Update to Defense Health Board Disability Evaluation System (DES)

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Many Efforts Informed Us...and others
We Organized Ourselves...

Senior Oversight Committee (SOC)
Co-Chairs: DEPSECDEF and DEPSECVCA

Overarching Integrated Product Team (OIPT)
Full-time staff and VA Detail

Co-Chairs: Deputy Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs
Members: Service Secretaries
Chairman or Vice Chairman
Service Chiefs or Vice Chiefs of Staff
Under Secretaries of Defense (P&R) and (Comptroller)
Under Secretaries of Veteran’s Affairs (Benefits) and (Health)
Others...

Congress & Media
Incoming from other commissions
Press Releases

1. Disability System
   Disability Advisory Council

2. Embrey & Sigford
   TBI/PTSD

3. Davis & Day
   TBI Working Group

4. Sjones & Tibbits
   Case Management

5. Sjones & Tibbits
   Case Management Summit

6. Grone & Neary
   DoD/VA Data Sharing

7. Grone & Neary
   BECHEC Working Group

8. Dominguez & Cooper
   Facilities

9. McGinn & Hill
   Installation Capability Committee

10. Runnels
    Clean Sheet Design

11. Personnel, Pay & Financial Support
    Legislation & Public Affairs

    Full-time staff and VA Detail
Line of Action (LOA) #1 Disability Evaluation System

• Background
  – LOA1 consists of Senior Leaders from DoD, Military Services, VA, & Legal; Oversight by Disability Advisory Council (DAC)
  – Faced multiple recommendations with redesign

• DES Reform
  – Aug 07, DoD/VA subject matter experts tested 4 scenarios
    • Tabletop exercise used members’ records who recently completed DES & received VA ratings
    • Looked at a joint fit for duty & rating board, a single exam at different stages, & VA ratings; stayed inside current legislative requirements
    • Final scenario developed; Piloting in National Capital Region
      – Includes all new medical evaluation board referrals from 26 Nov 07
        • Initiated at Walter Reed, Bethesda National Naval, Malcolm Grow
        • Regardless of whether injury was incurred in war
        • Did not include reserve component non-duty related conditions or temporary duty retirement list (TDRL) re-evaluations
• **VISION:**
  A seamless, transparent DES; administered jointly by DoD & VA

• **FEATURES / GOALS** *Tasks Force, Audit & Study Recommendations)*
  – Less complex, Less adversarial
  – Faster, more consistent evaluations & compensation
  – Single disability/med evaluation & single-source disability rating
  – Seamless transition to Veteran status, better continuum of care with advocacy & expectation management
  – Updated VASRD

• **Timeline:**
  A collaboration of VA and DoD experts developed processes and estimated timelines
  Design → Tabletop → Initial Pilot Training → Pilot → Program Eval & End-State Process
  DoD / DVA Joint Effort → Finalized Game plan → PEBLO / MSCs → On Order of SOC
  Aug 07 → Sep 07 → Nov 07 → Nov 07 – Nov 08 → TBD
Data Analysis

DES Pilot as of April 6, 2008

• Source - DoD Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officers (PEBLOs) & VA Military Service Coordinators (MSCs)
• DES Stats
  • DoD - as of April 6, 2008
    • 327 Service members in Pilot
      • ~17 enter program/week
      • 21 currently in PEB Phase
      • 2 currently in Transition Phase
      • 1 separating in May 08.
  • VA - as of April 14, 2008
    • 295 referrals from PEBLOs to MSCs
    • 14 ratings completed, returned to PEBs
    • 2 ratings being prepared
    • 3 found fit, returned to duty
    • 1 member set to receive first VA payment Jul 08, earliest allowed by law
• Insufficient data to analyze PEB, Appeals, Transition, Post Transition
WAY AHEAD

- VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities training to Service Physical Evaluation Boards & Health Affairs reps by VA educators
- Evaluating outcomes of pilot to determine any redesign
- Developing joint expansion criteria for incremental expansion of pilot
Summary

• KEY AREAS OF REFORM
  – Incorporates a single, standardized medical/disability evaluation
  – Provides for a single-source disability rating
  – Applies new case management practices
  – Tests new automated systems to manage DES data
  – Changes DES from entirely sequential process to concurrent process
  – Decreases post separation processing time for VA award processing
Changing the current disability system...

**DES PILOT**

**FUTURE DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM (?)**
QUESTIONS?