

**Department of Defense Task
Force on the Care, Management,
and Transition of Recovering
Wounded, Ill, and Injured
Members of the Armed Forces**

28 OCTOBER 2013

Office of Soldiers' Counsel (Army)

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Disclaimer

THE FOLLOWING ARE INDIVIDUAL OPINIONS ONLY AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE US ARMY, THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL CORPS OR THE US ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND

**Please identify the top five changes
you would like to see made to the
IDES process.**

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1. Improve Transparency

- Soldiers assume that Impartial Medical Providers are independent of the MEB. In order to improve transparency, request that Impartial Medical Review (IMR) providers not be members of the MEB. To remove any appearances of impropriety, IMRs should be independent and transparent as intended by Congress.

2. Eliminate TDRL Backlog

- Once the Army reduces its TDRL backlog, encourage the identification of specific medical conditions that that would benefit Service members' TDRL placement while developing stringent procedures to limit entry onto the TDRL.

3. Increase the quality of IDES documentation

- Encourage initiatives already under way to enhance the quality of disability information when describing conditions that meet Army retention standards.
- When determining if a condition is individually or collectively unfitting, the PEB must review even those conditions that meet medical retention standards in order to determine appropriate military compensation.

4. Increase Commander Involvement in the IDES process

- Execute enhanced training for Commanders to achieve a complete and accurate Commander's statement evaluating the impact of a Soldier's medical condition(s) on duty performance

5. Office of Soldiers' Counsel access to all databases

- Up-to-date case files that the MEB, PEB and the USAPDA relies upon to issue findings are not always available throughout the system.
- Request all stakeholders facilitate Office of Soldiers' Counsel access to all computerized resources.

What additional resources would enable IDES lawyers to better serve RWs?

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Additional Resources

- A full-time dedicated health-care provider detailed to the Office of Soldiers Counsel for consultations when researching clients' cases.

Questions?

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