



Department of Veterans Affairs

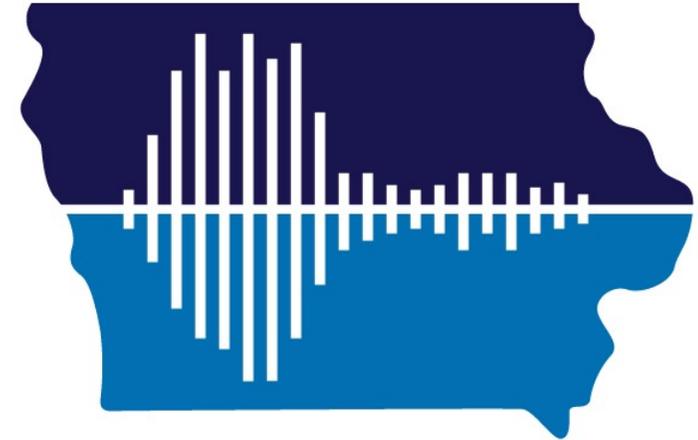
County Veteran Service Officer Training

FALL 2024

Kelly Cook, Au.D., CCC-A

- ▶ Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.)
- ▶ Audiologist
- ▶ Owner, Iowa Hearing Center
- ▶ Norwalk, IA

IOWA HEARING
CENTER



IOWA HEARING
CENTER

What is Tinnitus?

- ▶ Perception of noise (e.g., ringing, buzzing) without an external source
- ▶ Unilateral or Bilateral
- ▶ Intermittent or Constant

IOWA HEARING
CENTER



<https://www.nbcnews.com/leftfield/video/what-tinnitus-sounds-like-1060145731897>

Common Causes of Tinnitus

- ▶ Tinnitus is **NOT** a disease, but a **symptom** of many medical conditions including:
 - ▶ Hearing Loss
 - ▶ Ear Conditions (e.g., earwax blockage, ear infection)
 - ▶ Injury to Ear, Head or Neck
 - ▶ Medications
 - ▶ Chronic Disease (e.g., diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, migraine, thyroid disorders, anemia, autoimmune disorders)

Tinnitus

- ▶ Tinnitus is the **leading** service-connected disability among Veterans*
- ▶ **2023:**
 - ▶ **63.3 percent** of Auditory Claims were for Tinnitus
 - ▶ **2,944,093** Veterans received compensation for Tinnitus
 - ▶ **\$5,800,000,000 (5.8 billion)**

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Hearing Loss

- ▶ Hearing Loss is the **fourth** leading service-connected disability
- ▶ **2023:**
 - ▶ **32 percent** of Auditory Claims were for Hearing Loss
 - ▶ **1,491,093** Veterans received compensation for Hearing Loss

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

AUDITORY CLAIMS

- Tinnitus
- Hearing Loss

Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits

VA FORM 21-526EZ

Currently, Tinnitus and Hearing Loss are two (2) separate conditions.

SECTION V: CLAIM INFORMATION (Continued) (For additional space, use Section XIII: Claim Information (Addendum))				
	CURRENT DISABILITY(IES)	IF DUE TO EXPOSURE, EVENT, OR INJURY, PLEASE SPECIFY (e.g., Agent Orange, radiation, burn pits)	EXPLAIN HOW THE DISABILITY(IES) RELATES TO THE IN-SERVICE EVENT/EXPOSURE/INJURY	APPROXIMATE DATE DISABILITY(IES) BEGAN OR WORSENERD
1.	Tinnitus	MOS (e.g.)	Hazardous Noise Exposure (e.g.)	During (Year)
2.	Hearing Loss	MOS (Army, 11B)	Hazardous Noise Exposure (Firearms)	During (1985)
3.				
4.				

VA FORM 21-526EZ

▶ Tinnitus

- ▶ Assigned only a single evaluation whether sound is perceived in one ear (unilateral), both ears (bilateral), or in the head (38 CFR § 4.87)
- ▶ Do **NOT** list Tinnitus, Right and/or Tinnitus, Left

▶ Hearing Loss

- ▶ Assigned only a single evaluation whether hearing loss is unilateral or bilateral (38 CFR § 4.87)

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

VA FORM 21-526EZ

- ▶ In 2022, VA proposed updates to disability rating schedules including the auditory system.
 - ▶ “...[these updates] would recognize that symptom [tinnitus] within the Veteran’s broader ailment [hearing loss] and provide service-connected compensation for tinnitus through the disease to which it is attributed [hearing loss].”
 - ▶ i.e., Tinnitus and Hearing Loss will be one (1) combined evaluation

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Independent Medical Opinions (IMO)

- ▶ Requesting additional medical opinions will **NOT** increase the likelihood of a positive opinion
 - ▶ i.e., TERA Opinions



IOWA HEARING
CENTER



VA Compensation and Pension (C&P) Examinations

AUDIOLOGY (AUDIO)

Contractors

- ▶ Optum Serve (Formerly LHI)
- ▶ Leidos QTC (Formerly QTC)
- ▶ Veterans Evaluation Services (VES)
- ▶ Loyal Source Government Services (LSGS)

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

VA FORM 10-2364

AUDIOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Department of Veterans Affairs		AUDIOLOGICAL EVALUATION																			
REASON FOR REFERRAL										REFERRAL SOURCE											
AIR CONDUCTION																					
EXAMINER INITIALS	RIGHT								EXAMINER INITIALS	LEFT											
	250	500	1000	1500	2000	3000	4000	6000		8000	250	500	1000	1500	2000	3000	4000	6000	8000		
MASKING LEVEL								MASKING LEVEL													
RIGHT PURE TONE AVERAGE				TRANSDUCER TYPE				LEFT PURE TONE AVERAGE													
2 FA		3 FA		4 FA		<input type="checkbox"/> EARPHONE <input type="checkbox"/> INSERT		2 FA		3 FA		4 FA									
BONE CONDUCTION																					
EXAMINER INITIALS	RIGHT								EXAMINER INITIALS	LEFT											
	250	500	1000	1500	2000	3000	4000	250		500	1000	1500	2000	3000	4000						
MASKING LEVEL								MASKING LEVEL													
ACOUSTIC IMMITTANCE																					
PROBE (RIGHT)	PEAK PRESSURE dPa		V_{90}		PEAK STATIC IMMITTANCE 225 Hz 675 Hz		TYMPANOGRAM TYPE		PROBE (LEFT)	PEAK PRESSURE dPa		V_{90}		PEAK STATIC IMMITTANCE 225 Hz 675 Hz		TYMPANOGRAM TYPE					
	CONTRALATERAL AR THRESHOLDS				REFLEX DECAY					CONTRALATERAL AR THRESHOLDS				REFLEX DECAY							
STIMULUS (LEFT)	500	1000	2000	4000	8000	500	1000	500	1000	2000	4000	8000	500	1000							
STIMULUS (RIGHT)	IPSI LATERAL AR THRESHOLDS				HALF-LIFE				STIMULUS (LEFT)	IPSI LATERAL AR THRESHOLDS				HALF-LIFE							
	500	1000	2000	4000	8000	500	1000	500		1000	2000	4000	8000	500	1000						
OTHER TESTS (RIGHT)	WEBER	PT STEMER	RINNE	OTHER				OTHER TESTS (LEFT)	WEBER	PT STEMER	RINNE	OTHER									
SPEECH AUDIOMETRY																					
LEVEL	RIGHT SRT		RIGHT SPEECH RECOGNITION								LEVEL	LEFT SRT		LEFT SPEECH RECOGNITION							
	1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	PBMAX	1		2	1	2	3	4	5	6	PBMAX		
LIST	LIST								LIST	LIST											
MASKING LEVEL								MASKING LEVEL													
INTER-TEST CONSISTENCY (RIGHT): <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> POOR <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR								INTER-TEST CONSISTENCY (LEFT): <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> POOR <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR													
MATERIAL										PRESENTATION											
<input type="checkbox"/> MARYLAND CMC <input type="checkbox"/> CIDW-22 <input type="checkbox"/> NU-6 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER, SPECIFY: _____										<input type="checkbox"/> RECORDED <input type="checkbox"/> MLV											
COMMENTS																					
LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL								AGE		CLAIM NO.		SOCIAL SECURITY NO.									
NAME OF EXAMINING STATION OR CLINIC						SIGNATURE OF EXAMINING AUDIOLOGIST (Sign in ink)				DATE OF EXAM											

