



## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

November 3, 2017

In reply, refer to:  
346/FI  
File Number:

Dear

We made a decision regarding your entitlement to VA benefits.

This letter tells you what we decided. It gives the evidence used and reasons for our decision. We have also included information about what to do if you disagree with our decision and who to contact if you have questions or need assistance.

**Your current benefit payment will continue unchanged.**

### What We Decided

We made the following decision(s):

Issue/Contention	Percent (%) Continued
bilateral pes planus	50%
Explanation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The evaluation of bilateral pes planus is continued as 50 percent disabling.</li><li>• An evaluation of 50 percent is granted if the record shows that flatfeet are not improved by orthopedic shoes or appliances and there is marked pronation, extreme tenderness of plantar surfaces of the feet, marked inward displacement, and severe spasm of the tendo achillis on manipulation.</li><li>• We have assigned a 50 percent evaluation for your bilateral pes planus based on: • Extreme tenderness of plantar surfaces of the feet Additional symptom(s) include: • Characteristic callosities • Indication of swelling on use • Pain on manipulation of the feet • Pain on manipulation, accentuated • Pain on use of the feet • Pain on use, accentuated • Decreased longitudinal arch height • Marked deformity • Marked pronation We received and reviewed the Disability Benefits Questionnaire you submitted, which was completed by Dr. Thomas J. Seiter, Jr. dated September 08, 2017. In addition, we received and reviewed Dr. Thomas J. Seiter's medical opinion dated September 13, 2017. The service connected disability of</li></ul>	

### Explanation

bilateral pes planus was proposed to be reduced based on the medical evidence of record in the rating decision dated January 31, 2017. A hearing for this proposed reduction was held on September 13, 2017. Based on this evidence of record, it has been determined that the 50 percent evaluation of your service connected bilateral pes planus be continued.

### Are You Entitled to Additional Benefits?

Did you know you may be eligible for a VA guaranteed mortgage with no down payment (potentially exempt from a funding fee depending on your rating)? For more information about this benefit, or to determine and print your Loan Guaranty Certificate of Eligibility, please visit the eBenefits website at <http://www.ebenefits.va.gov>.

If you served overseas in support of a combat operation you may be eligible for mental health counseling at no cost to you at the Veteran's Resource Center. For more information on this benefit please visit <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/>.

The VA provides Blind Rehabilitation services to eligible blind, low vision, or visually impaired Veterans to help them regain their independence and quality of life. The Veteran's blindness, low vision, or vision impairment does NOT have to be related or caused by military service. If you need help with your vision loss, please contact your nearest Visual Impairment Services Team Coordinator (VIST) at the eye clinic at your nearest VA Medical Center. For more information, go to [www.va.gov/blindrehab/](http://www.va.gov/blindrehab/).

### Evidence Considered

In making our decision, we considered:

- Hearing Notification letter to Veteran, dated August 23, 2017
- Medical Opinion (Pes Planus), Dr. Thomas J. Seiter Jr., received and dated September 13, 2017
- Disability Benefit Questionnaire, DBQ Foot/Submitted by Veteran/Dr. Thomas J. Seiter Jr., received September 11, 2017 (dated September 08, 2017)
- Medical Opinion (Pes Planus), Atlanta VAMC, dated January 09, 2017
- VA Form 21-0820 Report of General Information, Request for Hearing, dated February 21, 2017
- Personal Hearing Testimony Transcript, scheduled September 13, 2017
- Rating Decision, dated January 31, 2017 and all evidence contained therein to include VA Form 21-526EZ Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits, March 15, 2016; VA letter concerning your claim dated April 6, 2016; Treatment records from Dwight Eisenhower Army Medical Center received April 21, 2016; VA Examinations received June 6, 2016, June 15, 2016 and June 20, 2016; VA Form 21-526EZ Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits, July 5, 2016; VA letter concerning your claim dated July 13, 2016 and July 15, 2016; My Healthy eVet