



HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS

DIRECT SERVICE CONNECTION ROADMAP

A calibrated guide to service connection, audiology evidence, and VA rating rules.

CALIBRATED REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

1

CURRENT CONDITION

Establish qualifying hearing loss or recurrent tinnitus.

2

SERVICE EXPOSURE

Document noise, acoustic trauma, onset, or another in-service event.

3

TIMELINE

Address in-service findings, separation results, later testing, and post-service noise.

4

NEXUS

A supported opinion should address the complete history, not rely only on separation results.

Apply the exact regulation and evidence to the individual record. A diagnosis, exposure, or test result does not replace the remaining service-connection elements.

