

Combat-Related vs. Service-Connected

Simulating War	Combat-Related	Service-Connected
Must be an incident or accident directly contributed to training for combat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Twisted Knee jumping into foxhole - Broke arm at Leadership Reaction Course - Sprained ankle on tactical road march - Dislocated shoulder during Ranger training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Twisted knee stepping in hole while on duty - Broke arm playing football - Sprained ankle in motor pool - Dislocated shoulder during physical training
Hazardous Service	Combat-Related	Service-Connected
Must be an incident or accident linked to hazardous service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flight Duty – Sprained back in hard landing - Demolition Duty – Hearing loss due to explosion - Parachute Duty – Broke arm during bad PLF - Diving Duty – Ruptured eardrum on ascent 	Disabilities not caused by a specific incident or accident, or attributed to hazardous service by the VA or a Military Treatment Facility.
Instrumentality of War	Combat-Related	Service-Connected
An Instrument of war is a piece of equipment that is unique to the military and used in a manner for which it is intended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hand crushed by armored vehicle hatch - Shot in foot on firing range - Injured by shrapnel on grenade range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broke back in civilian vehicle accident - Hand crushed while operating fork lift - Off-post weapon incident
Armed Conflict	Combat-Related	Service-Connected
Injury must have occurred as a direct result of armed conflict.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any injury or condition for which a Purple Heart was awarded - Gunshot wound from enemy fire - Shell fragment wounds sustained in combat - Injuries from an aircraft being shot down - Wounds from an IED or terrorist bomb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Twisted ankle stepping in a hole while in a combat zone, but while not engaged in armed conflict. - Injured during a sporting event or recreational activity in a hostile area - Diseases of nature are not considered a result of armed conflict (i.e. heart disease, malaria, or high blood pressure, Asthma, Gout or kidney Stones)
Presumptive	Combat-Related	Service-Connected
A condition that has been recognized by the Veteran's Affairs as being presumptive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diabetes Type II as presumptive for Agent Orange - Fibromyalgia as presumptive for the Gulf War - Leukemia as presumptive for radiation exposure - A non-presumptive condition that is secondary to a presumptive condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conditions that are not on the recognized VA list as being presumptive