



ARMY MEDICINE
Serving To Heal...Honored To Serve

Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) Briefing for Soldiers and Family Members

(Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center)

MEDCOM Standardized IDES Brief

16 April 2012



BRIEFING OUTLINE

PURPOSE: To provide an overview of the IDES

- Our Mission
- Purpose of the IDES
- Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer (PEBLO)
- MEB Physician
- VA Military Service Coordinator (MSC)
- Soldier Medical Evaluation Board Counsel (SMEBC)
- MEB Process
- PEB Process
- Disability Ratings
- Additional Information

Our Mission

- To provide you with information that will allow you to make informed decisions throughout the MEB/PEB process
- To process your case in a timely and efficient manner





What is IDES?

Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)

- This process integrates the resources of the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to evaluate, following a set of comprehensive medical examinations, your referred medical conditions and any other medical conditions that you may wish to claim (Service-connected)
- The process is intended to quickly deliver to you a finding regarding your fitness for continued military service and if determined to be unfit, to provide you with a single sourced disability rating prepared by the VA, that will be used by DoD and the VA to determine your benefits
- During the process you will be counseled and advised on how you can contribute to the development of your case as well as your rights and responsibilities when presented with the results of this disability evaluation process

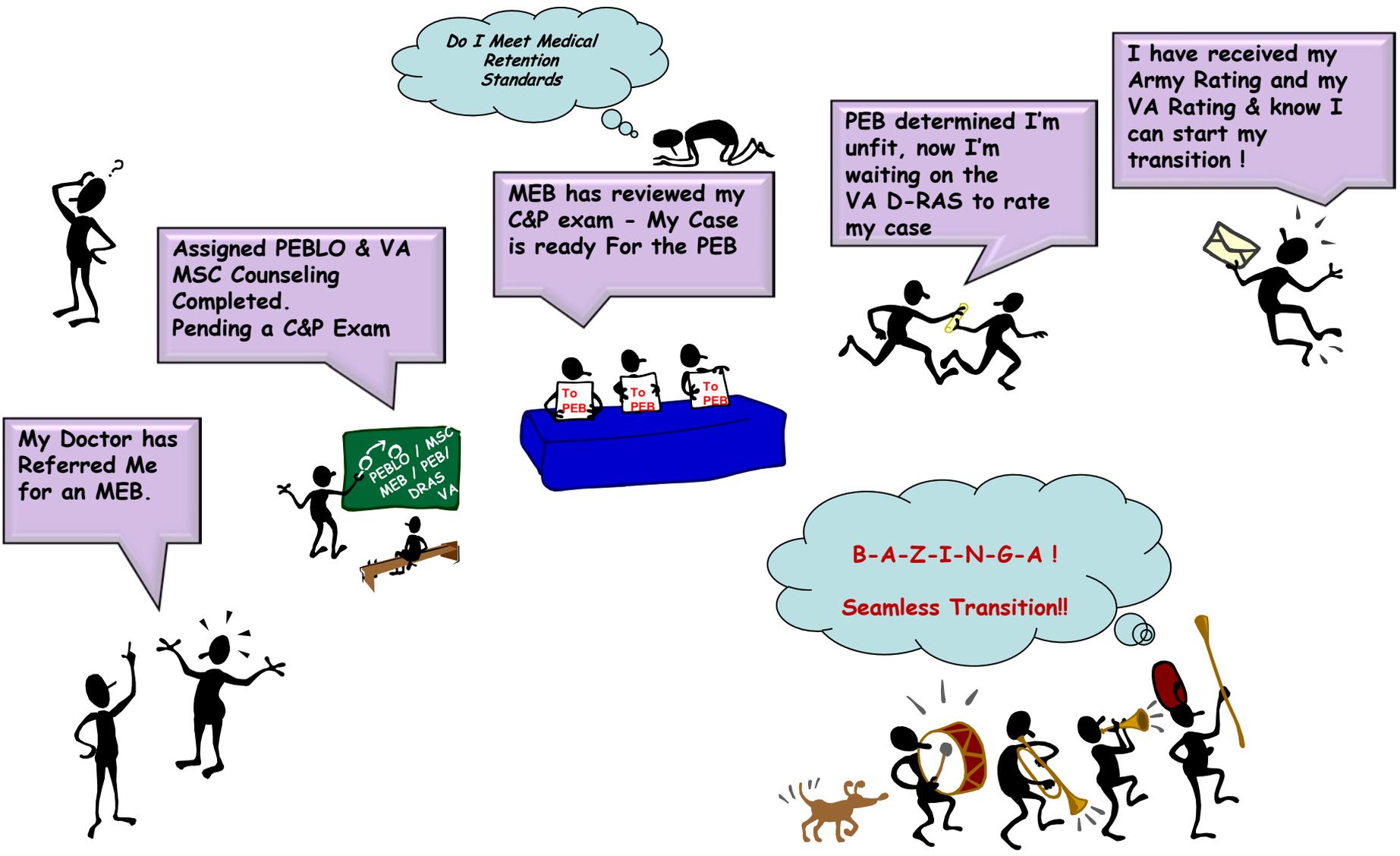


What is IDES? (Con't)

- One of the immediate benefit to you and your family is that you will NOT have to undergo redundant examinations and evaluations through two separate systems (DoD and VA) consecutively
- If you are determined to be unfit for continued military service, you will experience a smoother transition, including receiving benefits and compensation from the VA without delay upon separation or retirement

