



ARMY MEDICINE
Serving To Heal...Honored To Serve



Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)

Fort Hood, Texas

UNCLASSIFIED





Agenda



- IDES Mission

- IDES Process
 - Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) Process
 - Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) Process
 - Disability Rating Activity Site (DRAS)

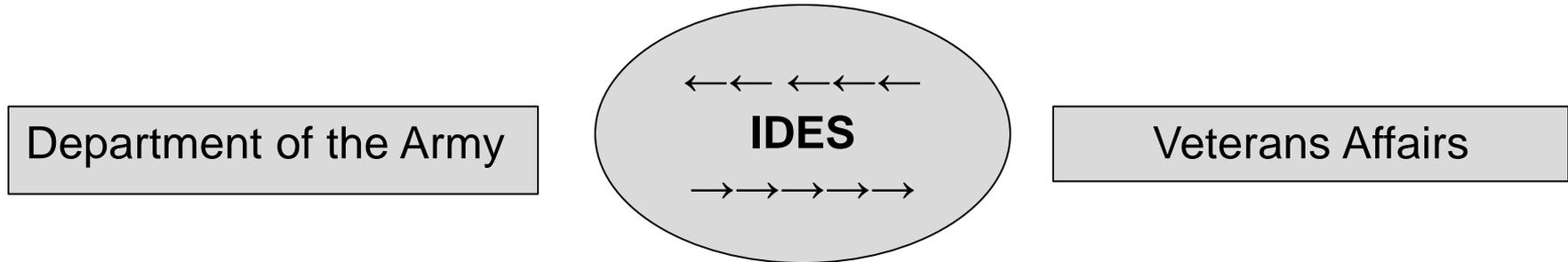
- Other Important Information



IDES Mission



- Support the Secretary of the Army's charge of assuring fitness of Soldiers, and separating or retiring those who become unfit to continue military service because of physical disability
- Provide information that allows informed decisions by Soldiers throughout the process
- Process Soldiers' cases in an accurate and efficient manner



Joint Army and Veterans Affairs Process

- Evaluates Soldier's medical conditions to determine fitness for duty in Primary MOS (PMOS)
 - If the Soldier is determined to be unfit, VA will provide the disability rating to Army. The Army will use that VA disability rating to determine the Soldier's benefits.



Key References

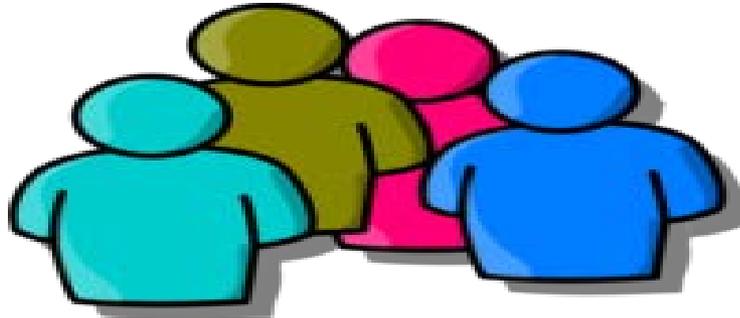


- Medical Records/Service Treatment Record (STR): actual record – hardcopy, in AHLTA, and in HAIMS
- AR 40-501 12/14/2007 Standards of Medical Fitness (*RAR 003, 08/04/2011)
- AR 635-40 2/8/2006 Physical Evaluation for Retention, Retirement, or Separation (*RAR 001, 03/20/2012)
- DoDI 1332.18 (Disability Evaluation System [DES]), dated 05 Aug 2014
- PAM 611-21 1/22/2007 Military Occupational Classification and Structure (MOS Smart Book)
- AR 635-200 6/6/2005 Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations (*RAR 003, 09/06/2011)
- AR 600-8-4 9/4/2008 Line of Duty Policy, Procedures, and Investigations
- AR 600-8-24 4/12/2006 Officer Transfers and Discharges (*RAR 003, 09/13/2011)



