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**Pacification Attitude Analysis System (PAAS), March 1970 – July 1972**

**Record Group 330      Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense**

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**List of Reference Documentation**

Pacification Attitude Analysis System (PAAS), March 1970 – July 1972  
NN3-330-75-146  
Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Record Group 330)

	Number of Pages
List of Reference Documentation.....	1
Supplemental User Note.....	4
Introduction .....	5
Layout .....	1
How to Read a PAAS Record .....	2
Verification Notes .....	3
Explanations and Definitions of Hamlet Categories .....	3
Questionnaire .....	338

Supplemental Documentation (available upon request)

Headquarters Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, *Command Manual for Pacification Attitude Analysis System (PAAS)*, MACV Document No. DAR R31A, 15 May 1970.

Civil Operations and Rural Development Support, Research and Analysis Directorate, *Pacification Attitude Analysis System (PAAS) Command Manual*, MACV Document No. DAR R36 CM-01A, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, 1 May 1971. [also available as part of the documentation for Pacification Attitude Analysis System (PAAS), January 1970 – February 1973 in Record Group 472 (accession NN3-349-81-001)]

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### Supplemental User Note

**Pacification Attitude Analysis System (PAAS), March 1970 – July 1972**  
NN3-330-75-146 Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Record Group 330)  
and

**Pacification Attitude Analysis System (PAAS), January 1970 – February 1973**  
NN3-349-81-001 Records of the U.S. Forces in Southeast Asia (Record Group 472)

The National Archives currently maintains four versions of the Pacification Attitude Analysis System (PAAS) in two different record groups. Three versions are part of accession NN3-330-75-146, from the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Record Group (RG) 330), with data for the time period of March 1970 through July 1972. The fourth version is in accession NN3-349-81-001, from the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (Record Group 472), and contains data for the time period of January 1970 through February 1973.

All versions of the PAAS files contain monthly public opinion poll responses from the Vietnamese about the Vietnam War. The military used over 700 different questions over the course of the polling, but only 50 to 60 questions were ever asked at one time. All versions of the files simply include or refer to the question numbers. Users need the questionnaire code book for the actual questions and coding of the responses that correspond to the question numbers.

The questionnaire code book for the PAAS RG 330 files differs from the PAAS RG 472 file in that the questions are not the same for each question number. Users need to obtain the appropriate questionnaire code book for the file(s) they are using. The questionnaire code book for the PAAS RG 330 files is an approximately 375-page printout. The questionnaire code book for the PAAS RG 472 file is an approximately 1,200-page printout.

Some question numbers appear in the data that are not in the questionnaire code books. The NARA-prepared documentation for the PAAS files in RG 330 list the question numbers not included in the PAAS RG 330 questionnaire code book.

Also, some of the non-questionnaire/response fields in the PAAS RG 330 files differ from what is in the PAAS RG 472 file. The PAAS RG 330 files contain information on the sex of the respondent and the Hamlet Evaluation System security score, but those fields are not in the PAAS RG 472 file. The PAAS RG 472 file indicates the survey number and cadre number, which is not in the PAAS RG 330 files. It is possible this information may be included in the records as responses to questions.

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All the files contain the 9-digit USID number used to identify the Corps/Region, Province, District, Village, and Hamlet of the respondent. The Hamlet Evaluation System (HES) gazetteer files, available as part of the National Police Infrastructure Analysis Subsystem (NPIASS) (accession NN3-349-79-002), provides the meanings (names) for the Province, District, Village, and Hamlet codes (USID number). Users may wish to obtain one of these gazetteer files in order to interpret the USID number used in the PAAS files.

Below are additional details about the four versions of the PAAS files.

1. PAAS NIPS File, March 1970 – July 1972, RG 330

File Name: RG330.PAAS.N7072

Number of Records: 43840

XMIS: 015434

Record Length: 976(?)

The Office of the Secretary of Defense transferred the PAAS NIPS file to NARA in 1975. The file is in the National Information Processing System (NIPS) format, a software-dependent format. The records in NIPS files usually consist of a control set of fields, a fixed set of fields, and then one or more periodic sets of fields, but the documentation does not clearly indicate if this is the case for the PAAS records. Like other NIPS files, the PAAS NIPS File may also include format records, file maintenance logic statement records, control records, and other records used by the NIPS software to read the file.

