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|  | Training ScenarioVeteran’s appeal was for service connection for sleep apnea. The key portion of the Board remand is highlighted below.  |
|  | Board RemandThe VA examiner with whom the Veteran met in February 2020 for evaluation of his claimed sleep disorder confirmed a current diagnosis of obstructive sleep apnea, but indicated only that the condition was “less likely as not due to environmental hazards exposure and is secondary to upper airway anatomic conditions leading to airway obstruction and hypoxemia.” No assessment was made with respect to in-service onset, or to any direct etiological connection to service. Moreover, no further explanation was furnished as to why environmental hazards exposure bore no causative or aggravating relationship to development of sleep apnea. Schedule the Veteran for a VA examination to explore the presence and etiology of sleep apnea. All indicated tests and studies should be conducted and all clinical findings reported in detail. The entire claims file should be made available to and be reviewed by the examiner in conjunction with this request.The examiner should state whether is at least as likely as not (e.g., at least a 50 percent probability or greater) that sleep apnea began in service or is otherwise related to service, to include as secondary to or aggravated by in-service exposure to environmental hazards. The examiner is reminded that such exposure is conceded in the Veteran’s case. The medical opinion request asked for the following medical opinion. Medical Opinion Request**DBQ Medical Opinion 1:**Please review the Veteran's electronic folder in VBMS and state that it was reviewed in your report.MEDICAL OPINION REQUESTTYPE OF MEDICAL OPINION REQUESTED: Secondary Service connection.OPINION REQUESTED: Secondary Service Connection.Is the Veteran's sleep apnea at least as likely as not (50 percent or greater probability) proximately due to or the result of environmental hazards?Rationale must be provided in the appropriate section.Medical Opinion from ExaminerBased on review of the medical records, there is no evidence documenting that the environmental hazards caused the Veteran’s sleep apnea. Sleep apnea is secondary to upper airway anatomic conditions leading to airway obstruction and hypoxemia. |
|  | Classroom Discussion1. Based on the Board remand, was the medical opinion request sufficient? Why or why not?2. Based on the Board remand, was the medical opinion from the examiner sufficient? Why or why not? |
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Nov 2021