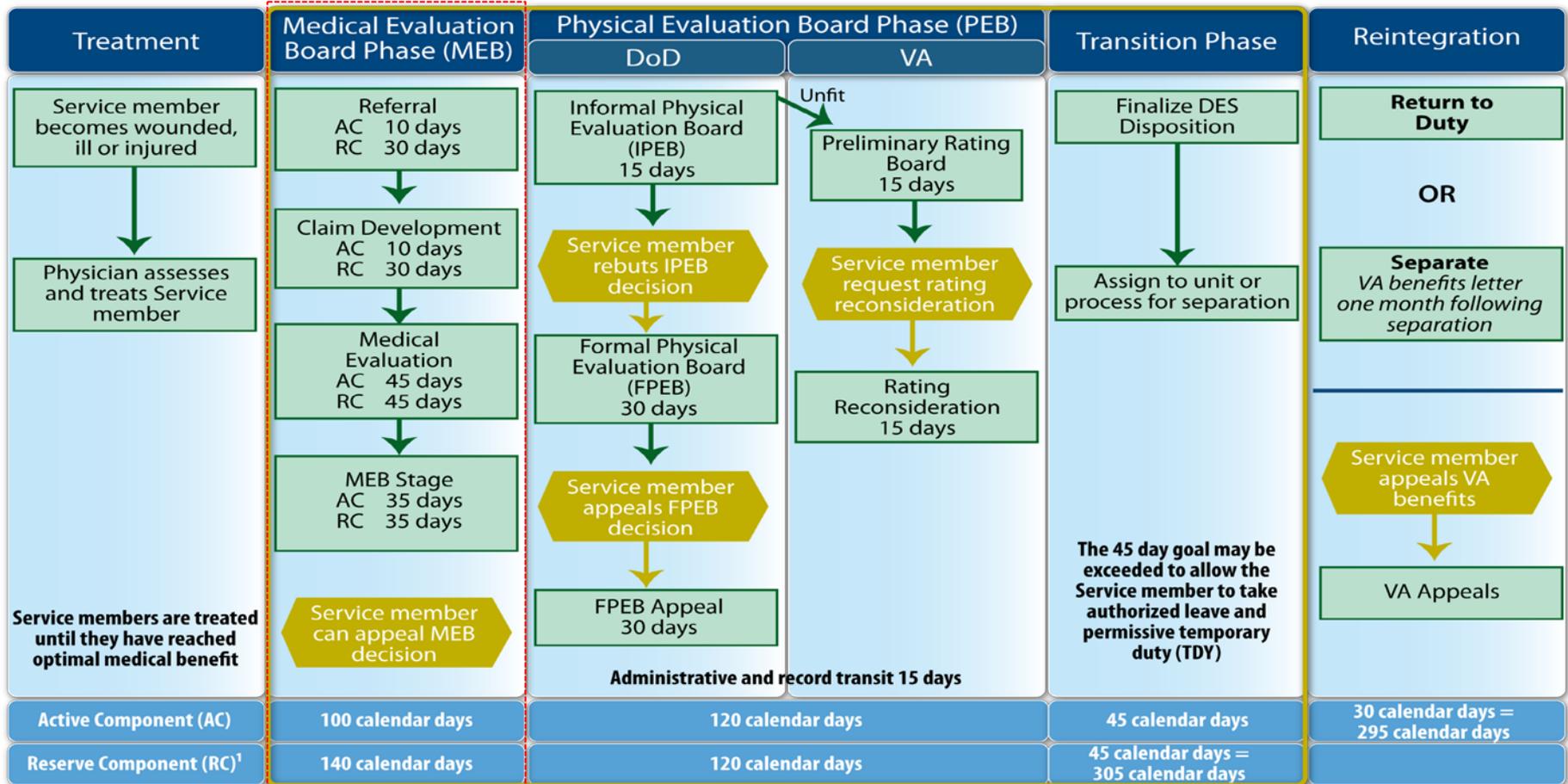


The Process





IDES Timeline Overview



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



How Long Will This Take?

- Our goal is to complete the MEB Phase within 100 days (AC) and 140 days (RC). However, each case is unique and your MEB could take less or more time
- The goal is to complete the entire process within 295 days (AC) and 305 days (RC)





Medical Evaluation Board (MEB)

Purpose

- Designed to evaluate your medical condition(s) to determine if one or more conditions **do not meet Army Medical Retention Standards IAW AR 40-501, Chapter 3**
- The MEB Process initiates with the Second Signature of a DA Form 3349 (Physical Profile) with a P3/P4 designator indicating that you may not meet retention standards
- Documents your medical condition(s) and duty limitations
- Outcome(s)
 - Refers you to the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB), when the findings and recommendations stipulate you do not meet retention standards or when referred by an MOS Administrative Retention Review (MAR2)
 - Returns you to duty if your conditions meet medical retention standards
- **Referral to the PEB does not mean you must be found unfit by the PEB or will be discharged from military service**



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

- A “MOS reclassification Board”
 - reclassification is considered by the MOS Administrative Retention Review (MAR2) for Soldiers with P3 Physical Profiles (DA 3349) who meet retention standards
- You **WILL NOT** sit in front of a panel of board members.
The MEB is an informal process comprised of **two physicians** and an Approving Authority who compile, assess, and evaluate your medical history and Administrative Documents to determine if your duty is affected by your medical condition





Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer (PEBLO)

- You will be assigned a PEBLO to guide you through the IDES process
- PEBLOs are your primary point of contact for information concerning your case and the IDES process
 - They will you informed of the status of your case
- Your PEBLO is: _____
- Contact your PEBLO anytime you have questions concerning your case
 - Make sure your PEBLO is aware of any changes to your contact information





Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer (PEBLO) (Con't)

- Your PEBLO will schedule you for counseling sessions throughout the processing of your case and will refer you for legal consultation and briefing with a Soldier's MEB Counsel
- With your assistance, your PEBLO will compile a complete copy of your Service Treatment Record
- Your PEBLO will refer you to other resources as required (e.g. Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP), Army Wounded Warrior (AW2) Program, VA Military Service Coordinator, etc.) prior to any separation or retirement
- Prepare Unit Notification Memo notifying your Commander that you have been referred into IDES and request a completed DA 7652 (Commander's Performance and Functional Statement)





The Medical Evaluation Board(MEB) Provider

- **Reviews** your DA 3349 (Medical Profile) and medical documentation to ensure you have met the Medical Retention Determination Point(MRDP)
- **Requests** consults for specialty clinics if required
- **Reviews** and summarizes your medical data and administrative data incorporating information into your MEB Narrative Summary (NARSUM)
- **Clarifies** any questions for the PEB between your diagnosis and the limitations that caused you to not meet retention standards





VA Military Service Coordinator (MSC)

- You will be assigned a MSC to guide you through the VA portion of the IDES process
- MSCs are VA employees responsible to assist you identify your claimed conditions and schedule your VA C&P Exam
 - You will need to assist in providing all medical records (Civilian and Military)
 - You will need to attend all scheduled VA C&P appointments
- Your MSC is: _____
- The MSC is the link between you and the VA
 - Will inform you of your rights and VA actions in the IDES
 - Gather any additional required information in order to expedite payment of VA Benefits prior to separation





Soldier Medical Evaluation Board Counsel (SMEBC)

- You will be referred to a SMEBC to provide legal assistance throughout the IDES process
- You will also be scheduled to attend a legal briefing
- You have the right to consult legal representation of your choice if you desire
- The SMEBC for this installation is:

SMEBC, Bldg 13





What is in a MEB Case?

- Medical data/documents created in support of your MEB
- Personnel/Performance Data (NCOERs, ERBs, LES, etc)

MEDICAL EVALUATION BOARD PROCEEDINGS

For use of the board (see AG 400-10) the proponent agency in the Office of the Surgeon General

MEDICAL EVALUATION BOARD

DATE OF EXAMINATION: MEB evaluation was on 4 March

MILITARY HISTORY: Rank: Specialist, Military branch: Active duty Army, MOS: 68X, Mental Health Specialist, Date of entry: September into Army. She was in the Air Force from to She has 7+ years active duty time. Duty station: HHC, Army Medical Center.

DEPLOYMENTS: None.

CHIEF COMPLAINT:

1. Seronegative spondyloarthritis with chronic pain in left groin, left hip, and lower back
2. Depression
3. Bilateral plantar fasciitis

SOURCE OF REFERRAL: Rheumatologist

HISTORY OF PRESENT ILLNESS: The service member is a ...-old female who was diagnosed with seronegative spondyloarthritis in December. She developed groin pain with her fourth pregnancy around July 2007. She had difficulty walking because of left groin and left lower back pain. She was put on a four hour work day and put on bed rest for the last four weeks of her pregnancy due to her severe pain. Her pain got better after her delivery. When she attempted to run after her fourth delivery the sharp pain returned and would cause her to limp. At that time she was and did not want to take any medication for her pain. She was put on profile. She got

MEDICAL RECORD REPORT



What is in a MEB Case? (Con't)

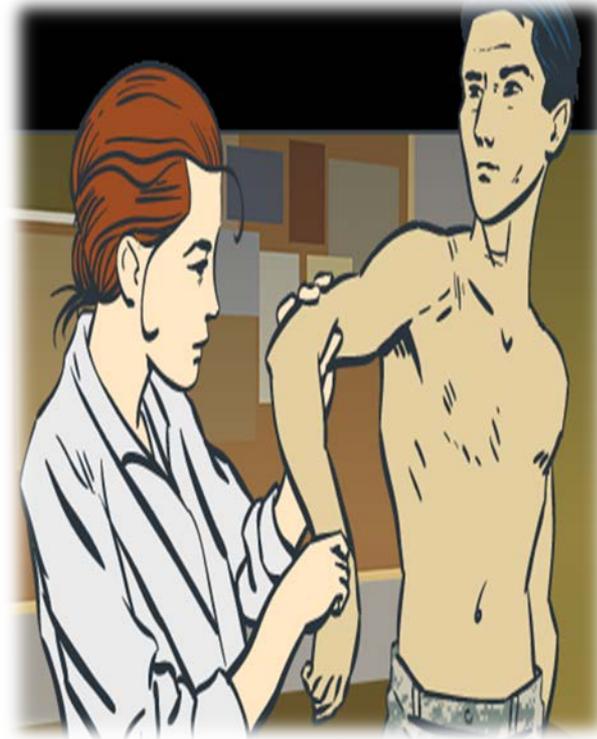
Medical Data/Documentation

- MEB Proceedings (DA Form 3947) – Lists all medical conditions stating whether each diagnosed condition meets or does not meet Army medical retention standards of AR 40-501, Chapter 3
- Narrative Summary (NARSUM)-describes each condition and level of impairment caused by each, if any
- NARSUM Addendum – An addition to the MEB if something was not included in the original NARSUM
- Copy of your DA 3349 (Physical Profile)
- Medication List
- Copy of your complete Service Treatment Record to include Civilian (If Applicable)
- Copy of completed Compensation & Pension Exam(s) conducted by VA

What is in a MEB Case? (Con't)