2. PAAS Question Record File (NARA de-NIPS'd version), March 1970 – July 1972, RG 330

File Name: RG330.PAAS.Q70T72

Number of Records: 1444676

XMIS: 005179

Record Length: 22

In about 1978, NARA staff "de-NIPS'd" or reformatted the PAAS NIPS file to create a software-independent version of the file in then-standard EBCDIC encoding. The resulting "de-NIPS'd" file, the PAAS Question Record File, consists of one record per question per respondent so there are multiple records per respondent. In other words, the unit of observation is per question. The NARA-prepared layout provides the names and column positions for the fields in this file.

As part of the "de-NIPS'd" process, the fixed set of fields only appear in the first instance of the record, but may not appear in the subsequent occurrences of the periodic set for that record. For the PAAS Question Record File, column positions 1-9 (USID code) constitute the control set, column positions 10-17 (date, respondent number, sex, security score) constitute the fixed set, and column positions 18-22 (question number and response) constitute the periodic set. The first record for a respondent will include the control, fixed, and periodic sets of fields. The subsequent records for the respondent will only include the control and periodic sets of fields, with the column positions for the fixed set (positions 18-22) left blank. Therefore the records are in a specific sequential order and presupposes that the records will be "read" by the computer sequentially so to correctly "see" or "link" the fixed set to the corresponding periodic sets. Note that many respondents may have the same USID code or control set.

3. PAAS Person Record File (NARA reformatted version), March 1970 – July 1972, RG 330  
 File Name: RG330.PAAS.P70T72                      Number of Records: 26179  
 XMIS: 005180    Record Length: 1338

The PAAS Person Record File consists of one record per respondent containing all of the respondent's responses (i.e. the unit of observation is per person). NARA created this file in 1979 by reformatting the records from the PAAS Question Record File, but did not prepare a layout for it at that time. Based on processing documents and as far as staff can determine, the following is the layout for the PAAS Person Record File:

Columns 1 – 9	USID (treat blanks spaces as zeroes)
Columns 10 – 13	Date (YYMM)
Columns 14 – 15	Respondent Number
Column 16	Sex
Column 17	Security Score
Column 18	Whether rural (0) or urban (5)
Columns 19 – 20	Blanks
Column 21	Responses to question 0001
Column 22	Response to question 0002
Column 23	Response to question 0003
↓	↓
Column 619	Response to question 0599
↓	↓
Column 621	Response to question 1601
↓	↓
Column 720	Response to question 0700
↓	↓
Column 735	Response to question 0715
Column 736 – 749	Blanks
Column 750	Response to question 5000
Column 751	Response to question 5001
Column 752	Response to question 5002
↓	↓
Column 1338	Response to question 5588

In general, there is a column per question in sequential order of the 3-digit question numbers. The first digit of the question number, which also served as the rural or urban indicator, was ignored in sorting the question numbers. Therefore question numbers in the 1600s were read as question numbers in the 600s and proceeded question numbers in the 700s. Staff have not found an explanation for why some of the question numbers began with a 1 instead of a 0.

The responses for rural respondents are in columns 21-735 (question numbers 1 through 715) with blanks in the remaining columns. The questionnaire code book only indicated questions numbers up to 715 for the rural surveys so this reformatted file only included the responses up through 715. Staff have since learned that there are question numbers beyond 715 in the PAAS Question Record File that were not included in the PAAS Person Record File.

The responses for urban respondents are in columns 750-1338 (question numbers 5000 to 5588) with blanks in columns 21-749.

If the respondent was not asked a specific the question or if a question number did not exist, the field is blank.

Staff suggest researchers use the PAAS Question Record File to corroborate and verify the specific question for a specific column position in the PAAS Person Record File.

4. PAAS Master File, January 1970 – February 1973, RG 472

File Name: RG349.PAAS.Y70T73

Number of Records: 113184

XMIS: 005847

Record Length: 400

The Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) used the PAAS Master File. The PAAS Master File does differ in content and organization from the PAAS NIPS File (and subsequent NARA reformats) used by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. In addition to having a different questionnaire code book, the PAAS Master File contains a record per respondent per questionnaire with the question numbers and responses for that questionnaire up to 60 questions. For example, for respondent 1 there is a record for responses to questionnaire A, a record for responses to questionnaire B, and etc. The layout for the PAAS Master File is on pages C-2 and C-3 of the *Pacification Attitude Analysis System (PAAS) Command Manual*, DAR R36, 1 May 1971. As indicated in the layout, the question and response set of fields are made up of the four character question number, followed by the one character for the response, and then one character for the index code, for a total of six columns. The question and response set begins in column 41 and there is one set for each question asked up to 60 sets (e.g. set two is columns 47-52, set three is columns 53-58, etc).

