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.

CONTACT US

Information about the PDBR and how to apply, including links to the application form (DD-294), are available at the following website:

www.health.mil/About_MHS/Organizations/MHS_Offices_and_Programs/PDBR.aspx

If you have further questions about the PDBR, contact:

PDBRPA@afncr.af.mil

Mailing Address:
PDBR Central Intake Unit
SAF/MRBR
550 C Street West
Suite 41
Randolph AFB, Texas 78150-4743

PHYSICAL DISABILITY BOARD OF REVIEW (PDBR)

Ensuring a fair, consistent and accurate review of disability ratings for medically separated Wounded Warriors

WHAT IS THE PDBR?

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.

WHO CAN APPLY TO THE PDBR?

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.

< 5% To date, less than 5% of the eligible population of Veterans has applied.

WHY SHOULD I APPLY?

> 50% In more than 50% of cases (as of May 2011), individuals were granted a disability retirement with retroactive benefits.

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 pay must be offset from these new retirement payments until you can actually begin receiving any new disability retired pay.*
- 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. Previous medical expenditures incurred by you MAY BE retroactively reimbursed by TRICARE.
- You are eligible to buy the Survivor's Benefit Plan insurance for your dependants (you would be responsible for 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).

PDBR APPLICATION PROCESS

START

Requirement

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

2

Submission

Veteran submits signed DD-294 to PDBR Central Intake Unit (CITU), San Antonio, TX, to begin application process.

3

Randolph AFB, San Antonio, Texas

1. CITU requests medical and disability evaluation documentation from the VA and the Veteran's Military Department.
2. CITU receives requested documentation (paper copy); digitizes documents; uploads into PDBR central database.

4

Joint Base Andrews, Maryland

PDBR downloads case documentation at Joint Central Adjudication Unit (JCAU); reviews case, adjudicates case & recommends action to Designated Decision Authority (DDA).

5

Veteran's Military Department Decision Authority

DDA of Veteran's Military Department makes final decision on case and informs Veteran.

IF Veteran's prior disability separation is re characterized as a disability retirement, DDA coordinates correction of Veteran's military record as well as pay with DFAS and VA. If Veteran's disability is not recharacterized, no change in status (with VA or Military Department).