

**INFORMATION PAPER  
ON  
PROGRAMS FOR SEPARATING SERVICE MEMBERS**

**ISSUE:** The Defense Health Agency (DHA) Medical Affairs Directorate supports three major programs for separating Service members with wounds from military service.

**DISCUSSION:**

1. **InTRANSITION PROGRAM:** The inTransition Program is a free, confidential program that offers telephonic coaching-to-care to promote continuity of care support for Service members, National Guard members, Reserve Component, and Veterans who seek access to mental health care. Service members leaving military service who have received care for mental health and/or moderate to severe traumatic brain injury care within one year of their separations are automatically enrolled in the inTransition Program, although they may decline participation at any time. Referral mental health care destinations include: VA clinics or medical centers, Vet Centers, DoD clinics or TRICARE providers, and community-based providers. Each month, inTransition attempts to contact approximately 8,000 transitioning Service members and supports an average of 2,400 Service members and Veterans referred directly into the program. The program provides more than 500 referrals to Service members monthly to VA/Vet Centers for follow-on care quarterly.
  
2. **RECOVERY COORDINATION PROGRAM (RCP):** RCPs are implemented through the Military Departments for Recovering Service Members (RSMs) who have serious or catastrophic wounds, illnesses, or injuries. Military Department RCPs coordinate non-medical care for RSMs and their families through recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Recovery Care Coordinators, and other members of the recovery care team, work with RSMs and their families to develop and implement a Comprehensive Recovery Plan. DHA provides support for Military Department RCPs through:
  - a. **Education and Employment Initiative (E2I):** Regional Coordinators prepare RSMs for private sector employment by offering opportunities in education, training, certification, or employment needed to transition to a civilian career;
  - b. **Operation Warfighter (OWF):** Regional Coordinators match qualified RSMs with non-funded, federal internships to gain valuable work experience during recovery and aids transition to civilian employment or return to active duty;
  - c. **National Resource Directory (NRD):** Online website connecting RSMs, veterans, their families, and caregivers to vetted programs, resources, and services at the national, state, and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation, and community reintegration.

3. **INTEGRATED DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM (IDES)**: IDES is the joint/integrated DoD and VA process to evaluate and return to duty, separate, or retire Service members due to medical disability. The Military Departments operate their own DES programs and serve as approval authority for DES determinations regarding unfitness and entitlement to disability severance and retired pay. Approximately 346,000 DES Cases have been completed since 2007. In FY 2023, 27,957 Service members were enrolled in DES and 28,341 Service members were processed. DHA's primary role regarding IDES is through the provision of Medical Evaluation Board (MEBs) and any other necessary clinical or health care services delivered in an MTF or through the TRICARE program.