



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

In Reply Refer To:

Enclosed is a "Supplemental Statement of the Case" (SSOC), which is an update to the "Statement of the Case" (SOC) that we previously sent to you. The following information will help you decide how to respond. We encourage you to discuss this with your representative, if you have one.

Select one of the following two sets of instructions, based on whether or not you wish to have your appeal considered by the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Please note, when we refer to a **"formal appeal"** in this letter, we mean a completed and signed VA Form 9, "Appeal to Board of Veterans' Appeals," like the one we enclosed with your SOC. You may also put the same information in a letter to us, but we recommend that you use the form to make sure you include everything needed to perfect your appeal. By **"filing"** your formal appeal, we mean bringing your appeal to this office and giving it to us, or mailing it to us.

1. I wish to continue my appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

a. *I already filed a formal appeal.* If you already filed a formal appeal with us, and still wish to continue your appeal, your response to this SSOC is optional.

If you wish to respond, you have 30 days from the date of this letter to respond. There is no special form to use. You can simply write to us and tell us in your own words what you disagree with in this SSOC and why. If you do not wish to respond, and you do not want us to wait for the full 30 days to expire, you can write to us and let us know that.

b. *I have not filed my formal appeal yet. What do I need to do?* If you have not filed your formal appeal with us and you wish to continue your appeal after reading this SSOC, please complete a formal appeal (explained above) and file it with us as soon as possible. You can include with your formal appeal any response that you may have to this SSOC or prior SOC. Please read the instructions that come with the VA Form 9 carefully, particularly

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the information about how long you have to file the form. **Please note that you can lose your right to appeal if you do not file your formal appeal on time.**

As a reminder, you may always send us more evidence about the claim you are appealing, but you should not delay filing your formal appeal just because you sent us more evidence, as this will not necessarily extend your time to file a formal appeal.

2. I DO NOT wish to continue my appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

a. *I already filed a formal appeal. What do I need to do?* If you already filed a formal appeal, but changed your mind about appealing, please write to us as soon as possible and let us know that you are withdrawing your appeal.

b. *I have not filed my formal appeal yet. What do I need to do?* If you have not filed a formal appeal, and do not wish to continue your appeal, you do not need to do anything. We will close your appeal when the time limit for filing a formal appeal runs out.

We hope that the above information is helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure