Tour of MAP-D

Trainee Handout

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Objectives

The **VSR** will be able to:

* Understand the purpose of the **MAP-D** program
* Navigate the **MAP-D** program
* Draft a development letter using the **MAP-D** program

References

* [**MAP-D User Guide**](http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/VetsNet/Claims_Docs/webhelp/Claim_Development1.htm)

**Topic 1: A Tour of MAP-D**

**The Purpose of MAP-D**

**MAP-D** stands for Modern Awards Processing Development. It is a legacy program that was used to draft development letters and track development items. Public contact employees could also use **MAP-D** to respond to claim inquiries from claimants. **MAP-D** has been largely replaced by **VBMS Core**; however there are some development actions that can only be accomplished in **MAP-D**. ***Most importantly, all dual claim development (compensation and pension) must be done through MAP-D.***

**MAP-D** includes the following features:

* Comprehensive information about the claimant and the claim
* Letter generation

Although **MAP-D** can do much more than what is listed above, **VBMS Core** should be used to accomplish any other tasks not listed above (i.e., pending issue control, creating notes, and development tracking).

**How to Log-on to MAP-D**

To log into **MAP-D**, you should pull up the **Start Menu** and navigate to the **MAP-D** program icon. There are two ways to accomplish this:

1. Click on the **Start Menu**. Click on **All Programs**. Click on **VBAPPS**. Click on **VETSNET**. Click on **MAPD T11**.
2. Click on the **Start Menu**. Type **MAPD** into the search bar. Click on **MAPD T11**.

If this is your first time logging into a VA program for the day, a login screen will pop up before **MAP-D** is loaded. Enter you station number and **CSS** (Common Security Systems) password. **MAP-D** will then load.

**DO NOT** create a shortcut to the program on your desktop as this could prevent updates from being automatically downloaded to your computer.

**Tour of MAP-D**

There are multiple screens in **MAP-D** and different ways to navigate to them. Since **MAP-D** is only utilized to draft certain development letters that cannot be accomplished in **VBMS Core**, the tour will be limited to the pertinent screens and methods to reach those screens.

After logging into **MAP-D**, the first screen you will encounter will be a **Release Notes** screen. After waiting for the log-on script to run, click **OK** to enter into the **MAP-D** program. The next screen you will encounter will be the **Work List** screen. This screen will not contain any information and is no longer utilized.

There are a number of drop-down menus along the top of the program window:

* **File**
* **Edit**
* **Claims**
* **Profiles**
* **Auto Development**
* **GoTo**
* **Other Apps**
* **Help**

The only drop-down menus that are currently used are the **File**, **Edit**, **Other Apps**, and **Help** options. The **File** menu allows you to search for a claim, initiate development (more on this later), and exit the program. You can also exit **MAP-D** by clicking on the **X** button on the upper right portion of the **MAP-D** window. Traditional Windows hot keys (i.e., **CTRL+C** for copy) will not work within **MAP-D**. If you need to copy, paste or cut something from or into **MAP-D**, you will have to use the function under **Edit** menu. If needed, you can launch other apps (i.e., **SHARE**, **CAPRI**, or **COVERS**) from the **Other Apps** menu; however, users generally use the **Windows Start Menu** to launch these apps. Lastly, the **Help** menu has options that lead the user to the MAP-D User Guide, release notes, and other help documents. These documents are still being updated and do contain useful information. If you encounter an issue with **MAP-D**, you can refer to these help documents or your station’s MAP-D Super User.

To get to the **Customer Service** screen (which is where development actions are completed), click on the **File** menu and then the **Search** option. A pop-up window will appear. Insert the Veteran’s claim number or social security number into this pop-up window. The **Customer Service** screen contains a plethora of information about the Veteran’s current and past claims. For the intent of this training, we will not cover the entirety of this screen because all of this information can be found in **VBMS Core**.

The next step on our path to the development area of **MAP-D** is to navigate to the **Contention** screen. On the left side of the screen, click on the pending claim (i.e., 010, 020, or 110) and then click on the **Contentions** button on the bottom-right side of the screen. You will now be on the **Contentions** screen. This screen also contains a plethora of information, but again all of this information can be found in VBMS.

To create a development letter addressing a third party records holder, click on the **3rd Party** button. To create a development letter addressing the Veteran, click on the **Claimant Ltr** button. If at any time, you are presented with a question to initiate automatic development, you should always select **NO**. The Automatic Development function has been broken for some time and is disabled in **MAP-D**. Selecting **YES** will just cause an error to occur within the **MAP-D** program.

