



May 2, 2025

JAMAR D LITTLE
6529 S EBERHART AVE
CHICAGO IL 60637

We made a decision on your VA benefits.

Dear Jamar Little:

This letter will guide you through the information you should know and steps you may take now that VA has made a decision about your benefits.

Your Benefit Information:

- The previous denial of service connection for dizziness is confirmed and continued.
- The previous denial of service connection for gastric ulcer (claimed as stomach ulcer) is confirmed and continued.
- The previous denial of service connection for migraine including migraine variants. is confirmed and continued.
- Service connection for ventricular arrhythmias (claimed as chest pain) associated with TERA participation is granted with an evaluation of 10 percent effective February 15, 2024.
- Service connection for pseudofolliculitis barbae (claimed as skin condition) is denied.
- A decision on entitlement to compensation for left upper, middle and lower radicular group radiculopathy (arm paresthesia) is deferred.
- A decision on entitlement to compensation for peripheral neuropathy, left lower extremity is deferred.
- A decision on entitlement to compensation for right lower extremity sciatic nerve radiculopathy (peripheral neuropathy, right lower extremity) is deferred.
- A decision on entitlement to compensation for right upper, middle and lower radicular group radiculopathy (arm paresthesia) is deferred.

Your combined rating evaluation is:

We have included with this letter:

1. Explanation of Payment
2. Additional Benefits
3. Where to Send Your Correspondence
4. VA Form 20-0998
5. Rating Decision - Narrative (05/01/2025)
6. Fraud Prevention Attachment

Contact information:

Web: www.va.gov
Phone: 1-800-827-1000
TDD: 711
To send questions online: visit
<https://ask.va.gov/>

Social Media:

Twitter: @VAVetBenefits
Facebook: www.facebook.com/VeteransBenefits

Your representative:

You appointed NATIONAL ASSOC. OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER as your accredited representative. They have also received a copy of this letter.

They can help you with any questions you have about your claim.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the *Veterans Crisis Line* by dialing 988 and then pressing 1.



| Combined Rating Evaluation | Effective Date |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 0% | Jan 5, 2023 |
| 70% | Jul 3, 2023 |
| 80% | Jan 16, 2024 |
| 80% | Feb 15, 2024 |
| 90% | Jul 10, 2024 |

How VA Combines Percentages

If you have more than one condition, VA will combine percentages to determine your overall disability rating. The percentages assigned for each of your conditions may not always add up to your combined rating evaluation. The following website has additional information about how VA combines percentages: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp#howcalc>.

As a Veteran with a service-connected disability, you may be eligible for up to \$40,000 in VA life insurance benefits. Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) is guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance available to all service-connected, disabled veterans with no time limit to apply as long as you are age 80 or under. Veterans age 81 and over are still eligible in certain circumstances. Visit the VALife Insurance website, <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/valife/>, for further information.

Your monthly entitlement amount is shown below:

| Monthly Entitlement Amount | Payment Start Date | Reason |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| \$2,425.96 | Dec 1, 2024 | Cost of Living Adjustment |
| \$2,297.96 | Feb 17, 2026 | Minor Child Adjustment |

We are currently paying you as a Veteran with one dependent. *Let us know right away if there is any change in the status of your dependents.*

If payments are due, you should receive your first payment, if not already in receipt of payments, within 7-10 days of this notice.

See **Explanation of Payment** for more details about your payment.

Your payment will be directed to the financial institution and account number that you specified. To confirm when your payment was deposited, please contact your financial institution.



If this account is no longer open,

please notify us immediately.

What You Should Do If You Disagree With Our Decision

If you do not agree with our decision, you have one year from the date of this letter to select a review option to protect your initial filing date for effective date purposes. You must file your request on the required application form for the review option desired. The table below represents the review options and their respective required application form.

| Review Option | Required Application Form |
|---|--|
| Supplemental Claim | VA Form 20-0995, <i>Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim</i> |
| Higher-Level Review | VA Form 20-0996, <i>Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review</i> |
| Appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals | VA Form 10182, <i>Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)</i> |

Please note: You may not request a higher-level review of a higher-level review decision issued by VA.

