

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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In the Matter of PROVIDENZA GALLELLI and DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,  
PERSONNEL SUPPORT CENTER, Philadelphia, PA

*Docket No. 00-1884; Submitted on the Record;  
Issued May 7, 2001*

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DECISION and ORDER

Before WILLIE T.C. THOMAS, BRADLEY T. KNOTT,  
A. PETER KANJORSKI

The issue is whether appellant established that her cervical condition is causally related to her federal employment.

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 January 18, 2000 is in accordance with the facts and the law in this case and hereby adopts the findings and conclusions of the hearing representative.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In cases where the Office has referred appellant to an impartial medical examiner to resolve a conflict in the medical evidence, the opinion of such a specialist, if sufficiently well rationalized and based upon a proper factual background, must be given special weight. *Gary R. Sieber*, 46 ECAB 215, 225 (1994). The Board finds that the impartial medical examiner's January 5, 1999 opinion is sufficiently well rationalized and based upon a proper factual background.

The January 18, 2000 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, DC  
May 7, 2001

Willie T.C. Thomas  
Member

Bradley T. Knott  
Alternate Member

A. Peter Kanjorski  
Alternate Member