DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
*

[redacted]

VA File Number
[redacted]

Represented By:
GORDON A GRAHAM
Rating Decision
06/07/2019

INTRODUCTION

The records reflect that you are a veteran of the Vietnam Era. You served in the Army from December 7, 1967 to December 5, 1969. You filed a claim for increased evaluation that was received on January 18, 2019. Based on a review of the evidence listed below, we have made the following decision(s) on your claim.

DECISION

1. Service connection for rheumatoid arthritis with loss of use of both hands is granted with an evaluation of 100 percent effective January 18, 2019.

2. Entitlement to special monthly compensation based on loss of use of both hands is granted from January 18, 2019.

EVIDENCE

- DBQ MUSC Wrist, received on April 22, 2019

- DBQ Medical Opinion (Examiner's Version), received on April 22, 2019
- DBQ MUSC Hand and Finger, received on April 22, 2019
- DBQ MUSC Elbow & Forearm, received on April 19, 2019
- Medical Treatment Record - Non-Government Facility, received on March 14, 2019
- Little Rock VAMC 03/01/18-5/13/19.
- Standard 5103 Notice, received on February 27, 2019

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. Service connection for rheumatoid arthritis with loss of use of both hands.

Service connection for rheumatoid arthritis with loss of use of both hands has been established as directly related to military service. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304)

An evaluation of 100 percent is assigned from January 18, 2019, the date your claim was received. (38 CFR 4.71a) (38 CFR 3.304)

We have assigned a 100 percent evaluation for your rheumatoid arthritis with loss of use of both feet based on:
• With constitutional manifestations associated with active joint involvement, totally incapacitating

This is the highest schedular evaluation allowed under the law for rheumatoid arthritis.

2. Entitlement to special monthly compensation based on loss of use.

Entitlement to special monthly compensation is warranted in this case because criteria regarding loss of use of both hands were met from January 18, 2019. (38 CFR 3.350, 38 CFR 3.400)

{L-1} Entitled to special monthly compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (l) and 38 CFR 3.350(b) on account of loss of use of both feet from February 19, 2008.

{P-2} Entitled to special monthly compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (p) and 38 CFR 3.350(f)(4) at the rate equal to subsection (m) on account of entitlement to the rate equal to subsection (l) with additional disability, [post traumatic stress disorder] independently ratable at 100 percent from February 19, 2008, to January 17, 2019.

{L-1} Entitled to special monthly compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (l) and 38 CFR 3.350(b) on account of being so helpless as to be in need of regular aid and attendance while not hospitalized at U.S. government expense from January 18, 2019.

{M-1} Entitled to special monthly compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (m) and 38 CFR 3.350(c) on account of loss of use of both hands from January 18, 2019.

{O-3} Entitled to special monthly compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (o) and 38 CFR 3.350(e) on account of [loss of use of both feet] and [being so helpless as to be in need of regular aid and attendance] from January 18, 2019.

{P-2} Entitled to special monthly compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (p) and 38 CFR 3.350(f)(4) at the rate equal to subsection (o) on account of entitlement to the rate equal to subsection (o) with additional disability, [loss of use of both hands] independently ratable at 100 percent from January 18, 2019.

{R-1} Entitled to additional aid and attendance allowance under 38 U.S.C. 1114, subsection (r)(1) and 38 CFR 3.350(h) subject to the provisions of 38 CFR 3.552(b)(2) on account of entitlement under subsection (o), and in need of regular aid and attendance and being in need of regular aid and attendance from January 18, 2019.

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.