SMEBC Office

- Mission: Provide legal advice to Soldiers regarding the IDES process
- Important advocate for Soldier throughout IDES
- Soldiers can seek SMEBC assistance at anytime during the IDES process

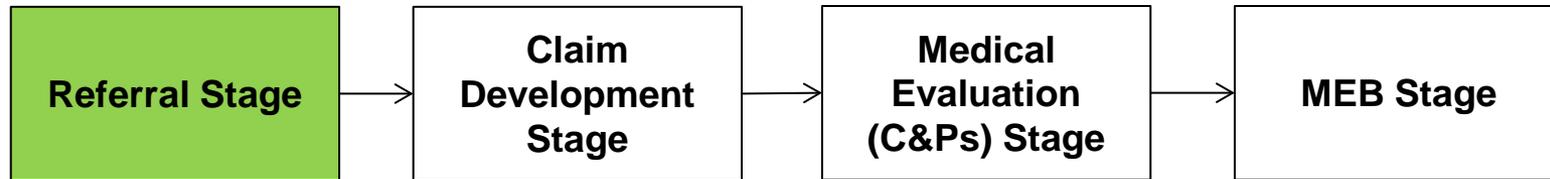


PEBLO

Physical Evaluation
Board Liaison Officer

- Link between Soldier, Command, IDES partners and the process
- Notifies Command of any no-show appointments
- Initiates VA/DOD Joint Disability Evaluation Board Claim Form No. 21-0819 with the Soldier
- Compiles IDES documents and file
- Counsels Soldier throughout IDES process

MEB Phase: Referral Stage



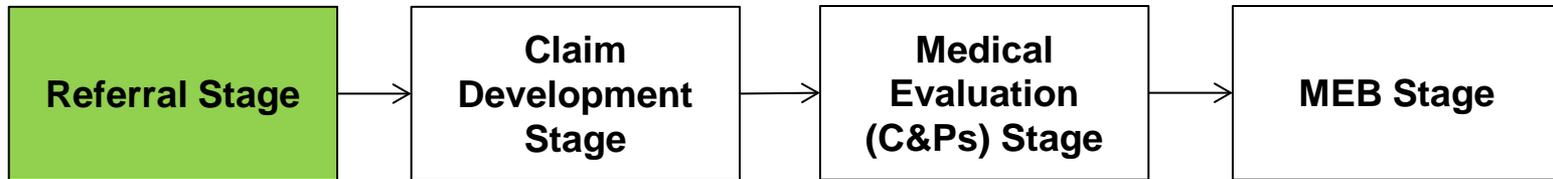
Key Personnel

Provider: Refers Soldier to IDES based on AR 40-501, Ch. 3

- Reference: AR 40-501 Standards of Medical Fitness



Chapter 3: Medical Fitness Standards for Retention and Separation, Including Retirement



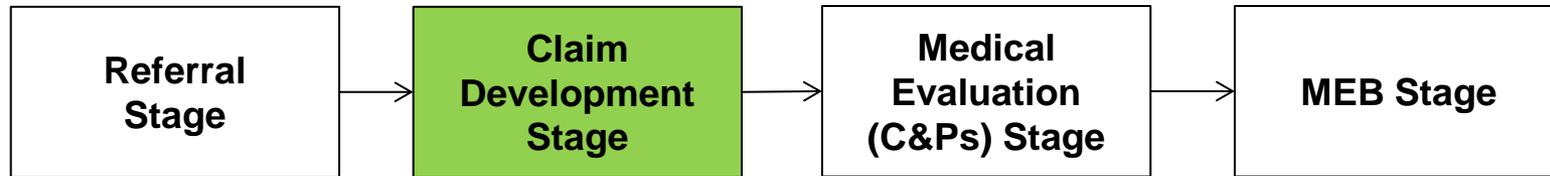
Key Personnel

Commander:

- Provide DA Form 7652: Commander's Performance & Functional Statement
- Responsible for ensuring Soldier's availability
- Allow Soldier to complete Soldier for Life – Transition Assistance Program (SFL-TAP)

Soldier:

