



ARMY MEDICINE
Serving To Heal...Honored To Serve



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



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



	Army	VA
Conditions Assessed	Referred Only	Referred and Claimed
Key Determination	Fit or Unfit for Duty in PMOS	Conditions are Service-Connected and a Disability
Rating Permanence	Permanent except for Unstable Conditions	Can Change Over Time



IDES Process

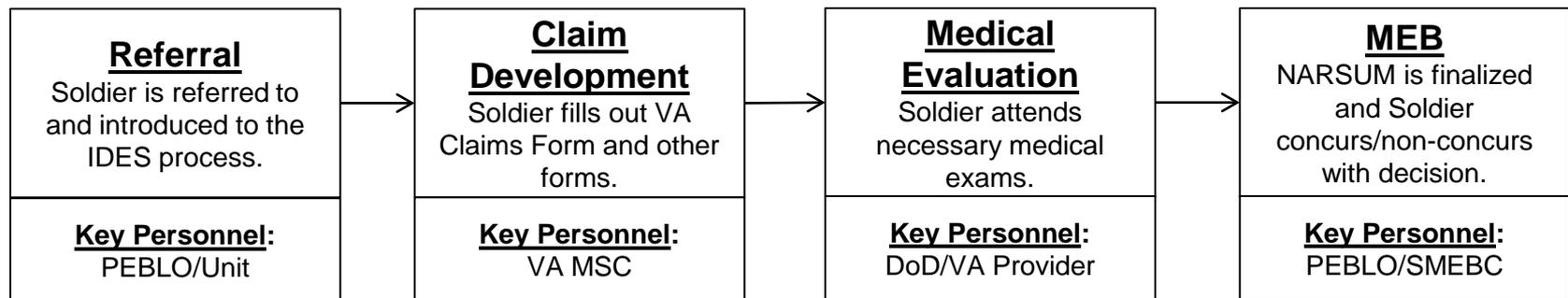


Treatment

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

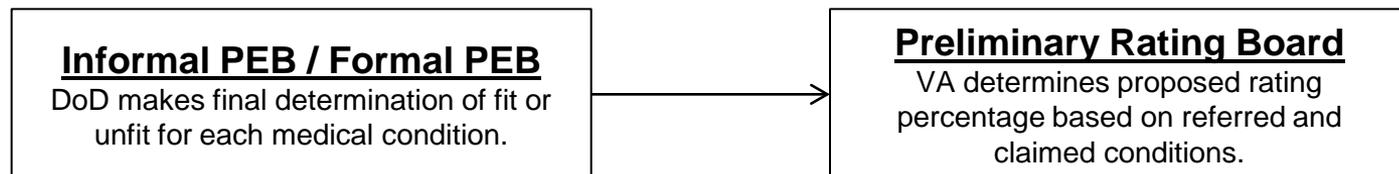
Medical Evaluation Board Phase (MEB)

Extent of injury/illness is documented and compared to retention standards and Soldier's duties.



Physical Evaluation Board Phase (PEB)

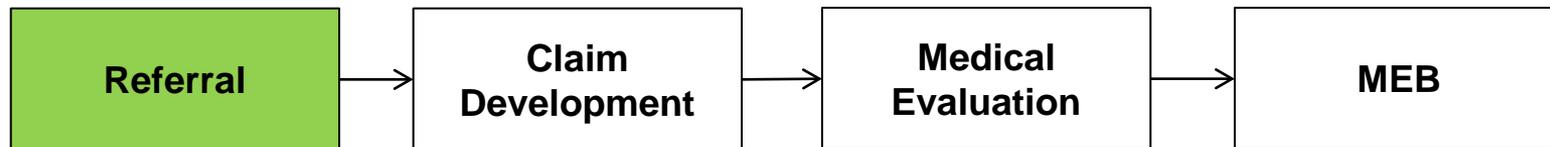
Soldiers are found fit or unfit for duty and given VA Rating if unfit.



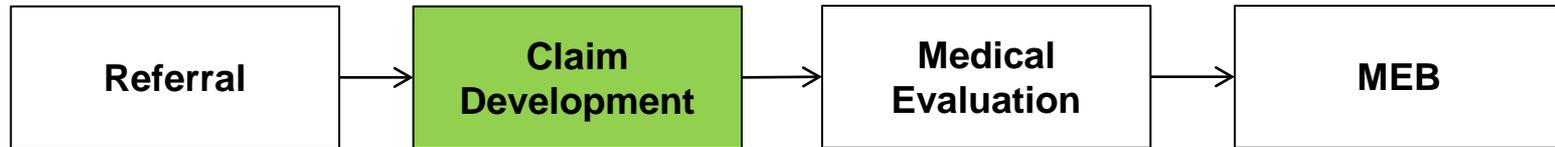
Transition and Reintegration Phases

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.



