



How often selected legal pathways, verification records, and stressor findings appeared in 172,640 PTSD Board issues.

FULL-SCAN POPULATION

172,640 PTSD ISSUES SCANNED

Published Board issues coded under diagnostic code 9411.

OVERLAPPING MARKERS

One issue may contain several markers. Counts cannot be added together and are not shares of mutually exclusive stressor types.

CATEGORY 1

LEGAL STRESSOR PATHWAYS

These are the only two detected markers in this dataset that describe the legal pathway or stressor context itself.

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COMBAT PATHWAY

COMBAT DECORATIONS OR 1154(B)

References to combat decorations or the statutory combat-evidence rule.

17,511
ISSUES DETECTED

10.1%

OF ALL SCANNED PTSD ISSUES

F

REGULATORY PATHWAY

FEAR OF HOSTILE MILITARY ACTIVITY

References to the relaxed stressor rule in 38 C.F.R. § 3.304(f)(3).

13,265
ISSUES DETECTED

7.7%

OF ALL SCANNED PTSD ISSUES

CATEGORY 2

VERIFICATION-RECORD MARKERS

These describe evidence used to research or corroborate an event, not the event itself.

1

UNIT RECORDS, MORNING REPORTS, OR DECK LOGS

Operational and historical records used to investigate claimed events.

5.5% OF SCANNED ISSUES

9,542

2

JSRRC RECORDS RESEARCH

References to verification research associated with JSRRC.

4.2% OF SCANNED ISSUES

7,290

CATEGORY 3



STRESSOR CONCEDED, VERIFIED, OR CORROBORATED

This marker describes the Board record's conclusion about stressor proof. It is not a separate stressor category.

6,142
ISSUES DETECTED

3.6% OF ALL SCANNED PTSD ISSUES



IMPORTANT LIMITATION

THIS IS NOT A
STRESSOR
POPULARITY CHART

The categories are not mutually exclusive. The same issue may mention a legal pathway, unit records, JSRRC research, and a conceded stressor.

Absence of a marker does not mean absence of a stressor. It means the selected term pattern was not detected.

Several stressor types are not separately counted here. The source does not provide comparable categories for MST, personal assault, accidents, or other non-combat events.

RESEARCH TAKEAWAY

STRESSOR CONTEXT AND
STRESSOR PROOF ARE
DIFFERENT VARIABLES

Combat and fear-of-hostile-activity markers describe legal routes. Unit records and JSRRC describe verification methods. A conceded or corroborated stressor describes the resulting finding. Keeping these layers separate avoids a misleading comparison.



SOURCE AND SCOPE

RateMyVSO analysis of 172,640 published Board issues coded for PTSD under diagnostic code 9411. Data generated September 23, 2026. Drawn from a research corpus containing more than 1.9 million published BVA decisions. Marker counts overlap and do not predict an individual claim outcome.