



HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS

NORMAL HEARING AT SEPARATION IS NOT THE END OF THE ANALYSIS

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

CALIBRATED REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

RULE

NO AUTOMATIC BAR

Later hearing loss may be service connected even when hearing met normal limits at separation.

REVIEW

COMPARE AUDIOGRAMS

Review entrance, in-service, and separation thresholds for changes, calibration, and test history.

HISTORY

ADDRESS EXPOSURES

Consider military noise, symptom onset, post-service noise, and the full medical record.

OPINION

REQUIRE A RATIONALE

A conclusion based only on normal separation hearing may be inadequate if it does not address the complete record.

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

