

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE THAT SUPPORTS [REDACTED] SERVICE CONNECTION FOR DISCOID LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (DLE)

>>Standard of proof: The law requires that it be “at least as likely as not” (50/50 chance) that the veteran’s current disability – in this case DLE, be connected to her time in the service.

>>Relevant service facts: Ms. [REDACTED] served as an air traffic controller in the Gulf War, December 20, 1990 – May 25, 1991, when she was discharged from active duty service.

>>Evidence of Service connection:

- 1) Statement of VA rheumatologist Dr. [REDACTED] treating doctor, linking the veteran’s DLE with service.
- 2) Service medical record from May 1991 when veteran was seen for DLE. It appears that the date on this record is May 3, 1991, before veteran’s discharge.
- 3) Medical records from Hines VA Medical Center stating that the veteran’s DLE was diagnosed in 1991, and that she had it before her discharge from the military.
- 4) VA report “Gulf War Illness and the Health of Gulf War Veterans, Scientific Findings and Recommendations,” that shows the connection between Gulf War veterans who took pyridostigmine bromide tablets, pesticides, and skin rashes.
- 5) Form showing veteran took 42 pyridostigmine bromide tablets before deployment.
- 6) Form showing veteran was “definitely exposed” to environmental contaminants.
- 7) Letter from Dr. [REDACTED], dated 5/23/97 connecting pyridostigmine bromide tablets, pesticides, and health problems in Gulf War veterans.

>>Gulf war illness:

Letters from Dr. [REDACTED], at Preventive Environmental Medicine, dated 1/2/97 and 2/14/97 diagnose this veteran with Gulf War illness. (Marked with numbers 8 and 9)

*There are also 7 letters from people who knew this veteran before her deployment and after (in the claims file) who state that she did not have any health problems/skin issues before going to the Gulf, but did have problems, including hair loss/skin rash upon her return.

*2 sworn affidavits from the veteran (in the claims file) state she first felt DLE symptoms on her scalp in the Gulf, treated before discharge, and that pesticide spraying occurred every day in the areas where she worked, ate, and slept.