The enclosed VA Form 20-0998, *Your Right To Seek Review Of Our Decision*, explains your options in greater detail and provides instructions on how to request further review. You may download a copy of any of the required application forms noted above by visiting www.va.gov/vaforms/ or you may contact us by telephone at 1-800-827-1000 and we will mail you any form you need.

You can visit www.va.gov/decision-reviews to learn more about how the disagreement process works.

Important: If you have a service-connected condition which you feel has worsened and is no longer accurately reflected by the level of disability assigned, please use VA Form 21-526EZ, *Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits* to request an increased evaluation. However, if you disagree with a decision made within the last year, please refer to the enclosed VA Form 20-0998, *Your Right To Seek Review Of Our Decision*. If you would like us to review a claim that was denied more than one year ago, and you have new and relevant evidence for us to consider, please use VA Form 20-0995, *Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim*.



LITTLE, JAMAR D

If you would like to obtain or access evidence used in making this decision, please contact us by telephone, email, or letter as noted below letting us know what you would like to obtain. Some evidence may be obtained online by visiting www.va.gov.

You may also use the following link to access your Public Contact representative at your local VA Regional Office for assistance at <https://va.my.site.com/VAVERA/s/>.

Thank you for your service,

Regional Office Director

cc: NATIONAL ASSOC. OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER



Explanation of Payment

Your monthly entitlement amount includes payment for the following dependent(s):

| Payment Start Date | Award Dependent(s) |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dec 1, 2024 | Jacoree |
| Feb 17, 2026 | None |

Let us know right away if there is any change in the status of your dependent(s).

Your combined evaluation is 30 percent or more disabling; therefore, you may be eligible for additional benefits based on dependency. We may be able to pay you retroactive benefits for your dependents if you submit your dependency claim within a year from the date of this letter. If you wish to notify us of your dependents, please do so through eBenefits, an electronic resource in a self-service environment. Use of these resources often helps us serve you faster! Just visit www.eBenefits.va.gov to enroll and submit your dependency information. If you would prefer to submit your request to add your dependents to your award in paper, please complete, sign, and return VA Form 21-686c, *Application Request to Add and/or Remove Dependents*. You can locate the appropriate form(s), please the visit the following website: www.va.gov/vaforms.

Please Take Action: What Things Affect Your Right to Payment?

Please notify VA **immediately** if there is a change in any condition affecting your right to continued payments. If you don't notify us of these changes immediately, you may have to return any overpayments. Those changes include:

| Evidence received shows a change is warranted. |
|--|
| <p>Military Pay or Worker's Compensation: Your payments may be affected by the following, which you must bring to our attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reentrance into active military or naval service. • Receipt of armed forces service retirement pay, unless your retirement pay has already been reduced because of award of disability compensation. • Receipt of benefits from the Office of Federal Employees Compensation. • Receipt of active duty or drill pay as a reservist or member of the National Guard. |
| <p>Dependents: If you have a disability rating of 30 percent or more, you must advise VA of any change with your spouse or children.</p> |
| <p>Hospitalization: If your award includes Aid and Attendance benefits, we may reduce this additional allowance if you are admitted to a hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care at VA expense.</p> |



| Evidence received shows a change is warranted. |
|---|
| Incarceration: Benefits will be reduced if you are incarcerated in a federal, state, or local penal institution for more than 60 days for conviction of a felony. |
| Lack of Cooperation: We may stop monthly payments if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• fail to submit evidence we requested,• fail to attend a VA examination when requested, or• Submit false or fraudulent evidence to VA, or cause false or fraudulent evidence to be submitted to VA. |
| Fraud/Lying to Government: The law provides severe penalties, which include fines, imprisonment, or both, for the fraudulent acceptance of any payment to which you are not entitled. We may verify information you submit through computer-matching programs with other agencies. |

