



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

[REDACTED]

**VA File Number**  
[REDACTED]

**Represented By:  
AMERICAN LEGION  
Rating Decision  
10/10/2017**

**INTRODUCTION**

The records reflect that you are a veteran of the Peacetime. You served in the Army from September 25, 1985, to October 14, 1988. You filed a new claim for benefits that was received on August 14, 2017. Based on a review of the evidence listed below, we have made the following decision(s) on your claim.

**DECISION**

Service connection for posttraumatic stress disorder is denied.

**EVIDENCE**

- VA Form 21-526 EZ: Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits, August 14, 2017
- VA Form 21-0781a, Statement In Support Of Claim For Service Connection For Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Secondary To Personal Trauma, received August 14, 2017
- VA Form 21-0966, Intent To File A Claim For Compensation and/or Pension, or Survivors

- Pension and/or DIC, received June 6, 2017
- VA Form 21-0820 Report of General Information, Attempted MST phone call, dated August 26, 2017
- VAMC (Veterans Affairs Medical Center) treatment records, Puget Sound HCS, from January 6, 2017 through August 22, 2017
- Service Treatment Records received July 20, 2004, Period of service, from September 25, 1985 through October 14, 1988
- Service Personnel Records received September 6, 2017, Period of service, from September 25, 1985 through October 14, 1988
- DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty received September 6, 2017, Period of service, from September 25, 1985 through October 14, 1988
- VA Examination, Initial PTSD exam at Seattle VAMC, dated October 2, 2017

### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

#### **Service connection for posttraumatic stress disorder.**

Service connection for posttraumatic stress disorder requires medical evidence diagnosing the condition in accordance with 38 CFR 4.125(a); a link, established by medical evidence, between current symptoms and an in-service stressor; and credible supporting evidence that the claimed in-service stressor occurred.

The available medical evidence is insufficient to confirm a link between current symptoms and an in-service stressor. The PTSD exam dated October 2, 2017 notes that there is no current diagnosis of PTSD. The exam notes a diagnosis of narcolepsy, which the examiner opined was less likely than not (less than 50% probability) incurred in or caused by the claimed in-service injury, event or illness. The following rationale was provided: Veteran did not report any mental health symptoms while in service and her separation exam was silent for mental health complaints. A review of her service treatment records (STR) do not reveal any behavioral markers for Military Sexual Trauma (MST). Veteran stated that the STR dated 11/4/86 referencing diarrhea and stomach upset was related to her yet undiagnosed pregnancy. Shortly after birth, a 1987 STR described veteran's daughter not gaining weight and at one point Social Work took custody of daughter for a week for suspected abuse/neglect, which was unfounded. Veteran was diagnosed with narcolepsy about 20 years ago. She was tested for narcolepsy after the condition was diagnosed in her sister. Based on a review of all the STRs and personnel records read page-by-page, tabbed records, and other relevant records in the claims file as well as test results and examination, there were no behavioral markers to support the occurrence of a sexual assault. Therefore, the MST stressor event described by the Veteran is less likely as not supported by and consistent with the in-service marker evidence. The STRs listed of record are related to her pregnancy symptoms (stomach problems, diarrhea) and her pregnancy was from a relationship with her boyfriend. Based on a review of all the STRs and personnel records read page-by-page, tabbed records, and other relevant records in the claims file as well as test results and examination, veteran reported mild mental health symptoms that did not meet DSM5 criteria for a diagnosis of PTSD. Based on a review of all the STRs and personnel records read page-by-page, tabbed records, and other relevant records in the claims file as well as test results and examination, there is no evidence that her narcolepsy is related to any event in service or was

incurred or a result of her military service.

As the evidence does not show a current medical diagnosis of post traumatic stress disorder, and medical evidence showing the diagnosed disorder is related to a verifiable stressor, service connection for post traumatic stress disorder 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](http://www.va.gov).