



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Records About Air Sorties Flown in Southeast Asia, 1/1970 - 6/1975 Record Group 218

Updated May 21, 2020

1. What information is in these records?

This series consists of files with records on air combat missions flown in Southeast Asia by the U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, South Vietnam Air Force, Royal Laotian Air Force, South Korean Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force during the Vietnamese Conflict. The records include information about both fixed-wing airplanes and helicopters. The data includes unit designation, mission call sign, aircraft type, model, and series, mission flying time, time on target, ordnance, ordnance expended, and bomb damage assessment.

2. Why were these records created?

The agency created these files to provide information on combat air missions during the Vietnam Conflict. The agency used these files to create daily, weekly, monthly and as-required reports, including "Summarized Tables of Combat Sorties and Losses in Southeast Asia," "Helicopter Sorties and Losses in South Vietnam," and "U.S. Combat Sorties in North Vietnam and the Gulf of Tonkin."

3. What does the term "fraggged" mean in these records?

The term "fraggged" refers to "fragmentary orders" or those that were derived from the authority of standing general orders of the U.S. Seventh Air Force. The "fraggged" fields contain the military branch or service, launch base, number and type of military airplanes, function, and type of target of the initial orders.

4. How can I access a copy of the full file(s)?

The raw data files, 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 About Air Sorties Flown in Southeast Asia, or using the National Archives Identifier 602566, 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>.

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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>.