



DoD/VA Interagency Care Transition

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Office of the Inspector General, Department of Defense
Policy & Oversight

Inspections & Evaluations Directorate

Information Brief to
Defense Commission
on
Integrity and Efficiency

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TRANSITION DEFINITION The administrative movement of injured Service members, to include both medical and personnel processes, from the separation determination point at the Medical Evaluation Board/Physical Evaluation Board to the point of active engagement by the Department of Veterans Affairs in delivering entitled benefits, medical and otherwise.

OBJECTIVE Evaluate the extent to which laws, policies, and processes ensure that injured OIF/OEF Service members are provided effective, transparent, and expeditious access to health care and other benefits when identified for separation or retirement due to their injuries.

SCOPE

- Focus on post-deployment medical care transition
 - « Limitation: Will not assess quality of medical care
- Sample percentage of receivers of care
- Interview primary decision makers in OSD, VA, Services, Combatant Commands, Health Affairs, etc.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

- **Emphasize 'Responsible' Commander involvement ensuring injured are aware of available services and benefits**
 - o Further develop timing, methods and means of informing Service members of benefits available to them if injured
 - o Integrate Transition Assistance Program into weekend drill for Reserve Component
- **Discuss need for a Care Transition OPR in OSD**
 - o Disconnects among 'stovepipes' – Care Transition process should be patient focused
- **Need methods to monitor and measure program success**
- **Identify best Care Transition practices and apply across Services**
- **Explore execution of existing MOUs between VA and DoD on Care Transition - Develop a list of MOU categories**
- **Develop/Standardize injured Service member family support**

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS (Cont')

- **Expand eligibility for VA benefits for injured Service members on active duty (Title 38)**
 - o Leverage treatment at existing facilities, e.g., VA Polytrauma Centers
- **Establish benefits for families of injured (Title 38)**
- **Explore modification of ethics rules to permit receipt of gifts in support of rehabilitation (Title V)**
- **Develop improvements to disability claims process (Titles 10 and 38)**
 - o Design Common Database between DoD and VA
 - o Simplify claim requirements
 - o Retain veteran records to process medical issues not claimed at separation/retirement
- **Establish DoD benefits for recently discharged Service members (Title 10)**
 - o Injured who return to Military Treatment Facility for ongoing care of complex problems
- **Expand and standardize VA healthcare for certain veterans with other than honorable discharges (Title 38)**

TIMELINE

✓ Announcement	24 July 2006
Site Visits	Sep 2006 - Mar 2007
Fieldwork Complete	Mar 2007
Report Draft	May 2007
Final Product Delivered	Jul 2007

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