



# *National Archives and Records Administration*

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## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Record Group 330: Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Series: Viet Cong Initiated Incidents Files**

#### 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.

#### 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).

#### Why are there two files in this series in 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.

#### 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 ties a single incident to records in both files.

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