Evidence shows that you performed service in Southwest Asia. Your records show that you served in a combat zone (Kuwait) from January 1, 1999, to January 31, 1999, and from October 1, 2000, to December 31, 2000.

3. Service connection for rhinitis.

The evidence shows that rhinitis existed prior to service. There must be objective evidence of worsening of a preexisting condition in order to establish service connection by aggravation. There is no evidence that the condition permanently worsened as a result of service. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304, 38 CFR 3.306)

While your service treatment records reflect complaints, treatment, or a diagnosis similar to that claimed, the medical evidence supports the conclusion that a persistent disability was not present in service. (38 CFR 3.303, 38 CFR 3.304) The evidence does not show that your condition, which existed prior to service permanently worsened as a result of service. (38 CFR 3.306)

We received your medical evidence from the VA Medical Center at Danville along with your private treatment records from Carle Health System and correspondence from April Williams which discusses the symptoms of your medical condition. However, the VA medical opinion found no link between your diagnosed medical condition and military service. The examiner stated, DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, shows active military service from 1998-2005. Report of medical history and exam on September 9, 1997, for enlistment was negative for pre-service ear, nose and throat (ENT) conditions. Report of medical history and exam on July 28, 2005, for separation was negative for evidence of aggravation of claimed sinusitis condition. Compensation and pension exam on December 23, 2021, was negative for ENT condition and sinus x-ray was negative for sinusitis condition. Medical record review did not reveal continuous ongoing medical treatment or aggravation of acute or chronic rhinitis condition during time of discharge from active military service to present day. The Veteran's nasal decongestant for running nose (which clearly and unmistakably existed prior to service) was not aggravated beyond its natural progression by the allergic rhinitis during service.

Therefore, service connection for rhinitis is denied.

Favorable Findings identified in this decision:

The claimed issue existed prior to military service. Your entrance examination dated September 9, 1997, shows you were taking nasal decongestant for a runny nose.

The claimed issue was treated during military service. Your service treatment records show treatment for rhinitis on April 22, 2002.

You have been diagnosed with a disability. QTC examination dated December 23, 2021, shows a diagnosis of rhinitis.

4. Service connection for sinusitis.