

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
PHYSICAL DISABILITY BOARD OF REVIEW

NAME: XXXXXXXXXX
BRANCH OF SERVICE: ARMY

CASE: PD-2021-00100
SEPARATION DATE: 20070930

SUMMARY OF CASE: Data extracted from the available evidence of record reflects this covered individual (CI) was a National Guard E2, Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic, medically separated for “diabetes mellitus, insulin dependent [type 1]” with a disability rating of 20%.

CI CONTENTION: “This disability has severely impacted more than 20% of my life...things do not seem to be getting better.” The complete submission is at Exhibit A.

SCOPE OF REVIEW: The panel’s scope of review is defined in DoDI 6040.44. It is limited to review of disability ratings assigned to those conditions determined by the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) to be unfitting for continued military service, and when specifically requested by the CI, those conditions identified by the Medical Evaluation Board (MEB), but determined by the PEB to be not unfitting or non-compensable. Any conditions outside the panel’s defined scope of review, and any contention not requested in this application, may remain eligible for future consideration by the Board for Correction of Military Records. The panel’s authority is limited to assessing the fairness and accuracy of PEB rating determinations and recommending corrections when appropriate. The panel gives consideration to VA evidence, particularly within 12 months of separation, but only to the extent that it reasonably reflects the severity of disability at the time of separation.

RATING COMPARISON:

| SERVICE PEB - 20070823 | | | VARD - NA | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|--|------|--------|----------|
| Condition | Code | Rating | Condition | Code | Rating | Exam |
| Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1 | 7913 | 20% | Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1 | 7913 | 20% | 20080118 |
| COMBINED RATING: 20% | | | COMBINED RATING OF ALL VA CONDITIONS: 20% | | | |

ANALYSIS SUMMARY:

Diabetes Mellitus. The CI developed type 1 diabetes mellitus in February 2007. After being hospitalized for ketoacidosis, he was started on insulin treatment.

During the 6 April 2007 MEB narrative summary (NARSUM) examination, 5 months prior to separation, the CI reported he was unable to perform his military specialty duties because of the diabetes. The examiner noted he was on an insulin pump, but the condition was not under optimal control. Avoidance of strenuous occupational and recreational activities was not noted as medically necessary. Lab results from April 2007 showed hemoglobin A1C value of 11.7 (high).

At an endocrinology visit on 7 September 2007, 3 weeks before separation, the CI reported excellent glycemic control with the insulin pump. A follow-up on 26 October 2007 noted the diabetes was controlled with medication. The most recent hemoglobin A1C level from September 2007 was high at 6.9, but met the treatment plan goal of less than 7.0.

At the 18 January 2008 VA Compensation and Pension (C&P) examination, 4 months after separation, the CI reported that he followed a diabetic diet and was able to quickly correct the few low blood sugar episodes that he experienced. His weight had increased to 150 pounds from 120. He complained of bilateral hand numbness at times, which involved some or all of the fingers, but no issues with the feet. Physical and neurologic findings were normal.

The panel directed attention to its rating recommendation based on the above evidence. The PEB rated the diabetes 20%, coded 7913, citing "unable to perform the requirements of a Soldier." The VA also rated the diabetes 20%, based on the C&P examination, citing requirement for insulin and a restricted diet, but not regulation of activities. Panel members noted there was no evidence of medically prescribed regulation of activities, and even though the CI had one hospitalization for ketoacidosis, the STR did not show additional inpatient treatments or frequent visits (twice a month or more) to a diabetic care provider. Thus, a 20% but no higher, was justified for the diabetes. After due deliberation, considering all the evidence and mindful of VASRD §4.3 (reasonable doubt), the panel concluded there was insufficient cause to recommend a change in the PEB adjudication for the diabetes.

BOARD FINDINGS: In the matter of the type 1 diabetes mellitus and IAW VASRD §4.120, the panel recommends no change in the PEB adjudication. There are no other conditions within the panel's scope of review for consideration.

The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 294, dated 20210919, w/atchs
- Exhibit B. Service Treatment Record
- Exhibit C. Department of Veterans Affairs Record



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ARMY REVIEW BOARDS AGENCY
25118TH STREET SOUTH, SUITE 385
ARLINGTON, VA 22202-3531

AR20230003135, XXXXXXXXXXXX

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Dear XXXXXXXXXXXX:

The Department of Defense Physical Disability Board of Review (DoD PDBR) reviewed your application and found your separation disability rating and your separation from the Army for disability with severance pay to be accurate. I have reviewed the Board's recommendation and record of proceedings (copy enclosed), and I accept its recommendation. I regret to inform you that your application to the DoD PDBR is denied.

This decision is final. Recourse within the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army is exhausted; however, you have the option to seek relief by filing suit in a court of appropriate jurisdiction.