VA Compensation & Pension Exams

- You will be scheduled for comprehensive physical exam(s) conducted by the VA
 - Your MEB Provider will identify all medical conditions and whether they meet or do not meet retention Army standards IAW AR 40-501, Ch 3 (Referred Conditions)
 - The MSC will assist you in identifying any additional medical conditions (Claimed Conditions)



What is in a MEB Case? (Con't)

Narrative Summary (NARSUM)

The NARSUM is the heart of the MEB

This comprehensive report, written by your health care provider, provides a “word picture” of each medical condition, history and status. Furthermore, it includes a determination about whether each condition is medically unacceptable IAW the criteria listed in chapter 3, AR 40-501. If so, the case is referred to the PEB for further adjudication

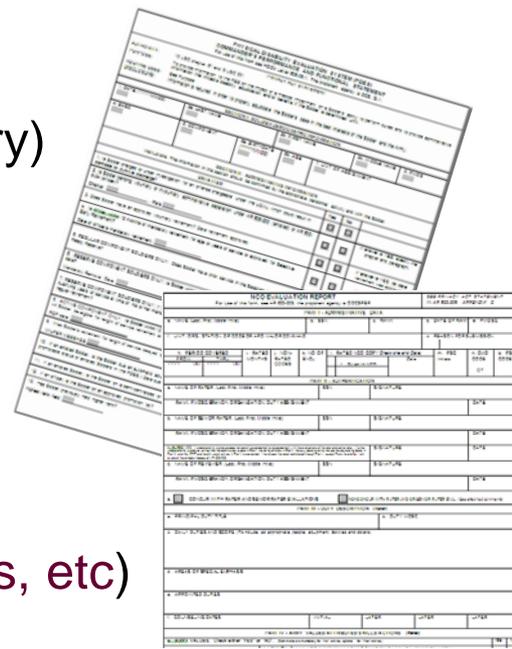




What is in a MEB Case? (Con't)

Personnel/Performance Data**

- DA 7652 (Commander's Performance and Functional Statement)
- Copy of Initial Entrance Physical Exam Results
- NCOERs/OERs (E-5 And above) (Last 3) (if necessary)
- Awards/Decorations (if applicable)
- ERB/ORB/PQR
- LES (Current End of Month)
- DA Form 4187 (Name changes, promotions, demotions, etc)



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

What is in a MEB Case? (Con't)

Reserve Component Personnel/Performance Data

- Orders for all active duty periods – where injury/illness incurred (e.g. Training Schedules, MOB Orders, etc.)
- Reserve – 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 for all Referred Conditions (if necessary)
- 20 Year Letter (if you have one)





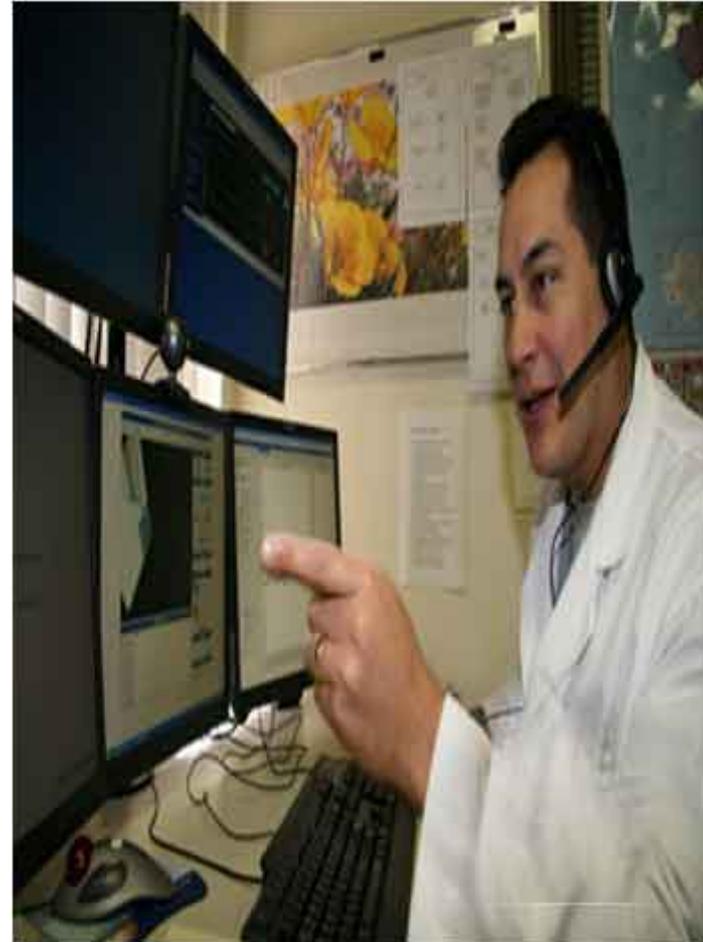
Reviewing Your MEB

- Upon completion of the MEB, you will be provided with DA Form 3947, NARSUM, C&P Exam and other documents. Your PEBLO will explain them and counsel you about you options
- The MEB will state whether or not each condition meets retention standards IAW AR 40-501, Chapter 3
- You will receive a copy of your MEB and supporting documents to review before you sign and as a record for your files
- You have the right to request an Impartial Provider Review of your MEB findings before signing that you agree or disagree with the MEB
- You can consult with the SMEBC or other legal representation of your choice to assist you with your decision before signing the MEB



MEB Findings

- Generally, if your conditions meet medical retention standards within the limits of your profile, you are returned to duty in your PMOS
- If one or more conditions do not meet medical retention standards, your case will be referred to the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) for further disposition





