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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
In Reply Refer To: 27/21F
CSS 000-45-6789
JORDAN T REYES
1418 W ELM ST APT 2
SPRINGFIELD, ST 00000

March 4, 2026

Dear Jordan Reyes:

We made a decision on your claim for service-connected compensation received on September 12, 2025. This letter tells you what we decided, how we made our decision, and what to do if you disagree.

What We Decided
Tinnitus: Service connection for tinnitus is granted with an evaluation of 10 percent effective September 12, 2025.
Left knee strain: Service connection for left knee strain is denied.
Obstructive sleep apnea: Service connection for obstructive sleep apnea is denied.

Your combined evaluation is 10 percent effective September 12, 2025.

What Evidence We Considered
- VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation, received September 12, 2025
- Service treatment records, for the period of service from June 2, 2009 to June 1, 2015
- VA treatment records, Central Texas VA, from January 3, 2024 through January 15, 2026
- VA examination, December 9, 2025 (contract examination)
- Private treatment records, Lakeview Orthopedics, requested October 1, 2025 and October 30, 2025; not received

Reasons for Decision

1. Service connection for tinnitus is granted. We have assigned a 10 percent evaluation for recurrent tinnitus. This is the maximum schedular evaluation for tinnitus. Your military occupational specialty of Field Artillery has a high probability of hazardous noise exposure, and exposure to hazardous noise in

service is conceded.

2. Service connection for left knee strain is denied. The following favorable finding was made: you have a current diagnosis of left knee strain (VA examination, December 9, 2025). Service connection may be granted for a disability which began in military service or was caused by some event or experience in service. Your service treatment records do not contain complaints, treatment, or a diagnosis for this condition. The VA examiner opined that it is less likely than not that your condition is related to service. The evidence does not show a link between your current left knee condition and military service.

3. Service connection for obstructive sleep apnea is denied. The following favorable finding was made: you have a current diagnosis of obstructive sleep apnea, confirmed by sleep study. Service connection may be granted for a disability which began in military service or was caused by some event or experience in service, or which is proximately due to or the result of a service-connected disability. The evidence does not show that this condition began in service or was caused by service, and there is no service-connected condition to which it could be related.

What You Should Do If You Disagree With Our Decision
If you do not agree with our decision, you may request a review. You have one year from the date of this letter to request a Supplemental Claim, Higher-Level Review, or Board Appeal. Please see the enclosed VA Form 20-0998, Your Rights to Seek Further Review of Our Decision.

How You Can Get Evidence Used In Your Decision
You may request a copy of the evidence used in your decision by submitting VA Form 20-10206.

Direct deposit on file: routing ending 0000, account ending 1234
Sincerely yours,
Regional Office Director

PRACTICE SAMPLE