



## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

October 2, 2015

ROCKFORD IL 61102

In reply, refer to:  
328/QD

We made a decision regarding your entitlement to VA benefits.

This letter tells you what we decided. It gives the evidence used and reasons for our decision. We have also included information about what to do if you disagree with our decision and who to contact if you have questions or need assistance.

**Your current benefit payment will continue unchanged.**

### What We Decided

We made the following decision(s):

Issue/Contention	Percent (%) Continued
bilateral hearing loss	0%
<b>Explanation</b>	
• The claim for service connection for bilateral hearing loss is considered reopened. However, the evidence continues to show this condition was not incurred in or aggravated by military service.	

Issue/Contention	Percent (%) Continued
post-traumatic stress disorder	50%
<b>Explanation</b>	
• The claim for service connection for post-traumatic stress disorder is considered reopened. However, the evidence continues to show this condition was not incurred in or aggravated by military service.	

- You did not attend the VA examination we scheduled in connection with your claim, and did not show good cause for your failure to do so. Therefore, medical evidence that could have been useful to support your claim was not available to us.

### **Are You Entitled to Additional Benefits?**

Did you know you may be eligible for a VA guaranteed mortgage with no down payment (potentially exempt from a funding fee depending on your rating)? For more information about this benefit, or to determine and print your Loan Guaranty Certificate of Eligibility, please visit the eBenefits website at <http://www.ebenefits.va.gov>.

If you served overseas in support of a combat operation you may be eligible for mental health counseling at no cost to you at the Veteran's Resource Center. For more information on this benefit please visit <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/>.

The VA provides Blind Rehabilitation services to eligible blind, low vision, or visually impaired Veterans to help them regain their independence and quality of life. The Veteran's blindness, low vision, or vision impairment does NOT have to be related or caused by military service. If you need help with your vision loss, please contact your nearest Visual Impairment Services Team Coordinator (VIST) at the eye clinic at your nearest VA Medical Center. For more information, go to [www.va.gov/blindrehab/](http://www.va.gov/blindrehab/).

### **Evidence Considered**

In making our decision, we considered:

- **veteran cancels appts due to wife's health, received on August 24, 2015**
- Correspondence, received on July 16, 2015
- VA 21-0781, Statement in Support of Claim for PTSD, received on July 16, 2015
- VA 21-4138 Statement In Support of Claim, received on February 24, 2015
- VA 21-526EZ, Fully Developed Claim (Compensation), received on April 10, 2015
- **veteran cancels appt hospital, received on August 19, 2015**
- Correspondence, received on August 20, 2015
- VA 21-2507a Request for Physical Examination, received on August 06, 2015
- Correspondence, received on March 04, 2015

### **What You Should Do If You Disagree With Our Decision**

#### **For Compensation Claims:**

If you do not agree with our decision, you must complete and return to us the enclosed VA Form 21-0958, *Notice of Disagreement*, in order to initiate your appeal. You have *one year from the*