Lynn Goodsell, Archivist

Electronic Records Archival Services (RD-DC)

October 12, 2011



## INTRODUCTION TO DOCUMENTATION

The Pacification Attitude Analysis System (PAAS) file consists of the responses of South Vietnamese inhabitants to questions asked in monthly opinion sampling surveys conducted between March 1970 and July 1972 by three-man Vietnamese research survey teams operating under the aegis of the Central Pacification and Development Council of the South Vietnamese Government (GVN) and the American Military Assistance Command-Vietnam (MACV). This file contains two surveys: Rural - covering polls taken in rural hamlets and villages in all South Vietnamese provinces - and Urban - covering polls taken in the following twelve South Vietnamese cities: Hue, Danang, NhaTrang, QuiNhon, CamRanh, Dalat, BienHoa, VungTau, Saigon, RachGia, MyTho, and Cantho.

PAAS originated from the desire of the Central Pacification and Development Council of the GVN and MACV to identify rural and urban Vietnamese attitudes concerning the war, pacification, economic development, governmental programs, and various political issues. Pacification and military officials used these surveys to assist in planning and evaluating the pacification program. Trained three-man Vietnamese research survey teams conducted the monthly surveys, memorized a field-tested questionnaire, used indirect questioning techniques to obtain the desired data, and coded the replies of the respondent in predetermined categories

immediately after the interview. These interview procedures proved the only feasible method of encouraging respondents to express openly their attitudes and views under war-time conditions. The pollsters selected interviewees on the basis of a quota sample choosing so many hamlets in a given province and so many persons in a given hamlet. The Rural Survey quotas represented a cross-section of inhabitants who were at least eighteen years of age, were not civil authorities or members of the paid armed forces, and were living in hamlets that both had a Hamlet Evaluation System (HES) Security rating of A through D (i.e. not under Viet-Cong control) and were not colocated with the village administrative center. The Urban Survey samples consisted of identical cross-sections of inhabitants of representative wards of the twelve cities studied.

PAAS contains personal data on the respondent and his family such as sex, age, occupation, literacy, family size, and ethnicity; the respondent's knowledge, attitudes, and conclusions concerning the Viet-Cong, South Vietnamese government and military, Americans, and other allies, specific government programs and policies, local security, the conduct of the war; his sources of information; his perceptions and evaluations of economic conditions; and the interviewer's assessment of the respondent's credibility and his attitudes toward the government and the Viet-Cong.

There is one record for each question asked each respondent. Each record contains the following: United States Identification (USID) Code (9 characters) consisting of a corps, province, district, village, and hamlet



ID Code (the last three codes are contained in the HES Dictionary/Gazetteer which is available separately); Date (4 characters) listing month and year; Respondent number (2 characters); Sex code (1 character); HES Security Score (1 character)(codes are appended); the Question number (4 characters beginning with a 0 for Rural respondents and a 5 for Urban respondents); and the Response (1 character). The original three part survey contained 118 questions, but over the two years new questions were added and others dropped so that over 700 questions were used at one time or another. Each respondent was asked only one part of the survey or approximately 50-60 questions.

PAAS users should be aware of certain problems concerning data validity. First, only areas under GVN control were sampled. Second, the sample used quota rather than probability sampling techniques. Therefore, the survey samples were not representative of the South Vietnamese population universe. The exclusion of areas under Vietcong control and the use of quota sampling techniques led to overrepresentation of some population subgroups and underrepresentation of others. Thus HES Security category "C" hamlets contained only 18% of the rural population but accounted for 37% of the rural respondents in the October 1970 survey. In contrast, women, at least 50% of the adult rural population, represented only 30-40% of the respondents. Third, while as many as 3,000 persons were interviewed in any given month, each respondent answered only one part of the three part survey so that only 30 people in each province answered any one given question in the monthly PAAS. Thus subset comparisons are possible only at the national and not at or below the provincial

level. Fourth, even though interviewers were trained in appropriate techniques (including approaches to reluctant, hostile, or dishonest respondents) and used an unstructured interview procedure, the honesty of respondent answers to some questions is suspect. How many South Vietnamese peasants would be willing to tell strangers operating under the aegis of the GVN and MACV that they favored the Vietcong? How many peasants living in hamlet huts would take seriously an interviewer who asked what their average monthly funeral expenses were, or whether they owned a car, television set, air conditioner, or home with electricity? Fifth, since the interview forms were filled out by the interviewer after the completion of an unstructured interview, data omissions and mistakes were inevitable since even a person with a most retentive memory would find it difficult to remember the correct responses to all 50-60 questions discussed. Consequently, while the informational value of the file seems ostensibly vast, the conditions under which data were collected and the methodology used raise many doubts about the data's validity and credibility.

