

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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In the Matter of TERRY B. TIPPETTS and DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,  
OGDEN HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah

*Docket No. 98-491; Submitted on the Record;  
Issued July 9, 1999*

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DECISION and ORDER

Before DAVID S. GERSON, BRADLEY T. KNOTT,  
A. PETER KANJORSKI

The issue is whether appellant is entitled to a schedule award for his employment-related hearing loss.

The Board has duly reviewed the case on appeal and finds that appellant is not entitled to a schedule award for his employment-related hearing loss.

Appellant filed a claim on February 12, 1997 alleging that he developed hearing loss due to factors of his federal employment. By decision dated November 6, 1997, the Office accepted that appellant sustained a hearing loss due to noise exposure in his federal employment, but found that appellant's hearing loss was not ratable and did not entitle him to a schedule award.

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs properly considered the medical evidence submitted in support of appellant's claim and applied the American Medical Association, *Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment*. A medical report was submitted from Dr. Leland P. Johnson, a Board-certified otolaryngologist, which conforms to applicable criteria. The losses at the frequencies of 500, 1,000, 2,000 and 3,000 cycles per second were added and averaged and the "fence of 25 decibels was deducted."<sup>1</sup> The remaining amount was multiplied by 1.5 to arrive at the percentage of monaural hearing loss. For levels recorded in the left ear of 0, 10, 30 and 45, the above formula derives 0 percent monaural loss and for levels recorded in the right ear of 5, 10, 10 and 25, the above formula derives 0 percent monaural loss. As appellant did not have a ratable hearing loss in either ear, the Office properly denied his claim for a schedule award.

The decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated November 6, 1997 is hereby affirmed.

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<sup>1</sup> The A.M.A., *Guides* points out that the loss below an average of 25 decibels is deducted as it does not result in impairment in the ability to hear everyday sounds under everyday listening conditions.

Dated, Washington, D.C.  
July 9, 1999

David S. Gerson  
Member

Bradley T. Knott  
Alternate Member

A. Peter Kanjorski  
Alternate Member