

A Consideration of Voting Accessibility for Injured OIF/OEF Service Members: Needs Assessment

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Annotated Literature Review Results

Systems & Policies Related to Disabilities

Disability counseling guide for PEB liaison officers.

This guide provides assistance in processing disability cases as well as counseling military members for the Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer (PEBLO). The document outlines the steps involved in Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) processing and describes the disability evaluation system, including the Informal and Formal Physical Evaluation Boards as well as the different possible outcomes (e.g., return to duty, disability retirement, or temporary retirement).

Disability Evaluation System (chapter 2 of the Handbook for Injured Service Members and Their Families).

Chapter 2 discusses the Disability Evaluation System (DES). The DES was created “to provide a uniform procedure for the evaluation of a service member’s medical condition and the member’s ability to continue his or her military service”. The DES consists of two stages. The first stage is the Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) phase in which the service member’s injury and treatment are evaluated to determine if he or she can continue serving after treatment. The second stage is the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) in which the service member’s physical ability to serve in the military is determined. At this point, the service member is assigned a disability rating if he or she is unable to continue serving.

Disability Rating System (chapter 3 of the Handbook for Injured Service Members and Their Families).

Chapter 3 discusses the Veterans Administration Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) and its use by the military and the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). When a service member is deemed unfit for military duty and is separated from the military, the military disability rating determines if the service member is eligible for Department of Defense (DoD) disability retirement pay, or if the service member will instead receive severance pay. Service members must have an aggregate disability rating of at least 30% to qualify for the DoD retirement pay. Even if the service member does not qualify for the DoD retirement pay, he or she may still be eligible for disability benefits from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). The VA also assigns a different disability rating that may be higher than the military disability rating because the VA considers all of the individual’s medical conditions. Although the disability ratings may differ between the military and the VA, both use the VASRD.

Marcum, C. Y., Emmerichs, R. M., Sloan, J. S., & Thie, H. J. (2002). Disability Evaluation System Overview. In *Methods and Actions for Improving Performance of the Department of Defense Disability Evaluation System* (pp.13-42). Santa Monica, CA:RAND.

Chapter 3 provides an overview of the DoD Disability Evaluation System from five perspectives. These perspectives include its purpose and desired outcomes, its customers, its organizational settings, the operating framework that is common to all military departments, and the aspects that are unique to each military department.

Oliver, C. (n.d.). Physical evaluation board process.

This presentation reviews the Physical Disability Evaluation System (PDES) and illustrates the disability case flow.

Rating Process and System (chapter 4 of *Honoring the Call to Duty: Veterans' Disability Benefits in the 21st Century*).

Chapter 4 describes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Schedule for Rating Disabilities. The Rating Schedule is used to determine the severity of disability and, in turn, the amount of monthly compensation. This chapter reviews the current system and provides many recommendations for improving the system.

U.S. Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment (n.d.). Disability Evaluation System (Pilot): Pocket Guide for Marines.

This guide reviews the Disability Evaluation System (DES) for Marines and their families. The guide includes information on the Medical Evaluation Board, the Physical Evaluation Board, the transition phase, and the VA disability compensation delivery phase. Included is a DES Pilot Process Chart showing the process and decision points involved in the DES from medical treatment to the finalization of the case.