MEB Elections

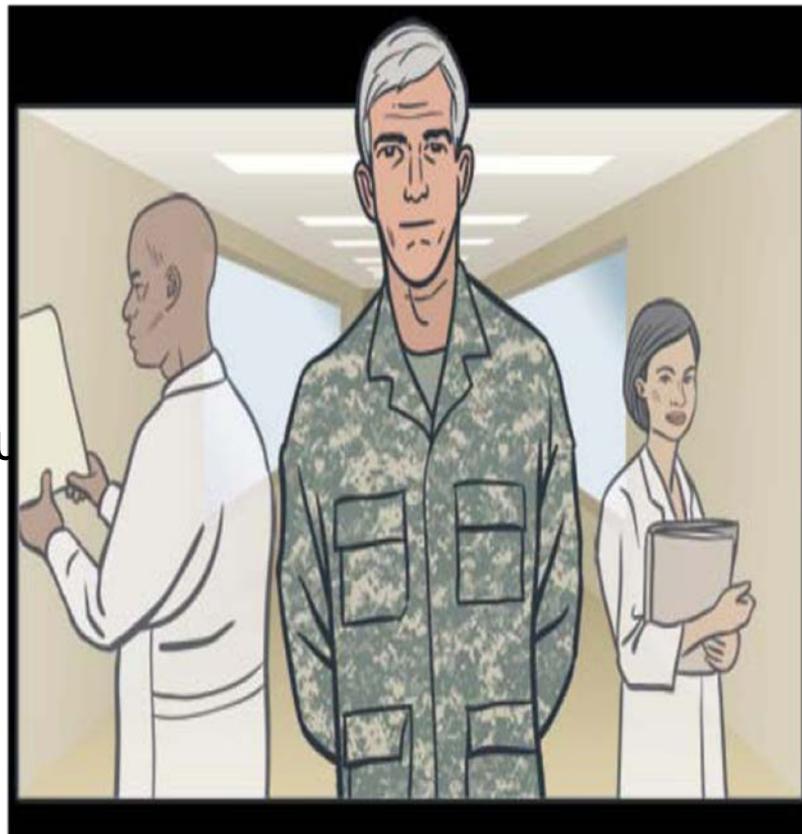
- You have 5 calendar days to make your MEB election
 - Concur
 - Request Impartial Provider Review (IPR)*
 - Non-concur with or without comments
- If you disagree with any portion of your MEB, you have the right to appeal
- The SMEBC or legal representation of your choice can assist you with your appeal
- Your written appeal is then submitted to the MTF designated Approving Authority for further consideration
 - Your appeal becomes part of the MEB



*Additional decision time will be provided upon completion of IPR

MEB Appeals

- The MTF designated Approving Authority will review your appeal and make one of the following recommendations:
 - MEB stands as written and forward it to the PEB
 - Make some or all of the changes you requested
 - Returns it to the MEB provider for further information or evaluation
 - Forward it to the PEB with attachments or additional notes





Do You Have Any Questions About the MEB Process?





PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARD (PEB) PROCESS

- The PEB is the only board in the Military that can determine whether you are fit or unfit for continued Military Service
 - If found fit for duty, your case will **not** be referred to the VA for a disability rating
 - If found unfit, the PEB will forward your case to the VA Disability Rating Activity Site (D-RAS) for a combined disability rating for all of your medical conditions
 - If found unfit, Army disability benefits will be determined based only on those conditions found to be unfitting by the PEB for continued military service
- Once the PEB receives your Proposed VA rating and completes their fitness determination, you will be notified by your PEBLO and counseled on your election options



PEB Process (Con't)

- Informal PEB (IPEB)
 - Your MEB is initially reviewed informally by the PEB
 - This stage is termed by the IPEB and consist of a review of the medical and administrative documentation to render a fit/unfit determination for each condition
 - You do not appear before the IPEB
- You can request a Formal PEB, which is a hearing before 3 members of the PEB if you do not agree with the findings of the IPEB
- Formal PEB (FPEB)
 - IPEB findings are not binding upon the FPEB
 - You have the option to appear before the FPEB
 - Soldiers' PEB Counsel (SPEBC) will help you prepare and represent you or you can obtain legal representation of your choice

PEB Process (Con't)

- Your PEBLO will be notified once the PEB has rendered the IPEB a decision (DA199)
- Your PEBLO will schedule counseling session to review the IPEB's findings and recommendations, usually within 24 hours but NLT 3 calendar days
- You can also consult with an attorney from the local SMEBC office (or legal representation of your choice) to determine how you want to respond to the PEB findings
- You will be given ten (10) calendar days to make your election



PEB Process (Con't)

- The VA D-RAS can return the case for additional information or clarification of data, in order to make a determination of the appropriate disability rating
- Only those medical conditions that render you **unfit** for further Military Service and service-connected will be considered for determining your final disposition by the PEB





PEB Process (Con't)

- Your four (4) basic options when you receive the informal findings of the PEB are:
 - Concur
 - Concur and request DVA Ratings Reconsideration
 - Non-concur (with nor without a written appeal)
 - Non-concur with PEB findings and demand a Formal PEB (with or without personal appearance and with or without a written statement identifying issues of disagreement)
- Your PEBLO will review your options with you during the presentation of the PEB findings and your proposed VA Ratings
- If you wish to request a reconsideration of your VA rating for conditions the IPEB found are unfitting, you must do so within 10 days of receiving the Proposed VA ratings. If you nonconcur with your IPEB and persuade the PEB to find other conditions unfitting, you can only request a VA reconsideration for those additional unfitting conditions after the FPEB
- This is a complicated and confusing area and your local SMEBC can assist you with this decision and your appeals



