

VBG Client Testimonial

Erica W.
Fort Riley, Kansas*

Service: U.S. Army, Supply Specialist, 2005-2013

Erica's story:

Erica enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 22 and served as a supply specialist. During her service, she was deployed three times to Iraq as part of the Army's elite Delta Force unit. After eight years, she retired from the military, joined the private sector and started a family. Suffering from health issues resulting from her service, Erica worked with a VSO to file a claim and received a disability rating of 80 percent. Roughly a year later, the Department of Veterans Affairs informed her that they made a mistake and lowered her rating to 60 percent. She knew this decision was not accurate but was unsure how to get her rating back up to where it was previously, especially while working and caring for a newborn baby. After a high school friend told her about VBG, Erica reached out and worked with VBG to file a new claim. Less than a year later, Erica was back to an accurate rating that she is confident she deserves.

"I feel like anyone who has served and sacrificed should have the ability to make sure they're getting the benefits they deserve. For someone at the VA to act like they're totally against you getting the benefits you know you earned – especially when you're living with these problems every day and they're not – that's not right. One of the doctors at the VA even told me I was too young to have back pain. At 30 years old, I shouldn't have back pain and bad knees and bad feet, but that doesn't change the fact that I do. When I served, I was deployed three times. I wore gear and was ruck marching all the time, and it wears down your body. I also saw things that I wish I hadn't seen and still suffer from seeing today. Having VBG's help is a great benefit to all Veterans. Otherwise, many of us wouldn't have the opportunity to get the benefits we know we deserve. VBG was excellent to work with and everything went very smoothly. The benefits I now receive have changed my life. With all the extra expenses when you have three kids and the cost of everything being so high right now, these benefits have saved us."

*Erica worked with VBG while living in Kansas. She now lives in Virginia, where her husband, who is still serving in the military, is now stationed.