Additional Benefits

| |
|--|
| Education, Training, and Employment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Education, training, and employment:</u> For more information, please call 1-800-827-1000 or visit www.va.gov/vre. |
| Medical Care and Treatment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Mental Health Counseling:</u> For more information, please visit www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/.• <u>Blind Rehabilitation:</u> For more information, please visit www.va.gov/blindrehab/.• <u>Change in Compensation Benefits:</u> For more information, please call 1-877-222-VETS or visit www.va.gov/healtheligibility.• <u>Clothing Allowance:</u> For more information, please call 1-800-827-1000 or visit https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/special-claims/clothing-allowance/.• <u>VA Medical Care:</u> Present a copy of this notification letter to the Patient Registration/Eligibility Section at your nearest VA Medical Center https://www.va.gov/find-locations.• <u>Dental Benefits:</u> For more information, please contact your nearest VA Medical Center or outpatient clinic https://www.va.gov/find-locations. |
| Home Adaptations/Loans, Automobile Benefits, and Life Insurance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Loans:</u> For more information, please visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/. |



- **Funding Fee Refund:** If you paid a funding fee at the closing of a VA guaranteed home loan and your VA compensation award provides an effective rating date that was prior to your loan closing date, then you may be eligible for a funding fee refund. Please contact either your current mortgage servicer or a VA Regional Loan Center at (877) 827-3702 to begin the refund process.
- **Government life insurance:** As a Veteran with a service-connected disability, you may be eligible for up to \$40,000 in VA life insurance benefits. Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) is guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance available to all service-connected, disabled veterans with no time limit to apply as long as you are age 80 or under. Veterans age 81 and over are still eligible in certain circumstances. For more information on VALife, please visit <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/valife/>.

Armed Forces Commissary and Exchange:

- You may be entitled to Armed Forces Commissary and Exchange privileges. Honorably discharged Veterans with a service-connected disability; Former Prisoners of War; Purple Heart or Medal of Honor recipients; military retirees; members of the reserves; and their dependents may qualify for entitlement to this additional benefit. For more information, please visit va.gov/resources/commissary-and-exchange-privileges-for-veterans.

Payment for Travel:

- **Payment for Travel:** You may be eligible for reimbursement for beneficial travel mileage for previous VA medical appointments because of your newly granted service-connected conditions. You must make a request for such reimbursement **within 30 days of this letter** by contacting the Enrollment office at your Medical Center and providing a copy of this letter.

State Benefits:

- **State Benefits:** For more information, please visit www.va.gov/statedva.htm.

Veterans Signals (VSignals), a VA Customer Experience Survey

VA is conducting short surveys to gather feedback regarding the new decision review process. VA will randomly select survey participants from individuals who filed a request for a decision review. The survey will be sent via email and should take less than three minutes to complete. If selected, you will receive a survey within 10 days of the date on your notification letter. To be considered for VA surveys, please review your va.gov profile and ensure we have your current email address. The survey may not route to your inbox, so please check your junk folder.



Where to Send Your Correspondence

Documents may be submitted by mail, in person at a VA regional office or electronically. However, VA recommends submitting correspondence electronically as this is the fastest method of receipt.

VA provides several tools to assist in electronic submission. To learn more about how to submit documents and claims electronically, visit www.va.gov/disability/upload-supporting-evidence. You can also go directly to access.va.gov to digitally upload any correspondence using QuickSubmit.

By visiting www.va.gov you can also check your claim status and learn about other VA benefits.

If you need assistance, you can find a local, accredited representative at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso/>

If you prefer to mail your correspondence, please use the related mailing address below:

| | |
|---|---|
| Compensation Benefits Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation Intake Center P.O. Box 4444 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (844) 531-7818 | Pension & Survivors Benefits Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Intake Center P.O. Box 5365 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (844) 655-1604 |
| Board of Veterans' Appeals Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals P.O. Box 27063 Washington, DC 20038 Toll Free Fax: (844) 678-8979 | Fiduciary Department of Veterans Affairs Fiduciary Intake Center P.O. Box 5211 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Phone: 1-800-827-1000 Toll Free Fax: (888) 581-6826 |

These addresses serve **all United States and foreign locations.**

Veterans Crisis Line:
Dial 988 then Press 1

You can also send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. For more information, visit www.veteranscrisisline.net