PEB Process (Con't)

VA Disability Rating Activity Site (D-RAS)

- The D-RAS is the VA entity responsible for providing the single set of ratings for your referred and claimed conditions
- You will receive a copy of the DA-199 (Physical Evaluation Board Proceedings) and the VA Proposed Ratings Package from your PEBLO
- Your PEBLO will review the findings with you and refer you to the Military Service Coordinator (MSC) for additional questions regarding your proposed VA ratings package
- If you disagree with the Proposed VA disability ratings for the conditions that the PEB found are unfitting, you may submit in writing a onetime request for reconsideration for each unfitting condition
- The PEBLO will forward requests for VA ratings reconsiderations to the PEB for action at the D-RAS



Types Of Military Dispositions

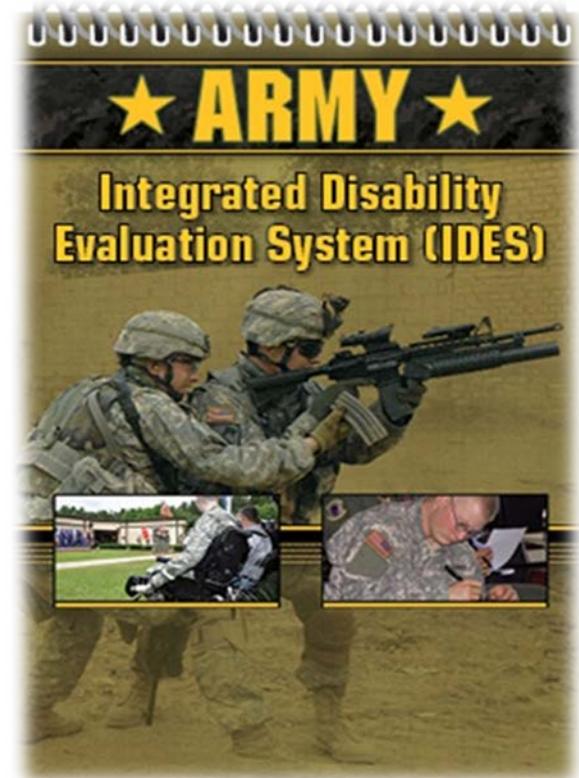
- Fit for Duty
 - Unfit for Duty
 - **Separation Without Benefits (SWOB)** (no % given)
 - (When the unfitting condition is not service-connected)
 - **Separation With Severance Pay (SWSP)**
 - Rating of 0%-20% and less than 20 YOS
 - **Temporary Disability Retirement List (TDRL)**
 - Rating of 30% or 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 during period of for TDRL
 - **Permanent Disability Retirement (PDR)**
 - Rating of 30% or more or 20 YOS and condition is stable for rating purpose
 - Disability Compensation Computation - Your PEBLO will complete a DA 5892 (Estimated Compensation Worksheet) to provide an estimate of your disability severance and/or retirement pay
- (**Note: Frequency of TDRL re-evaluations can vary by condition**)





PEB Appeal Process

- If your disposition is **“UNFIT FOR FURTHER MILITARY SERVICE”**, you have the right to request a formal hearing with or without personal appearance
- You cannot request a formal PEB to question any disability rating percentages provided by the VA. The PEB can only determine whether you are fit or unfit and if your unfitting conditions are service connected
- You may request in writing that the disability rating for unfitting conditions be reconsidered by the VA on one-time basis
- You can only appeal the PEB findings of unfit or fit for duty or service connection. You may submit any relevant and material evidence regarding the fitness of your medical conditions
- You have the right to be represented by a trained and qualified JAG Corps attorney (SMEBC) at no cost or by a private counsel of your choice (at your own expense) for your formal hearing
- You may also elect to have representation from any of the various veterans organizations, if available. (e.g. DAV- Disabled American Veterans , American Legion, etc). These services are free



PEB Appeal Process (Con't)

For Soldier's Found Fit For Duty



- You are entitled to submit a written appeal
- You may request a formal hearing, as an exception to policy
- Your local SMEBC can assist with your request or appeal
- The PEB President decides whether to grant a request for formal hearing to contest a fit finding



Physical Disability Agency (PDA)

- Component of Human Resources Command
- Reviews and approves/disapproves findings and recommendations of the PEB
- The PDA may:
 - _ Approve the PEB decision on behalf of the Secretary of the Army
 - 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
 - If PDA makes any changes to the findings or dispositions, the Soldier has appeal rights (counsel + 10 days to sign)

If PDA modifies PEB findings and you nonconcur, your case will be forwarded to Physical Disability Branch (PDB) for final review and decision.





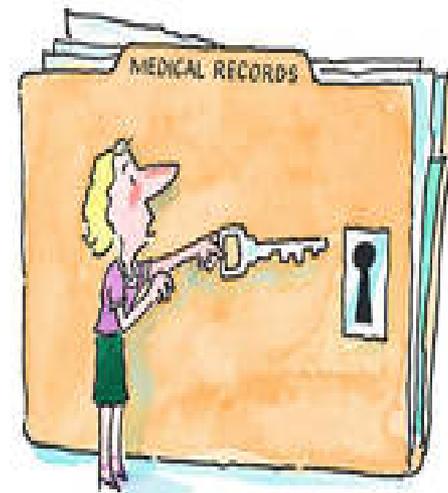
Final Disposition Physical Disability Agency (PDA)

- If the PDA modifies the PEB decision, Army Physical Disability Appeal Board (APDAB) receives case from PDA and takes final administrative actions
- UNFIT:
 - Transmits message to your Transition Center for disability separation/retirement orders
 - Assigns final separation/retirement date: “Not Later Than 90 days”
 - Transition Center will publish appropriate orders
- FIT FOR DUTY:
 - Issues a fit memorandum to the MTF
 - The fit memorandum completes the disability evaluation processing



What about confidentiality?

