



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) Files, compiled ca. 2001 – 03/16/2009, documenting the period 06/28/1950 – 12/31/2006**  
**Record Group 330**

**Updated May 18, 2020**

1. Why were these records created?
2. What information is in these records?
3. What is the difference between the two files in this series?
4. What known data anomalies occur in these records?
5. Why are the records of the DCAS Extracts Series still in AAD, if the DCAS 1950-2006 records have succeeded them?
6. How can I access a copy of the full file?

### Introduction

This series consists of two data files of casualty records from the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, War on Terrorism, and Peacetime. The data files available in AAD are public use versions of the record copy files which have restricted personally identifiable information. The two public use files available in AAD are for the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) Data File, 1950 – 2005 (DCAS 1950-2005), and the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) Data File, 2006 (DCAS 2006). The series also contains a documentation file, Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) Documentation File, 1950 – 2006.

This series is the successor to the series Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) Extract Files, ca. 2001 – 4/29/2008 (ARC Identifier 2163536), and its files DCAS Korean War Extract (DCAS KOR) and DCAS Vietnam War Extract (DCAS VN). This series is the expanded version of the extracts.

DCAS 1950-2005 and DCAS 2006 have similar layouts and share many of the same code tables. Among the differences with the predecessor series is the increase in the number of casualties: DCAS KOR 36,574; DCAS VN 58, 220. The series DCAS 1950 – 2006 contains a combined total from all wars and peacetime of 137,677 casualty records.

### 1. Why were these records created?

The Department of Defense (DoD), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Defense Human Resources Activity, Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Data Analysis program Division created and maintained this series as an automated repository for the DoD of all official casualty information for the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, War on

Terrorism, and active duty deaths occurring during Peacetime. The records are used to produce various standard and as-requested reports in support of DoD organizations, outside government agencies, Congress, the President, the media, and the general public. The DMDC continues to maintain and revise these records.

## 2. What information is in these records?

Although the agency created these records starting in about 2001, they concern records of U.S. military personnel who died as a result of either a hostile or non-hostile occurrence in the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, or War on Terrorism. Starting in 1975, deaths occurring during Peacetime are also included in the records. Dates of death in the file unit DCAS 1950 – 2005 (ARC Identifier 4734832) range from June 28, 1950 to May 28, 2006. Although this file is designated as the 1950 – 2005 file, it contains the records of two deaths that occurred in 2006 which are attributed to the Vietnam War. Dates of death in the file unit DCAS 2006 (ARC Identifier 4734834) range from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

## 3. What is the difference between the two files in this series?

The main difference between DCAS 1950-2005 and DCAS 2006 is the date range of the casualties. There are, however, also some differences between the layouts of the two files.

Fields unique to DCAS 1950-2005 include: Race OMB Name; Operation/Incident Type Code; Closure Date; Aircraft Type; Incident Aircraft Type; Casualty Category Short Name; Vietnam Wall Row and Panel Indicator; Incident Category; Incident Casualty Category Date; and Incident Casualty Category Short Name.

Fields unique to DCAS 2006 include: Military Affiliation Code; Military Affiliation Name; Member Personnel Category Code; and Member Personnel Category name.

## 4. What known data anomalies occur in these records?

For some fields, every record contains the same value or the records may have null values. These occurrences are explained in the Notes section of the Data Layout for each file. Some coded fields may have values that are not included in the code list. These occurrences are also explained in the Notes section of the Data Layout for each file.

5. Why are the records of the DCAS Extracts Series still in AAD, if the DCAS 1950-2006 records have succeeded them?

The records of the DCAS Extracts Series (DCAS KOR and DCAS VN) were retained in AAD because they continue to have value as records of a single war. The records in the series DCAS 1950-2006 contain the most current Defense Manpower Data Center information on the casualties.

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, Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) Files, or using the National Archives Identifier 4667739, 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>.