YOUR RIGHT TO SEEK REVIEW OF OUR DECISION

This document outlines your right to seek review of our decision on any issue with which you disagree. You may generally select one of three different review options for each issue decided by VA. However, you may not request review of the same issue using more than one option at the same time. Below is information on the three different review options.

| | Supplemental Claim | Higher-Level Review | Board Appeal |
|---|---|---|--|
| What Is This? | A reviewer will determine whether new and relevant evidence changes the prior decision. | An experienced claims adjudicator will review your decision using the same evidence VA considered in the prior decision. | A Veterans Law Judge at the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) will review your decision. |
| By Selecting This Option | <p>You are adding or identifying new and relevant evidence to support your claim that we did not previously consider.</p> <p>VA will assist you in gathering new and relevant evidence that you identify to support your claim.</p> <p>You are entitled to a hearing at any time in the supplemental claim process.</p> | <p>You have no additional evidence to submit to support your claim, but you believe there was an error in the prior decision.</p> <p>You can request an optional, one-time, informal conference with a Higher-Level Reviewer to identify specific errors in the case, although requesting this conference may delay the review.</p> | <p>You must choose a docket:</p> <p>Direct Review - You do not want to submit evidence or have a hearing.</p> <p>Evidence Submission - You choose to submit additional evidence without a hearing.</p> <p>Hearing - You choose to have a hearing with a Veterans Law Judge.</p> |
| Goal To Complete | 125 days on average | 125 days on average | 365 days on average for Direct Review (longer for the other options) |
| Form To File* | VA Form 20-0995 <i>Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim</i> | VA Form 20-0996 <i>Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review</i> | VA Form 10182 <i>Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)</i> |
| Scan QR Code to Access Form | | | |
| Further Options After This Decision Review | You may request another Supplemental Claim, a Higher-Level Review, or a Board Appeal. | You may request a Supplemental Claim or a Board Appeal. | You may request a Supplemental Claim or appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. |



For most VA benefits, **you have 1 year from the date on your decision notice to request a decision review to ensure the earliest possible effective date.** Consult your decision notice for specific limitations.

* All forms listed are available at www.va.gov/find-forms/ or use your mobile device camera to scan the QR code to take you directly to the form you select.

If you do not submit a decision review request within the required time, you may only seek review through the following:

- A request to revise the decision based on a clear and unmistakable error, or
- A Supplemental Claim. If you file a Supplemental Claim after the **1-year** time limit, the effective date for any resulting award of benefits generally will be tied to the date VA receives the Supplemental Claim.
 - If you wish to have a hearing during the supplemental claim process, you can contact us online through Ask VA: <https://ask.va.gov/> or call us toll-free at 1-800-827-1000 (TTY:711).

While most decision review options are available to you, there are limitations based on the type of decision you received.

- If you are a party to a **contested claim** - such as claims for apportionment, attorney fee disagreement, or multiple parties filing for survivor's benefits or claims for life insurance - your *only* option for disagreeing with your decision is to file a Board Appeal within **60 days** of the date on your decision notice.
- If you are seeking review of an **insurance decision** you have an *additional* option to challenge VA's decision by filing a complaint with a United States district court in the jurisdiction in which you reside within 6 years from when the right of action first accrues. Consult your decision notice for details on what options are available and where to send the request.

Get Help with Your Review Request:

For more information on all the available review options, contact us at 1-800-827-1000 or visit www.va.gov/decision-reviews/. If you need help filing a decision review, you may want to work with an accredited attorney, claims agent, or a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representative. Additional information about working with an accredited attorney, claims agent, or VSO representative is available at www.va.gov/decision-reviews/get-help-with-review-request/. You can find a searchable database of VA-recognized representatives at www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation.

