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“Frequently Asked Questions, please go to:

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If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?

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Veterans Benefits – Pre-Discharge

Pre-Discharge

It is to your advantage to submit your disability compensation claim prior to separation, retirement, or release from active duty or demobilization. Processing times tend to be much shorter for claims submitted pre-discharge than after discharge. Pre-discharge programs provide Servicemembers with the opportunity to file claims for [disability compensation](#) up to 180 days prior to separation or retirement from active duty or full-time National Guard or Reserve duty (Titles 10 and 32).

You can apply for disability compensation through one of the following:

- [Benefits Delivery at Discharge \(BDD\)](#)
- [Quick Start](#)
- [Overseas Intake Sites](#)

	Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD)	Quick Start	Overseas Intake Sites
When to apply prior to separation?	60-180 days	1-59 days	Within 180 days
Availability	Nationwide	Nationwide	Select military installations in Germany and Korea

Integrated Disability Evaluation System

The [Integrated Disability Evaluation System \(IDES\)](#) is used to determine a Servicemember's fitness for duty. The Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) worked together to make disability evaluation seamless, simple, fast and fair. If the Service member is found medically unfit for duty, the IDES gives them a proposed VA disability rating before they leave the service.

For More Information

While in a pre-discharge program, you may also apply for other VA benefits, such as [Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment](#), [Education](#), and [Loan Guaranty](#). The following resources are available when initially applying for benefits:

- Visit [VA Returning Service Members \(OEF/OIF\)](#) and [Seamless Transition](#) for additional information, including resources for family and outreach activities for returning service members.
- [VA Benefits in Brief](#) is a printable document that provides an at-a-glance description of VA benefits, as well as, contact phone numbers and locations.
- Visit [TurboTAP](#) and [MilitaryOneSource](#) for 24/7 access to helpful guides on pre-separation and transition, information on employment, education, relocation, benefits, and more.