



## DISABILITY COMPENSATION

# SEPARATION HEALTH ASSESSMENT FOR SERVICEMEMBERS

## OVERVIEW

The separation health assessment was developed to provide a single separation examination that supports the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation program and the Department of Defense (DoD) mandatory separation history and physical examination. The assessment captures current health information in a way that is accessible by DoD and VA.

### WHO CONDUCTS THE EXAM?

- VA will conduct the exam for Servicemembers who file a complete application for disability compensation while having at least 90 days remaining on active duty.
- DoD will conduct the exam for Servicemembers who do not file a claim for disability compensation, or who file a claim with less than 90 days remaining on active duty.

### ASSESSMENT BENEFITS

- Provides a comprehensive medical evaluation at separation, which
  - Documents current and past medical concerns identified during military career, and
  - Assesses current health status and medical history.
- DoD can use assessment results to identify and evaluate illnesses and injuries that are potentially caused by occupational exposures and physical hazards in military workplaces. This may result in eliminating these exposures and hazards and preventing future illnesses and injuries.
- Assessments are an efficient way for VA to identify service-connected conditions.
- Assessments allow more accurate prediction of future healthcare needs.
- Information gathered from the assessment can be used focus Veteran outreach efforts.



Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## ACTIONS

Servicemembers filing a claim for VA disability compensation should:

- Submit an application for VA benefits ([VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits](#)) between 90 and 180 days prior to separation or retirement,
- Submit a copy of service treatment records (STRs) from the current period of service,
- Complete, sign, and submit [DD Form 2807-1, "Report of Medical History](#), and
- VA will schedule an exam to evaluate claimed conditions.

Servicemembers in the following categories must complete and sign DD Form 2807-1, Report of Medical History, and DoD will complete the separation exam in coordination with the appropriate out-processing center for:

- Servicemembers are not filing a claim for VA disability
- Servicemembers with less than 90 days prior to discharge or retirement

Note: Servicemembers with less than 90 days until discharge may still file a claim for VA disability benefits prior to separation; however, the Servicemember must ensure the separation examination is completed by DoD.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

**Question:** I am not filing a VA disability claim, why do I have to get an exam?

**Answer:** The assessment can uncover medical conditions that occurred during military service for which you may be unaware. If you choose to file a VA disability claim later, the information contained in the assessment may be essential in establishing that a disability was incurred in or aggravated by your military service. The assessment also provides information that can be used to identify and prevent illnesses and injuries caused by military service. Assessment information can also be used to more accurately predict healthcare services required for Veterans.

**Question:** What does an assessment include?

**Answer:**

- Subjective Assessment of Health: You will complete the DD Form 2807-1, "Report of Medical History" prior to your scheduled exam. The VA or DoD examiner performing the exam will review the answers and ensure claimed contentions are addressed in the examiner's section of the form or in the exam report, which becomes part of the record.

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- **Objective Assessment of Health:** The examiner will review your complete medical history (including the DD Form 2807-1) and your current health status to determine if there is a need for further treatment or evaluations regarding any medical concerns.

**Question:** Can I submit a VA disability claim while still on active duty?

**Answer:** Yes, the Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) Program allows a Servicemember to submit a claim for disability compensation 180 to 90 days prior to separation, retirement, or release from active duty.

Servicemembers with 89 days to 1 day remaining on active duty do not meet the requirements to file a BDD claim; however, they can still submit their claim prior to separation from active duty. The claim will be processed through the traditional disability claims process or the [Fully Developed Claim](#) (FDC) program.

For more information about filing a BDD claim, please refer to the [BDD Fact Sheet](#). VA representatives are available at many military installations to assist with submitting VA disability claims through the BDD Program. A list of military installations with a VA representative can be found in the [VA Facility Locator](#).

**Question:** How do I file a VA disability claim?

**Answer:** You can file a VA disability claim through [eBenefits](#). You can also file a VA claim in person with a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) or a VA representative at a military installation. Submit a copy of your STRs from your current period of military service and any copies of private treatment records not associated with TRICARE referrals. You should receive information regarding eligibility and application requirements during your Transition Assistance Program (TAP) briefing.

For more information on VA disability benefits, call toll-free 1-800-827-1000 or visit [VA's website](#). Instructions and claim forms may also be found on [TRICARE online](#).

