Rating of 0%-20% and less than 20 YOS (minimum of 3 years, combat related 6 years to a limit of 19)
- **TDRL** *(Temporary Disability Retired List)*
 - Rating of 30% or more or 20 YOS and medical condition is NOT stabilized enough for permanent rating
 - Periodic re-exams every 12 - 18 months (5 yr maximum)
 - Minimum of 50% pay for TDRL retirement check
 - NOTE: Some conditions warrant an initial 6 month reevaluation post placement on TDRL
- **PDR** *(Permanent Disability Rating)*
 - Rating of 30% or more or 20 YOS

➤ **Disability Compensation:** The PEBLO will provide **ESTIMATED** disability severance and/or retired pay amounts



PEB Appeal Process For Fit For Duty



- *SM is entitled to submit a written appeal*
- *SM may request a formal hearing, **as an exception to policy***
- *The PEB President decides whether to grant a request for formal hearing to contest a fit finding*



PEB Appeal Process

- *The SM cannot request a formal PEB to question any disability percentages provided by the VA*
- *SM can only appeal the PEB finding of FIT or UNFIT for duty*
- *If the disposition is “UNFIT FOR FURTHER MILITARY SERVICE”, SM has the right to request a formal hearing with or without personal appearance*
- *SM can also submit a written appeal regarding their fitness for duty. SM may submit any relevant and material evidence regarding the fitness of their medical conditions*
- *SM has the right to be represented by an attorney from JAG or by counsel of choice (civilian attorney at their own expense) for the formal hearing*
- *SM may also elect to have no-charge representation from various veterans organizations if available (i.e. Disabled American Veterans).*





VA Reconsideration

The SM can request from the VA a one-time reconsideration of the VA rating if they nonconcur with the Informal PEB or after the Formal PEB

Please note: VA will only reconsider re-evaluation of ratings if new medical evidence is received or if the Service Member provides sufficient justification to warrant the reconsideration Formal PEB hearing



Physical Disability Agency (PDA)

Reviews and approves/disapproves findings and recommendations of the PEB

- *The PDA may:*
 - *Return case to PEB for reconsideration, clarification, further investigation, formal hearing or other action*
 - *Issue modified finding which could change Soldier's fit or unfit decision*

***** Another appeal by the soldier is possible *****

- *If Physical Disability Agency modifies PEB findings and SM non-concurs, their case is forwarded automatically for an appeal with the US Army Physical Disability appeals Board (USAPDAB) for final review and decision.*



Final Disposition - Physical Disability Agency (PDA)

Physical Disability Board receives case from PDA and takes final administrative actions:

➤ *If Unfit for Duty:*

- *Transmits message to Transition Center for disability separation/retirement orders*
- *Assigns final separation/retirement date of 'Not Later Than 90 days'*
- ***Transition Center or Unit will publish appropriate separation or retirement orders – not the PEBLO***

➤ *If Fit for Duty:*

- *Issues a fit memorandum to the MTF*
- *The fit memorandum completes the disability evaluation processing and is provided (along with an updated profile) to the unit*



Be Informed

- *Service members are invited to ask questions*
- *This is this **YOUR** career*
- *Before submitting administrative documents to the PEBLO, take the time to review all documents for accuracy*

You are a key part of your MEB-IDES process

If you don't understand something – please ask!!





Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)



Soldiers are able to track the progress of their MEB via the 'MyMEB' Portal on AKO.

If they have any questions about the data they see in the 'MyMEB' Portal, please contact their PEBLO

My MEB Portal <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/417118>

or AKO search for "MYMEB"

[Click here](#) to access this web site in a separate browser window.

