

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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In the Matter of RAFAEL S. MARTINEZ and DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY,  
LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, TX

*Docket No. 02-448; Submitted on the Record;  
Issued July 2, 2002*

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DECISION and ORDER

Before ALEC J. KOROMILAS, COLLEEN DUFFY KIKO,  
MICHAEL E. GROOM

The issue is whether appellant's current condition is causally related to his accepted injury of April 20, 1989.

The Board has given careful consideration to the issue involved, the contentions of the parties on appeal and the entire case record. The Board finds that the decision of the hearing representative of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated June 20, 2001 and finalized June 21, 2001 is in accordance with the facts and the law in this case and hereby adopts the findings and conclusions of the Office hearing representative.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Where appellant claims a recurrence of disability due to an accepted employment-related injury, he has the burden of establishing by the weight of reliable, probative and substantial evidence that the recurrence of disability is causally related to the original injury. *Robert H. St. Onge*, 43 ECAB 1169 (1992). This burden includes the necessity of furnishing evidence from a qualified physician who, on the basis of a complete and accurate factual and medical history, concludes that the condition is causally related to the employment injury. Moreover, the physician's conclusion must be supported by sound medical reasoning. *Id.*

The decision dated June 20, 2001 and finalized on June 21, 2001 of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, DC  
July 2, 2002

Alec J. Koromilas  
Member

Colleen Duffy Kiko  
Member

Michael E. Groom  
Alternate Member