- 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 (§) 5103 notice.
 - Requests Compensation & Pension (C&P) Examination.



MEB: Claim Development Stage

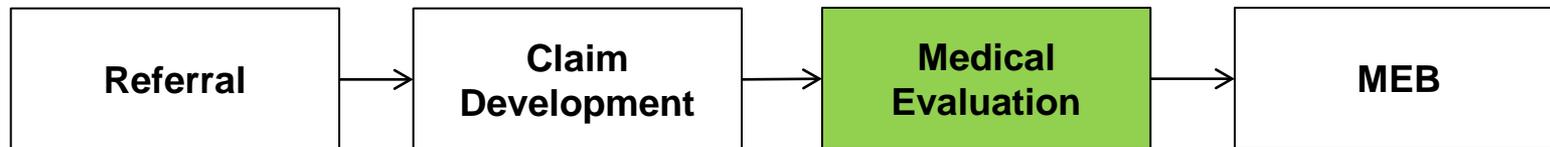


Important Things To Consider

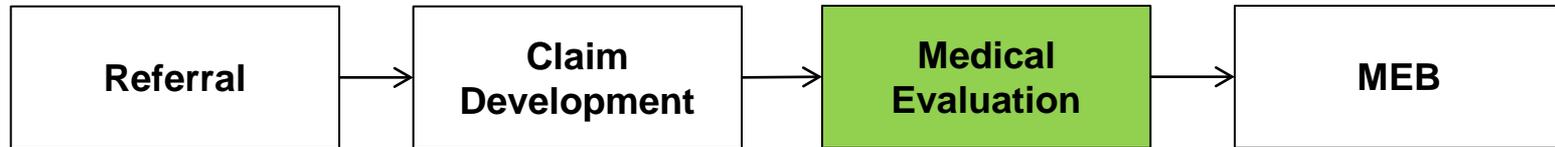
- Review all of your medical records prior to meeting with the MSC.
- Bring birth, marital, and/or divorce documentation and banking information.
- Make sure circumstances regarding how any injuries occurred are documented.



Important
Information



- 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.



MEB: Medical Evaluation Stage



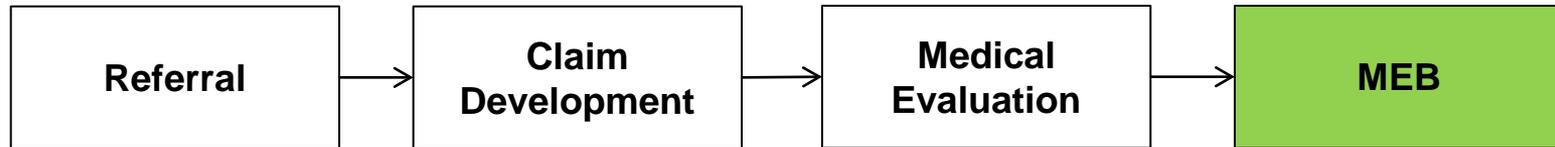
Important Things To Consider

- 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.



Important
Information

MEB: MEB Stage



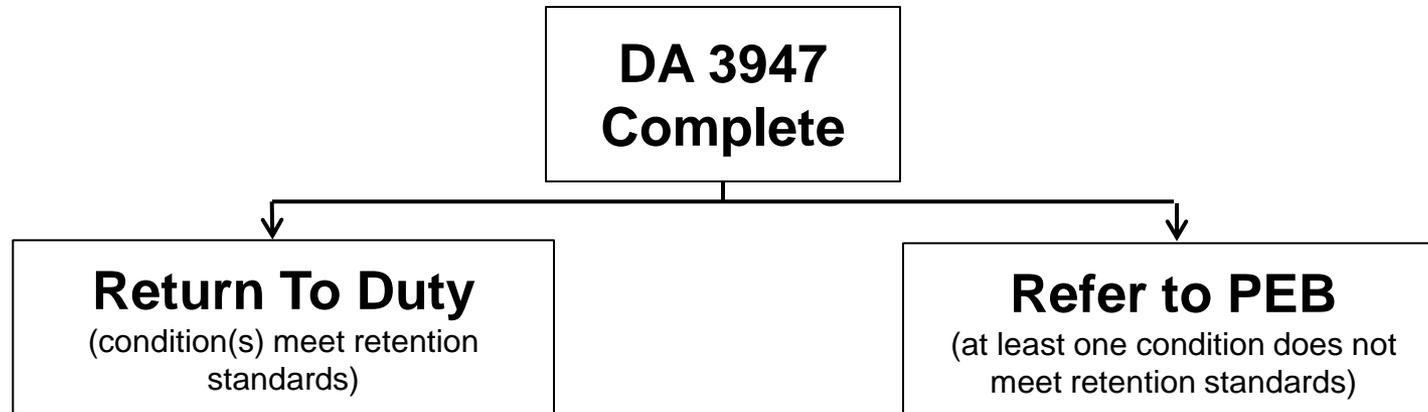
- Soldier receives MEB results and makes election.
- **Key Personnel: PEBLO / SMEBC**
 - “Medical Evaluation Board Proceedings” is completed and delivered to Soldier for election.
 - Soldier is counseled and informed of election rights.
 - NARSUM and Soldier’s Case File are completed and sent to PEB 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.