- Your medical board is personal and private
- Limited information can be provided to your Commander:
 - THE FACT THAT YOU ARE UNDERGOING DISABILITY PROCESSING
 - WHERE YOU ARE IN THE BOARD PROCESS
 - WHETHER YOU WERE FOUND FIT OR UNFIT
- Family members do not have automatic access to your medical records/board status without your written permission
- KEEP ONLY THOSE WITH A RIGHT TO KNOW INFORMED





If I am found unfit by the PEB Is there any way I can stay in?

- You can submit a request for **Continuation on Active Duty (COAD)** or **Continuation on Active Reserve Status (COAR)**
 - <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/active/epord/coad.htm>
- Your PEBLO will provide you with specific criteria/details related to requesting this
- You can also obtain information and counseling on COAD/COAR from the SMEBC
- Generally, HRC is the approval authority for most requests
 - G-1 is the disapproval authority for AW2 requests





How can **YOU** assist the timeliness of the process?





Be Available

- The first 80 days are the most critical in the process
- DO NOT miss any of your appointments - Be on time, with your CAC ID and PIN, and in appropriate Uniform
- No shows for any appointment will be reported to your commander and may require a military escort to all future appointments
- Always provide accurate phone numbers
- Let your PEBLO know if you change your unit of assignment
- Contact your PEBLO if you leave town



Be Informed

- Ask questions. This is **YOUR** career and **YOUR** board.
- Read ALL documents!
- Take the time to review all documents for accuracy and take advantage of resources available to you
- Provide accurate and timely information
- **YOUR PARTICIPATION IS THE KEY TO YOUR BOARD**



I want **YOU**
to Stay Informed!



My MEB on AKO

You will also be able to track the progress of your MEB via the My MEB Portal on AKO. If you have any questions about the data you see in the My MEB Portal, please contact your PEBLO

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

MEB		PEB													
MEB Record Detail															
Soldier Status															
Last Name, First Name:		Assigned PEBLO:													
Warrior Transition Unit:		Case Status:													
Date Assigned to Warrior Transition Unit:		PULHES:													
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P	U	L	H	E	S										
		Information Last Updated: 09/01/2011 16:57:09													
Medical Actions		PEBLO Actions													
Date of Physician's Notification of MEB Action: 09/01/2011		Date of initial PEBLO Counseling:													
Physical Exam Completed:		Date MEB with signatures of approving authority returned to PEBLO:													
Consultation Required:		Date Patient counseled on MEB:													
Consultation Date/Type:		Date MEB appeal returned to PEBLO by MEB approving authority:													
Date of MEB Physician Appointment:		Date MEB Stopped/Pending Optimal Treatment:													
Date Physician dictated MEB		MEB Recommendation Appealed:													
Unit/Soldier Actions															
Date Commander Notified of MEB Action:															



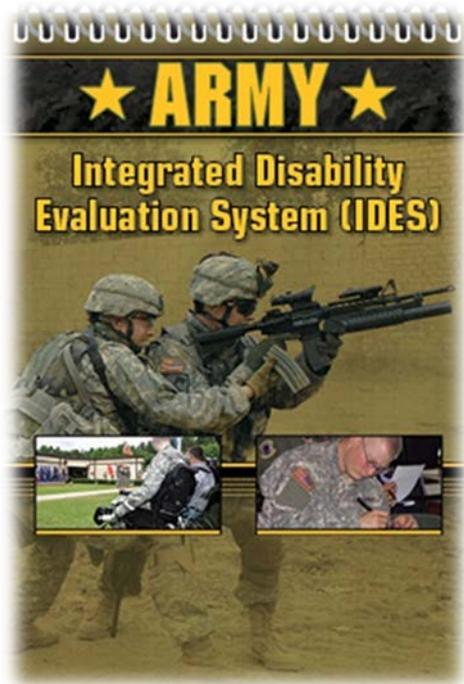


Acronyms

- **APDAB - Army Physical Disability Appeal Board**
- **D-RAS – Disability Rating Activity Site**
- **DVA – Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **ERB – Enlisted Review Brief**
- **EPTS – Existed Prior to Service**
- **FFD – Fit For Duty**
- **FPEB – Formal Physical Evaluation Board**
- **IPEB- Informal Physical Evaluation Board**
- **IPR – Independent Provider Review**
- **MEB - Medical Evaluation Board**
- **MAR2 – Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Administrative Retention Review**
- **MSC – Military Service Coordinator (VA representative)**
- **ORB – Officer Review Brief**
- **PDA – Physical Disability Agency**
- **PDR – Permanent Disability Retirement**
- **PEBLO – Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer**
- **PEB - Physical Evaluation Board**
- **SMEBC – Soldier MEB Counsel**
- **SPEBC – Soldier’s PEB Counsel**
- **SWSP – Separation with Severance Pay**
- **SWOB – Separate without Benefits**
- **TDRL – Temporary Disability Retired List**
- **USAPDA – U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency**