Despite these problems, PAAS still has considerable informational value for users. While the surveys were biased, susceptible to error, only partially representative, and limited to subset comparisons at the national level, extensive use of it can still be made. Users can apply rules of evidence to sift valid from invalid data, and introduce compensating and correcting factors when using such data. A creative computer manipulation of recurring and related data elements could permit detection of inconsistent and reluctant responses, and establish the probabili-

ity of erroneous data for various population subsets.

Documentation included with PAAS consists of the following: the revised record layout, an explanation of a PAAS record, verification notes, the HES Security Ratings explanations and definitions, the PAAS Questionnaire/Codebook, and a sample dump. All data elements are defined in the documentation or are available in the HES Dictionary/Gazetteer.





### HOW TO READ A PAAS RECORD

Each PAAS record contains one question and the respondent's answer to that question. The USID is repeated for each record. The PAAS Questionnaire/Codebook contains the codes for the Corps and Province IDs; the HES Dictionary/Gazetteer, created by the National Archives, contains these and the codes for the district, village, and hamlet IDs, as well as others. The Date, Respondent Number, Sex, and HES Security Score are not repeated. The HES Security Score codes are appended. These codes are given only when they change. The four digit question, beginning with a 0 for Rural questions and a 5 for Urban questions, and the one character alphabetic response correspond to the questions and answer codes contained in the PAAS Questionnaire/Codebook. For example:

PAAS Record - 435030102720102MB0002 B

#### INTERPRETATION -

Military Region = IV

Province = Vinh Binh

District = Cau Ke

Village = Hoa An

Hamlet = Chua Phat

Date = 1972, January

Respondent Number = 02

Sex = Male

Security Score = B (VC threat exists but security is organized and partially effective, infrastructure partially neutralized, self-help programs underway and economic improvement programs started.)

Question Number = 0471 (Is the respondent aware of the raises in wages paid to GVN employees and Military?)

Response Number = A (Yes)



VERIFICATION NOTES



The following questions either were not used or are not available in the  
Questionnaire/Codebook:

<u>RURAL</u>	<u>URBAN</u>
0027-0030	5027-5030
	5056-5057
	5060-5063
	6066-5068
	5073-5074
0091-0099	
	5094-5100
	5135-5143
0200	5200
0208	
	5209
0236-0238	5236-5238
	5275
0286-0290	5286
0300-0399	5300-5399
0433	5433-5435
0454-0456	
	5474-5499
0487	
0506-0511	5506-5515
0515-0519	



RURAL

0521-0524

0538-0543

0585-0699

URBAN

5589 and after to 9999

0716 and after to 4999

There appears to be no correlation between Question 0715 (What is Respondent's Educational level?) and the Responses (A=Less than 5,000\$VN, B=5,000 to 10,000\$VN, etc.)

EXPLANATIONS AND DEFINITIONS OF HAMLET CATEGORIES

1. General: The hamlet category is a letter designation derived by averaging the responses to 18 questions, each of which is graded A (best) thru E (worst). The following explanations represent the general characteristics of each hamlet category, although some of the 18 responses may be rated higher or lower than the overall hamlet category. For example, a hamlet rated in security with 3 A's, 4 B's and 2 C's and in development with 2 C's, 4 D's and 3 E's would be given an overall rating of "C". Similarly, "A", "B", "D" and "E" hamlets may have individual response ratings of A, B, C, D and E.

