



MEDICAL EVALUATION BOARD (MEB) **w/in Integrated Disability Evaluation System** **(IDES)**

Lead Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer
(PEBLO)





IDES

Air Force/Navy/Marine/Army



➤ References

- AFI48-123, Medical Examinations and Standards
- AFI41-210, Tricare Operations and Patient Administration Functions
- AFI36-3212, Physical Evaluation For Retention/Retirement/Separation
- AFI36-2910, Line of Duty (Misconduct) Determination
- NAVMEDINST 1850.4E, Dept. of the Navy Disability Evaluation Manual
- NAVMED P-117 Chpt. 18, Manuel of the Medical Dept.
- SECNAV INST 1770.3D, Management/Disposition of Incapacitation and Incapacitation Benefits for Members of Navy/Marine Corps Reserve Components



Prepare, Prevent, Heal, Deploy (P2HD)





IDES

Air Force/Navy/Marine/Army



➤ References Cont.

- DoDD 1332.18, Disability Evaluation System (DES)
- DoDI 1332.38, Physical Disability Evaluation
- DoDVA Integrated Disability Evaluation System
- AR 40-501, Standards of Medical Fitness
- AR 40-400, Patient Administration
- AR 635-40, Physical Evaluation for Retention/Retirement/Separation
- AR 600-8-4, Line of Duty Policy, Procedure, and Investigations



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Initial Review In Lieu of (I-RILO) Process



➤ Air Force Process

- Deployment Availability Working Group (DAWG) Chair
 - Reviews Medical documentation and Cmdr's Statement
 - Recommends Member Returned to Duty or full MEB
- PEBLO submits documents to AFPC/DPANM* for disposition
- APFC/DPANM disposition
 - Sent to PEBLO
 - Member, initiating provider, member's commander notified of decision
 - **Return to Duty:** Member provided ALC* accordingly
 - **Full MEB:** Member is enrolled in the IDES process

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*AFPC/DPANM = Medical Standards

*ALC = Assignment Limitation Code



I-RILO Process (cont)



- **Army Process**
- **6 MDG PEBLO provides US Army PEBLO at Ft. Stewart the following:**
 - Pertinent Medical documentation
 - Commander's statement
 - DA Form 4256's (Developmental Counseling Form) to Army PEBLO, Ft Stewart
- **USA Medical Dept Activity determines:**
 - **Return to Duty**
 - Army PEBLO generates new Profile (DA Form 3349)
 - Memorandum detailing the results of the Medical Record Review
 - Notifies 6 MDG PEBLO
 - **Full MEB**
 - Army PEBLO enrolls soldier in IDES
 - Notifies 6 MDG PEBLO
- **Navy/Marines-** No initial review process

