

SAMPLE



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

JOHN DOE

**VA File Number
111223333**

**Rating Decision
07/14/2025**

INTRODUCTION

The records reflect that you are a veteran of the Gulf War Era. You served in the United States Army from January 1, 1989, to December 31, 2023. You filed a new claim for benefits that was received on April 1, 2024. We have completed our review of your recent claim for VA disability compensation. This letter provides a summary of our decision and the basis for that decision.

DECISION

1. Service connection for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is granted with an evaluation of 50% disabling effective April 1, 2024.
2. Service connection for left knee strain is granted with an evaluation of 10% disabling effective April 1, 2024.
3. Service connection for bilateral hearing loss is denied.

EVIDENCE

- VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits, received April 1, 2024
- VA medical records from Anytown VA Medical Center, dated January 2023 through March 2025
- Compensation and Pension (C&P) examination conducted on April 5, 2025
- Statement in Support of Claim (VA Form 21-4138), dated March 10, 2025
- Service treatment records from January 1989 through December 2023
- DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty

REASON FOR DECISION

PTSD (50% Granted)

Service connection for PTSD is granted based on a diagnosis confirmed during your C&P examination and a verifiable in-service stressor. The assigned evaluation of 50% is based on occupational and social impairment with reduced reliability and productivity due to symptoms including disturbances of motivation and mood, difficulty in establishing work and social relationships, and sleep impairment.

Left Knee Strain (10% Granted)

Service connection is granted based on medical evidence of chronic left knee pain originating during military service. The 10% rating reflects painful motion confirmed during examination, consistent with 38 CFR § 4.59.

Bilateral Hearing Loss (Denied)

Although your service records confirm exposure to hazardous noise levels, your audiological evaluation did not show hearing loss to a compensable degree under VA regulation 38 CFR § 3.385. Therefore, service connection for bilateral hearing loss is denied.

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.

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11122333

3 of 3

COMBINED EVALUATION OF COMPENSATION

Your combined disability rating is **60%**. This evaluation entitles you to VA compensation payments and may qualify you for additional VA benefits.

IF YOU DISAGREE WITH OUR DECISION

This decision notice explains why we made this decision about your benefits. If you disagree with the decision and would like to appeal it, you must complete and return a Notice of Disagreement, VA Form 21-0958, by July 13, 2026, one year from the date of this notice.

The enclosed VA Form 4107 explains your right to appeal our decision.

You can visit <https://www.vets.gov/disability-benefits/claims-appeal/> to learn more about how the appeals process works.

IF YOU AGREE WITH OUR DECISION

There is no need to do anything other than ensure that if your banking and contact information changes, that you promptly notify us so there is no disruption to your benefit,

Thank you for your service,

Regional Office Director