

DRAFT RESOLUTION 20-05

SUBJECT: Tinnitus & Hearing Loss Presumptive Service-Connection

SOURCE: OH, AK, IN, IL, MO, ND, CT, WI, DC, PA, NC, WA, MA, MI

WHEREAS, many veterans, whether or not they served in combat or worked in certain occupational specialties, have higher than average incidences of hearing loss or tinnitus as a result of their time in service; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the second highest service-connected disability granted by the VA has been for hearing loss and tinnitus; and

WHEREAS, various studies indicate that the majority of servicemembers are exposed to some form of auditory trauma, including high-level repetitive noise, during their time in service leading to some level of hearing loss and/or tinnitus and given these findings, reasonable doubt must be resolved in favor of veterans who suffered hearing loss and/or tinnitus as a result of their service in the military; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS urge Congress and the VA to grant service-connection on a presumptive basis for any veteran diagnosed after discharge with hearing loss and/or tinnitus when there is evidence that the veteran:

- participated in combat operations;
- worked in a position or occupational specialty likely to have damaged the veteran's hearing;
or
- was exposed to any form of auditory trauma.

Committee Recommendations:

VAVS & VA Hospital and Medical Services, Rehabilitation Benefits Committee: Adopt

Floor Action: ADOPTED