- Responsible for advising IDES personnel of **all** TriCare referred off-post care
- Responsible for ensuring all medical records are available
- Keep IDES personnel informed of all contact information and current Chain of Command
- Submit and update Administrative documents as applicable
- Attend all IDES related appointments; cancelation requests must come from Commander



Key Personnel

Soldier:

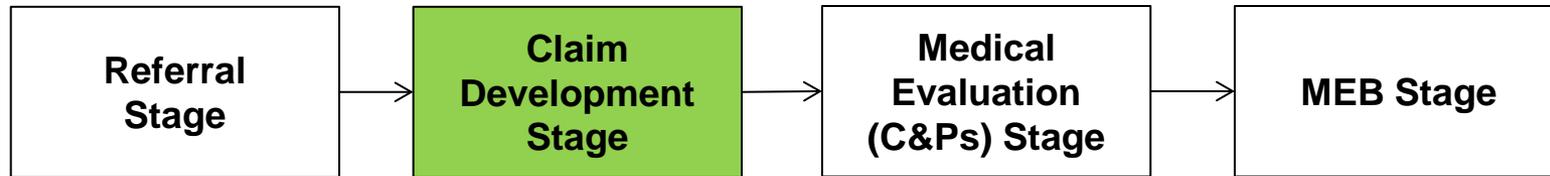
- Responsible for knowing and being able to discuss personal medical history and documented origin of conditions or diagnosis(es)
- Responsible for ensuring VA Form 21-0819 (Claim Form) is complete prior to signing
- Bring banking, birth, marital, and divorce documentation to interview

Military Service Coordinator (MSC):

- Link between Soldier and the VA system
- Conduct initial claim interview
- Assist Soldier in completing claim
- Provide Veterans Claims Assistance Act (VCAA) Section (§) 5103 notice
- Request Compensation & Pension (C&Ps) exams based on conditions identified on the VA Form 21-0819 (Claim Form)



MEB Phase: Claim Development Stage



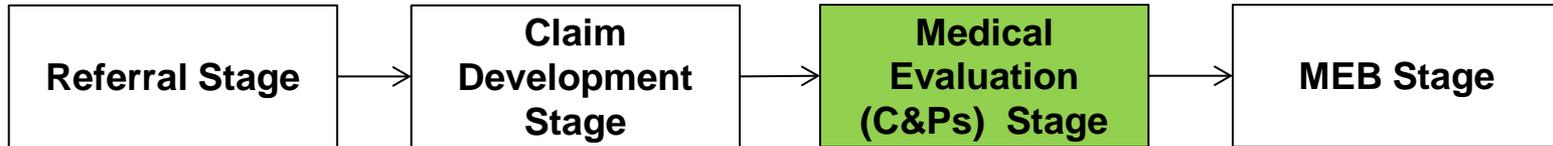
**VA CLAIM FORM IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS
IN THIS PROCESS**

- No one can legally tell you what you can and cannot claim
- Because you claim something, does not automatically mean a final diagnosis will be rendered
- Recommend that you claim
 - chronic conditions
 - recurrent conditions
 - conditions for which you take daily meds
 - conditions for which you are profiled
- Recommend that you not claim
 - conditions that have not yet been evaluated
 - conditions or diagnoses that have not been documented





MEB Phase: Medical Evaluation Stage



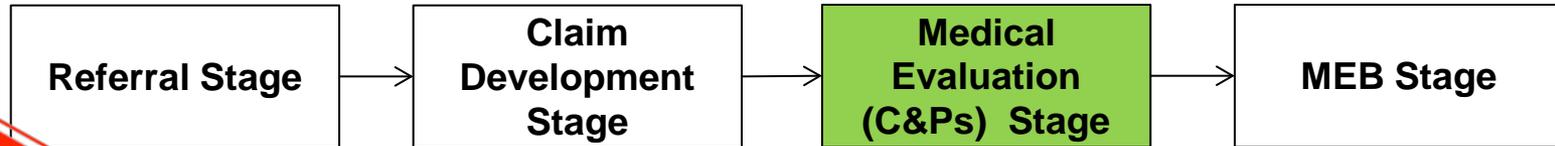
Key Personnel

Soldier:

- Arrive 15 minutes early to each C&P appointment
- Wear PTs or similar clothing to General Medical C&P
- It is not recommended to have spouse or other family member attend this appointment

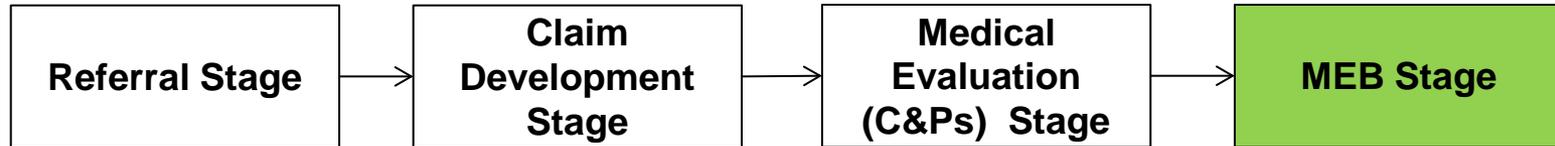
VHA Provider:

- Review all referred and claimed conditions
- Conduct C&P examinations; order additional examinations as needed
- Provide diagnosis(es) in regard to referred and claimed conditions; finalize C&P exam(s)
 - Lack of evidence and/or exam results may result in “no diagnosis”
 - Example: Soldier claims Sleep Apnea; however, Soldier has not had sleep study confirming diagnosis



VA C&P is the Exam of Record

- Soldier is responsible for being ready to discuss onset and origin of conditions.
- The number of referred and claimed conditions usually determines the number of C&P exams required.
- GYN and rectal exams are not typically part of exam unless required because of claimed conditions
- C&P exams may be scheduled to take place at Ft Hood, VA in Temple, and/or through VHA contracted providers.



Key Personnel

MEB Provider:

- Meet with Soldier to review medical history and discuss active medical conditions; spouse welcome to attend appointment
- Document all of Soldier's medical conditions and determine whether each diagnosis meets or does not meet medical retention standards IAW AR 40-501, Ch. 3
- Review and summarize Soldier's medical and administrative data in a Narrative Summary (NarSum) and ensure profile is accurate
- Importance of DA Form 7652

MEB Providers do not make determinations of fitness or provide disability rating percentages

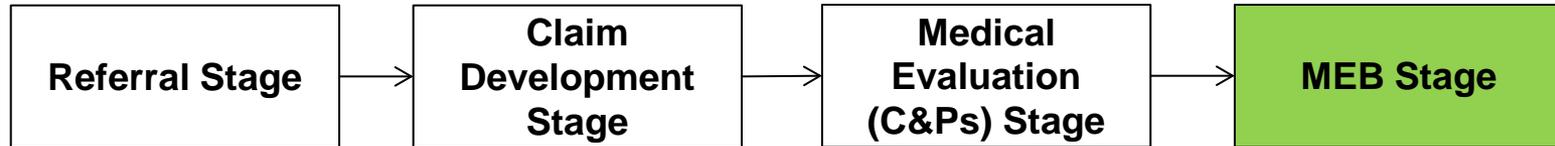


Top Medical Concerns



- MEB is based on objective findings
- Complete treatment record, not summary
- MEB reviewed by 2-4 providers including Approval Authority before released to PEBLO
- Presumption of fitness
- MEDCOM policy on surgeries during IDES
- Access to MEDPROS for PDHA/PDHRA
- Your case is unique