AUDIOLOGICAL EVALUATION

- Case History
- Otoscopy
- Acoustic Immittance
- Air Conduction
- Speech Audiometry
- Bone Conduction

Case History

DETAILS OF SERVICE

- ▶ MOS
- ▶ Length
- ▶ Dates
- ▶ Branch
- ▶ Combat
- ▶ Era
- ▶ Homeless

NOISE EXPOSURE

- ▶ Before
- ▶ During
- ▶ After
 - ▶ Occupation(s)
 - ▶ Activities
- ▶ Hearing Protection

FUNCTIONAL IMPACT

- ▶ Hearing Loss
 - ▶ Onset
 - ▶ Effect(s)
- ▶ Tinnitus
 - ▶ Onset
 - ▶ Effect(s)
 - ▶ Frequency
 - ▶ Duration

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Parts of Ear



Otoscopy

- ▶ Visual examination of the outer and middle ear
- ▶ Helps detect or exclude:
 - ▶ Infection
 - ▶ Perforated Eardrum
 - ▶ Fluid in Middle Ear
 - ▶ Excessive Earwax
- ▶ Earwax Removal
 - ▶ Requires Veteran's consent



© kathy mitchell

<https://www.meshguides.org/guides/node/1106>

Acoustic Immittance

Objective measurement of middle ear function

TYMPANOMETRY

- ▶ Verifies results of Otoscopy
 - ▶ Perforated Eardrum
 - ▶ Fluid in Middle Ear
 - ▶ Excessive Earwax

ACOUSTIC REFLEXES

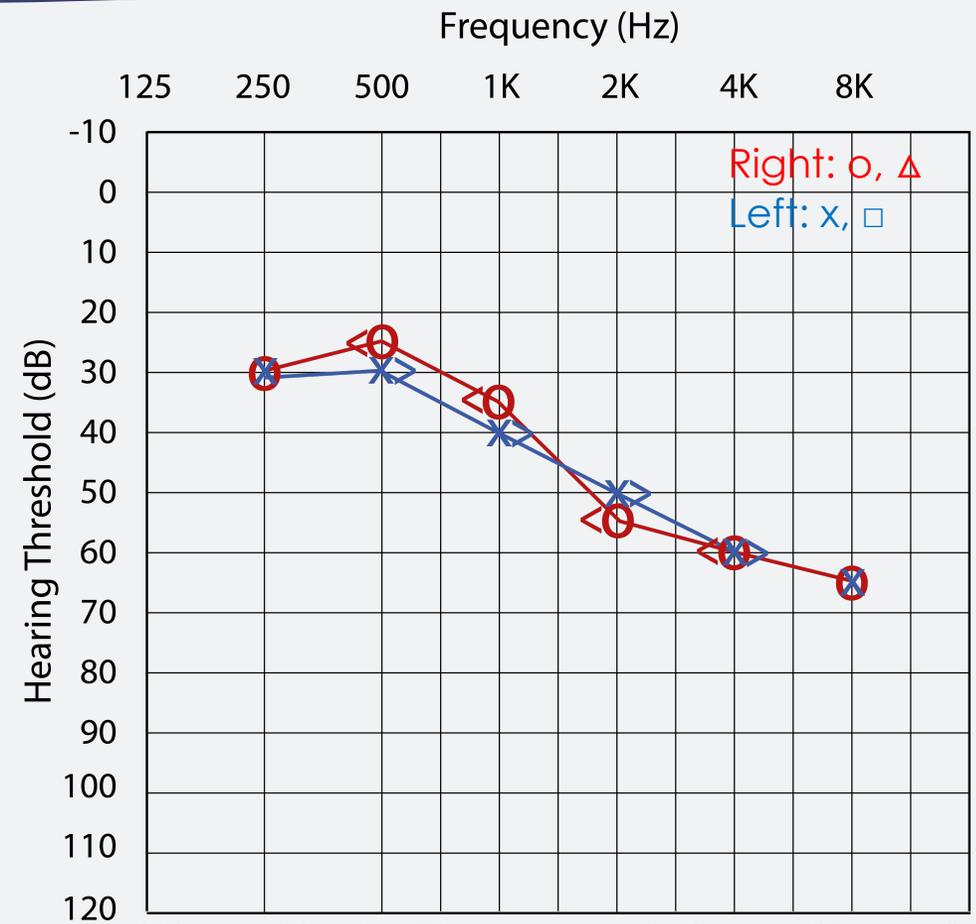
- ▶ Verifies results of Air and Bone Conduction
 - ▶ Degree of hearing loss
 - ▶ Type of hearing loss

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Air Conduction

- ▶ Subjective measurement of outer, middle, and inner ear function
- ▶ Measures the lowest levels of sounds heard

IOWA HEARING
CENTER



Air Conduction

- ▶ **No measurable response “+”**
 - ▶ Maximum output of equipment (e.g., 90+)
 - ▶ Maximum permissible limit (e.g., 105+)
- ▶ **Could Not Test (CNT)**
 - ▶ e.g., cognitive problems, inconsistent results
 - ▶ Inaccurate, invalid, or unreliable test results not reported
 - ▶ Validity of Pure-Tone Test Results:
 - ▶ ✓ “Test results are not valid for rating purposes (not indicative of organic hearing loss).”

Invalid Results of Pure-Tone Testing

- ▶ Inconsistent responses
- ▶ Asymmetrical, Unilateral Hearing Loss
 - ▶ Positive Stenger Test
- ▶ Poor Inter-Test Consistency



IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Speech Audiometry

SPEECH RECEPTION THRESHOLD (SRT)

- ▶ Measures the lowest level of speech heard
 - ▶ e.g., 40 dB HL

WORD RECOGNITION SCORE (WRS)

- ▶ Measures the percentage of speech understood
 - ▶ e.g., 94%
- ▶ Also known as Speech Recognition, Speech Discrimination, and Word Discrimination

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Invalid Results of Speech Audiometry

- ▶ Inconsistent responses
- ▶ Asymmetrical, Unilateral Hearing Loss
- ▶ Poor Inter-Test Consistency
- ▶ ✓ “The use of the speech discrimination score is not appropriate for this Veteran because of language difficulties, cognitive problems, inconsistent speech discrimination scores, etc., that make combined use of pure-tone average and speech discrimination scores inappropriate.”

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Terminology of False and Exaggerated Hearing Loss

- ▶ Non-Organic Hearing Loss
- ▶ Functional Hearing Loss
- ▶ Malingering
- ▶ Feigning, Simulating
- ▶ Psychogenic, Conversion Disorder
- ▶ Pseudohypacusis
- ▶ False and Exaggerated Hearing Loss



IOWA HEARING
CENTER

False or Fraudulent Statements or Representations

▶ 18 CFR § 701.313 – Penalties

- ▶ “Title 18 U.S.C. 1001, Crimes and Criminal Procedures, makes it a criminal offense, subject to a **maximum fine of \$10,000** or **imprisonment for not more than 5 years** or **both**, to knowingly and willfully make or cause to be made any false or fraudulent statements or representations in any matter within the jurisdiction of any agency of the United States. Section 552a(i)(3) of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(3)) makes it a misdemeanor, subject to a maximum fine of \$5,000, to knowingly and willfully request or obtain any record concerning an individual under false pretenses. Section 552a(i)(1) and (2) of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(1) and (2)) provide penalties for violations by agency employees of the Privacy Act or regulations established thereunder.”

False or Fraudulent Statements or Representations

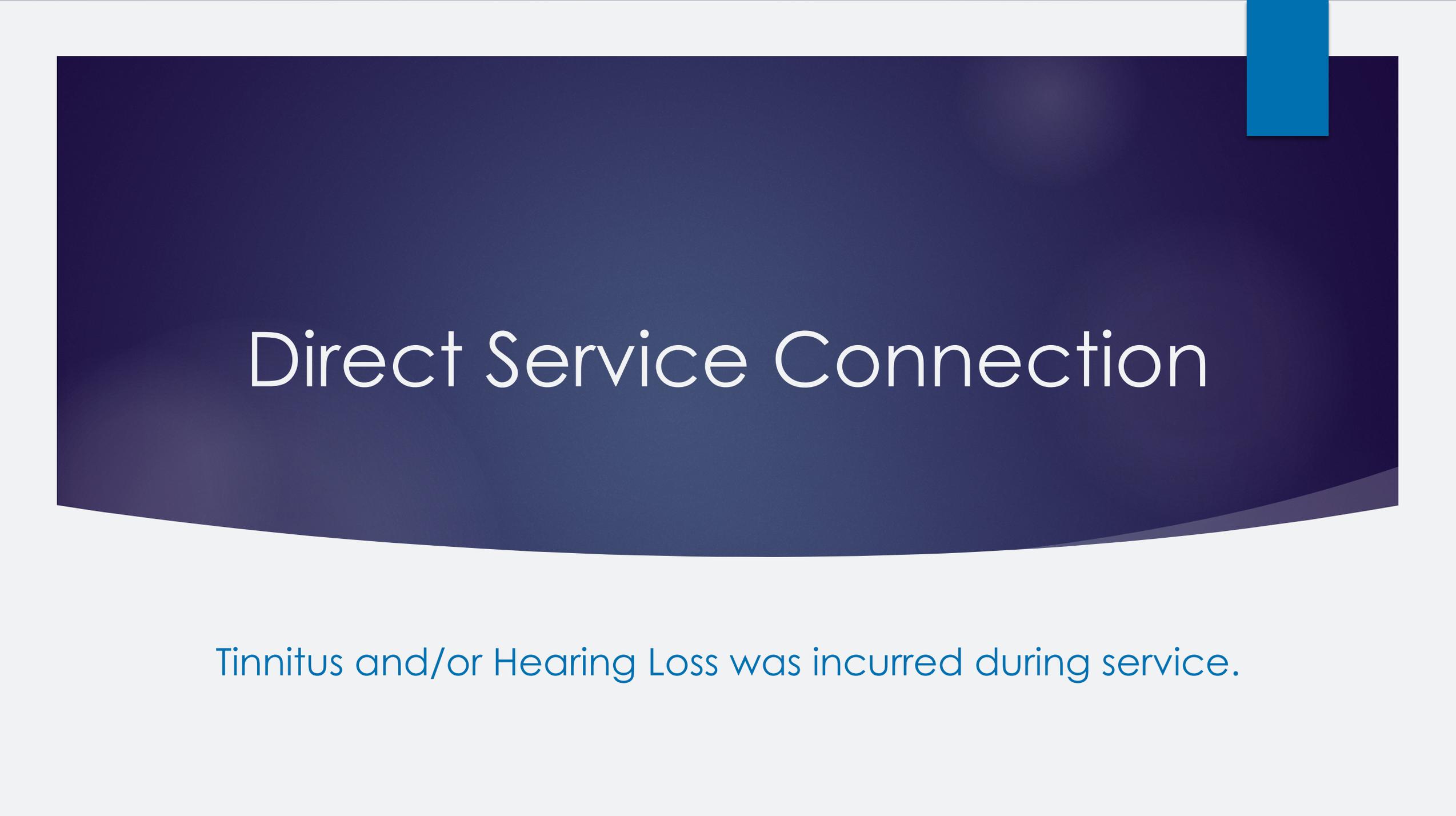
- ▶ The penalty for intentionally making a false statement, or helping a Veteran present a false statement regarding benefits to VA, is **severe**.
- ▶ Veteran will forfeit all **rights and benefits** under VA laws
- ▶ May include state and/or federal **criminal charges**
 - ▶ Fines (up to **\$10,000**) and/or Imprisonment (up to **5 years**)

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

July 2022

Army Veteran Is Sentenced To Prison For Receiving Nearly \$1 Million In Veteran Benefits For Fraudulent Service-Connected Disabilities

- **Federal Prison** – 10 months (5 months in home confinement)
- **Supervised Release** – 3 years
- **Restitution to VA** – \$930,762.53



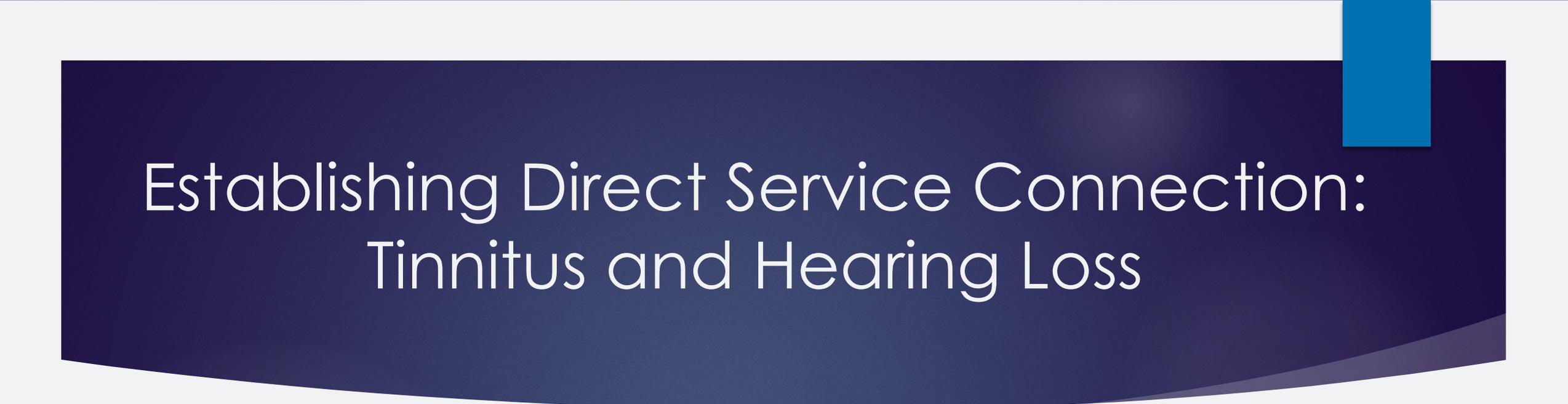
Direct Service Connection

Tinnitus and/or Hearing Loss was incurred during service.

Establishing Direct Service Connection: Tinnitus and Hearing Loss

- ▶ **Current diagnosis** of tinnitus and/or hearing loss that **meets VA criteria for disability** (38 CFR § 3.385)
- ▶ **AND**
- ▶ **Evidence** of a plausible event or circumstances during service that caused the tinnitus and/or hearing loss
- ▶ **AND**
- ▶ **Medical opinion** linking the current tinnitus and/or hearing loss to the event or circumstances during service

IOWA HEARING
CENTER



Establishing Direct Service Connection: Tinnitus and Hearing Loss

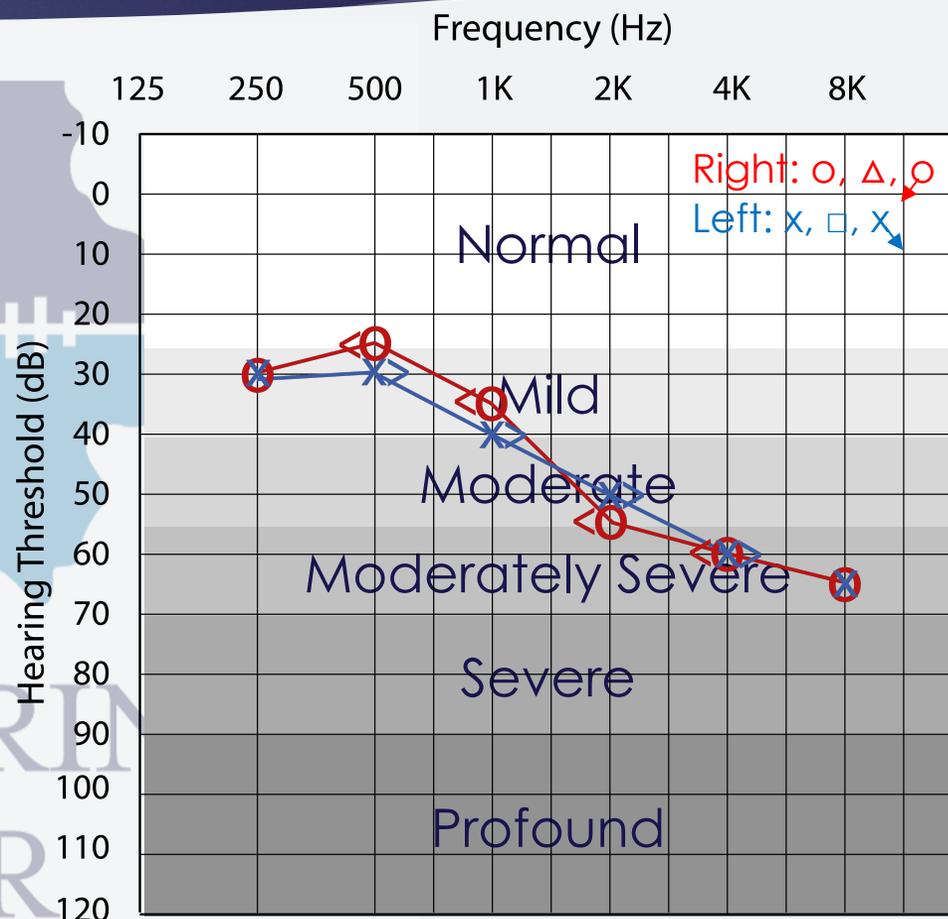
Current diagnosis of tinnitus and/or hearing loss
that **meets VA criteria for disability** (38 CFR § 3.385)

Criteria for Clinical Hearing Loss

▶ Degrees of Hearing Loss (dB HL)

- ▶ Normal -10 to 25
- ▶ Mild 26 to 40
- ▶ Moderate 41 to 55
- ▶ Moderately Severe 56 to 70
- ▶ Severe 71 to 90
- ▶ Profound 91+

IOWA HEARING CENTER

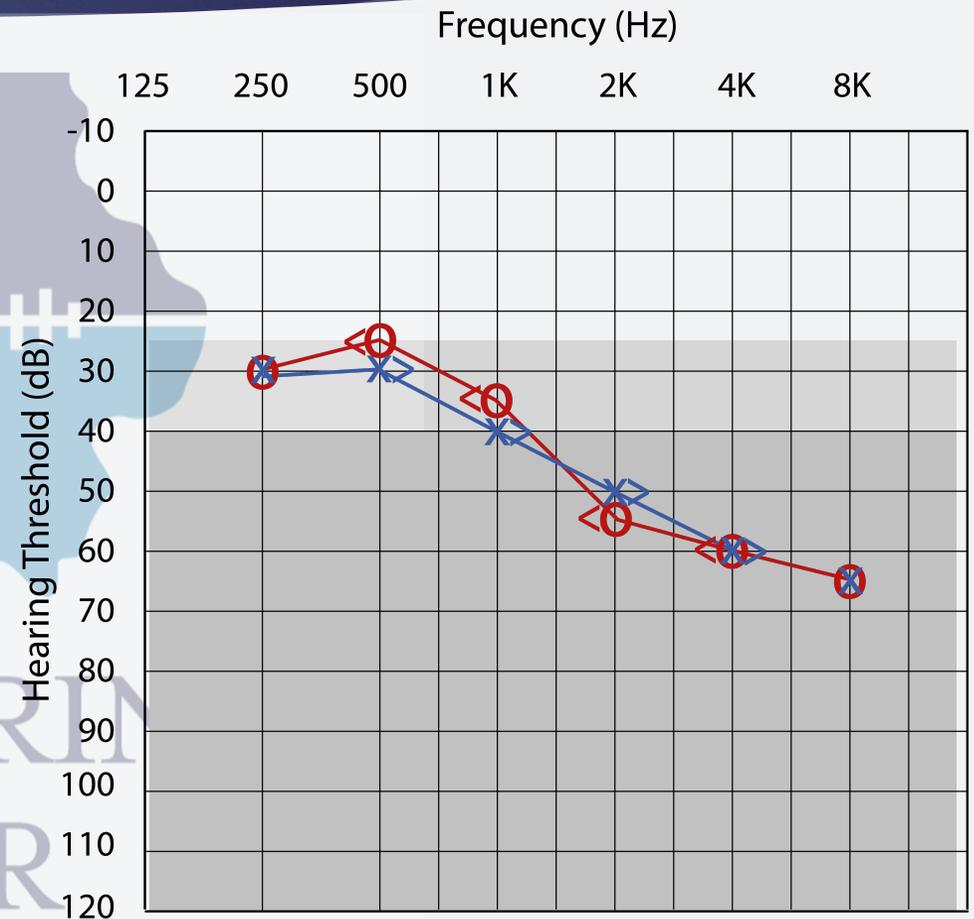


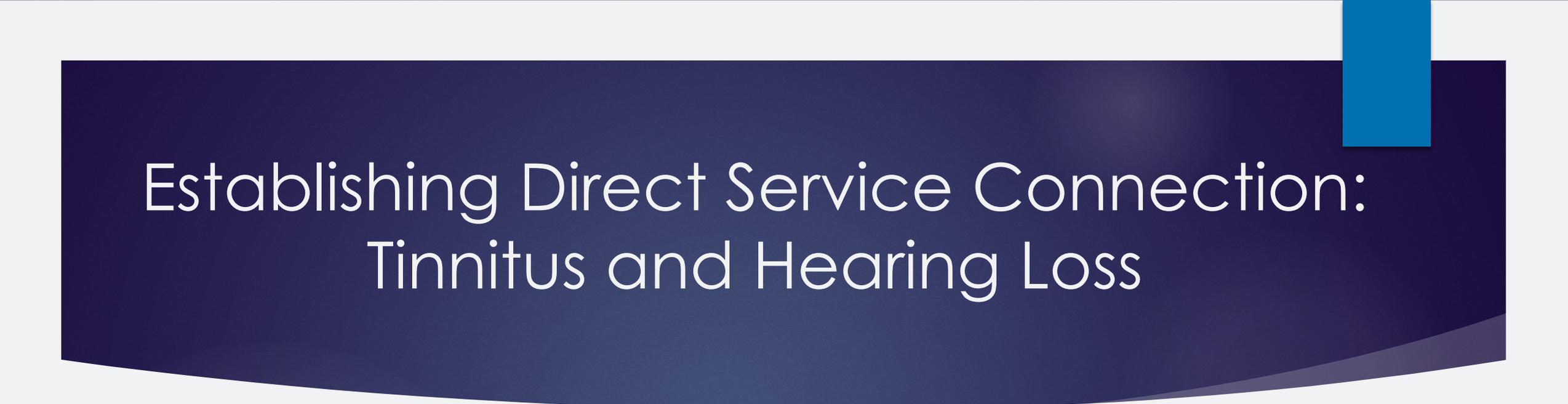
Criteria for VA Disability Benefits

- ▶ “For purposes of a hearing loss claim, impaired hearing will be considered a disability for VA purposes...
 - ▶ when the auditory threshold in any of the frequencies **500, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000 Hz** is **40 decibels (dB) or greater**,

OR

- ▶ when the auditory thresholds for at **least three (3) of the frequencies 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000 Hz** are **26 dB or greater...**” (38 CFR § 3.385)





Establishing Direct Service Connection: Tinnitus and Hearing Loss

Evidence of a plausible event or circumstances during service that caused the tinnitus and/or hearing loss

EVIDENCE REVIEW

- Objective
- Subjective

Objective Evidence

- ▶ Exam Scheduling Request
- ▶ Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214)
- ▶ Report of Medical Examination (DD FORM 2808)
- ▶ Audiogram
- ▶ Reference Audiogram (DD FORM 2215)
- ▶ Hearing Conservation Data (DD FORM 2216)
- ▶ C&P Audio Exam(s)
- ▶ Rating Decision(s)

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Objective Evidence

- ▶ Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record (ILER)
- ▶ Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA) Memo



IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Subjective Evidence

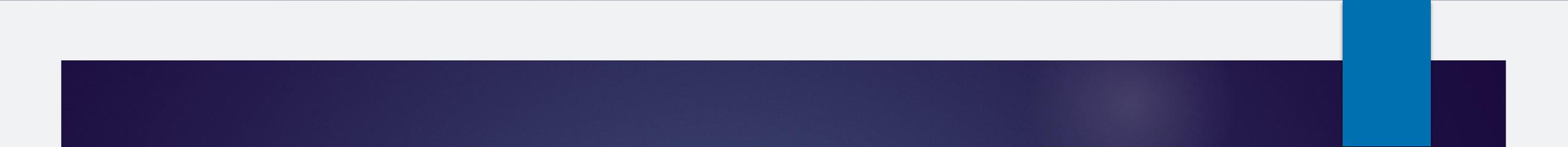
- ▶ Report of Medical History (DD FORM 2807)
- ▶ Statement in Support of Claim (VA FORM 21-4138)
- ▶ Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits (VA FORM 21-526EZ)
- ▶ Post-Deployment Health Assessment (DD FORM 2796)
- ▶ Lay/Witness Statement (VA FORM 21-10210)
- ▶ Annual Periodic Health Assessment (DD FORM 3024)

Additional Evidence

- X** Unsolicited Medical Opinions
- X** Unqualified
- X** Unable to review VA e-folders
- X** Cost



IOWA HEARING
CENTER



Establishing Direct Service Connection: Tinnitus and Hearing Loss

Medical opinion linking the current tinnitus and/or hearing loss to the event or circumstances during service

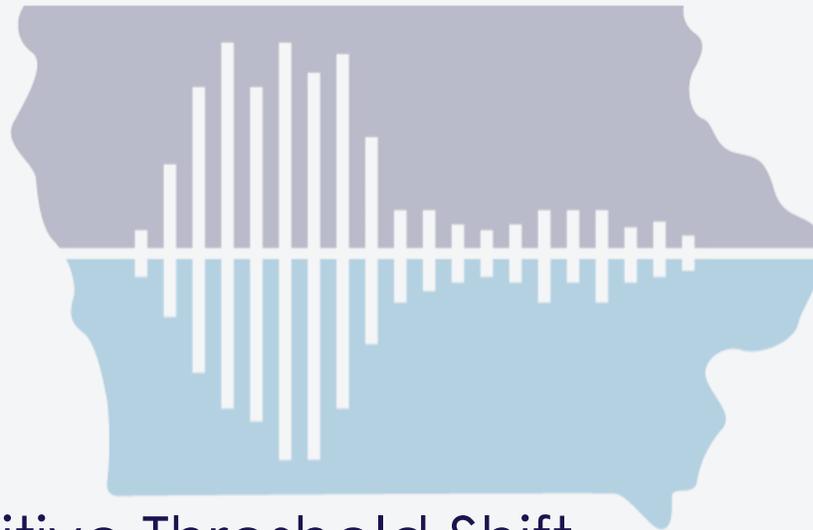
Medical Opinion – Tinnitus

- ▶ Current guidance from VA regarding medical opinions for tinnitus states:
 - ▶ **“If Veteran was not previously service connected for tinnitus, even if tinnitus was previously denied, a NEW OPINION must be rendered.”**

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Medical Opinions

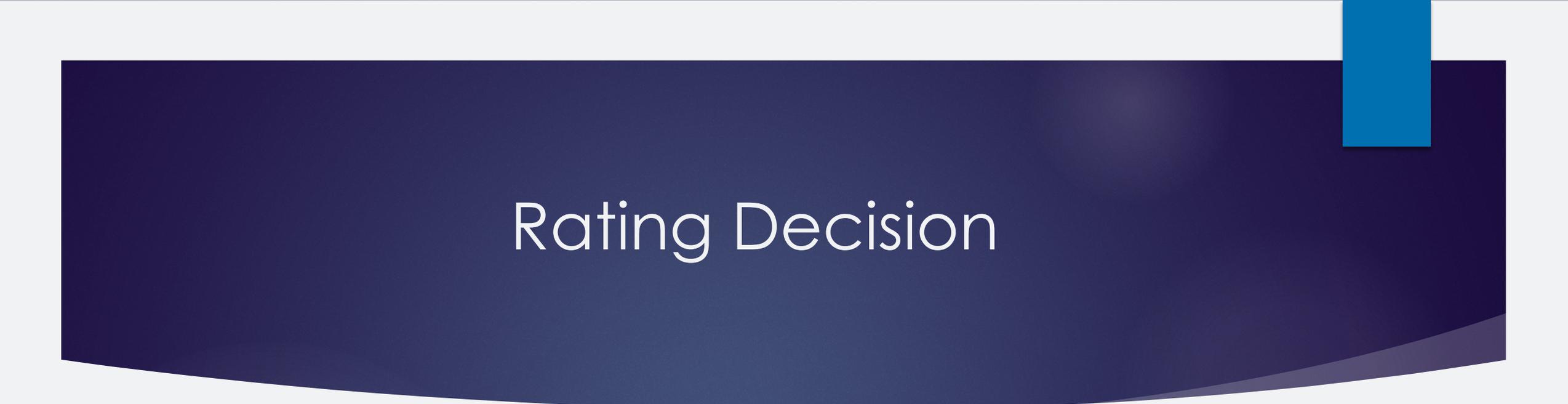
- ▶ Rationale:
 - ▶ MOS
 - ▶ Combat
 - ▶ Onset
 - ▶ Permanent Positive Threshold Shift
 - ▶ Noise Exposure



IOWA HEARING
CENTER

RATING DECISION

- Service Connection
- Percentage Evaluation



Rating Decision

VA determines the final decision regarding service connection, **NOT** healthcare providers.

Service Connection – Tinnitus

- ▶ Service Connection

- ▶ No

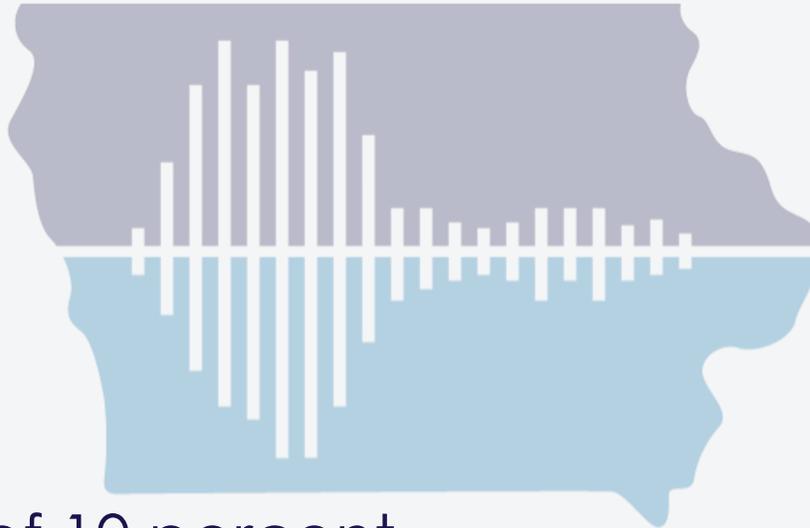
- ▶ Denied

- ▶ Yes

- ▶ Granted

- ▶ Evaluation of 10 percent

- ▶ This is the **maximum** schedular rating available for tinnitus (38 C.F.R. §4.87)



IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Service Connection – Hearing Loss

- ▶ Service Connection
 - ▶ No
 - ▶ Denied
 - ▶ Yes
 - ▶ Granted
 - ▶ Evaluation determined by severity of hearing loss (38 CFR §4.85-4.86)



IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Non-Compensable Disability

- ▶ Percentage Evaluation: 0%
- ▶ **This is not the end, but the beginning of obtaining compensation.**
- ▶ VA Benefits may include:
 - ▶ VA Health Care
 - ▶ No cost health care and prescription drugs for service connected disabilities (subject to income limits)
 - ▶ Federal Employment Preference
 - ▶ 10-point Veteran preference for Federal job(s)

Non-Compensable Disability

- ▶ VA Travel Pay Reimbursement
 - ▶ Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility
- ▶ Commissary and Exchange Privileges
 - ▶ Use of commissaries, exchanges, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online
- ▶ Life Insurance
 - ▶ Low-cost coverage

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Non-Compensable Disability

- ▶ Re-Evaluation
 - ▶ File for an increased disability rating



IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Increase Evaluations – Hearing Loss

- ▶ Increase Evaluations for Hearing Loss may result in decreased percentage evaluation



IOWA HEARING
CENTER

C&P Exam Appointment

- ▶ Arrive no less than 15 minutes prior to appointment
 - ▶ No more than 30 minutes
- ▶ Provide Photo ID
- ▶ Recording(s) of exam is **strictly** prohibited
- ▶ Results of exam will NOT be reviewed nor provided

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

Questions?

