



Physical Disability Evaluation System and Transition Program: Improvement Costs (Fiscal Year 2024)

Report to Congress

July 10, 2025



U.S. Coast Guard

Foreword

July 10, 2025

I am pleased to present the following report, “Physical Disability Evaluation System and Transition Program: Improvement Costs (Fiscal Year 2024),” prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 directs the submission of a report detailing the total aggregate Service-wide costs for members of the Coast Guard whose Physical Disability Evaluation System process has exceeded 90 days.

Pursuant to Congressional requirements, this report is provided to the following members of Congress:

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Please direct report inquiries to my Senate Liaison Office at (202) 224-2913 or House Liaison Office at (202) 225-4775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin E. Lunday".

Kevin E. Lunday
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Acting Commandant





Physical Disability Evaluation System and Transition Program: Improvement Costs (Fiscal Year 2024)

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I. Legislative Language

This report responds to the language set forth in Section 11411(f) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law Number 117-263), which reads:

SEC. 11411. IMPROVEMENTS TO PHYSICAL DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM AND TRANSITION PROGRAM.

(f) ANNUAL REPORT ON COSTS.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than annually, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that, for the preceding fiscal year—

(A) details the total aggregate service-wide costs described in subsection (b)(7)(A)(ii) for members of the Coast Guard whose Physical Disability Evaluation System process has exceeded 90 days; and

(B) includes for each such member—

(i) an accounting of such costs; and

(ii) the number of days that elapsed between the initiation and completion of the Physical Disability Evaluation System process.

(2) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—A report under paragraph (1) shall not include the personally identifiable information of any member of the Coast Guard.

II. Report

The Disability Evaluation System is intended to ensure fair application of physical disability separation and retirement provisions in Title 10, United States Code, Chapter 61. The Coast Guard uses the Physical Disability Evaluation System, while the Department of Defense primarily uses the Integrated Disability Evaluations System, reserving Physical Disability Evaluation System for specialty cases. In partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard began transitioning to the Integrated Disability Evaluations System on October 1, 2024

Tables 1 and 2 outline the Coast Guard's progress, with 52 closed and 77 open Disability Evaluation System cases that exceeded the 90-day processing threshold. The tables detail aggregate costs for these 129 members, covering gross pay (basic pay, subsistence allowance, and housing allowance) prior to taxes and other deductions, as well as processing time. Each case is listed by the total days from initiation to completion, focusing on those cases from Fiscal Year 2024 that exceeded 90 days.

**TABLE 1: Closed Cases: Pay Costs associated with Physical Disability
Evaluation System Process Duration (Fiscal Year 2024)**

Specialty	Fiscal Year 2024 Case Duration (Day)	Gross Pay (U.S. Dollars)
Chief Warrant Officer - Aviation	142	\$166,060.89
Health Services Technician	152	\$51,996.49
Culinary Specialist	268	\$51,594.02
Maritime Enforcement Specialist	184	\$58,459.00
Boatswain's Mate	251	\$75,443.43
Machinery Technician	286	\$37,915.43
Information System Technician	161	\$49,862.00
Gunner's Mate	226	\$8,380.08
Operations Specialist	115	\$59,495.41
Boatswain's Mate	337	\$38,294.43
Operational Specialist	115	\$59,495.41
Boatswain's Mate	282	\$161.00
Electricians Mate	260	\$65,594.29
Boatswains Mate	106	\$28,535.58
Maritime Enforcement Specialist	218	\$73,842.05
Aviation Maintenance Technician	197	\$44,247.61
Aviation Survival Technician	161	\$70,473.73
Boatswain's Mate	158	\$39,907.98
Maritime Enforcement Specialist	213	\$11,527.41
Boatswain's Mate	185	\$32,390.86
Machinery Technician	276	\$68,320.84
Yeoman	213	\$54,209.26
Boatswain's Mate	258	\$63,198.02
Yeoman	159	\$51,029.91
Machinery Technician	200	\$45,912.14
Maritime Enforcement Specialist	229	\$4,501.15

Specialty	Fiscal Year 2024 Case Duration (Day)	Gross Pay (U.S. Dollars)
Damage Controlman	207	\$40,419.13
Aviation Electrical Technician	163	\$38,079.71
Operations Specialist	251	\$42,360.73
Aviation Maintenance Technician	309	\$80,012.24
Boatswain's Mate	167	\$90,180.72
Boatswain's Mate	219	\$10,129.38
Maritime Science Technician	273	\$69,225.00
Aviation Maintenance Technician	187	\$18,384.37
Boatswains Mate	225	\$144,874.29
Maritime Enforcement Specialist	188	\$33,293.73
Storekeeper	168	\$36,236.40
Maritime Enforcement Specialist	217	\$55,012.60
Officer Non-Aviation	149	\$41,431.72
Maritime Enforcement Specialist	135	\$8,234.33
Maritime Enforcement Specialist	258	\$50,631.58
Seaman	253	\$45,755.05
Electrician's Mate	186	\$20,786.03
Operations Specialist	210	\$42,519.75
Operations Specialist	119	\$166,136.07
Operations Specialist	119	\$23,255.15
Seaman	151	\$29,818.19
Seaman	177	\$44,424.72
Boatswains Mate	172	\$27,163.47
Seaman	191	\$30,864.10
Machinery Technician	214	\$36,752.05
Operations Specialist	173	\$34,635.09
Total		\$2,571,464.02