Soldier Status	
Last Name, First Name:	Assigned PEBLO:
Deployed: No	Information Last Updated: 05/04/2007 07:54:34
Conflict: OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF)	
MED Holdover: Yes	
Date Assigned to MED Holdover: 08/22/2006	

Medical Actions	PEBLO Actions	Unit/Soldier Actions
Date of Physician's Notification of MEB Action: 08/22/2006	Date of initial PEBLO Counseling: 08/26/2006	Date Commander Notified of MEB Action: 08/26/2006
Physical Exam Completed: 03/06/2007	Date Signed MEB returned to PEBLO: 03/15/2007	
Consultation Required: Yes	Date MEB with signatures of approving authority returned to PEBLO: 04/03/2007	
Consultation Dates: 09/26/2006, 10/23/2006, 10/30/2006, 11/03/2006, 12/05/2006, 02/15/2007, 03/06/2007	Date Patient counseled on MEB: 04/05/2007	
Date of MEB Physician Appointment: 03/06/2007	Date MEB appeal returned to PEBLO by MEB approving authority: 04/12/2007	
Date Physician dictated MEB narrative Summary: 03/06/2007	Date MEB Stopped/Pending Optimal Treatment: 09/14/2006	
	MEB Recommendation: Yes	
	Appealed: No	
	Date Appeal filed: 04/10/2007	

Physical Evaluation Board
Date MEB Forwarded to PEB: 04/13/2007

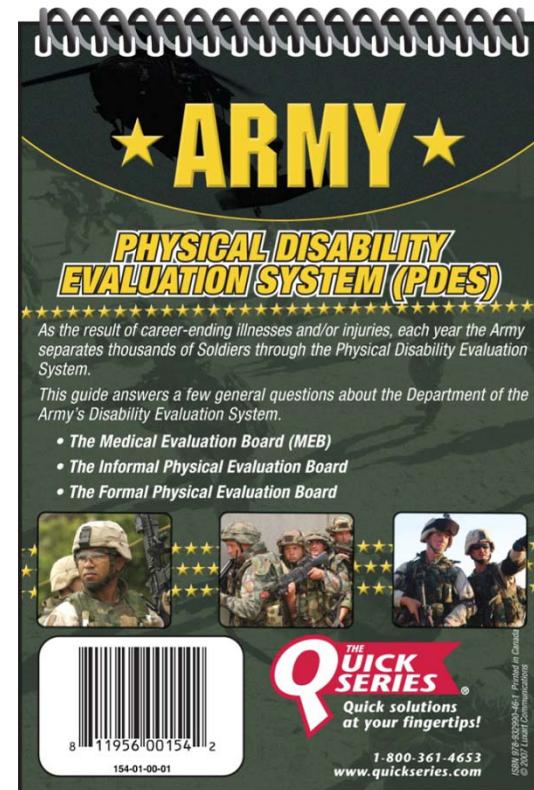
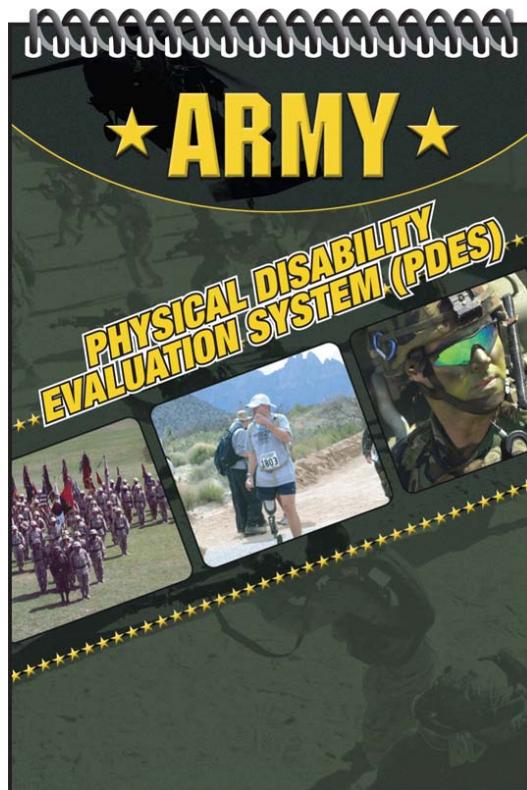


Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)



PDES Handbook

You will each get a copy of the PDES handbook at this presentation. Please refer to it for more detailed information





SOLDIER'S MEB COUNSEL

The Soldier's MEB Counsel (SMEBC) is available soldiers for both MEB and PEB assistance.

*Located at the Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC)
Bldg 3644*

210-916-4397/7322



MEB Office Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY
0700 to 1630 Hours

CLOSED on Federal Holidays



DES Briefing



Thank you for Your Service!



This Concludes the briefing