

ENCLOSURE 12: DEATH IMMINENT PROCEDURES

12001 General

The Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) processes Death Imminent (DI) cases on a 24 hour a day, 7-day-a-week basis.

12002 Normal Working Hours Notification

During normal working hours (M-F 0600-1530 EST), notification of a DI case to the PEB shall be made via the telephone. This call should be made as soon as a possible DI case becomes known to either the Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer (PEBLO), patient administration or medical boards section personnel.

12003 After Normal Working Hours Notification

a. After normal working hours, to include all weekends and holidays, notify the PEB by placing a telephone call to an electronic pager voice messaging system (numbers listed at the end of this enclosure). This will alert the PEB duty officer who will return the phone call as soon as possible. The duty officer will record all pertinent information concerning the case and then give the Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) instructions and a telephone number to be used to send all information via facsimile machine. The information required would be the Medical Board (MEB) and all applicable supporting documents.

b. In some situations, the duty officer may instruct the MTF representative to forward, via facsimile, the needed information directly to the PEB. This option would be elected if the time of the notification were close to the normal working hours for the PEB. In such a case, the duty officer would immediately proceed to the PEB to begin processing the case.

12004 Procedures

a. Current PEB manning levels directly impact the ability to process DI cases after normal working hours. MTFS must provide advance notification and sufficient lead-time to allow the PEB to do the following:

- (1) Constitute and convene the Informal Board
- (2) Vote the case
- (3) Ensure proper Legal Review
- (4) Issue a preliminary findings letter
- (5) Direct the appropriate service headquarters to retire the service member

b. Accordingly, MTFS can expect that from receipt of the MEB report at the PEB, a minimum of 4 hours is required to finalize a DI case.

c. DI cases will be processed in exactly the same sequence as all other cases before the PEB, except that they will be given first priority. All necessary steps will be followed and at no time will steps be compromised or eliminated to expedite processing. All DI cases

will be processed in accordance with statute and DOD and SECNAV instructions. In no case will a service member be retired after death.

d. Determination of death shall be under the laws of the State where the service member is located at the time of his/her evaluation or under military medical standards in effect for the foreign area where the member is located at the time of his/her evaluation when the member is outside the United States. The member's attending physician must submit a signed copy of Attachment A to the PEB. The physician dictating the medical board, after consultation with the member's attending physician, may also sign a copy of Attachment A for the attending physician.

e. All DI Medical Board Reports submitted to the PEB must state specifically that the service member is expected to die within the next 72 hours, and include medical evidence supporting this statement. Commanding officers or MTFS will ensure that this statement and supporting medical information required are included in DI MEB reports. Cases that do not state this will not be given DI status.

f. DI cases must include all necessary addenda and statements. Members determined to be incompetent must have a competency statement included in the medical board signed by three medical doctors, one of whom must be a psychiatrist.

g. A clear and legible copy of the Page 2 from the USN Service Record, or in the case of a Marine, the Record of Emergency Data (RED) from the Service Record Book, must accompany the competency board or statement.

h. If a Line Of Duty Determination (LODD) or Line Of Duty Investigation (LODI) is necessary, include it with all necessary endorsements. PEB will begin adjudicating the case, however, the PEB Preliminary Findings Letter will not be issued until receipt of the LODD or LODI.

i. Death Imminent cases involving general, flag, or medical officers will be processed in accordance with the procedures outlined in paragraph 3904. In order to meet strict timelines for such cases, the PPEB will retain the authority to medically retire all general, flag, and medical officers. In the event the general, flag, or medical officer who is being processed under Death Imminent procedures is also pending non-disability retirement, the PPEB will forward the case to the ASN(MR&A) for review the next working day. ASN(MR&A) will either reverse the PPEB decision or forward the case to ASD(HA) for review if the member has not since died.

12005 Death Imminent boards on members previously finalized by the PEB

When a service member becomes death imminent after having already been found Unfit to continue naval service with a disability rating of 100 percent, accepting those findings, and notification sent to service headquarters by the PEB, dictation of a new medical board is not required. Instead MTFs should notify the PEB during working hours, or the DI watch stander for the PEB after working hours, of the member's death imminent

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status so service headquarters can be officially notified and the member expeditiously processed by service headquarters for retirement.

12006 Telephone Numbers

a. Telephone numbers and the PIN number (1155191) to activate the electronic pager carried by the PEB duty officers are listed below by individual country. Follow all instructions given to leave a voice message. Identify the MTF from which you are calling. Give your name and leave a complete commercial and DSN telephone number with complete dialing instructions as appropriate.

FOR CONUS/HAWAII/PUERTO RICO:	1-800-759-8888
FOR GUAM:	1-800-671-0150
FOR ITALY (TO INCLUDE SIGONELA):	1678-77100
FOR JAPAN (TO INLCUDE OKINAWA):	0031-12-3373
FOR UNITED KINGDOM:	0800-89-3648
FOR SPAIN:	900-981-464

FOR GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA: Call the BUMED OOD (24 Hour Watch) at (202) 762-3211, DSN 762-3211. Identify yourself to the OOD and instruct the OOD to call 1-800-759-8888 and use the PIN 1155191. Instruct him/her to leave a voice message informing the PEB Duty Officer of a DI case from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Provide the OOD with the commercial and DSN telephone numbers to be called along with a point of contact.

b. In the event of a vendor change, telephone number, or PIN change to the electronic pager for the PEB Duty Officer, the change will be published via a naval message as soon as possible for widest possible dissemination and incorporation into this instruction.