

OASIS Group

Tips for filing an original claim more than one year after discharge

The VA will be looking for the following conditions to be met;

1. Your injuries occurred during service - or - worsened due to service.
2. Your injuries are chronic.
3. Your injuries were diagnosed - or - confirmed by past diagnosis in the service by a credentialed provider (MD, DO, PA or NP) to exist and are chronic in nature.
4. You have a current diagnosis.
5. Your injuries have supporting ancillary testing, x-rays, CT, MRI, labs, etc.
6. You have treatment records from the time of your discharge to now or a medical opinion stating that your current chronic conditions were incurred in or as a result of your time on active duty.

Our recommendations are to start going through your military medical records (if you have them) writing each injury and when it was first diagnosed and each follow up treatment for that injury on a piece of paper prior to sitting down with a claims officer so that you can make best use of the time.

If you don't have your military medical records then do the best you can from memory. You can also request them from the National Archives, see www.oasisgrp.org, click on "**Claims Assistance**" then click on "**Request Records**".

The next step is to fill out the VA form 21-526. Ensure to provide all the supporting documentation.

Something that will help greatly but not absolutely necessary, see your healthcare provider or an OASIS Group recommended Doctor or PA. Have them write a medical opinion as to whether it is "as likely as not" your present chronic conditions are related to your time on active duty and why.

File your claim with the VA Regional Office in your state or with a National Service Organization such as DAV, VFW, AMVETS, etc.

Keep OASIS Group informed.

CRDP/CRSC, what is it?

1. CRDP or Concurrent Receipt of Disability Pay is the entitlement to receive retirement pay and VA disability compensation at the same time.

- a. You need to do nothing.
- b. This is automatically taken care of by the VA and DOD.

2. CRSC or Combat Related Special Compensation.

a. Is for wounds, injuries or conditions that were caused by combat, an implement of war, or training for war.

b. You have to meet those retirements and other criteria.

c. CRSC is not automatic. It is a program administered by DOD. You must apply for it on the specific forms.

d. It is not an additional benefit. You will be given a choice of taking VA compensation or CRSC. Most times VA comp is more.

With regards to CRSC, the separate services have Retirement Service Officers (RSOs) at every major installation whose job is to assist with the paperwork.