



Integrated Disability Evaluation System

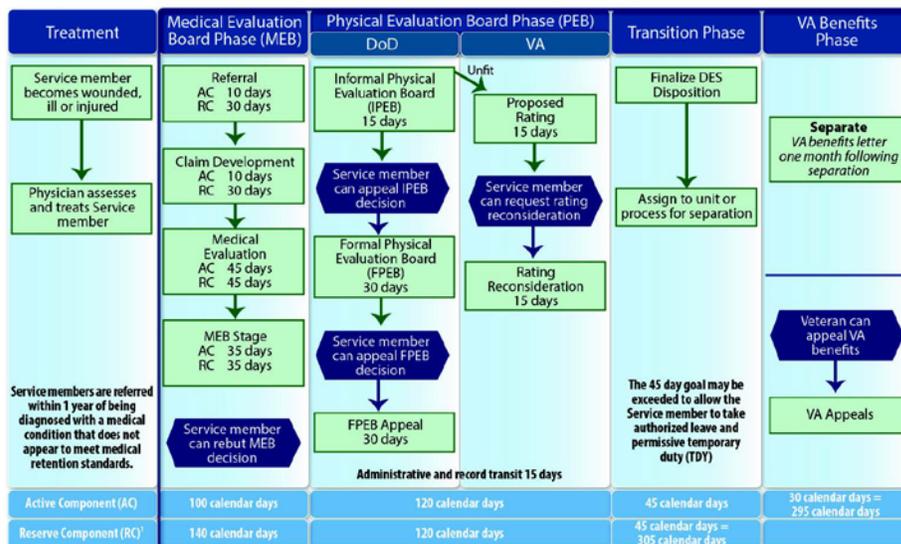
Ensuring our Nation's wounded, ill, and injured Service members receive timely, transparent, and consistent disability outcomes.

The Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) helps the Department of Defense (DoD) determine if wounded, ill, or injured Service members are able to continue to serve. DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have joined together to create IDES, integrating two formerly separate and sequential disability systems into one process. This new, streamlined system improves the federal government's delivery of disability services and benefits to Service members, veterans, and their families. IDES quickly returns to duty those who are medically fit. For those who are not, the IDES process determines the disability ratings that they will receive from DoD and VA. The timeline below helps convey system complexity.

IDES Highlights

IDES provides a faster, smoother transition experience for wounded, ill and injured Service members by involving VA as soon as Service members are referred for disability evaluation. The collaboration between DoD and VA helps Service members by delivering:

- **Enhanced Case Management:** DoD and VA staff members work together throughout the IDES process, providing seamless and consistent case management.
- **A Single Comprehensive Disability Examination:** Service members need only one medical evaluation, conducted by a VA-certified physician, to help determine fitness for duty and eligibility for DoD and VA disability compensation and benefits.
- **A Single-Sourced Disability Rating:** VA raters provide Service members with disability ratings that are accepted by both DoD and VA.
- **Increased Transparency:** Service members know their DoD and VA disability ratings before separating from military service.
- **Faster Disability Processing:** VA Military Service Coordinators (MSCs) help Service members establish their VA benefits claim before separating, making VA benefits decisions available to veterans approximately one month after separation, the shortest period permissible under the law.



¹ Reserve component member entitlement to VA disability begins upon release from active duty or separation

■ Service Member Decision Points ■ IDES Stages