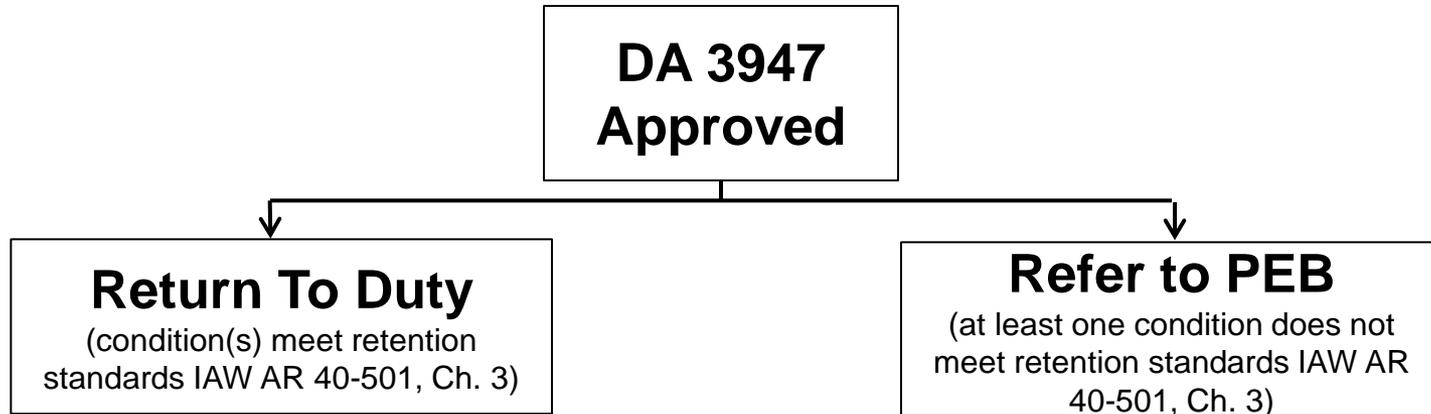
MEB Phase: MEB Stage



- MEB Proceedings (DA Form 3947) is completed and routed for approval. Documents used to complete DA 3947 include:
 - NarSum
 - C&P Exams
 - Administrative documents, such as the DA Form 7652, NCOERs/OERs, and ERB/ORB/PQR, LES, etc.
 - Any medical or administrative supplementary information

- Once MEB is approved:
 - Soldier is provided complete copy of MEB proceedings
 - Soldier is counseled on MEB findings and recommendation
 - Soldier is informed of election rights and timelines

MEB Dispositions



- Soldier has **5 calendar days** to formally agree or disagree with MEB disposition
- Soldier has the right to request an **Impartial Medical Review (IMR)**
 - Impartial Provider who was not part of the MEB proceedings conducts a records review and provides written response
- Soldier has **7 calendar days** to submit a **rebuttal**
 - MEB Appellate Authority reviews MEB disposition
 - Soldier does not have to disagree with IMR to submit a rebuttal