Kelly Cook, Au.D., CCC-A

Doctor of Audiology

DrCook@IowaHearingCenter.com



IOWA HEARING CENTER

1228 Sunset Dr., Ste. B

Norwalk, IA 50211

Phone: (515) 981-9893

Fax: (515) 981-9421

www.IowaHearingCenter.com

38 CFR § 4.85

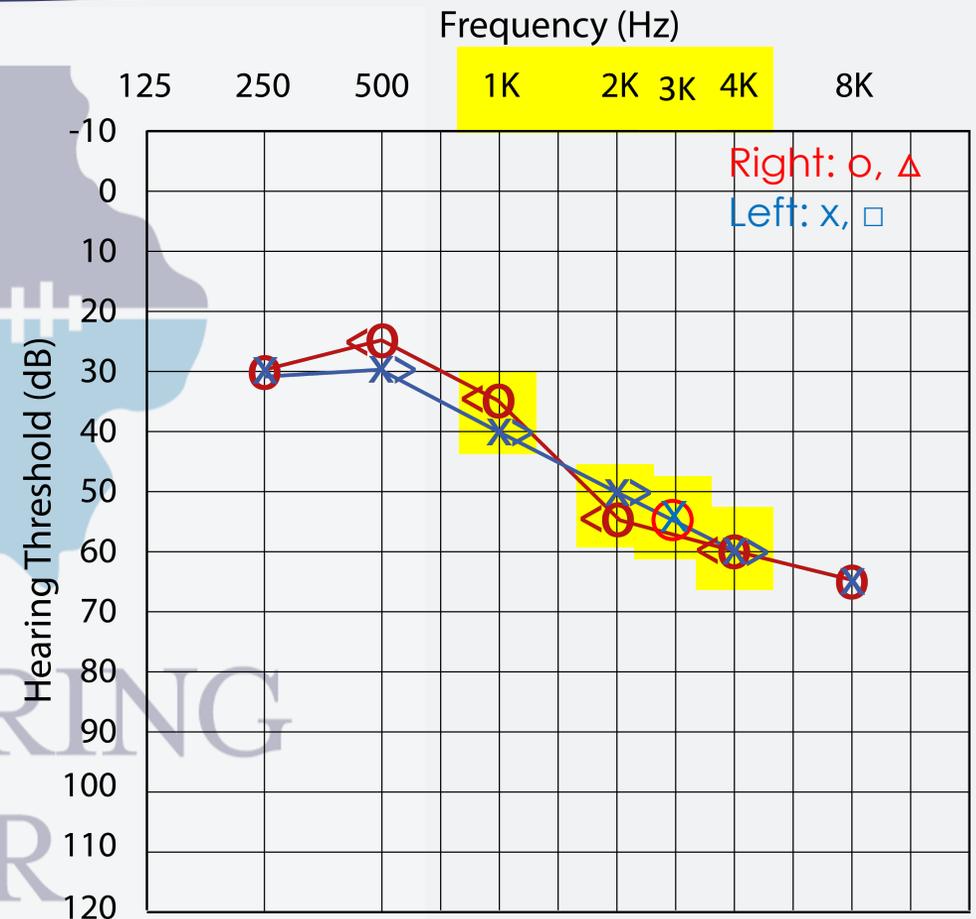
Evaluation of Hearing Impairment

- ▶ “Pure-tone Threshold Average (PTA)” is the sum of the pure-tone [air conduction] thresholds at 1000 (1K), 2000 (2K), 3000 (3K), and 4000 (4K) Hz, divided by four.

- ▶ PTA

- ▶ Right: $(35+55+55+60)/4 = 51.25$ dB HL

- ▶ Left: $(40+50+55+60)/4 = 51.25$ dB HL



38 CFR § 4.85

Evaluation of Hearing Impairment

- ▶ PTA
 - ▶ Right: 51.25 dB HL
 - ▶ Left: 51.25 dB HL
- ▶ WRS
 - ▶ Right: 94%
 - ▶ Left: 94%
- ▶ Right: I
- ▶ Left: I



IOWA HEARING
CENTER

TABLE VI

NUMERIC DESIGNATION OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT BASED ON PURETONE THRESHOLD AVERAGE AND SPEECH DISCRIMINATION

% of discrimination	Puretone Threshold Average								
	0-41	42-49	50-57	58-65	66-73	74-81	82-89	90-97	98+
92-100	I	I	I	II	II	II	III	III	IV
84-90	II	II	II	III	III	III	IV	IV	IV
76-82	III	III	IV	IV	IV	V	V	V	V
68-74	IV	IV	V	V	VI	VI	VII	VII	VII
60-66	V	V	VI	VI	VII	VII	VIII	VIII	VIII
52-58	VI	VI	VII	VII	VIII	VIII	VIII	VIII	IX
44-50	VII	VII	VIII	VIII	VIII	IX	IX	IX	X
36-42	VIII	VIII	VIII	IX	IX	IX	X	X	X
0-34	IX	X	XI	XI	XI	XI	XI	XI	XI

38 CFR § 4.85

Evaluation of Hearing Impairment

- ▶ Better Ear
- ▶ Right: I
- ▶ Poorer Ear
- ▶ Left: I

- ▶ Percentage Evaluation: 0%

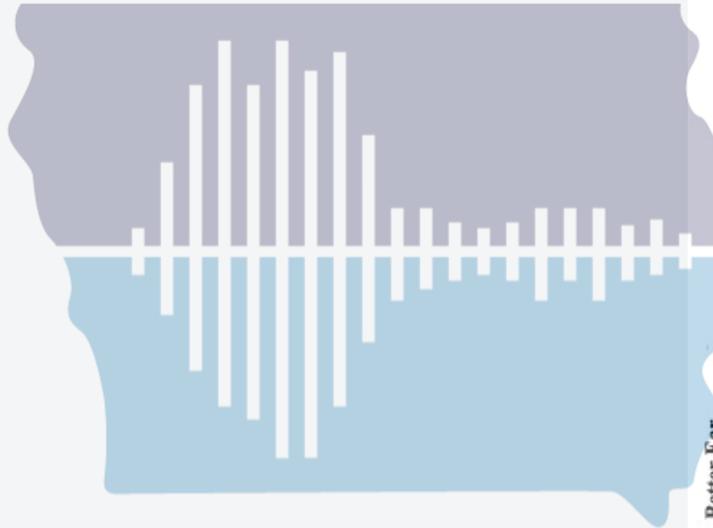


TABLE VII
PERCENTAGE EVALUATION FOR HEARING IMPAIRMENT
(DIAGNOSTIC CODE 6100)

Poorer Ear

XI	100*										
X	90	80									
IX	80	70	60								
VIII	70	60	50	50							
VII	60	60	50	40	40						
VI	50	50	40	40	30	30					
V	40	40	40	30	30	20	20				
IV	30	30	30	20	20	20	10	10			
III	20	20	20	20	20	10	10	10	0		
II	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	
I	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
XI	X	IX	VIII	VII	VI	V	IV	III	II	I	

