



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Records with Unit Information on Military Personnel Who Died During the Vietnam War, ca. 1983 - 12/18/2005

Collection: COFF

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1. What information is in these records?
2. Why were these records created?
3. Where did these records come from?
4. Is there more than one version of the records in this series?
5. Why did NARA make a public use file for this series?

1. What information is in these records?

This series contains information on U.S. military officers and soldiers who died as a result of either a hostile occurrence, including while missing in action or while prisoner of war, or nonhostile occurrence in the Southeast Asian combat area during the Vietnam War. Most records contain unit designation information for the casualty.

2. Why were these records created?

These records were created by a team of Vietnam veterans to identify the unit designation to the company/battery/troop level for U.S. Army (later all U.S. service) deaths in the Vietnam War.

3. Where did these records come from?

This series is based primarily on records from the Combat Area Casualties Current File of the Records on Military Personnel Who Died, Were Missing in Action or Prisoners of War as a Result of the Vietnam War series, with added unit and location information obtained from a variety of sources.

4. Is there more than one version of the records in this series?

Yes. The creators of these records have donated several different versions to NARA. Only the most recently accessioned file is available on AAD; all the earlier files in the series, however, will continue to be preserved and available for reproduction when requested. Files in each version differ in the information they contain for a variety of reasons. For the most recently accessioned file the creators added a new field for location of casualty, and are continually updating both location and unit as new information becomes available.

5. Why did NARA make a public use file for this series?

NARA discovered that there were records in the most recent file that indicated the individual survived the war. NARA removed the records of each individual whose record indicated that he was not a casualty of the Vietnam War.