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Process Ownership



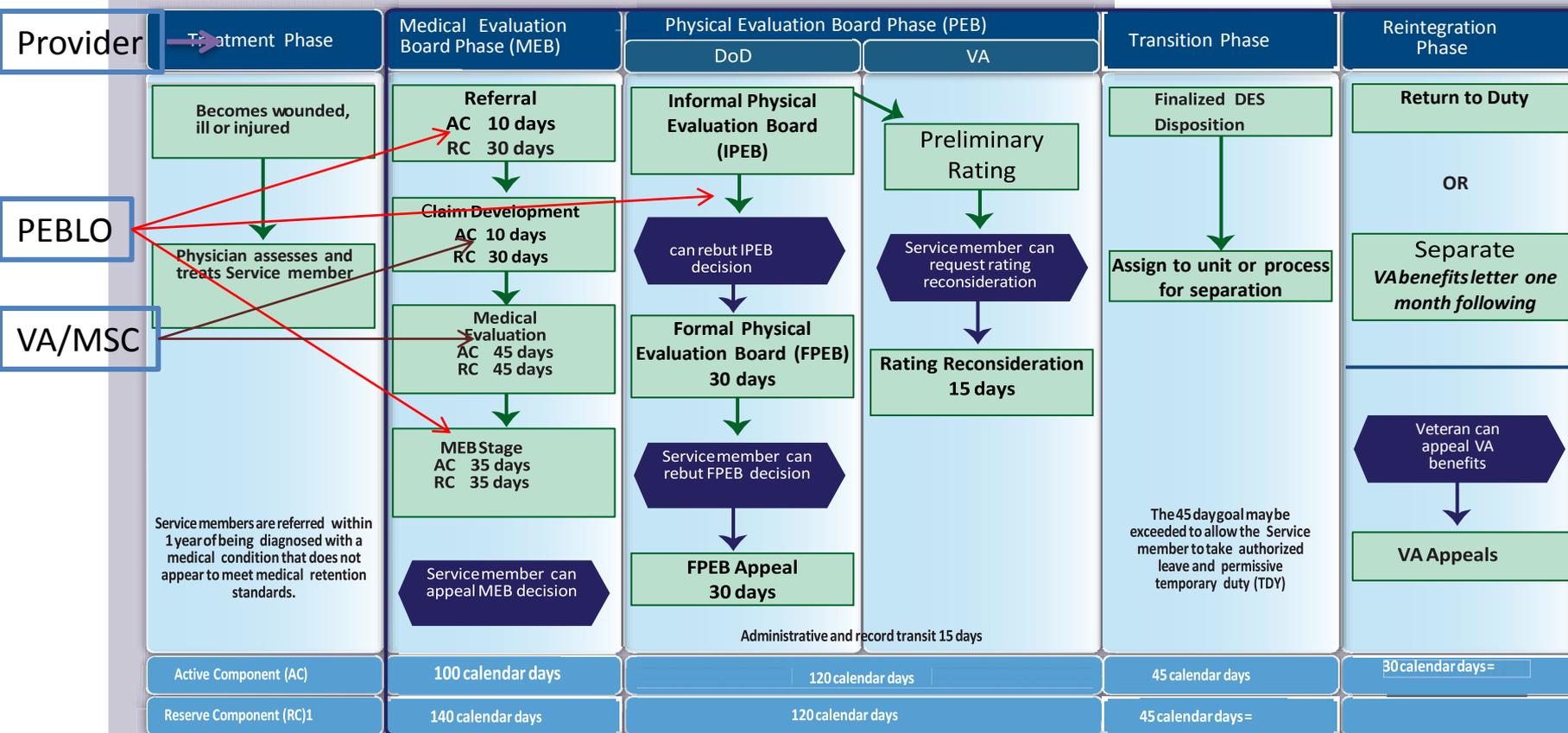
- Treatment Phase
 - Primary Care Manager or
 - Initiating provider
- Medical Evaluation Board Phase (MEB)
 - 6 MDG PEBLO
 - Veteran's Admin Medical Services Coordinator
- Physical Evaluation Board Phase (PEB)
 - Department of Defense
 - VA



IDES Process Timeline



Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) Timeline



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



Provider Perspective



- NARSUM* requests too infrequent to recall process
- Additional workload is challenging to sustain
 - Incomplete records available for review
 - NARSUM (~2 hrs/mbr) is in addition to full schedule of patients
 - Other military requirements
 - Challenge to provide timely input to PEBLO
- Different requirements for different services
- Unfamiliar with patient's medical history
- Role is primarily AF advocate, not patient advocate



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*NARSUM = Narrative Summary



Patient Perspective



- Service Member (SM) finds process to be complicated
 - Lengthy decision timeline
 - Permanent/Temporary Disability Retirement List (P/TDRL) v/s Discharge with Severance Pay (DWSP)
 - Retirement pension vs VA compensation
- SM appreciates recognition of extensive medical conditions acknowledged through MEB process
- Uncertain future (i.e. return to duty, separated, medically retired)





Organization Impact



- Profile limitations
 - May be unable to perform duties w/in job requirements
 - In a duty position with no mission productivity
 - Awaiting MEB determination
 - Negatively impacts unit morale
 - Increase workload on others
- Worldwide deployment mission status
 - Requires replacement of unfit service member/s





Suggestion for AF



➤ Current:

- AFPC/DPANM determines whether mbr returns to duty (RTD) or is enrolled in IDES
- Mbr enrolled in IDES system
- MTF board signs AF 618 after IDES/VA process

➤ Recommend:

- MTF board reviews I-RILO recommends to AFPC/ DPANM* whether mbr should be RTD or enrolled in IDES
- MTF board president only signs AF 618 for quality check
- Shorten MEB processing time by at approx 30 days

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RTD = Return to Duty

*DPANM=Medical Standards



Suggestion: Navy/Marines



- Current
 - No I-RILO process; mbrs complete VA eval process
 - Mbr can be determined fit/return to duty at PEB
- Recommend
 - Adopt an I-RILO process
 - Eliminate unnecessary IDES process/VA eval
- Divert resources to mbrs that req IDES/VA process
- Save 6-8 months in IDES/VA process



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DoD Suggestion



➤ Current

- Each mbr retains original PCM
- PCMs struggle w/ infrequent MEB rqmts & balance full empanelment

➤ Recommend

- Dedicated PCM for MEB mbrs & those with ALCs
- Frequency ensures PCM familiar w/ MEB rqmts
- Single PCM writes narrative summaries/annual evals
- Promotes consistency/elim overdue annual evals

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ALC = Assignment Limitation Code





Questions?

