

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
Chapter/Department Service Officer

Seven Methods of Service Connection

AIM

The service officer should become acquainted with what is required to establish service connection or entitlement to receive compensation for disability. This training focuses on the seven principles contained in 38 CFR, Part 3 to establish service connected disabilities, or to receive compensation for disabilities as if they are service-connected conditions.

A. General Rating Principles

38 CFR 3.303 Principles relating to service connection.

B. Methods to Establish Service Connection

1. Direct Service Connection

38 CFR 3.304 Direct service connection; wartime and peacetime.

2. Aggravation of Preservice Disability

38 CFR 3.306 Aggravation of preservice disability.

38 CFR 3.322 Rating of disabilities aggravated by service.

3. Presumptive Service Connection

38 CFR 3.307 Presumptive service connection for chronic, tropical or prisoner-of-war related disease, or disease associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents; wartime and service on or after January 1, 1947.

38 CFR 3.309 Disease subject to presumptive service connection.

38 CFR 3.311 Claims based on exposure to ionizing radiation.

38 CFR 3.313 Claims based on service in Vietnam.

38 CFR 3.316 Claims based on chronic effects of exposure to mustard gas.

38 CFR 3.317 Compensation for certain disabilities due to undiagnosed illnesses.

4. Disabilities Secondary to Service-Connected Conditions

38 CFR 3.310 Disabilities that are proximately due to, or aggravated by, service-connected disease or injury.

5. Paired Organs and Extremities

38 CFR 3.383 Special consideration for paired organs and extremities.

6. Disability due to VA Hospital Care or Treatment

7. Disability due to VA Training and Rehabilitation Services

38 CFR 3.358 Compensation for disability or death from