



holds that an incident is not established, and there is no review of the medical evidence. The proper analysis, as the Board explained, would be to accept that a January 15, 2013 incident had occurred as described in the witness statement, and then review the medical evidence. A finding that no incident is established would be proper when there are such inconsistencies in the evidence that it is not clear what occurred at work.<sup>2</sup> If it is not clear what happened, there is no way to assess whether a medical report had an accurate history of injury.<sup>3</sup> In this case the only question was precisely how appellant had handled the tray of mail. By finding that the supervisor's description of the incident was more credible, OWCP has found that a January 15, 2013 incident occurred as described by the supervisor.

It is a well-established principle that OWCP must make proper findings of fact and a statement of reasons in its final decisions.<sup>4</sup> The case will be remanded to OWCP to properly make a finding that a January 15, 2013 incident occurred, and review the medical evidence to determine if an injury causally related to the January 15, 2013 employment incident was established. After such further development as is deemed necessary, it should issue an appropriate decision.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated September 2, 2016 is set aside and the case remanded for further action consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: February 14, 2017  
Washington, DC

Christopher J. Godfrey, Chief Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Patricia H. Fitzgerald, Deputy Chief Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., *D.L.*, Docket No. 13-0974 (issued August 14, 2013); *Clarice J. Sanchez*, Docket No. 05-0379 (issued September 13, 2005).

<sup>3</sup> A medical report must have an accurate history of the employment incident. See *D.T.*, Docket No. 14-2024 (issued June 24, 2015).

<sup>4</sup> See *Arietta K. Cooper*, 5 ECAB 11 (1952); 20 C.F.R. § 10.126.