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

38 CFR § 4.86a

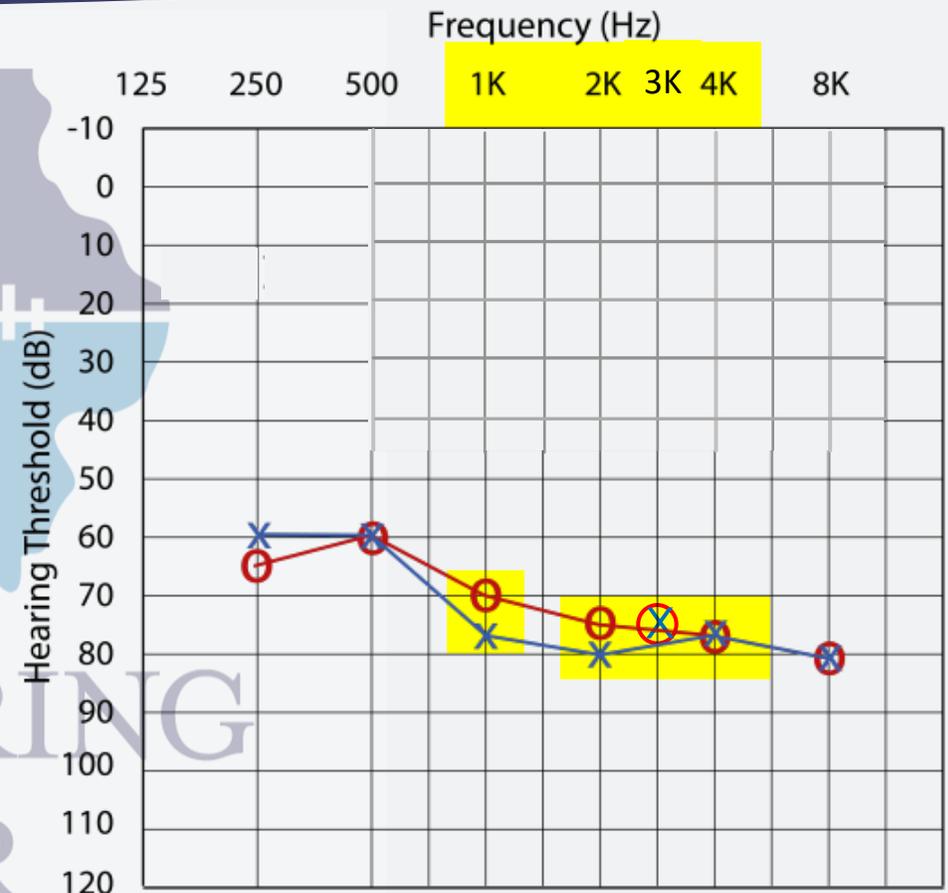
Exceptional Patterns of Hearing Impairment

- ▶ “When the pure-tone threshold at each of the four specified frequencies (1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 Hz) is 55 dB or more, the rating specialist will determine the Roman numeral designation for hearing impairment from either Table VI or Table VIa, whichever results in the higher numeral. Each ear will be evaluated separately.”

- ▶ PTA

- ▶ Right: $(70+75+75+75)/4 = 73.75$ dB HL

- ▶ Left: $(75+80+75+75)/4 = 76.25$ dB HL



38 CFR § 4.86a

Exceptional Patterns of Hearing Impairment

- ▶ PTA \geq 55 dB
- ▶ Right: VI
- ▶ Poorer Ear
- ▶ Left: VII

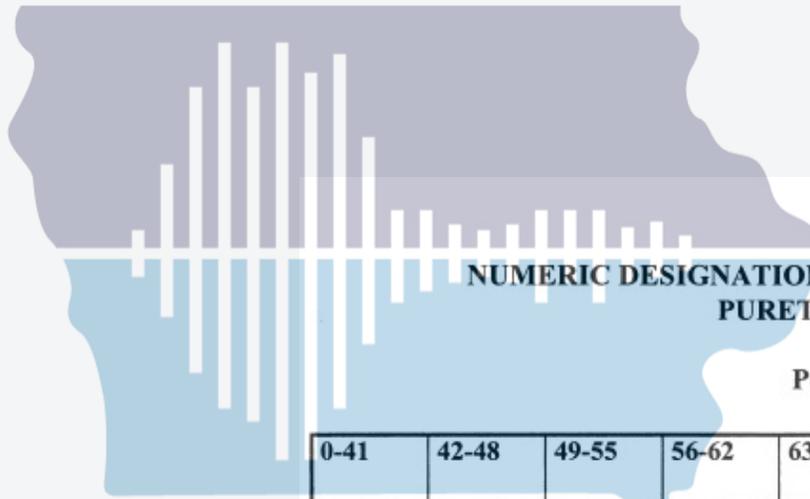


TABLE VIA*

NUMERIC DESIGNATION OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT BASED ONLY ON
PURETONE THRESHOLD AVERAGE

Puretone Threshold Average

0-41	42-48	49-55	56-62	63-69	70-76	77-83	84-90	91-97	98-104	105+
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI

* This table is for use only as specified in §§ 4.85 and 4.86.

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

38 CFR § 4.86a

Exceptional Patterns of Hearing Impairment

- ▶ PTA \geq 55 dB
- ▶ Right: VI
- ▶ Poorer Ear
- ▶ Left: VII

- ▶ Percentage Evaluation: 30%

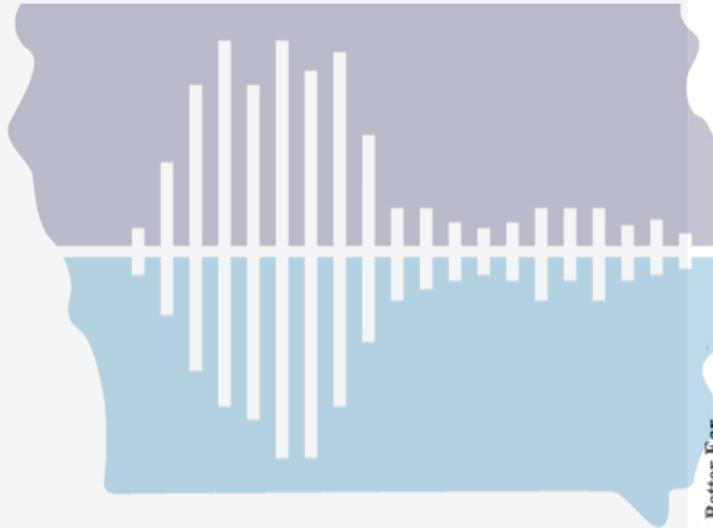


TABLE VII
PERCENTAGE EVALUATION FOR HEARING IMPAIRMENT
(DIAGNOSTIC CODE 6100)

Poorer Ear

XI	100*										
X	90	80									
IX	80	70	60								
VIII	70	60	50	50							
VII	60	60	50	40	40						
VI	50	50	40	40	30	30					
V	40	40	40	30	30	20	20				
IV	30	30	30	20	20	20	10	10			
III	20	20	20	20	20	10	10	10	0		
II	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	
I	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
XI	X	IX	VIII	VII	VI	V	IV	III	II	I	

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

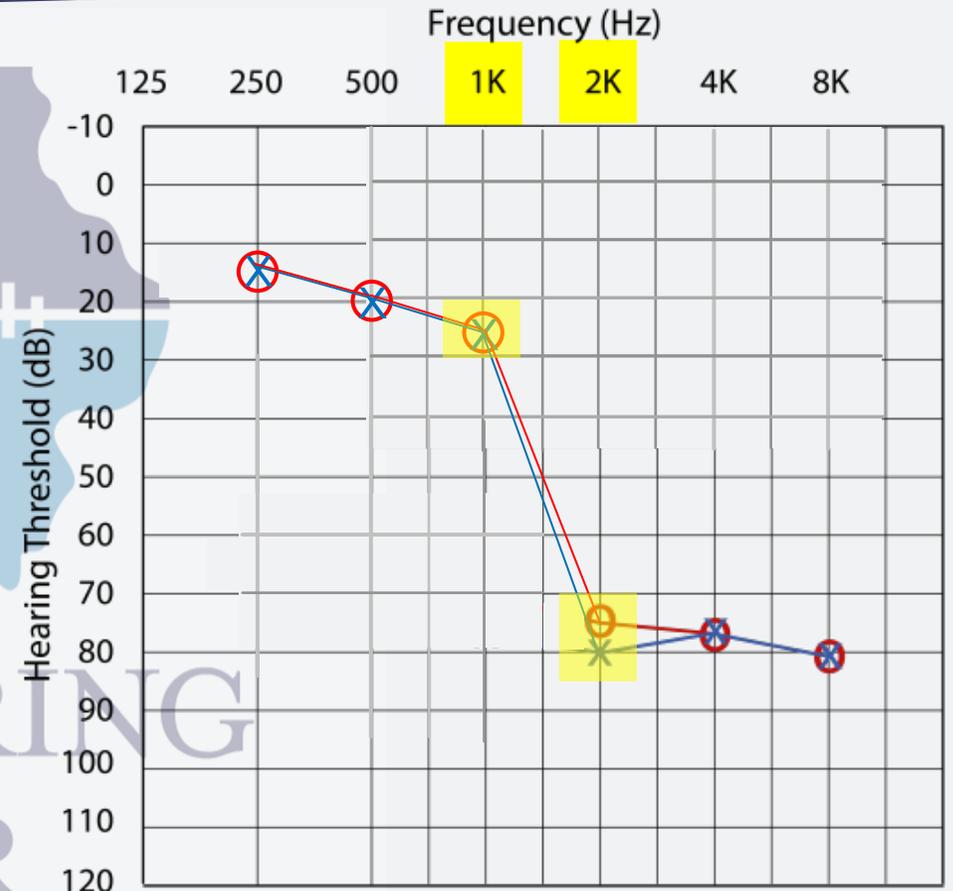
38 CFR § 4.86b

Exceptional Patterns of Hearing Impairment

- ▶ 1000 Hz \leq 30 dB
- ▶ Right: 25 dB HL
- ▶ Left: 25 dB HL
- ▶ 2000 Hz \geq 70 dB
- ▶ Right: 75 dB HL
- ▶ Left: 80 dB HL



