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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	RE:
	CASE #:
	DATE OF EXAM

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL OPINION

An Independent Medical Opinion is requested from this examiner. I am also asked to review the medical records. At issue is the following: Is hepatitis C related to military service?

Available pertinent evidence is submitted, including military service from October 1969 through February 1973 in addition to the C-file and private medical records. The veteran documented risk factors of blood transfusion in August 1970. This is not validated by the medical records. The veteran claims that he had trauma from small arms fire, resulting in laceration of the tendon and blood transfusion without substantiation. This is only the veteran's claim. The veteran completed a risk factor questionnaire dated January 11, 1971. The diagnosis of hepatitis was noted on the separation examination on January 16, 1973. There was a notation that the veteran had hepatitis in 1971 in Southeast Asia. He was treated and did not have any problems since. The veteran was seen between 1971 and 1973 in Chang Aie, Thailand. He was diagnosed with infectious hepatitis by Dr. Guyer. Elysium final lab results dated January 30, 2007 noted a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis, consistent with hepatitis C.

REVIEW OF MEDICAL RECORDS

1. There was a medical record from Dr. Liu, dated February 7, 2008 at South Tacoma Clinic in Washington was reviewed. There was a clinical notation that the veteran had a blood transfusion in Laos for minor surgery. Liver panels were abnormal. Hepatitis REBA for hepatitis C was reactive.
2. There was a letter by Dr. Sangikoh, dated January 23, 2008, indicating that the veteran had been under his care since