Scan the QR Code to Open the Appropriate Decision Review Website Page



**Supplemental
Claim**



**Higher-Level
Review**



**Board
Appeal**



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Regional Office**

JAMAR LITTLE

**VA File Number
360 78 2144**

**Represented By:
NATIONAL ASSOC. OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER
Rating Decision
05/01/2025**

INTRODUCTION

The records reflect that you are a Veteran of the Gulf War Era. You served in the Navy from June 23, 2006 to December 1, 2006. We received your supplemental claim on September 20, 2024. Based on a review of the evidence listed below, we have made the following decision(s) on your claim.

DECISION

1. The previous denial of service connection for dizziness is confirmed and continued.
2. The previous denial of service connection for gastric ulcer (claimed as stomach ulcer) is confirmed and continued.
3. The previous denial of service connection for migraine including migraine variants. is confirmed and continued.
4. Service connection for ventricular arrhythmias (claimed as chest pain) associated with TERA participation is granted with an evaluation of 10 percent effective February 15, 2024.



5. Service connection for pseudofolliculitis barbae (claimed as skin condition) is denied.
6. A decision on entitlement to compensation for left upper, middle and lower radicular group radiculopathy (arm paresthesia) is deferred.
7. A decision on entitlement to compensation for peripheral neuropathy, left lower extremity is deferred.
8. A decision on entitlement to compensation for right lower extremity sciatic nerve radiculopathy (peripheral neuropathy, right lower extremity) is deferred.
9. A decision on entitlement to compensation for right upper, middle and lower radicular group radiculopathy (arm paresthesia) is deferred.

EVIDENCE

- Disability Benefit Questionnaire, Headache, conducted October 23, 2024
- Disability Benefit Questionnaire, Ear Conditions, conducted January 31, 2025
- Disability Benefit Questionnaire, Heart Conditions, conducted January 31, 2025
- Disability Benefit Questionnaire, skin conditions, conducted January 31, 2025
- Disability Benefit Questionnaire, Stomach and duodenal conditions, conducted January 31, 2025
- Disability Benefit Questionnaire, Peripheral Nerves, conducted January 31, 2025
- VA Form 21-526 EZ: Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits, received January 20, 2020
- VA Form 20-0995, Decision Review Request - Supplemental Claims, received February 26, 2024 and September 20, 2024
- Rating Decision dated July 10, 2024
- Chicago VAMC medical treatment reports dated May 31, 2023 to December 9, 2024 received December 16, 2024
- Rating decision dated February 5, 2015
- Rating decision dated May 22, 2019
- Rating decision dated April 29, 2020
- Rating decision dated July 28, 2023
- Rating decision dated January 4, 2024
- Rating decision dated January 19, 2024
- Rating decision dated July 10, 2024
- Northwestern Medicine medical treatment reports received September 20, 2024
- TERA Memorandum, received on October 09, 2024
- 5103 Notice Acknowledgement, received on October 02, 2024
- VA Form 21-4138, Statement In Support of Claim, received September 23, 2024
- VA Form 21-4138 Statement in Support of claim received September 20, 2024
- ION medical treatment reports received September 20, 2024



REASONS FOR DECISION

1. Service connection for dizziness.

A claimant may file a supplemental claim by submitting or identifying new and relevant evidence. New evidence is evidence not previously part of the actual record before agency adjudicators. Relevant evidence means evidence that tends to prove or disprove a matter at issue in a claim. (38 CFR 3.2501) In support of your claim, new and relevant evidence has been received and your claim is now reconsidered.

Service connection may be granted for a condition diagnosed after military discharge provided evidence establishes that the condition was caused by service. Service connection may be granted on this basis for a disability related to toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) during military service if evidence demonstrates that the Veteran was actually exposed in service and that a disease associated with such exposure resulted. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304)

We considered whether your condition resulted from a toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) in service. (38 U.S.C. 1168, 38 U.S.C. 1710(e)(4)) The evidence of record shows participation in a TERA.

There is no basis in the available evidence of record to establish service connection for dizziness. This condition did not happen in military service, nor was it aggravated or caused by service. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304, 38 CFR 3.306)

The evidence does not support a change in our prior decision. Therefore, we are confirming the previous denial of this claim.

