**Use below always to address 3.309a:**

There is no evidence that the condition(s) causing or contributing to death manifested to a compensable degree within one year from the date of military discharge for consideration under 38 CFR 3.309 (a).

**Use below always to address STR:**

The Veteran's service treatment records are silent for any findings, complaints, or treatment of the condition(s) shown as causing or contributing to death.

**Use below to address:**

**TERA denial:**

There is no evidence in the Veteran’s record to substantiate a Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA). Due to the provisions of the PACT ACT, VA conducted a review of the Veteran’s records, fact and circumstances of service and the causes of death to determine a nexus that would warrant a medical opinion, however based on our review TERA exposure is not conceded. (USC 1168, 38 USC 1710(e)(4))

**OR**

**TERA positive, however no medical opinion:**

There is evidence in the Veteran’s record to substantiate a Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA) due to the PACT ACT law. VA conducted a review of the Veteran’s records and toxic exposure due to service is conceded, however the cause of death as listed on the death certificate is not listed amongst the allowed presumptive conditions. We may consider that the Veteran’s cause of death is associated with service if you send us scientific or medical evidence showing that the cause of death is medically associated due to service. If a doctor has expressed an opinion regarding the relationship of the cause of death and service, send us that opinion, the reasons and bases for that opinion, and the clinical treatment records. In addition, the doctor should provide literature that supports the opinion. Literature may consist of scientific or medical journal articles, etc., that support the doctor's opinion. (38 USC 1710(e)(4)(C))

**TERA positive and medical opinion scheduled; however, nexus opinion is negative:**

Under the provisions of 38 USC 1168, VA has determined that service connection based on toxic exposure associated with military service is warranted when VA has found a positive association between the condition and such exposure. There is evidence in the Veteran’s record to substantiate a Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA). Based on the evidence, VA requested a medical opinion. Our VA medical examiner opined that it is less likely than not (less than 50 percent probability) that the Veteran's cause(s) of death were incurred or caused by his military toxic exposure during service. (38 CFR 3.303)

**Pick ONE of the paragraph choices to address DTA:**

**IF VA never sent a DTA select add:**

Your application was submitted as a fully developed claim; therefore, no development actions have been initiated. All decisions made were based solely on the evidence which was held in federal possession and which you submitted with your claim. No medical evidence was provided from the date of the Veteran's death to the date of this rating to substantiate your claim by showing the Veteran's service conditions or service caused, contributed to or hastened the Veteran’s death and/or medical evidence showing a reasonable probability that the condition which contributed to the Veteran’s death was caused by injury or disease that began during active-duty service.

**If VA sent development letters ONLY for medical/Rating issues add:**

In our letter(s) to you listed in the “Evidence” section, VA requested that you submit any medical evidence showing that the Veteran’s service-connected conditions or service caused or contributed to death, and/or medical evidence showing a reasonable probability that the condition(s) which contributed to the Veteran’s death was caused by injury or disease that began during active-duty service to substantiate your claim for benefits.

**Pick ONE of the paragraph choices to address VAMC Records:**

**IF VAMC Records are of record add:**

The VA obtained and reviewed the VAMC treatment records as outlined above in the “Evidence” section. These records show treatment and diagnosis for multiple medical conditions, including the causes of the Veteran’s death. However, the VAMC treatment records do not show that the Veteran’s death was due to military service.

**IF VAMC Records are unavailable add:**

Our electronic search for VAMC treatment records was negative for any records.

**Use below to indicate there was no medical evidence to grant SC death:**

As of the date of this rating, we have not received any medical evidence indicating that the cause(s) of death were incurred in-service or caused by injury or disease that began during his period of active-duty service.

**Pick ONE of the paragraph choices to add right before final VBMS-R narrative line:**

**NO SC ever awarded:**

There is no evidence that the Veteran’s active-duty service caused, aggravated, or hastened the death of the Veteran.

**SC granted previously:**

There is no evidence that the above service-connected conditions and/or the Veteran’s active-duty service caused, aggravated, or hastened the death of the Veteran.