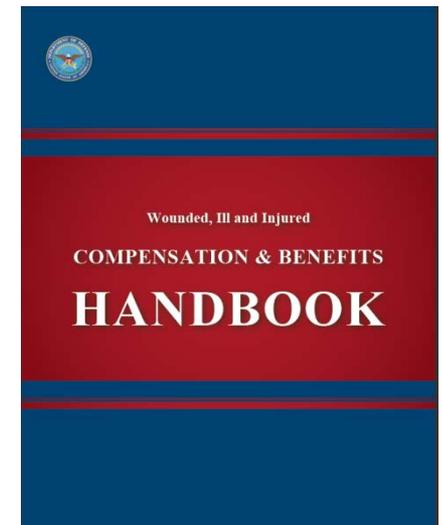


PDES Handbook

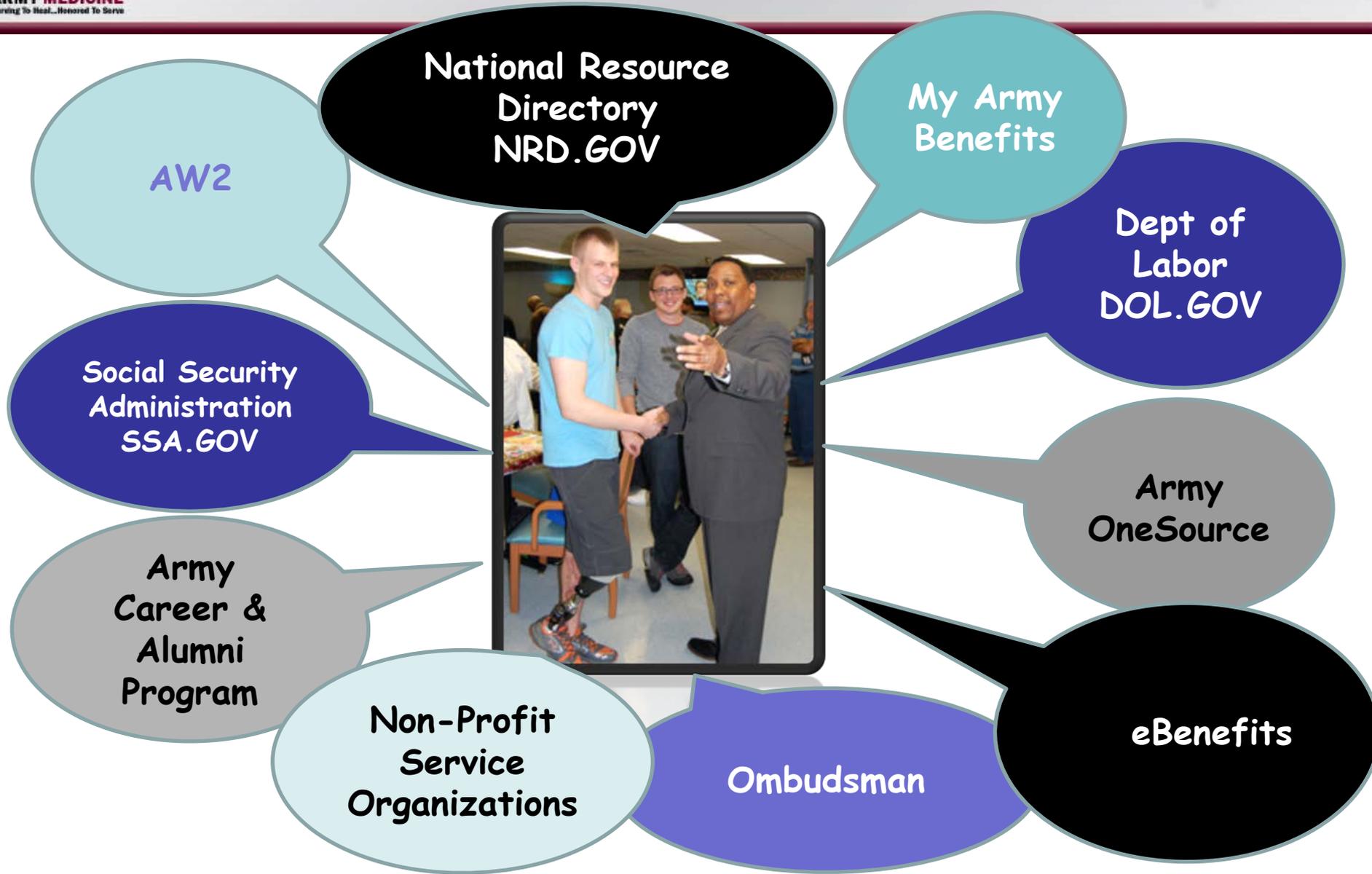


- You will each get a copy of the IDES handbook at the conclusion of this presentation.
- In addition, you can visit turbotap.org for an electronic copy of the Wounded, Ill and Injured Compensation & Benefits Handbook.

- Also, feel free to contact your PEBLO at any time if you have any questions



Soldier Resources





MEB Office Address

IDES

Bldg 36010

Darnall Loop

Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center

Fort Hood, Texas 76544

IDES

Bldgs 36036-36039

Wratten Road

Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center

Fort Hood, Texas 76544



MEB Office Hours and Phone Numbers

Normal Business Hours:

Monday – Wednesday: 730am-430pm

Thursday: 730am-1130am

Friday: 730am-430pm

Bldg 36010

Front desk: (254)288-8355

Fax number: (254)288-8907

Bldg 36037

Front desk: (254)553-8194

Bldg 36039

Front desk: (254)553-7033



QUESTIONS?



Thank you for Your Service!



This Concludes the Briefing



ARMY MEDICINE

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