The examiner opined that the claimed condition is less likely than not (likelihood is less than approximately balanced or nearly equal) caused by the indicated toxic exposure risk activity(ies), after considering the total potential exposure through all applicable military deployments of the veteran and the synergistic, combined effect of all toxic exposure risk activities of the veteran. You were diagnosed with dizziness, as well as ventricular arrhythmias. Although if you have a probable exposure to asbestos from his MOS, there is no medical evidence to show dizziness can result from asbestos exposure. However, medical literature shows extensive evidence showing ventricular arrhythmias to cause intermittent dizziness. Medical literature also shows that asbestos exposure increases the likelihood of cardiovascular disease. Therefore, although dizziness could be related through secondary service connection, it is not likely that your dizziness is due to their exposure from your MOS during their time in service.

Favorable Findings identified in this decision:

Participation in a toxic exposure risk activity is conceded. Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA) Memorandum dated October 9, 2024, concedes you participated in a TERA during active military service.



You have been diagnosed with a disability. The examination dated January 31, 2025 diagnosed dizziness.

2. Service connection for gastric ulcer (claimed as stomach ulcer).

A claimant may file a supplemental claim by submitting or identifying new and relevant evidence. New evidence is evidence not previously part of the actual record before agency adjudicators. Relevant evidence means evidence that tends to prove or disprove a matter at issue in a claim. (38 CFR 3.2501) In support of your claim, new and relevant evidence has been received and your claim is now reconsidered.

Service connection may be granted for a condition diagnosed after military discharge provided evidence establishes that the condition was caused by service. Service connection may be granted on this basis for a disability related to toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) during military service if evidence demonstrates that the Veteran was actually exposed in service and that a disease associated with such exposure resulted. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304)

We considered whether your condition resulted from a toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) in service. (38 U.S.C. 1168, 38 U.S.C. 1710(e)(4)) The evidence of record shows participation in a TERA.

There is no basis in the available evidence of record to establish service connection for gastric ulcer (stomach ulcer). This condition did not happen in military service, nor was it aggravated or caused by service. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304, 38 CFR 3.306)

The evidence does not support a change in our prior decision. Therefore, we are confirming the previous denial of this claim.

The examiner opined that the claimed condition is less likely than not (likelihood is less than approximately balanced or nearly equal) caused by the indicated toxic exposure risk activity(ies), after considering the total potential exposure through all applicable military deployments of the veteran and the synergistic, combined effect of all toxic exposure risk activities of the veteran. Although you have a high probability of exposure to asbestos through his MOS and a diagnosis of gastric ulcer. Medical literature shows evidence that ingestion of asbestos significantly increases the likelihood of developing gastric cancer, but there is no medical evidence supporting gastric ulcers due to asbestos exposure. Therefore, it is not likely the Veteran's diagnosis of gastric ulcer is due to his exposures from your MOS during his time in service.

Favorable Findings identified in this decision:

Participation in a toxic exposure risk activity is conceded. Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA) Memorandum dated October 9, 2024, concedes you participated in a TERA during active military service.

You have been diagnosed with a disability. The examination dated January 31, 2025 diagnosed



gastric ulcer.

3. Service connection for migraine including migraine variants.

A claimant may file a supplemental claim by submitting or identifying new and relevant evidence. New evidence is evidence not previously part of the actual record before agency adjudicators. Relevant evidence means evidence that tends to prove or disprove a matter at issue in a claim. (38 CFR 3.2501) In support of your claim, new and relevant evidence has been received and your claim is now reconsidered.

Service connection may be granted for a condition diagnosed after military discharge provided evidence establishes that the condition was caused by service. Service connection may be granted on this basis for a disability related to toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) during military service if evidence demonstrates that the Veteran was actually exposed in service and that a disease associated with such exposure resulted. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304)

We considered whether your condition resulted from a toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) in service. (38 U.S.C. 1168, 38 U.S.C. 1710(e)(4)) The evidence of record shows participation in a TERA.

There is no basis in the available evidence of record to establish service connection for migraine including migraine variants. This condition did not happen in military service, nor was it aggravated or caused by service. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304, 38 CFR 3.306)

The evidence does not support a change in our prior decision. Therefore, we are confirming the previous denial of this claim.

The examiner opined that the claimed condition for migraine is less likely than not (likelihood is less than approximately balanced or nearly equal) caused by the indicated toxic exposure risk activity(ies), after considering the total potential exposure through all applicable military deployments of the veteran and the synergistic, combined effect of all toxic exposure risk activities of the veteran. The relationship between migraines and exposure to various environmental factors such as fuel, ammunition, lubricants, petroleum products, lead, heat, sunlight, high noise, and asbestos is complex and multifaceted. In summary, exposure to fuel, petroleum products, heat, sunlight, and high noise levels are recognized triggers for migraines; however, not a causal relationship. The evidence for lead and asbestos is less direct. Environmental pollutants also play a significant role in exacerbating migraine symptoms.

Favorable Findings identified in this decision:

Participation in a toxic exposure risk activity is conceded. Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA) Memorandum dated October 9, 2024, concedes you participated in a TERA during active military service.

You have been diagnosed with a disability. The examination dated October 23, 2024 diagnosed



Migraine including migraine variants.

4. Service connection for ventricular arrhythmias (claimed as chest pain) as a result of a toxic exposure risk activity (TERA).

Service connection may be granted for a condition diagnosed after military discharge provided evidence establishes that the condition was caused by service. Service connection may be granted on this basis for a disability related to toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) during military service if evidence demonstrates that the Veteran was actually exposed in service and that a disease associated with such exposure resulted. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304)

We considered whether your condition resulted from a toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) in service. (38 U.S.C. 1168, 38 U.S.C. 1710(e)(4)) The evidence of record shows participation in a TERA. Service connection for ventricular arrhythmias has been established as directly related to military service. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304)

The effective date of this grant is February 15, 2024. Service connection has been established from the day VA received your intent to file (ITF) a claim for compensation. When a claim of service connection is received more than one year after discharge from active duty, the effective date is the date VA receives the intent to file when a prescribed form is received within a year of the ITF. (38 CFR 3.155, 38 CFR 3.400)

An evaluation of 10 percent is assigned from February 15, 2024.

We have assigned a 10 percent evaluation for your supraventricular arrhythmia with syncope (chest pain with heart murmur with heart attack) based on:

- Continuous medication required for control

Additional symptom(s) include:

- Workload of greater than ten METs
- You denied experiencing symptoms of breathlessness, fatigue, angina, dizziness, arrhythmia, palpitations, or syncope with any level of physical activity

A higher evaluation of 30 percent is not warranted for general rating formula for diseases of the heart unless the evidence shows:

- Evidence of cardiac hypertrophy or dilatation confirmed by echocardiogram or equivalent (e.g., multigated acquisition scan or magnetic resonance imaging); or,
- Workload of 5.1-7.0 METs which results in heart failure symptoms. (38 CFR 4.104)

Additionally, a higher evaluation of 100 percent is not warranted for ventricular arrhythmias (sustained) unless the evidence shows:

- An automatic implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (AICD) in place; or,
- Inpatient hospital admission for initial evaluation and medical therapy for a sustained ventricular arrhythmia; or,
- Inpatient hospital admission for initial evaluation and medical therapy for ventricular



aneurysmectomy. (38 CFR 4.104)

One MET (metabolic equivalent) is the energy cost of standing quietly at rest and represents an oxygen uptake of 3.5 milliliters per kilogram of body weight per minute. (38 CFR 4.104)

5. Service connection for pseudofolliculitis barbae (claimed as skin condition)

Service connection may be granted for a condition diagnosed after military discharge provided evidence establishes that the condition was caused by service. Service connection may be granted on this basis for a disability related to toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) during military service if evidence demonstrates that the Veteran was actually exposed in service and that a disease associated with such exposure resulted. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304)

We considered whether your condition resulted from a toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) in service. (38 U.S.C. 1168, 38 U.S.C. 1710(e)(4)) The evidence of record shows participation in a TERA.

