



HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS

HEARING AND TINNITUS EVIDENCE GUIDE

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

CALIBRATED REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

1

SERVICE RECORDS

Duty specialty, deployment, hearing conservation data, audiograms, threshold changes, and documented acoustic trauma.

2

CURRENT AUDIOLOGY

Puretone results, Maryland CNC scores, diagnoses, treatment, and hearing-aid history.

3

LAY EVIDENCE

Onset, continuity, communication difficulty, recurrent sound, and observations from people with firsthand knowledge.

4

MEDICAL OPINION

A rationale addressing service noise, other exposures, timing, testing, and the claimed causal pathway.

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