**TABLE 2: Open Cases: Pay Costs associated with Physical Disability
Evaluation System Process Duration (Fiscal Year 2024)**

Specialty	Fiscal Year 2024 Case Duration (Day)	Gross Pay (U.S. Dollars)
Yeoman	231	\$1,184.88
Officer Non-Aviation	251	\$6,023.5
Damage Controlman	355	\$131,505.95
Maritime Enforcement Specialist	294	\$88,371.15
Maritime Science Technician	244	\$176,784.97
Chief Warrant Officer Finance & Supply	188	\$83,053.57
Officer Non-Aviation	364	\$160,608.24
Boatswain's Mate	201	\$76,182.59
Health Services Technician	308	\$93,351.50
Operations Specialist	172	\$50,441.09
Maritime Enforcement Specialist	265	\$70,452.14
Culinary Specialists	193	\$63,910.57
Boatswain's Mate	293	\$78,524.00

Specialty	Fiscal Year 2024 Case Duration (Day)	Gross Pay (U.S. Dollars)
Boatswain's Mate	153	\$49,617.03
Storekeeper	203	\$62,701.63
Boatswain's Mate	182	\$53,612.00
Boatswain's Mate	250	\$5,795.08
Storekeeper	175	\$53,040.63
Boatswain's Mate	248	\$72,421.31
Storekeeper	193	\$47,131.98
Electrician's Mate	206	\$68,586.23
Operations Specialist	160	\$48,748.00
Boatswain's Mate	192	\$58,014.17
Operations Specialist	188	\$52,917.97
Aviation Electrical Technician	176	\$59,025.37
Culinary Specialist	167	\$59,241.46
Boatswain's Mate	120	\$38,855.14
Maritime Enforcement Specialist	255	\$8,941.24
Boatswain's Mate	362	\$82,626.50
Boatswain's Mate	321	\$94,809.64
Culinary Specialist	267	\$96,857.11
Maritime Science Technician	102	\$985.66
Boatswain's Mate	187	\$6,550.24
Seaman	164	\$21,867.99
Electronics Technician	168	\$3,227.39
Machinery Technician	243	\$54,372.12
Boatswain's Mate	341	\$100,092.03
Boatswain's Mate	173	\$39,856.11
Maritime Science Technician	124	\$2,184.47
Boatswain's Mate	238	\$88,537.87
Machinery Technician	293	\$82,388.46
Machinery Technician	181	\$31,101.62
Gunner's Mate	329	\$97,172.50
Health Services Technician	221	\$52,235.72
Storekeeper	105	\$23,371.13
Boatswain's Mate	213	\$52,177.39
Culinary Specialist	245	\$61,355.00
Officer Non-Aviation	209	\$59,424.07
Yeoman	315	\$93,420.00
Culinary Specialist	306	\$76,755.73
Culinary Specialist	263	\$164,190.15
Damage Controlman	290	\$67,062.50
Maritime Enforcement Specialist	203	\$50,375.90
Machinery Technician	187	\$48,969.96
Officer Non-Aviation	191	\$70,745.62
Culinary Specialist	346	\$84,358.51
Machinery Technician	129	\$22,371.83
Boatswain's Mate	172	\$1,156.99
Machinery Technician	143	\$27,386.03

Specialty	Fiscal Year 2024 Case Duration (Day)	Gross Pay (U.S. Dollars)
Operations Specialist	199	\$45,912.14
Seaman	151	\$31,322.79
Machinery Technician	136	\$29,997.23
Culinary Specialist	195	\$26,891.20
Operations Specialist	216	\$37,479.09
Culinary Specialist	244	\$45,366.57
Machinery Technician	202	\$35,396.17
Maritime Enforcement Specialist	101	\$26,516.11
Storekeeper	252	\$55,629.00
Electrician's Mate	136	\$29,322.57
Seaman	263	\$43,960.45
Operations Specialist	95	\$23,542.90
Storekeeper	110	\$22,805.20
Machinery Technician	119	\$20,106.58
Seaman	101	\$22,963.72
Operations Specialist	173	\$34,635.09
Seaman	111	\$25,014.48
Boatswain's Mate	215	\$22,141.78
Seaman	248	\$29,348.67
Total		\$4,185,381.37

III. Conclusion

Entry into the Disability Evaluation System is limited to active-duty members and reserve members on active-duty orders with a disability that prevents the service member from performing their duties, necessitating separation from the Service. While some cases involve conditions that completely preclude members from service, most personnel within the Physical Disability Evaluation System process continue to contribute to Coast Guard missions in limited duty roles.

The Coast Guard has made measurable progress in reducing Physical Disability Evaluation System processing times by transitioning in phases to the Integrated Disability Evaluations System, a change that began October 1, 2024, and allows for concurrent fitness and disability evaluations. This alignment accelerates the timeline for service members to receive determinations and access benefits. In addition, ongoing modernization efforts, targeted staff training, and strengthened interagency coordination have bolstered the Coast Guard's capacity to deliver more timely and efficient evaluations.

The Coast Guard began implementing the Integrated Disability Evaluations System on October 1, 2024, and remains committed to improving process efficiency and ensuring timely access to benefits for service members. By prioritizing accurate, swift evaluations and close collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Coast Guard can reduce delays and improve service members' overall experience within the disability evaluation system.