



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) Extract Files, ca. 2001 - 4/29/2008; Vietnam Conflict Extract Data File, as of April 29, 2008 Record Group 330

Updated June 5, 2020

1. 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 the Vietnam War. Dates of death in the DCAS "Vietnam Conflict Extract Data File, as of April 29, 2008" (ARC Identifier 2240992) range from June 8, 1956 to May 28, 2006.

2. 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 DoD of all official casualty information for the Korean War, the Vietnam Conflict, and all active duty deaths since October 1, 1979. 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.

3. If the Vietnam Conflict ended in 1975, why are there records with dates of death after 1975?

The records include those of personnel who died or were declared dead post-1975.

4. What are some of the new fields in the DCAS Vietnam Conflict Extract Data File?

Occupation and Religion

Two new fields, Member Occupation Code and Member Occupation Name were included. For example, Member Occupation Code '11C' is "Indirect Fire Infantryman." Member Occupation Name is the related narrative version of this information. There are also two new fields for religion, "Religion Short Name" and "Religion Code;" they replace the CACCF field with a similar name, Religion Code.

Race and Ethnicity

"Race OMB Name" and "Race Name" in the DCAS files replace "Race" in the CACCF file. OMB stands for Office of Management and Budget. In addition to the race fields, DCAS has fields for ethnic information: "Ethnic Short Name" and "Ethnic Group Name." Codes/Meanings for Ethnic Short Name are CHINESE, HISPANIC OR LATINO, INDIAN TRIBES US, JAPANESE, NOT SPECIFIED, and PUERTO RICAN. Ethnic Group Name Codes/Meanings are ASIAN, HISPANIC, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE, UNKNOWN.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and*
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-6001

www.archives.gov

Casualty Location

A group of casualty location fields were also added in DCAS. They replace the Province field in the CACCF records and include:

Casualty City: QUANG TIN (Sample value)

Casualty State or Province: (coded values for the 4 Vietnam Military Zones)

Casualty Country/Over Water Code: VS (Sample Code), SOUTH VIETNAM (Meaning)

Region Name: (1 Code) ASIA

Country/Over Water Name: (narrative field): THAILAND

Location Name: SOUTHEAST ASIA (Sample value)

Unit Information

The Member Unit field provides unit information, such as 1 CAV DIV AIRMOBILE.

Duty

There are two codes for this field: Y code meaning ON and a Z code meaning UNKNOWN.

War or Conflict

There is only one code value, V, for this field. It will always mean VIETNAM CONFLICT.

Operation Incident Type

There is only one code value, C, for this field. It will always mean COMBAT.

5. What other differences are there between information in records of CACCF and the "DCAS Vietnam Conflict Extract Data File?"

The Reason (Cause of Casualty) and the Air or Not-Air fields in the former "Combat Area Casualties Current File (CACCF)" were replaced by two fields in the "DCAS Vietnam Conflict Extract Data File as of April 29, 2008": Casualty Category Name (with 8 possible codes) and Incident Casualty Reason Name (with 23 possible codes). To view records on the basis of the CACCF Reason codes, please return to the AAD Main Page and click on CACCF. In addition, a new field, Casualty Circumstances, is a narrative field in DCAS that potentially contains detailed information, such as "MACHINE GUN BULLETS TO SPINAL CORD AND GRENADE INJURIES TO LEFT LEG DURING COMBAT" (see "Sample Values" in the data layout). There are 40 records with remarks in this field. To view records on the basis of the Reason and/or Air or Not-Air fields in the CACCF, please return to the AAD Main Page and click on CACCF.

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

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) Extract Files, or using the National Archives Identifier 2163536, which is the description identifier for this series description.

In the results, select to view the full series description. Click on the link "file unit(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>.