Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Records on Military Personnel Who Died, Were Missing in Action or Prisoners of War as a Result of the Vietnam War, 1/20/1967 - 12/1998

Record Group 330

Updated May 18, 2020

1. What information is in these records?
2. Why were these records created?
3. Why are there two files in this series on AAD?
4. If the Vietnam Conflict ended in 1974, why do these records end in 1998?
5. Why are there pound signs in the Returned Alive file?
6. How can I access a copy of the full file?

1. What information is in these records?

This series, otherwise known as the Combat Area Casualties Data Base or CACDB, contains records of U.S. military officers and soldiers who died as a result of either a hostile or nonhostile occurrence or who were missing in action or prisoners of war in the Southeast Asian combat area during the Vietnamese Conflict.

2. Why were these records created?

The agency created this series as the official repository for records on US. military casualties in the Southeast Asian combat areas during the Vietnam Conflict and used the database as the source for official information about U.S. military personnel casualties related to the Vietnam Conflict and for disseminating statistical data concerning them.

3. Why are there two files in this series on AAD?

This series has two files: (1) the Combat Area Casualties Current File, or CACCF; and (2) the Combat Area Casualties Returned Alive File, or CACRAF. The CACCF contains final records of fatal casualties and records of persons who were captured or missing in action and who were subsequently declared dead. The CACRAF contains final records of persons who were prisoners of war or missing in action and who were subsequently repatriated.

4. If the Vietnam Conflict ended in 1974, why do these records end in 1998?

The records of the CACDB are current as of December 1998, the last time the Department of Defense (DoD) transferred a copy of the CACDB into the custody of NARA. They include records of personnel who died or were declared dead post- 1 974. The DoD continues to maintain and revise the records of the CACDB and plans to transfer an updated CACDB to NARA which we will then make available to researchers.

5. Why are there pound signs in the Returned Alive file?
Following FOIA exemption (b)(6) for personal information, NARA staff masked values in the "Social Security or Service Number" and the "Religion" fields with ######### and ##.

6. How can I access a copy of the full file?
The raw data file, along with the associated technical documentation, may be downloaded from the National Archives Catalog at: https://catalog.archives.gov/. There you can search by the series name, Records on Military Personnel Who Died, Were Missing in Action or Prisoners of War as a Result of the Vietnam War, or using the National Archives Identifier 306742, which is the description identifier for this series.

In the results, select to view the full series description. Click on the link "file(s) described in the catalog" next to "Includes:" for a list of the file units within this series. Then select the file unit containing the records of interest to you. The file unit description will include the list of electronic records and documentation files available for viewing and/or downloading.

Additional information about downloading electronic records from the Catalog is available at: https://www.archives.gov/research/electronic-records/access-in-catalog-faqs.

Please keep in mind that the data file consists of the raw structured data as loaded into AAD (i.e. the coded values without meanings), but without the AAD software that displays the meanings for coded values and field titles. For more details about using files containing raw structured data, you may wish to review our "Introduction to Raw Data" at: https://www.archives.gov/files/research/electronic-records/raw-data-intro.pdf.