HOW DOES THE PDBR OPERATE?

The PDBR evaluates and reviews cases for all services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard) and their respective components—Regular, Reserve, and Guard.

The Department of Defense (DoD) designated the Air Force as the lead service to establish and operate the PDBR.

Located at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, the PDBR is a true joint service board. Each case is adjudicated by representatives from multiple services, including the service of the applicant. The PDBR reviews medical information provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the military department. Once a review is complete, the PDBR forwards a recommendation to the Secretary of the respective branch of the Armed Services. It is up to the individual service branch to make the final determination on whether to change the original disability determination.

If you have further questions contact the PDBR:
usaf.pentagon.saf-mr.mbx.PDBRPA@mail.mil

Mailing Address:
Physical Disability Board of Review
SAF/MRBD
3351 Celmers Lane
Joint Base Andrews MD 20762

PHYSICAL DISABILITY BOARD OF REVIEW (PDBR)

Ensuring a fair, consistent and accurate review of disability ratings for medically separated Wounded Warriors
The Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR) provides Veterans who were medically separated from their Military Service between September 11, 2001 and December 31, 2009, with the opportunity to have their disability ratings reviewed to ensure fairness, consistency and accuracy. The PDBR was created by Congress as part of the Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act of 2008. Signed into law by President Bush on January 28, 2008, the PDBR began reviewing cases in June 2009.

To be eligible for PDBR review, a Veteran must have been medically separated between September 11, 2001 and December 31, 2009 with a combined disability rating of 20 percent or less, and not have been found eligible for retirement. Former Reserve members with greater than 20 years of Total Federal Military Service, yet with fewer than 20 years of Active Duty and who meet the criteria listed above, are also eligible to apply. There are roughly 77,000 Veterans who are eligible to apply to the PDBR under the stated criteria.

To date, less than 30% of the eligible population of Veterans has applied.

**WHAT IS THE PDBR?**

**WHO CAN APPLY TO THE PDBR?**

**START**

**Requirement**
Veteran separated between 9/11/01 and 12/31/09 with 0, 10, or 20% combined disability.

**Submission**
Veteran submits signed DD-294 to PDBR Joint Base Andrews Md to begin application process.

**1.** PDBR requests medical and disability evaluation documentation from the VA and the Veteran’s Military Department.

**2.** PDBR receives requested documentation; reviews and processes documents for board review.

**Joint Base Andrews, Maryland**

**Veteran’s Military Department Decision Authority**
DDA of Veteran’s Military Department makes final decision on case and informs Veteran.

**3.** PDBR reviews case, adjudicates case & recommends action to Designated Decision Authority (DDA).

**4.** PDBR receives case recommendation from the DDA and renders final decision.

**5.** DDA renders final decision and notifies Veteran.

**POSSIBLE BENEFITS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY**

Impact on Pay and Benefits if You Are Successful with Your PDBR Application

- You will receive (retroactively to the day of your original disability separation) monthly disability retirement pay from your military service. NOTE: By law, all previously awarded disability severance pay must be offset/recouped from these new retirement payments until you can actually begin receiving your entire disability retired pay. Please see the Retired and Annuity Pay Section at [http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary#](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary#) and Wounded Warrior Section at [http://www.dfas.mil/medicalmembers.html#](http://www.dfas.mil/medicalmembers.html#) or contact DFAS at 1-800-321-1080.

- You are now eligible for DoD’s TRICARE health care coverage (retroactively to the day of your original disability separation). Coverage is extended to your eligible dependents as well. You may request to have TRICARE retroactively reimburse your previous medical expenditures.

- You are eligible to buy the Survivor’s Benefit Plan insurance for your dependents (you would be responsible for retroactively paying insurance premiums to bring your coverage up to date).

- You (and your eligible dependants) will have all rights and privileges of a retired Veteran from your armed service (e.g. commissary, exchange, space available recreation and travel, other benefits available via State and private sector organizations).

**WHY SHOULD I APPLY?**

In approximately 17% of cases (as of October 2018), Veterans were granted a disability retirement with retroactive benefits.

**NOTE:** By law, all previously awarded disability severance pay must be offset/recouped from these new retirement payments until you can actually begin receiving your entire disability retired pay. Please see the Retired and Annuity Pay Section at [http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary#](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary#) and Wounded Warrior Section at [http://www.dfas.mil/medicalmembers.html#](http://www.dfas.mil/medicalmembers.html#) or contact DFAS at 1-800-321-1080.

**PDBR APPLICATION PROCESS**