



Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)

OVERVIEW

Navigating the complexities of the IDES and understanding the array of benefits available can be challenging for recovering Service members (RSMs), their caregivers, and families. This fact sheet offers a guide to the IDES, ensuring you have access to vital information in one location.

IDES is a collaborative program between the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) designed to streamline the disability evaluation process for Service members. It aims to:

- **Determine Fitness for Duty** - Assess whether a Service member can continue military service due to medical conditions.
- **Provide Disability Ratings** - Offer VA disability ratings before separation, facilitating timely access to benefits.
- **Ensure Seamless Transition** - Integrated between DoD and VA to reduce delays and duplication in the evaluation process.

KEY PHASES OF IDES

1. **Medical Evaluation Board (MEB)** - Evaluates medical conditions and determines if they meet Service specific and DoD medical retention standards.
2. **Physical Evaluation Board (PEB)** - Assesses the impact of medical conditions on the Service member's ability to perform duties of their office, grade, rank, or rating.
3. **Disability Rating(s)** - A disability rating assigned to unfitting conditions that may determine appropriate compensation and benefits based on medical separation or retirement from the military.
4. **Transition** - Service members found fit are returned to duty while those with a PEB finding of unfit are medically separated or retired from military service.