2. Explanation:

a. In an "A" hamlet, VC remnants have been driven out, external VC forces are ineffective and no incidents occur; the infrastructure appears to be eliminated and no subversive activity occurs; adequate friendly defense forces exist, urban areas have adequate police day and night, there is only a slight need for external forces, and the hamlet is covered by effective internal security; an effective elected hamlet government exists, all GVN officials are resident, resident grievance representative in hamlet or village, and public awareness of GVN personnel and programs exist; general public participation in adequate medical programs exist; at least 90 per cent of children receive primary education and secondary schools are accessible; welfare needs are satisfied and special benefits are being paid; some self-help projects are completed, local pride is evident, public works projects are underway or completed, economic programs are well advanced or not even needed, popular demands are expressed and public participation and interest are widespread.

b. In a "B" hamlet, the VC can make only desperation raids, VC bases within 6 hrs. travel to hamlet have been destroyed and no incidents in hamlet have occurred during the month within the village or nearby; all party apparatus is identified, most leaders have been eliminated and no subversion and no incidents occur; friendly defense force is organized and partially effective, adequate plans and communications have been prepared for its use; in urban areas there are adequate police during the day, and an effective informant system is operative; complete GVN managerial group is resident, hamlet chief is elected and people are participating freely in civic associations; a trained medic and midwife are accessible and at least 90 per cent of children receive primary education; all programmed self-help projects are underway, advanced economic programs have been started and popular support and participation have increased.

c. In a "C" hamlet, military control of the VC has been broken, external VC units have been reduced up to 50 per cent and only sniping and mining occurs on routes to hamlet; most party apparatus is identified, its effectiveness is curtailed and no overt VC incidents have occurred recently; local communications system operative, urban areas have inadequate police during day, friendly forces meet security requirements and hamlet chiefs are receiving useful information from informants; GVN managerial groups are usually present at night, census grievance program has been completed and civic associations are being developed;

full-time medical support is rendered by external teams, formal full-time education is available and some welfare needs are being met; economic programs are underway, people are interested and have given their consent to self-help projects and some participation has been achieved.

d. In a "D" hamlet, VC military activities have been reduced and external VC forces have been reduced up to 25 percent, but there is VC activity in the hamlet at night; some VC cadre have been eliminated, VC leaders have been neutralized, but terrorism and taxation occurs during the month; day and night defenses by friendly external and popular forces exist and voluntary informants are increasing; local participation in hamlet management has begun and a census grievance program has started and local officials occasionally respond to popular aspirations; MEDCAP visits are scheduled periodically, some formal education is available and initial welfare activity has begun; and economic development has been initiated and planning for self-help projects has started.

e. In an "E" hamlet, VC military activities are effective and attacks and ambushes occur; VC political and subversive activities exist, infrastructure is operating and VC terrorism and taxation occurs; friendly security capabilities are inadequate and night defenses are lacking; GVN administrative activities are temporary, appointed officials ineffective and usually only present in the daytime; health, education and welfare programs are non-existent; and no economic development is in progress.

f. An "Other" hamlet is one which is abandoned (contains no population but the hamlet name is maintained on the GVN roster), planned or not evaluated.

g. A "VC" hamlet is one under Viet Cong control and therefore, is not evaluated in terms of the 18 questions.

### 3. Definitions of Hamlet Categories:

"A" Adequate security forces, infrastructure eliminated, public projects underway, and economic programs improving.

"B" VC threat exists but security is organized and partially effective, infrastructure partially neutralized, self-help programs underway and economic improvement programs started.

"C" Subject to infrequent VC harassment, infrastructure identified, and inhabitants participate in self-help programs and local government.

"D" VC activities reduced but still an internal threat. Some VC taxation and terrorism. Some local participation in hamlet government and economic programs.

"E" VC are effective although some government control is evident. VC infrastructure intact. Government programs are non-existent or just beginning.

"VC" Under VC Control. No government officials or advisors enter except on military operations. Populace willingly support Viet Cong.

4. Explanations/Definitions of Hamlet Categories:

a. RELATIVELY SECURE (A, B, & C Hamlets): Defense forces are considered adequate to deal with local enemy forces, local party apparatus has been largely neutralized. Citizens actively participate in self-defense, local government, and self-improvement efforts and the population is generally pro-GVN.

b. CONTESTED (D, E and Other Hamlets): Enemy forces in the vicinity are partially effective but enemy does not control the hamlet; VC tax collection and recruitment are probable. The hamlet has a nominal GVN government but the population is not active in support of either the Government or its programs. VC/NVA receive support from the local infrastructure.

c. ENEMY-CONTROLLED (VC Hamlets): No permanent GVN influence has been established. Hamlet is controlled by party members and the population supports enemy forces. VC openly use hamlet in support of their activities.