



Dear [REDACTED],

Thereafter, you requested to be awarded Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC), and, inferred from available documentation, the CRSC Board denied your request. You sought reconsideration from the CRSC Board, and it granted your request for reconsideration in part, informing you by letter dated 27 February 2023 that it granted you CRSC for your Tinnitus condition, but denied it for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Thoracolumbar Spine Degenerative Arthritis, Right Shoulder Impingement Syndrome, and Lumbar Spondylosis (left and right extremity). In denying your request for CRSC for PTSD, the CRSC Board explained:

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder that may develop after exposure to a terrifying event or ordeal in which severe physical harm occurred or was threatened. Traumatic events that may trigger PTSD include violent personal assaults, natural or unnatural disasters, accidents, or military combat. In addition, your witness or exposure to traumatic events is not in itself sufficient to qualify for a combat-related determination. Your application package does not establish that specific combat-related events caused your diagnosis.

You again sought reconsideration from the CRSC Board, which informed you that it granted your request for reconsideration in part, informing you by letter dated 24 June 2024 that it granted you CRSC for Thoracolumbar Spine Degenerative Arthritis, Lumbar Spondylosis (left and right lower extremity), and Left and Right Knee Strain. In its discussion of your request for CRSC due to PTSC, the CRSC Board repeated the explanation that it set forth before, but it emphasized a sentence in bold type as follows:

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder that may develop after exposure to a terrifying event or ordeal in which severe physical harm occurred or was threatened. Traumatic events that may trigger PTSD include violent personal assaults, natural or unnatural disasters, accidents, or military combat. **In addition, your witness or exposure to traumatic events is not in itself sufficient to qualify for a combat-related determination.** Your application package does not establish that specific combat-related events caused your diagnosis.

After receiving this letter denying your request for CRSC in part, you filed your current petition with this Board. In your petition, you request that this Board review the decision of the CRSC Board and find that you are eligible for CRSC due to PTSD. In support of your request, you argue that your PTSD was a direct result of your combat deployments. Specifically, you argued in that you provided the CRSC Board with the narrative of events that you contend directly caused your PTSD, which occurred in Iraq in 2007 and Afghanistan in 2010. Further, you contend, your rating with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is combined 100% and that your PTSD went from 70 to 100% in 2019. You provided a letter from the VA, which you contend articulates that the VA connected your PTSD to combat. In addition, you argue that your mental health record shows your continued treatment for PTSD, and you have session notes with providers for the past 10 years. Finally, you provided a copy of a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal that you assert demonstrates you were involved in eliminating an enemy sniper.

In its review of your current petition and all of its supporting information, the Board disagreed with your rationale with relief. In reaching its decision, the Board considered that the CRSC Board provided you at least two letters, discussed above, setting forth the deficiency in your claim for CRSC due to PTSD. The Board observed that the material you provided to this Board did not sufficiently address the shortcomings as set forth by the CRSC Board. The Board also observed that, it found as unpersuasive your reliance on post-service findings by the VA that your PTSD was connected to your service to support your argument that you should be awarded CRSC. The Board considered that the CRSC Board and the VA are different organizations, and

each makes decisions based on different criteria. Thus, in light of its careful review of the entirety of the available evidence, the Board was unable to find that the CRSC Board's decision with respect to CRSC for PTSD was in error, nor did the Board find any injustice in the CRSC Board's decision. Accordingly, based on the foregoing, the Board denied your request.

You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new matters, which will require you to complete and submit a new DD Form 149. New matters are those not previously presented to or considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a presumption of regularity attaches to all official records. Consequently, when applying for a correction of an official naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,

3/26/2025

