



National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

User Note

[U.S. Army] Casualty Information System files,
1961-79; 1979-80; 1961-81
April 26, 2001

This User Note concerns the documentation and archival processing of the various versions of the [U.S. Army] Casualty Information System (CIS), created by the Department of the Army, Adjutant General Center (TAGCEN). These records are accessioned into the Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1917- (Record Group 407).

Transfers: NARA received three transfers of these records: CIS 1961-November 30, 1979 (NC3-407-80-001); CIS December 1, 1979-December 1, 1980 (NN3-407-82-001); and the final transfer of CIS 1961-81. The final transfer of the CIS file was received in 1983 and subsequently processed into NARA's holdings. The document transferring legal custody of the CIS 1961-81 ("final version") was prepared in 2001 at which time the records were formally accessioned into NARA's holdings (NN3-407-01-001). It is not clear whether the version of the CIS transferred as the "final version" directly duplicates the information contained in the previous transfers. Based on simple comparison of record counts between the three files, it is not clear whether the final version contains all records contained in the initial transfer and subsequent accretion. NARA does not currently have the analytical capability to exactly determine whether all records contained in the previous versions are included in the final version. For these reasons, at the time of the formal accessioning of NN3-407-01-001, NARA chose to retain all three versions of the files.

Documentation: This documentation package was prepared at the time of the formal accessioning of the final transfer in 2001. It is a revision to the documentation package previously prepared in 1983 and is applicable to the three CIS files accessioned into the National Archives of the United States and the public use version of the final version. Page numbers appearing at the bottom of the pages are from the original documentation package and should be ignored. The public use version of the final version of the CIS, which according to NARA General Restrictions, will be the primary source for publicly available information from these records until 2056.

The documentation consists of a series of user notes prepared between the time of processing of the final version of CIS and the formal accessioning of the records; a NARA prepared introduction created by the original processing archivist in August 1983; a 150-character record layout prepared by TAGCEN in 1978; a series of code tables; and sample dump generated from the public use version of the final version of CIS. Also included is a revised record layout generated from the Archival Electronic Records Inspection and Control Utility (AERIC) and used for the verification of the public use version of the final version of the CIS. This revised record layout includes field names that vary somewhat from the original agency record layout. It also breaks out the components of compound fields, such as dates and the "Cause" field, for purposes of verification.

The code tables were apparently prepared by the agency for internal data entry purposes. These code tables, largely reflect those also included in the agency supplied document titled "Casualty Information Query System (CIQS) S2K Data Base" a copy of which is retained as supplemental to

this documentation package. However that document also contains some additional field description that may not be apparent in this compilation of the documentation. The original processing archivist apparently copied the country codes from Army publication AR18-12-10; the reference included in the original agency record layout. One code list not included with this documentation is that for Duty Military Occupation Specialty (MOS). MOS codes applicable to the time period covered by the CIS files are generally available in Army publication series. At the time of processing of the CIS files, copies of these publications were available from the electronic records reference services staff. They are also available in the textual archives holdings of NARA. Note that the field positions referenced in the code lists are those on the original input punchcards and should be ignored.

User notes concerning specific aspects of the CIS file were prepared primarily by the reference services staff of the electronic records unit of NARA. These topics include the preparation of the public use version of the CIS file, definition of the casualty code "misadventure," and the two sets of state codes applicable to the CIS records. Because reference and access to the CIS records primarily concerns the records of the dead and the public use version of the final version of CIS, these user notes specifically address the content of that file.

Verification: In April 2001, the public use version of the CIS file was formally verified using the Archival Electronic Records Inspection and Control Utility (AERIC). Because of the direct relationship to the public use version, the CIS 1961-81 restricted version was not formally verified using AERIC. AERIC was used to verify the contents of the CIS 1961-79 file and that verification report is available. The public use version of the final version of the CIS file and the CIS 1961-79 file contain a number of inconsistencies between the documentation and the data and a number of fields containing no data. These inconsistencies reflect the use of the records for administrative purposes and not necessarily for statistical analysis. Therefore, researchers will discover numerous mis-codings ("typos") in a number of fields. The AERIC verification report with select distinct verifications of a number of fields provides frequencies for many fields. Researchers can use this to identify mis-codings in these fields. Additionally, the reference services staff has extensive knowledge of these records and is familiar with many of the idiosyncrasies of them, some of which may or may not be documented in this documentation package. For example, researcher use of these records has revealed numerous duplicate records and records with incomplete data.

