**WHAT IS A MEDICAL NEXUS AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Usually, the most important part of any claim for veterans disability benefits is being able to prove that there is a “link” between your current medical conditions and your service while in the military. This is called the “nexus”.

The nexus, or link, between a veteran’s current disability and something that happened to you “in-service” is often the hardest thing to prove in your claim for VA disability benefits. However, without a nexus, your disability benefits claim with the Veteran’s Administration (VA) **WILL NOT WIN!** How does a veteran prove this complicated, yet essential element of service connection? It is done by getting a “nexus letter” or “Medical Nexus Opinion”. In fact, a well written nexus letter may be the single most important document that a veteran can have as evidence in support of a claim for VA disability benefits.

A medical nexus letter is a “report” that a doctor or other medical professional prepares for a disabled veteran, and it explains that the current medical condition of the veteran is related to their military service. A veteran is not required to submit a nexus letter along with the claim for disability benefits, but the nexus letter can often make the difference between an award and a denial. Also, there is no exact time frame of when a nexus letter is allowed to be sent into the VA. A veteran can submit a nexus letter with the initial application for benefits, during development of their claim, or after receiving a bad C&P Exam. However, it’s good practice to submit a nexus letter earlier rather than later. The nexus letter becomes especially important in cases where a veteran has not submitted any medical evidence in support of their claim, and then a C&P examiner finds that there is no connection between the veteran’s disability and military service.

If you are going to have a current treating medical provider prepare the “nexus” letter, be sure that they understand that they only have to say that your medical condition is “***more likely than not***” related to your military service or some event while you were in-service. It can ruin the whole purpose of the “nexus” letter if the medical provider fails to include the “more likely than not” language. Take them the proper “DBQ” form to fill out which can be found by clicking [**HERE**](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq_listbydbqformname.asp)and searching for your condition(s) or body parts.

For more information on the “nexus” letter or how to find a medical provider willing to write you a “nexus” letter, contact **HALE LAW OFFICE at 1-800-522-4595** or by [**CLICKING HERE**](http://www.rogerhalelaw.com/contact-us).