

Update to Defense Health Board Disability Evaluation System (DES)



Dr. Joe Kelley (DoD)

Mr. Bill Wilson (VA)

April 23, 2008

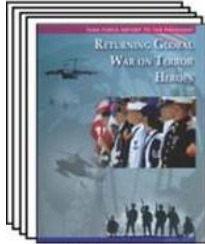


DoD/VA Interagency Care Transition



DoD Inspector General

Returning Global War on Terror Heroes



Nicholson

DoD Task Force on Mental Health



Arthur, MacDermid, Kiley

President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors



Dole/Shalala

Independent Review Group



West/Marsh

Veterans Disability Benefits Commission



Scott Commission

Many Efforts Informed Us...and others

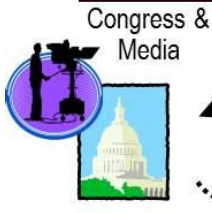


We Organized Ourselves...

Co-Chairs: Deputy Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs

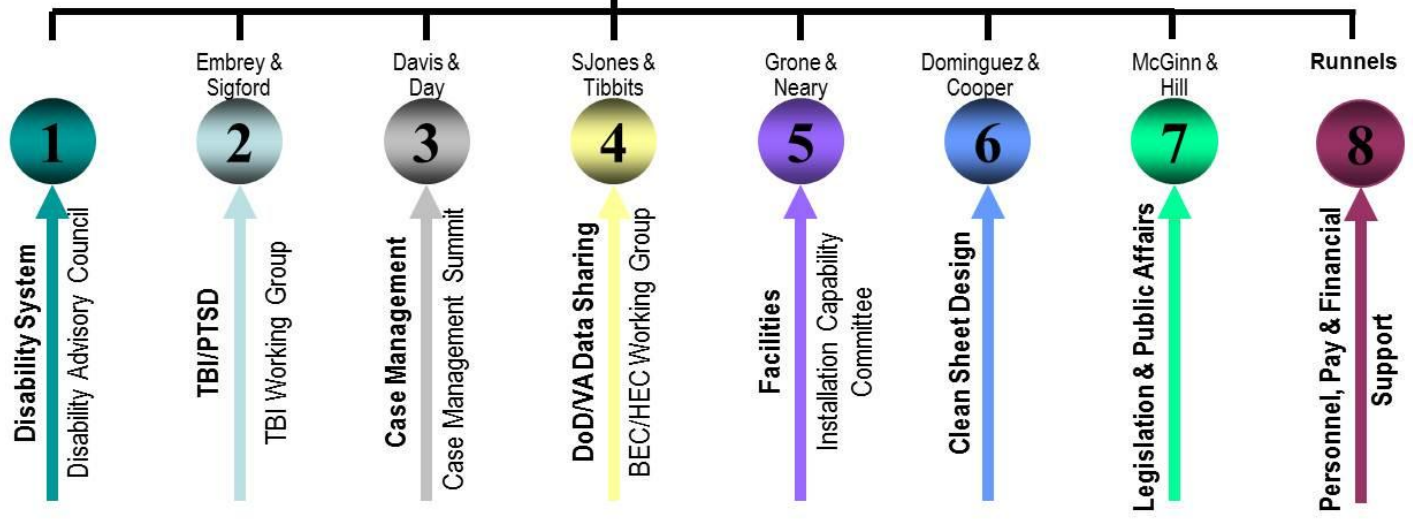
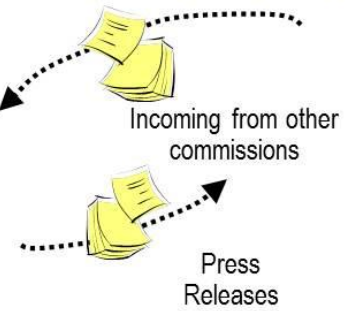
Members: Service Secretaries
Chairman or Vice Chairma
Service Chiefs or Vice Chiefs of Staff
Under Secretaries of Defense (P&R) and (Comptroller)
Under Secretaries of Veteran's Affairs (Benefits) and (Health)
Others...

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



Overarching Integrated Product Team (OIPT)

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



DES Pilot Overview

- **VISION:**

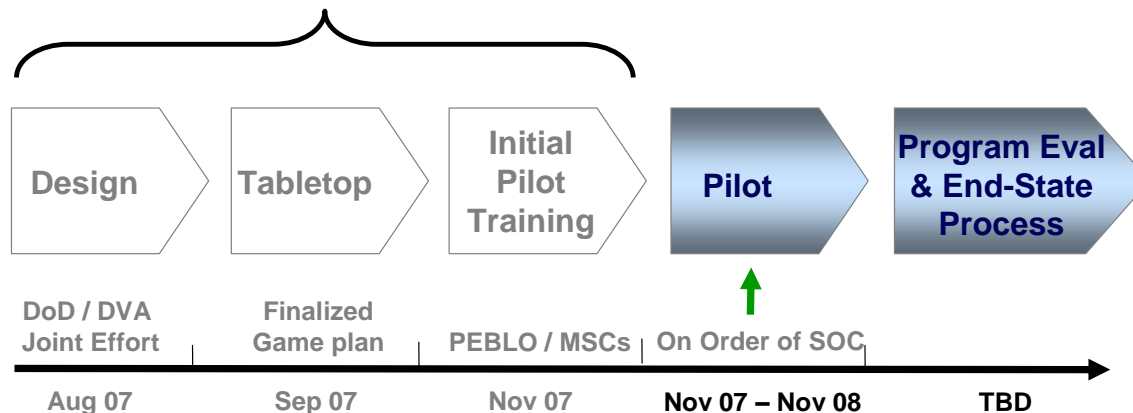
A seamless, transparent DES; administered jointly by DoD & VA

