U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

In the Matter of WILLIS A. LONG <u>and</u> DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, NATIONAL GUARD, Greenwood, Miss.

Docket No. 97-998; Submitted on the Record; Issued November 19, 1998

DECISION and **ORDER**

Before DAVID S. GERSON, WILLIE T.C. THOMAS, BRADLEY T. KNOTT

The issue is whether appellant has met his burden of proof in establishing that he had a recurrence of disability causally related to his October 18, 1978 employment injury.

The Board has given careful consideration to the issue involved, the contentions of appellant on appeal and the entire case record. The Board finds that the November 12, 1996 decision of the hearing representative of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, finalized on November 13, 1996, is in accordance with the facts and law in this case and hereby adopts the findings and conclusions of the hearing representative.

The decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, dated November 12, 1996 and finalized on November 13, 1998, is hereby affirmed.

Dated, Washington, D.C. November 19, 1998

> David S. Gerson Member

Willie T.C. Thomas Alternate Member

Bradley T. Knott Alternate Member