

FOOT CLAIMS

PREEXISTING FLATFOOT AND AGGRAVATION

An orthopedic blueprint for service connection, examination evidence, functional loss, and the current rating schedule.

STRUCTURAL FIELD REFERENCE

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

ENTRY

WAS THE CONDITION NOTED AT ENTRY?

An entrance examination notation changes the legal analysis and the presumption of soundness.

WORSEN

SHOW AN INCREASE DURING SERVICE

Use entrance, service, and separation findings plus symptoms, profiles, footwear, duty demands, and treatment.

NATURAL

ADDRESS NATURAL PROGRESSION

The medical and legal analysis must distinguish service-related worsening from expected progression.

CURRENT

CONNECT THE PRESENT DISABILITY

Document the current diagnosis and how it relates to the in-service worsening.

Use the regulation in effect for the rating period. Measure functional loss accurately, keep distinct manifestations separate, and avoid compensating the same symptom twice.