**Topic 2: Creating a Development Letter**

**Third Party Development Letters**

There are three categories of third party requests, **Letter**, **NPRC/DPRIS**, and **VHA**. The **Letter** category is the only category that actually contains letters that are sent out to a third party requesting records. The **NPRC/DPRIS** and **VHA** categories contain development items that are accomplished through **PIES**, **DPRIS**, **CAPRI**, or other programs. Any of the items under the **NPRC/DPRIS** or **VHA** options are not currently being utilized as these items can be found in **VBMS Core**.

Unlike development letters that the VA sends to the claimant, only one development action should be selected per third party development letter. After clicking on the **Letter** radial button, select the appropriate development action on the left side of the screen. Then select the **>** button to move the development action over to the right side of the screen. Depending on the development action, a pop-up window may appear. If this occurs, you should fill in the appropriate information. Next select the **Add/Edit** button and enter the third party record holder’s complete address. Before continuing on, you should ensure all information has been selected and entered correctly up to this point. To move to the **Print Letter** screen, select the **To Continue** button. Unlike **VBMS** **Core**, you can not only preview the letter but also make changes to the letter itself in a **Word** document. To view the letter, select the development letter and the **Word** button. This will open the document in **Word**. You can make any necessary changes, save the document, and the close out of the **Word** document. Just because changes can be made to the development letter, does not mean that changes must be made. Please ensure any changes to VA approved language are necessary and correct.

Notice that a claimant letter was created concurrently with the third party development letter notifying the Veteran of our development attempts. You do not need to worry about the content of this letter as it will not be used. **VBMS Core** should be used to notify the Veteran of these third party development actions. The user can select the claimant letter and remove it from the **Print Letter** screen. To do this, select the claimant letter and then select the **Edit** button. Select any development items on the right side of the screen and select the **<** button to remove them from the letter. Then select the **To Continue** button to return to the **Print Letter** screen. The claimant letter should now be gone from the **Print Letter** screen.

After removing the claimant letter and checking the third part development letter for accuracy, select the **Final Print** button. Before selecting this button, ensure that your default printer is set to **Adobe PDF**. If it is not, then you will have to change your default printer, exit **MAP-D**, and then return to this screen. You should then generate a **PDF** version of the development letter and uploaded that into **VBMS Core**. You can then print the letter from **VBMS Core**. You should only be printing one physical copy of the letter (for the third party records holder. Remember to create a tracked item in **VBMS Core** to track the development items in this letter.

After selecting the **Final Print** button, you will be taken to the **Claim Level Suspense Method** screen. You should not select anything on this screen other than the **Cancel** button. A pop-up will appear that asks whether you want to save or not. You should not save. You should use tracked items in **VBMS Core** to control the suspense reason. You will now be back on the **Customer Service** screen.

Since **MAP-D** is considered a legacy system and the VA is not using the program to track any development, you will need to remove the third party development letter just created. To accomplish this, select **Letters** underneath the pending claim. Select the letter just created and then select the **Return to Development** button. You will now be back on the **Customer Service** screen. Select the **Non Follow Up-Dev Actions Not Completed** text. This will take you back to the **Print Letter** screen. The same steps to remove the claimant letter can be used to remove the third party letter. Once the third party development letter has been removed, you can select the **Close** button.

Remember; the process of creating a development letter through **MAP-D** only needs to be completed when the development action needed cannot be accomplished through **VBMS Core**.

**Letters to the Veteran/Claimant**

On the **Claimant Letter** screen, there are a number of development items you can choose by navigating through the drop-down categories. Remember; you should only use **MAP-D** for development items that are not available in **VBMS Core**.

You can add development items to the claimant letter using the same method described above for third party development letters. However, unlike the development process for third party letters, you can select multiple development actions to be included in the claimant letter.

Just as with the third party development letters, occasionally a pop-up box may appear when selecting development items. Be sure to correctly fill in the box before moving on.

After selecting all necessary development items, select the **To Continue** button. You will now be taken to the **Print Letter** Screen. Before reviewing the letter, a claimant letter format will need to be selected. In most scenarios, the format will always be **Subsequent Contact**. You can then review and edit the letter using the same process as mentioned above.

The printing process is also the same as mentioned in the third party development letters section above. Remember; you should ensure their default printer is **Adobe PDF**, upload that letter to **VBMS Core**, print the letter from **VBMS Core** and add any tracked items in **VBMS Core**. You should also delete the letter following the same process mentioned above.