BENEFITS DELIVERY AT DISCHARGE shooting script

By Ray Flores

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MOTION GRAPHIC: Title slate then fill the frame with clock and pull out

### RAY

##### If your time in the military is running out whether you’re an active duty Servicemember or full time National Guard or Reserve…

CG: lower third that reads “Ray Flores/Army Veteran”

ASHLEY

#### (walks into frame camera right)

##### And you plan on filing a VA disability claim, this report’s for you.

CG: ASHLEY- lower third that reads “Ashley Torres/ Army Soldier”

Two-shot:

RAY

##### We’re here to explain Benefits Delivery at Discharge or B-D-D.

ASHLEY

##### Let me tell you why BDD is so attractive to me as an active duty servicemember. Since I’m using this pre-discharge program my paperwork is handled by different claims personnel than if I waited till after I got out. That means I’ll get my claims filed faster and get my benefits quicker.

### RAY (VO)

##### Last year, the Department of Defense separated around 120 thousand troops from the military. And according to Veterans Benefits Administration – VBA – during that same timeframe about 26 thousand filed BDD claims. So what was the average wait of those submitting BDD claims?

### ASHLEY

##### On average, each Veteran had a decision just 74 days after separating or retiring. What we’re talking about is having your benefits squared away very quickly after hanging up your uniform for the last time. Here is how it works:

Motion Graphic: Cut out of ASHLEY with a line between her to the date January 1st 2011

RAY (VO)

##### Let’s say this is your separation or retirement date

We highlight the portion of the timeline that applies to BDD.

ASHLEY (VO)

##### You can apply for BDD within 60 to 180 days before ending your term of service- or ETS date.

RAY (VO)

##### If you have less than 60 days left there is another program you can apply for which we will cover at the end of this story.

Wide shot of Fort Meade

ASHLEY

##### So how do you start? The first step is to find your VA representative on post. Let’s say you are stationed here at Fort Meade, Maryland

Motion Graphic: CU of Web address bar scrolls as “ebenefits.va.gov” types in.

ASHLEY (VO)

##### Under “Tools” click Facility and scroll down to “National VA Facilities Locator.” From there, we click on “Maryland.” Then scroll down to “Fort Meade.”

Motion Graphic: “Tools”->”National VA Facilities Locator”->”Maryland”->”Fort Meade”

RAY (VO)

##### Under “Tools” click Facility and scroll down to “National VA Facilities Locator.” From there, we click on “Maryland.” Then scroll down to “Fort Meade.”

WS ASHLEY in front of Kimbrough

ASHLEY

##### That brings us to LINSAY Foster’s office at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center on post. She’s Fort Meade’s Veterans Affairs contact.

(1)Time lapse of ASHLEY walking into Kimbrough dissolve(2) over the shoulder shot of ASHLEY walking up to LINSAY camera zooms into LINSAY (3) LINSAY will read the entire line below but in the middle there will be a Pop that introduces her and gives RAY a chance to move into position.

CG: ASHLEY- Vector Graphic Pop that reads

“ASHLEY Torres Army Soldier

LINSAY

##### We recommend contacting your local VA rep. So you can find out any details that might be specific to your post.

Camera pans down to RAY at his seat.

RAY

##### And you’ll have someone to guide you through the process if there are any issues.

Motion Graphic: (1)Outline “VA Form 21-526c” Emphasize that there are two ways to submit- (2) In person…

RAY (VO)

##### The next step is to submit VA Form 21-526c. That’s the,Pre-Discharge Compensation Claim Form. You can do that with a paper copy submitted to your VA representative. Or you can take it to the nearest VA regional office, which can also be found with ebenefits-DOT-va-DOT-gov website.

Filling the frame with papers ASHLEY then holds up only two

ASHLEY

##### Here’s some good news… The VA Form had been 16 pages. But recently it was streamlined to Two!

Two-shot: RAY hands LINSAY his copy of his medical records.

RAY

##### With the completed VA Form 21-526c that’s the pre-discharge compensation claim form, you’ll also need to submit your service treatment records. Copies of the originals are fine for this purpose.

Go to Close up of LINSAY

LINSAY

##### This is really important. So remember! To take full advantage of Benefits Delivery at Discharge you must submit your VA 21-526c and service treatment records together.

Lock Raven Clinic- exterior

### ASHLEY

#### (walking through the front entrance of Lock Raven)

##### The next step, VA will inform you when and where the phases of your VA/DoD Medical separation exam will take place. In this case we are at Baltimore’s Lock Raven VA Outpatient Clinic.

She walks through the double doors and time warps around the corner. Camera walks into the examination room where a doctor is checking out Torres.

ASHLEY

##### Considering how time sensitive this accelerated claims process is, you need to make yourself available for your examination appointments.

### DR KORESH

##### If you’re a no show you could end up being a no go!

### RAY (VO)

##### Now you know you can apply for Benefits Delivered at Discharge within 60 to 180 days before you get out. But if you have less than that, you’re not out-of-luck.

### ASHLEY (VO)

##### With just 1-to-59 days left on active duty, you can apply for disability benefits using the second program we mentioned earlier -- QuickStart, It allows you to apply for benefits before discharge. But because of the fast turn around, your exam may have to be completed after separation. Make sure you see your VA representative for the differences in the program.

Motion Graphic: ASHLEY Popping up on Screen like beginning of story

ASHLEY

##### We know this is a lot of information to take in all at one time.

RAY

##### So remember you can go to the Department of Veterans Affairs YouTube page and watch this as many times as you need.

Two-shot:

ASHLEY

##### And be sure to share it with other servicemembers who may be transitioning out of the military.

RAY

##### Good luck to you in the future. And thank you for your service!

#END

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