There is no basis in the available evidence of record to establish service connection for pseudofolliculitis barbae. This condition did not happen in military service, nor was it aggravated or caused by service. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304, 38 CFR 3.306)

The evidence does not support a change in our prior decision. Therefore, we are confirming the previous denial of this claim.

The examiner opined that the claimed condition is less likely than not (likelihood is less than approximately balanced or nearly equal) caused by the indicated toxic exposure risk activity(ies), after considering the total potential exposure through all applicable military deployments of the veteran and the synergistic, combined effect of all toxic exposure risk activities of the veteran. You were diagnosed with pseudofolliculitis barbae while in service, noted as due to the shaving requirement. Pseudofolliculitis barbae, or razor bumps, is a common result of shaving and causes inflammation and hyperpigmentation. Although the Veteran has likely asbestos exposure due to his MOS, the risk of shaving far outweighs the TERA risk in causing pseudofolliculitis barbae. Therefore, it is not likely the your skin condition is due to their exposure from MOS duties during their time in service.

Favorable Findings identified in this decision:

Participation in a toxic exposure risk activity is conceded. Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA) Memorandum dated October 9, 2024, concedes you participated in a TERA during active military service.

You have been diagnosed with a disability. The examination dated January 31, 2025 diagnosed pseudofolliculitis barbae.

6. Compensation for left upper, middle and lower radicular group radiculopathy (arm



paresthesia).

The issue of compensation for left upper, middle and lower radicular group radiculopathy (arm paresthesia) is deferred for the following information: clarification

7. Compensation for peripheral neuropathy, left lower extremity.

The issue of compensation for peripheral neuropathy, left lower extremity is deferred for the following information: clarification

8. Compensation for right lower extremity sciatic nerve radiculopathy (peripheral neuropathy, right lower extremity).

The issue of compensation for right lower extremity sciatic nerve radiculopathy (peripheral neuropathy, right lower extremity) is deferred for the following information: clarification

9. Compensation for right upper, middle and lower radicular group radiculopathy (arm paresthesia).

The issue of compensation for right upper, middle and lower radicular group radiculopathy (arm paresthesia) is deferred for the following information: clarification

REFERENCES:

Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Pensions, Bonuses and Veterans' Relief contains the regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs which govern entitlement to all Veteran benefits. For additional information regarding applicable laws and regulations, please consult your local library, or visit us at our website, www.va.gov.



Fraud Prevention: Protect Your Benefits

Please contact the VA ***immediately*** at 1-800-827-1000 if you suspect your information is compromised.

- You receive correspondence from VA concerning a claim, and you don't remember filing a claim contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000.
- You receive correspondence requesting a processing fee prior to releasing benefit payments contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000.
- VA may check in with you by phone, email, or text message. The VA will **never ask for personal information via email**. This includes verification of your SSN, address, and/or bank information. If you are unsure about any call, email, or text, confirm details directly with the VA.
- VA **does not threaten** claimants with jail or lawsuits.
- Be cautious of telephone numbers on caller ID. Scammers may change the telephone number (spoofing) to make a call appear to come from a different person or place.
- When in doubt, hang up and call VA directly at 1-800-827-1000, or call your Power of Attorney representative (DAV, VFW, etc.).
- **Do not ignore emails or letters** from the VA notifying you of an update to direct deposit or eBenefits account information. If you don't remember making changes, it could be the first sign your information was compromised.
- Use secure, unique passwords, and two factor identification where available. To establish a more secure logon for Vets.gov and ebenefits.va.gov with two factor identification create an account via ID.me at <https://api.id.me/en/registration/new>
- Monitor your accounts regularly, respond to fraud alerts and report unauthorized transactions promptly.
- To learn more about protecting yourself from fraud, and how to report it visit <https://www.va.gov/oig/hotline/default.asp>, or go to VA.gov and search "Office of Inspector General".
- For more details on how to avoid scams go to <https://www.fcc.gov/veterans-targeted-benefits-scams>
- Download free financial scam awareness resources at <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/helping-prevent-scams-targeted-veterans/>
- Get up-to-date information on fraud and scams from the Federal Trade Commission <https://public.tableau.com/profile/federal.trade.commission>