THEODORE J. HULL
Archivist
Electronic & Special Media Records Services Division

Note to File Regarding: U. S. Army Casualties, 1961-81 (TAGCEN)

The Army transferred to NARA, two sets of codes for "state" which apparently were used to encode Home State of Record in the Army's *Casualty Information System, 1961-81* electronic records. One set apparently was used in records with a date of casualty prior to 1973 and another appears to have been in use from 1973 onward. From an examination of state codes accompanied by city/town names in the Home Town of Record field, it appears that the Army made an effort to update state codes, using the 1973 codes, whenever the Home Town of Record was given, irrespective of the date of casualty in the record. In many instances, however, the Home Town of Record field is blank and in many such records, staff of NARA's Center for Electronic Records have found that the state codes seem to be the pre-1973 codes, especially in records with a date of casualty prior to 1973. However, in the case of Home State of Record codes where the date of casualty is prior to 1973 and the Home Town of Record field is blank, we do not know with any certainty, which set of codes applies. For all Army casualties who died in Southeast Asia, 1961-81, the home of record value in another series of electronic records, the Combat Area Casualties Current File (CACCF), in the Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (R.G. 330) can be assumed to be correctly encoded, as the CACCF records continue to be revised whenever the Office of the Secretary of Defense becomes aware of the need for revision.

Prepared by Lee A. Gladwin, Archivist
March 12, 1998
tagcen.nte

National Archives



Washington, DC 20408

Date : 27 February 1991
Reply to
Attn of : Don Smith, Center for Electronic Records
Subject : Casualty Code "Misadventure"
To : File

The term "Misadventure" is used in CACCF as one of the codes in the "Reason for casualty" variable and in TAGCEN as a value for the variable "Major Attributing Cause" of casualty. In the full documentation for TAGCEN there is a definition for the "Major Attributing Causes" which states: "Misadventure (Hostile Death Inflicted by a Friendly Force)."

In order to determine whether or not "Misadventure" was used consistently as a synonym for "friendly fire" in the reports of casualties (DD Form 1300), we called a reference librarian at the Pentagon Library. She said that there is no definition of "misadventure" in any of the official dictionaries of military terms in the Pentagon Library.



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USER Note

Accession Number: NN3-407-01-001

Accession Title: [U.S. Army] Casualty Information System, 1961-1981

Public Use File

1. To protect the privacy of individuals who may still be living, NARA staff masked the Social Security Number (Serial Number) of personnel who may still be alive as well as the Social Security Number of all dependents because the Social Security number used in their records are for the person on whom they are dependent. Specifically, if the value in column Category of Casualty equals M, P, 0, 1, 2, 3, L or S, then the value in column Social Security Number was replaced by 9s and the value in the column NAME was replaced by As. Also, if the value in the column Category of Personnel equals E or J, the Social Security Numbers were replaced by 9s.

In addition, subsequent to the transfer of the file to NARA, it was discovered that the records for ten soldiers erroneously contained the codes K or D in column Category of Casualty. In these records, the values in the columns Social Security Number and Religion were replaced by #s.

2. See the memorandum by Mario F. Lopez-Gomez dated Nov. 12, 1987 in this documentation for further information about the public use file.

3. The Short Title of the Public Use file is CIS_PUBLIC_REV and its XMIS number is 091397.

Prepared by: Greg LaMotta

Date prepared: August 8, 2005

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
MACHINE-READABLE BRANCH (NNSR)

DATE: November 12, 1987
TO : Users of TAGCEN Casualty Information System (CIS)
RE : Data Validity of TAGCEN CIS
FROM: Mario F. Lopez-Gomez (202) 523-6771

A preliminary validation of this datafile revealed several inconsistencies which users must consider. Caution is recommended as some of the results are not consistent with other sources and/or documentation. Also, several records have been deleted from the data set because the fields were not located in the proper columns of the record. See Attachment.

Three variables were examined: category of casualty, category of personnel and current status.

Category of casualty should contain 10 valid codes, according to the documentation received from TAGCEN; however, a frequency distribution of this variable found that about 61% of the codes were either not valid or blank.

Category of personnel, on the other hand, found most codes to be in the list of valid. Only about 1.3% were not.

Current status seems to be more accurate. Most codes are valid, however, the NON-HOSTILE DEAD total figure (38,443) seems suspect while the HOSTILE DEAD figure (31,569) looks fine. Notice that while the documentation states that this field cannot be blank there are 2997 blank records (about 1%).