**Soldiers are encouraged to talk to SMEBC
BEFORE asking for an IMR**



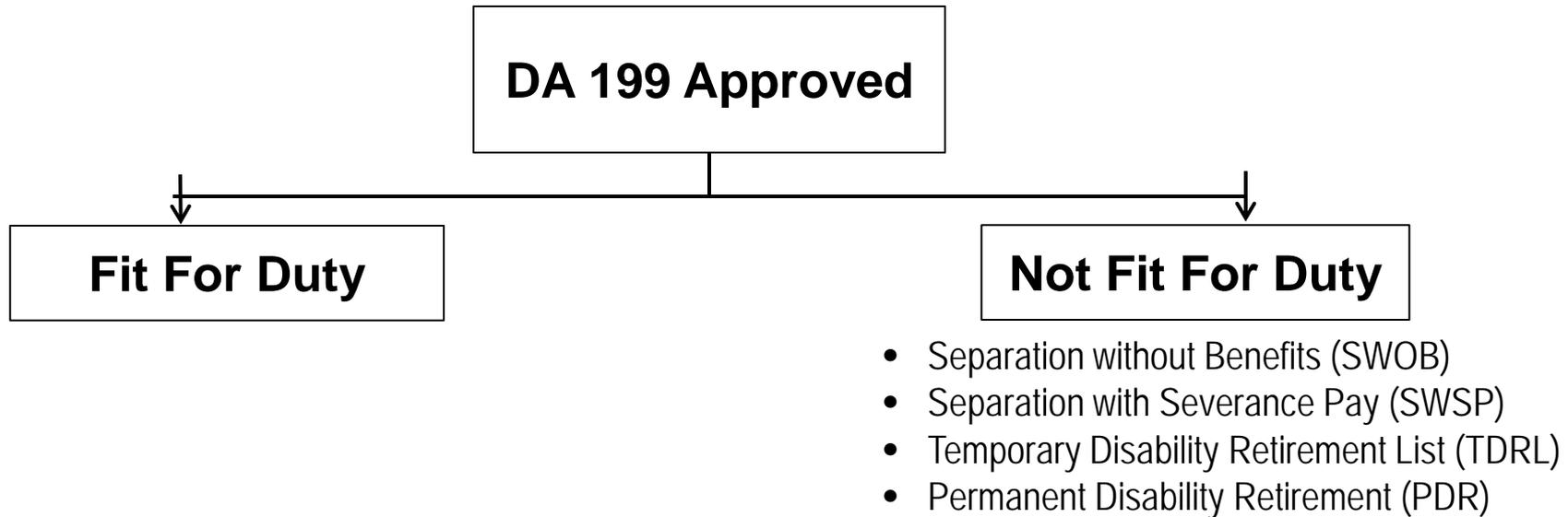
PEB Process



- Only board in the Military that can determine fitness for continued service in PMOS

- Informal findings - 2 possibilities
 1. Fit for Duty
 2. Unfit
 - Preliminary memo issued
 - Case sent to VA DRAS for rating

- PEB Proceedings (DA Form 199) provided to PEBLO to counsel Soldier



Upon receipt of Informal PEB (IPEB) decision (DA 199), Soldier may:

1. Agree with the IPEB decision and the VA rating for unfitting condition;
2. Agree with the IPEB decision, but disagree with VA rating for unfitting condition and submit for VA reconsideration request (one-time request while on Active Duty);
3. Disagree with the IPEB decision and submit written appeal (but waive the formal hearing); or
4. Disagree with the IPEB decision and request a formal hearing
5. Decision is due in 10 calendar days



DRAS



- VA-DRAS determines the ratings for service-connected conditions:
 - The unfitting conditions determined by the PEB
 - The Soldier's service-connected 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



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



- Intent is to allow Soldier to reach retirement eligibility
- Soldier can submit a request for COAD or COAR only if found unfit for duty by the PEB
- Soldier must provide at least one memorandum recommending support for the request from an O6-level Commander
- Soldiers with >18 years but <20 active years are required to submit for COAD/COAR unless signed letter of declination from Soldier is submitted
- Request is acted upon by HRC, G-1, not the PEB
- Consult with the following for additional details and guidance
 - PEBLO
 - SMEBC
 - AW2 Advocate

Important Information

- Soldiers must take ownership of their IDES process
 - Attend all examinations and appointments
 - Work with IDES partners to ensure medical conditions are documented and all health records are available
 - Read over all documents provided carefully before making any decisions
 - Ask questions!
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- Confidentiality is ensured throughout the IDES process
 - Spouses, other family members, and friends are encouraged to support their Soldier. However, a Release of Information signed by the Soldier must be on file before IDES information can be shared with anyone outside of authorized personnel.



Important Locations and Phone Numbers



POC	Office Location	Phone	Business Hours
Contact Reps PEBLOs	Bldgs 36037 & 36039; Bldg 36010; RRV (3500 area)	(254) 553-7033 (254) 288-8355 Fax: (254) 288-8907	M–W, F: 0730–1630 Th: 0730–1130
MSC	Bldg 36038	(254) 287-2824 Fax: (254) 285-6790	
SMEBC	Bldg 3575, Rough Rider Village	Intake Paralegals: (254) 553-8902 (254) 553-8890	<u>Intake:</u> M & F: 0900–1130; 1300–1530 T: 0900–1130 W: 0900-1130; 1300- 1630 Th: 1300–1630



QUESTIONS?