

# Integrated Disability Evaluation System



## What Is the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)?

The Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) helps the Department of Defense (DoD) determine if wounded, ill, or injured Service members are able to continue to serve. DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have joined together to create IDES, integrating two formerly separate and sequential systems into one process. This new, streamlined system improves the federal government's delivery of disability services and benefits to Service members, veterans, and their families. IDES quickly returns to duty those who are medically fit. For those who are not, the IDES process determines the disability ratings that they will receive from DoD and VA. The timeline below helps convey system complexity.

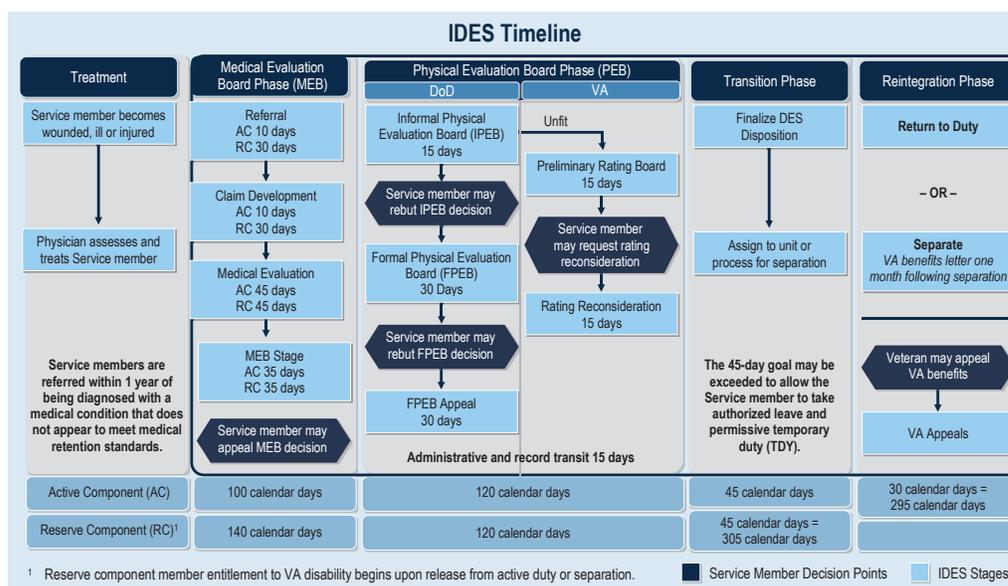
### ► IDES Highlights

IDES provides a faster, smoother transition experience for wounded, ill and injured Service members by involving VA as soon as Service members are referred for disability evaluation. The collaboration between DoD and VA helps Service members by delivering:

- **Enhanced Case Management:** Co-located DoD and VA staff members work together throughout the IDES process, providing seamless and consistent case management.
- **A Single Comprehensive Disability Examination:** Service members need only one medical evaluation, conducted by a VA-certified physician, to determine fitness for duty and eligibility for DoD and VA disability compensation and benefits.
- **A Single-Sourced Disability Rating:** VA rating officers provide Service members with disability ratings that are accepted by both DoD and VA.
- **Increased Transparency:** Service members know their VA disability rating before separating from military service.
- **Faster Disability Processing:** VA Military Service Coordinators (MSCs) help Service members establish their VA benefits claim before separating, making VA benefits decisions available to veterans a month after separation, the shortest period permissible under the law.

### ► Contact Us

For more information, please email the IDES Support Team at [IDES@osd.mil](mailto:IDES@osd.mil)



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