1. What information is in these records?
2. Why were these records created?
3. What version of these records in available through the Access to Archival Databases (AAD) resource?
4. Why are there two files in this series in AAD?
5. How can I locate records in both Mine Warfare Operations Files for a single operation?
6. How can I access a copy of the full file(s)?

1. What information is in these records?

This series contains data from two military operations during the Vietnamese Conflict, Operation Linebacker and Operation Pocket Money, which concerned all mining operations conducted against North Vietnamese interior waterways and harbors. For each operation, the records include the location of the mine seeding, the first and last activation date of each string of mines laid, the operation code and area and may also include the number of mines of each type and sensitivity of each string, coordinates of the end of each string, the ordnance type, and the type and callsign of aircraft that delivered the string.

2. Why were these records created?

The agency used the Mine Warfare Operations File (MINEA) to document the activities of the U.S. Navy in the Vietnam War. MINEA contains data on all mine seeding operations conducted by the United States in North Vietnam during the period from May 1972 to January 1973. This was the only period of the war during which the United States was engaged in extensive mine laying activities north of the demilitarized zone (DMZ).

3. What version of these records in available through the Access to Archival Databases (AAD) resource?

The ASCII Rendered Tables of these records are currently available through AAD. For more details about the original NIPS format of the records, please review the scanned technical documentation at the file level for these records.

4. Why are there two files in this series in AAD?

There are two files in this series: the Mine Warfare Operations File (MINEA), ASCII Rendered Fixed Table Data File and the Mine Warfare Operations File (MINEA), ASCII Rendered

Periodic Table 1 Data File. There are two different kinds of records about each operation. The first, known as the Fixed Table Data File, contains one record for each date and location of mine seeding for a total of 554 records. The control set for each record, present in records in both kinds of files consists of the field with the location of the mine seeding activity ("segment"), and the date and hour of the OPREP-4 message. There is a code list to identify the 124 areas for the location of each mine seeding. The records in the fixed set file also include the operation code, the unit identification code of the ship and the carrier task group, the type of area seeded (coastal, land, waterways), and the general area seeded. In addition, the fixed set contains fields with administrative data on the record.

The second file or type of mining operation records are the periodic type records. Each repeating subset of items (periodic set 1) contains data on a particular string of mines laid. Items include the string activation date; the "safe date" for the string; the interval between mines; the type of mines; the quantity of mines of each level of sensitivity; Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates and the latitude and longitude coordinates of the beginning and end of the string; and aircraft type, callsign, and number of sorties flown by the aircraft delivering the string. There are 1,545 records in the Periodic Table data file, indicating that there may be multiple periodic type records for every mining operation.

5. How can I locate records in both Mine Warfare Operations Files for a single operation?
To obtain complete information on a single operation, locate records about the operation 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 information in its Segment Name Code, Record Type, Message Date, and Message Hour fields to search for information about the operation in the same fields in the other file. These five fields tie a single operation to records in both files.

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, Mine Warfare Operations Files (MINEA), or using the National Archives Identifier 630554, 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.

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.