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## MISSION

Delivering prompt, professional, independent legal counsel to fit, ready warriors determined to return to the mission and to ill, injured, and wounded Air and Space Professionals facing medical separation.



## WHAT ODC DOES FOR YOU

- Represents **you** and you alone. ODC does not work for the base chain of command, MTF, AFPC, or the Dept. of Veteran Affairs
- Provides **you** with confidential legal advice, counseling, and advocacy
- Advises **you** on DES appeal options with the Formal Physical Evaluation Board, the Dept. of Veteran Affairs, & SAF Personnel Council for Guard/ Reserve
- Fights for **you** at administrative hearings and appeals to the Dept. of Veteran Affairs and SAF

## OFFICE OF DISABILITY COUNSEL

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THE JUDGE ADVOCATE  
GENERAL CORPS

OFFICE OF  
DISABILITY COUNSEL  
(ODC)

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*Fighting for Air and Space  
Professionals across the globe.*



Facing medical separation  
from service?  
You don't have to go it alone!

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# Office of Disability Counsel (ODC)

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## **ELIGIBILITY:**

- ODC represents all Air and Space Force professionals including ARC members
- Anyone can call for general information about the Disability Evaluation System
- Advise on clients on choosing between Legacy DES and Integrated DES
- Clients can challenge their medical records and summaries via: Impartial Medical Review, Letter of Rebuttal, or Letter of Exception—we can help!
- Call us immediately after you receive your AF Form 356, informal board (IPEB) results, we can explain your options and advocate for you!

## **FAQs:**

### **Can the ODC make my doctor change his or her notes or help me change my diagnosis?**

No. We are not doctors and we cannot make a doctor change his or her medical opinion, but we can help you submit a letter of rebuttal or exception to the narrative summary or even help get you an independent medical review.

### **Can the ODC represent me at the Informal PEB (IPEB)?**

No. SMs do not have a right to appear at the IPEB or be represented; however, the ODC can provide advice prior to the IPEB on how to ensure your records are correct and complete.

### **I received my AF 356 (Results of IPEB Proceedings), what should I do?**

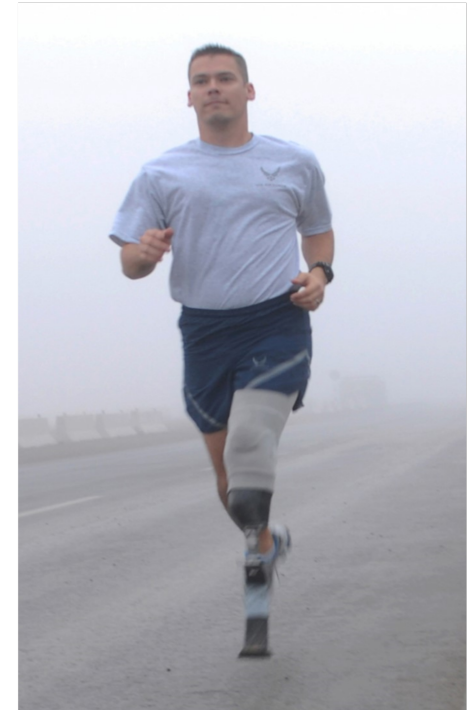
Contact ODC right away prior to making elections on the AF 1180. ODC can review your case with you, explain your appeal options based on your specific goals, and assist you in preparing your case. You only have **6 calendar days** to make your election so contacting us quickly is critical.

### **I want to be returned to duty, what can I do?**

Ensure your doctor knows what you want and that your records reflect how well you are doing, especially if your condition has improved. Also, ask your doctor whether he or she will modify your profile to reflect healthy physical fitness. If at possible, perform all parts of your job and complete a full PT test.

### **What happens if I request a Formal Physical Evaluation (FPEB) hearing?**

A hearing date will be set about 10 days from the date the SM signs the AF 1180 requesting the hearing. ODC can assist in identifying evidence and will advocate on the SM's behalf at the hearing. Timely contact with ODC is critical for sufficient preparation.



### **Can the ODC assist me with appealing my Dept. of Veteran Affairs rating?**

**Yes!** We can assist with a Dept. of Veteran Affairs rating reconsideration during the course of the DES process for your “unfitting” condition(s). Contact ODC before making your election on the AF Form 1180. Remember, you can also file a VA rating reconsideration after conclusion of their DES case.

### **I want to make my condition combat related, can ODC help?**

Yes. ODC can assist with combat relation or combat zone designation.