- **FEATURES / GOALS** (*Task 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:**

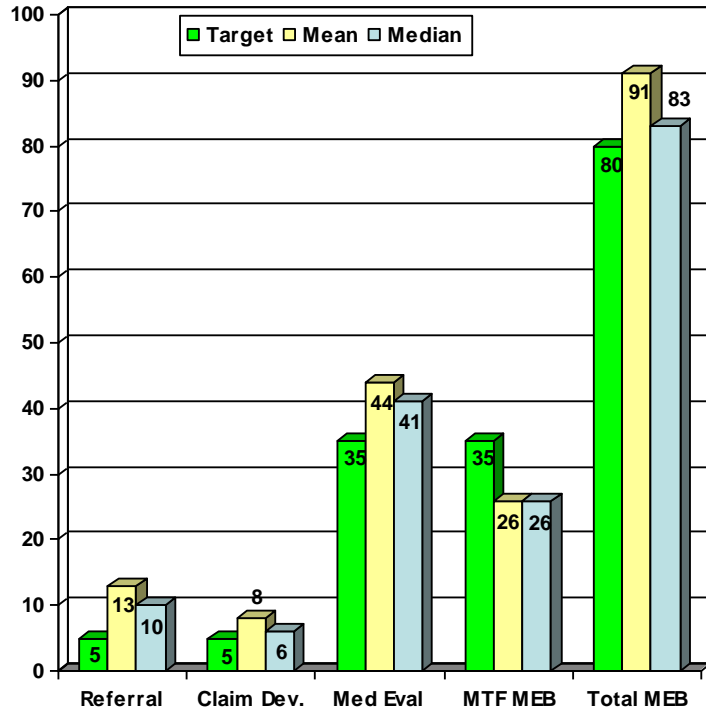
A collaboration of VA and DoD experts developed processes and estimated timelines





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**

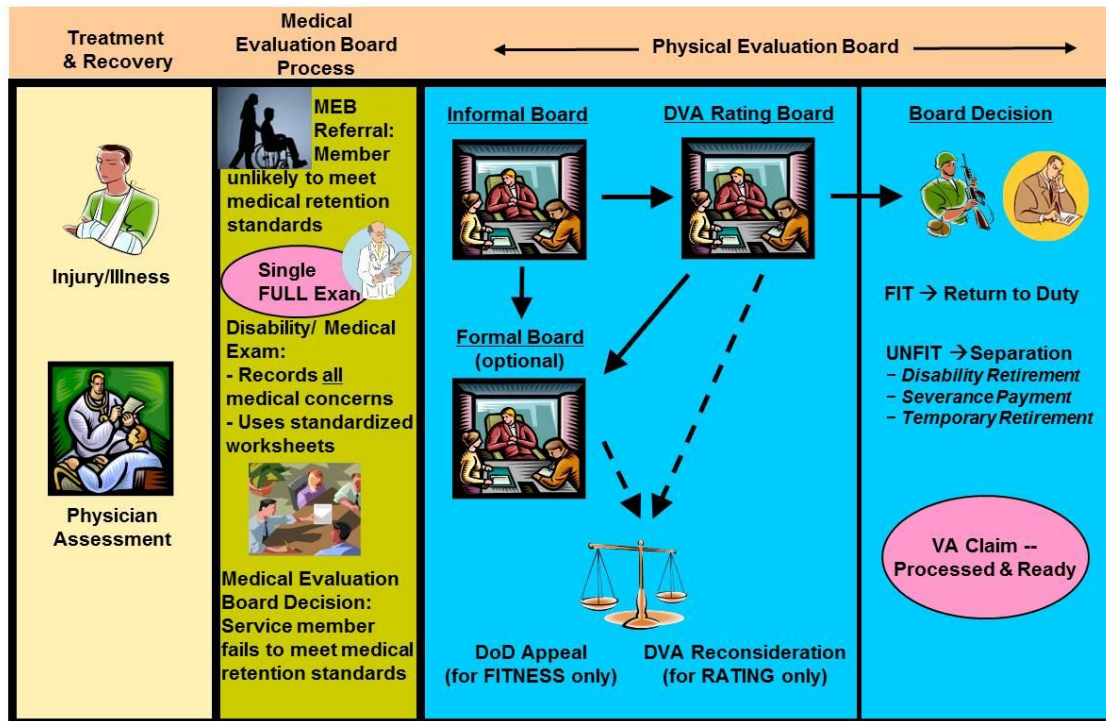
- Incorporates a single, standardized medical/disability evaluation
- Provides for a single-source disability rating
- Applies new case management practices
- Tests new automated systems to manage DES data
- Changes DES from entirely sequential process to concurrent process
- Decreases post separation processing time for VA award processing

Changing the current disability system...



DES PILOT

**FUTURE
DISABILITY
EVALUATION
SYSTEM (?)**



QUESTIONS?

