Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Viet Cong Initiated Incidents Files (VCIIA), 1/1/1965 - 12/31/1968

Record Group 330

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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. How can I locate records in both Viet Cong Initiated Incident Files for a single incident?
5. How can I access a copy of the full file?

1. What information is in these records?

This series contains data on enemy-initiated incidents in South Vietnam against American, South Vietnamese, or other friendly military units operating in North and South Vietnam during the period 1 January, 1965 through 31 December, 1968. Included are numbered Situation Reports, incident location as provided by Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates, incident date and (Saigon) time, type and objective of enemy action, and the results of each incident.

2. Why were these records created?

The files were created to provide the agency with a database that allowed military analysts and strategists to study enemy patterns and behavior, and evaluate both friendly and enemy efforts in South Vietnam. The records provided information in matrix format to support studies of probability correlation and statistical analysis pertaining to intelligence and combat operations. Reports generated from the data were used by Joint Staff Action Officers and technical user analysts in Southeast Asia (SEAPRO), Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Systems Analysis, and in the National Military Command System Support Center (NMCSSC).

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

There are two files in this series: the Viet Cong Initiated Incident File (VCIIA), ASCII Rendered Fixed Table Data File, and the Viet Cong Initiated Incident File (VCIIA), ASCII Rendered Periodic Table 1 Data File. There are two different kinds of records about each incident. The first, known as the Fixed Table Data File, contains records identifying the date, (Saigon) time, and location of the incident, as well as the number of enemy casualties and prisoners. There are 143,428 records in the file, one for each incident. The second type of included record is the periodic record. There are 175,384 of these, meaning that for some incidents there is more than one periodic record. These records give information on friendly casualties by service and

nationality, data identifying the type of Viet Cong actions, its objective or target, and the type and number of enemy units involved in the actions.

4. How can I locate records in both Viet Cong Initiated Incident Files for a single incident?

To obtain complete information on a single incident, locate records about the incident in both files. First, review the fields available in each of the files to determine your search strategy. (To see all available fields, click on 'Show All Fields.') Once you have found records of interest in one file, use the Situation Report Number to search for information about the incident in the other file. The Situation Report Number is the field that that ties a single incident to records in both files.

5. 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, Viet Cong Initiated Incidents Files (VCIIA), or using the National Archives Identifier 600133, 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.