- Soldier has **5 days** to formally agree or disagree with MEB disposition.
- Soldier has the right to request an **Impartial Medical Review (IMR)**
 - Impartial provider outside of MEB reviews accuracy of MEB disposition
- Soldier has **7 days** to submit a **rebuttal**.
 - MEB Appellate Authority reviews MEB disposition
 - Soldier does not have to disagree with IMR to submit an rebuttal.

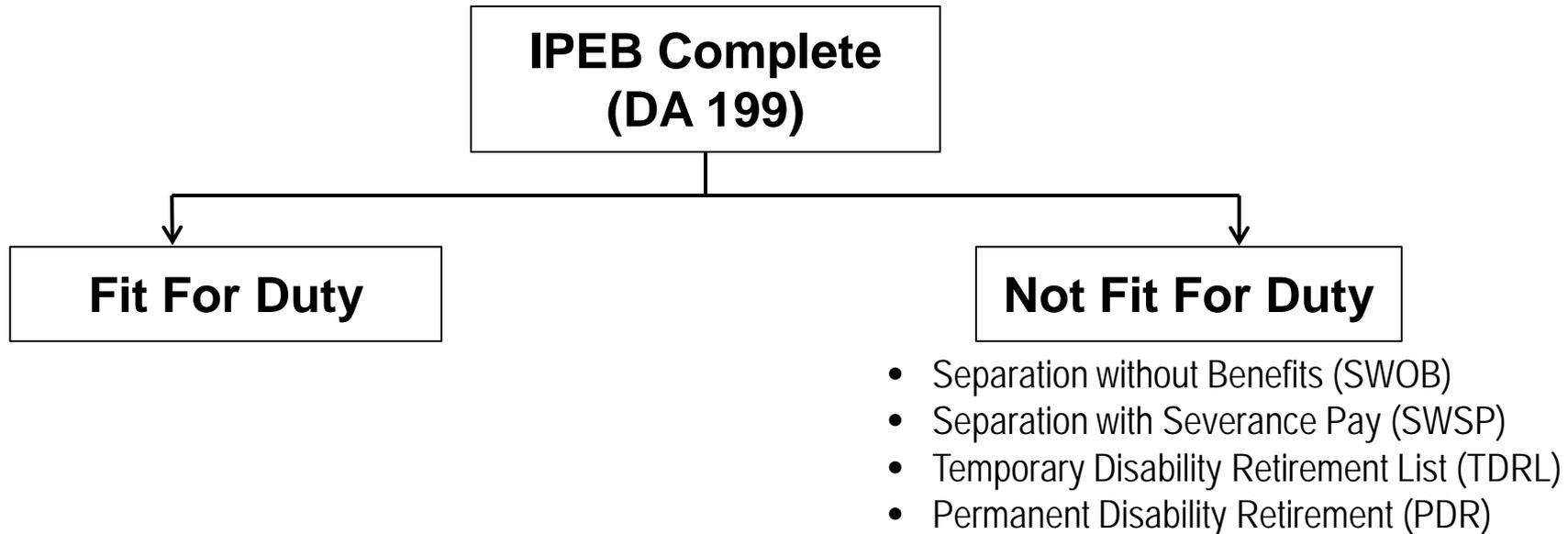
Soldiers are encouraged to talk to Soldiers' MEB Counsel (SMEBC) BEFORE asking for an IMR.



PEB Process



- 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.



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.



Continuation on Active Duty (COAD) / Continuation on Active Reserve (COAR)



- 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



DRAS



- 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



POC	Office Location	Phone	Business Hours
PEBLO	Building 36039 Wratten Dr.	Front Desk: (254) 553-7033 Fax: (254) 288-8907	M–W, F: 0730–1630 Th: 0730–1130
MSC	Building 36038 Wratten Dr.	Front Desk: (254) 287-2824 Fax: (254) 285-6790	
SMEBC	Building 13	Intake Paralegals: (254) 287-4904 or 287-2966	<u>Intake:</u> M & W: 0900–1130; 1300–1530 T: 0900–1130 Th: 1300–1530 F: 0900–1030



Soldier's Rucksack



<http://www.crdamc.amedd.army.mil/meb/ruck.aspx>

- This link contains important documents and information detailing the IDES process



QUESTIONS?