NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 17 – 18, 2012

Resolution No. 32: Enhancements to Integrated Disability Evaluation System Process
Origin: National Security Commission
Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The Disability Evaluation System (DES) and the more recent Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) were intended to provide a smooth transition from military to civilian life for wounded, ill and injured members of the military; and

WHEREAS, The IDES is fulfilling that objective albeit with long-elapsed periods between entry into IDES and discharge with service-connected compensation established; and

WHEREAS, Some wounded, ill and injured servicemembers have entered into the IDES system but later found fit to return to duty causing disruptions in their military career; and

WHEREAS, Completion of the IDES process results in the servicemember being discharged in civilian life with significant disabilities and handicaps to obtaining gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) assists those with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find and keep suitable employment; and

WHEREAS, Currently it is necessary for a wounded, ill or injured servicemember to obtain a memorandum rating of 20% or more from the VA to be eligible for the VR&E program; and

WHEREAS, It is known that disability ratings adjudicated at discharge will often be re-evaluated later in life, resulting in re-examination of the IDES records; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 17-18, 2012, That The American Legion urges the Department of Defense (DoD) to evaluate the processes used to admit servicemembers into the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) to ensure only those likely to separate from the military enter IDES; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) expand their memorandum of understanding so that all wounded, ill and injured servicemembers be eligible for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program immediately upon entry into IDES; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That electronic records of all IDES information be created for each servicemember in IDES and that such records be created in a format to enable transfer to and use by the VA.