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**RIGHT TO LEGAL ADVICE FOR MEB**

**You have been told that a Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) will examine your medical condition to determine whether your case should be referred to the Department of the Navy Physical Evaluation Board (PEB). The MEB will occur at a military hospital or clinic, after which the MEB may refer your case to the PEB for a determination of your fitness to continue naval service. The MEB and PEB processes are referred to as the “Integrated Disability Evaluation System,” or the “IDES.”**

**You have a right to legal advice during the IDES process. The military lawyer who will assist you is called a “Disability Evaluation System (DES) Counsel,” whose job is to ensure you understand your rights and responsibilities in the IDES process. Your counsel is your attorney, meaning that he or she will act as your advisor and advocate in the process. Furthermore, your discussions with counsel are confidential, meaning they will not tell your command what you said without your consent.**

**Your counsel’s duty is to help you understand and deal with the IDES process, so you are strongly encouraged to consult him or her as soon as you are referred to a MEB and before making decisions affecting your case. It is also important to keep your counsel informed concerning actions in your case to enable him or her to assist you. Additionally, it is important to read and understand the documents you sign. If you do not understand what you are reading or why you are signing a form, ask your counsel. Speaking with your counsel before making any decision or signing any document will ensure you receive timely, helpful advice, and protect your rights in the IDES process. Remember, if you have any questions concerning your case, contact your counsel.**

**Your DES Counsels at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center are Ms. Elizabeth Moores at (301) 319-8125 or elizabeth.c.moores.civ@mail.mil; Mr. Del Grissom at (301)319-7831 or phillip.d.grissom.civ@mail.mil and Major Philip Giarraputo, USMCR, at (301) 400-0991 or** **philip.giarraputo@mail.mil** **and** **philip.giarraputo@usmc.mil****. Walk-in consultations are available Monday through Friday, between 1000-1200 and 1300-1500, at Bldg. 11 (adjacent to Bldg. 62), in Rooms 34 and 36, basement.**

**Your DES Counsel at MCB Quantico is Major Philip Giarraputo, USMCR, at (703) 784-0388 or** **philip.giarraputo@usmc.mil****, located in Bldg. 3095 (Legal Assistance). Please call or email to make an appointment.**