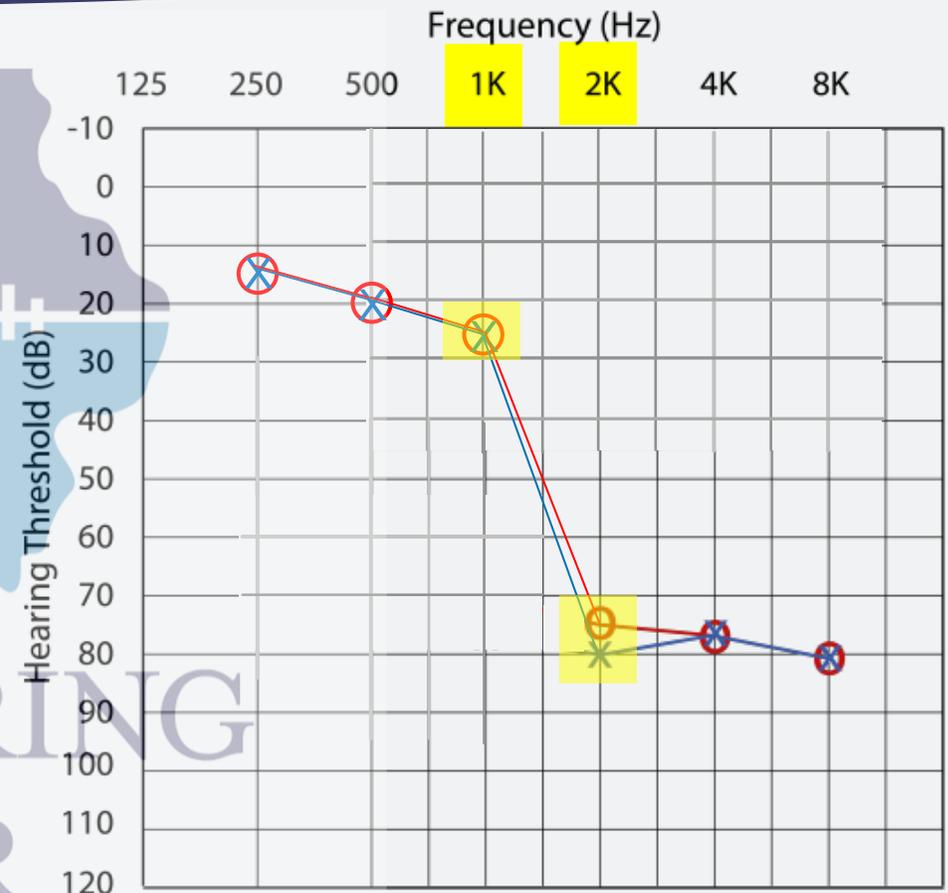
IOWA HEARING
CENTER



38 CFR § 4.86b

Exceptional Patterns of Hearing Impairment

- ▶ “When the pure-tone threshold is 30 dB or less at 1000 Hz, and 70 dB or more at 2000 Hz, the rating specialist will determine the Roman numeral designation for hearing impairment from either Table VI or Table VIa, whichever results in the higher numeral. That numeral will then be elevated to the next higher Roman numeral. Each ear will be evaluated separately.”



38 CFR § 4.86b

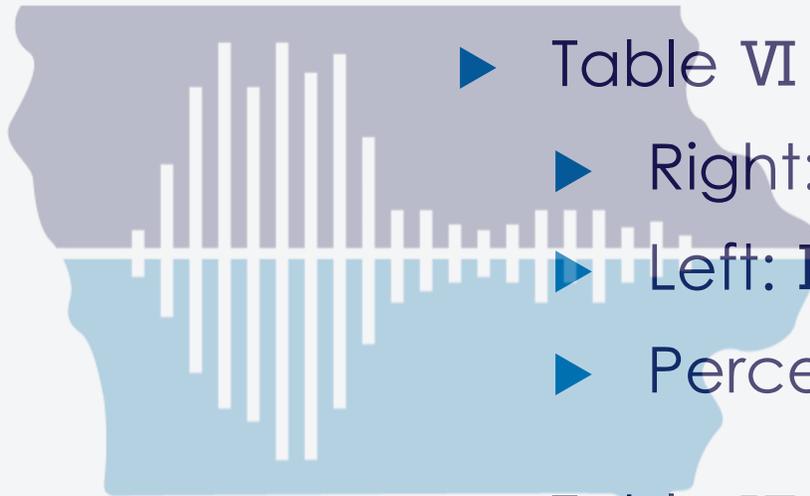
Exceptional Patterns of Hearing Impairment

- ▶ PTA

- ▶ Right: 62.5 dB HL
- ▶ Left: 63.75 dB HL

- ▶ WRS

- ▶ Right: 88%
- ▶ Left: 80%



- ▶ Table VI

- ▶ Right: III
- ▶ Left: IV

- ▶ Percentage Evaluation: 10%

- ▶ Table VIa

- ▶ Right: V + I = VI
- ▶ Left: V + I = VI

- ▶ Percentage Evaluation: 30%

IOWA HEARING
CENTER

38 CFR § 4.86b

Exceptional Patterns of Hearing Impairment

- ▶ PTA \geq 55 dB
- ▶ Right: VI
- ▶ Poorer Ear
- ▶ Left: VII

- ▶ Percentage Evaluation: 30%

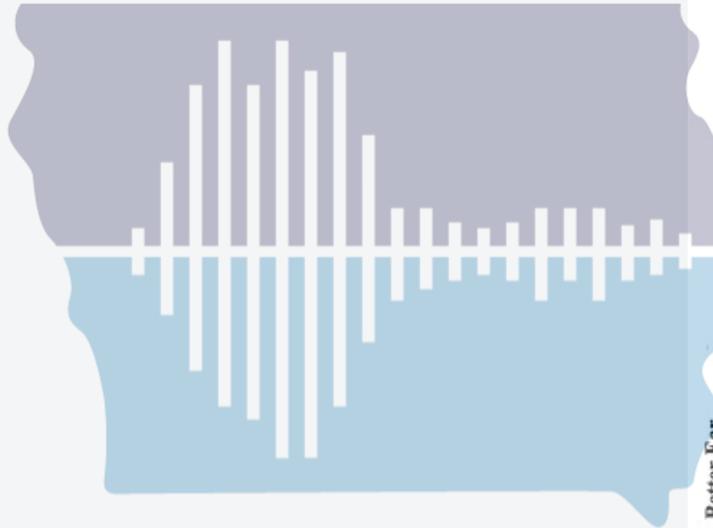


TABLE VII
PERCENTAGE EVALUATION FOR HEARING IMPAIRMENT
(DIAGNOSTIC CODE 6100)

		Poorer Ear										
		XI	X	IX	VIII	VII	VI	V	IV	III	II	I
Better Ear	XI	100*										
	X	90	80									
	IX	80	70	60								
	VIII	70	60	50	50							
	VII	60	60	50	40	40						
	VI	50	50	40	40	30	30					
	V	40	40	40	30	30	20	20				
	IV	30	30	30	20	20	20	10	10			
	III	20	20	20	20	20	10	10	10	0		
	II	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	
	I	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		XI	X	IX	VIII	VII	VI	V	IV	III	II	I

IOWA HEARING
CENTER