

Tom Marshall

From: Susan Hormuth [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 08, 2009 12:48 PM
To: Tom Marshall
Subject: Re: NARA search

Hi Tom,

OK, let me go over my capabilities, what NARA offers, and the procedure for ordering broadcast quality copies, so that we can both understand how to best get you what you need.

Because of ever-changing technology (which NARA is slowly catching up to) NARA has reference copies (the copies I can go in and look at) on 16mm & 35 film, VHS and 3/4 (U-matic) video cassette, and now (for newly made reference copies, DVD. Some items listed in ARC have no designated reference copy, so NARA will now – upon request– make a reference copy on DVD. NARA doesn't clean the film before making the reference DVD so it's not considered broadcast quality. Most of the original, or preservation copies, of Vietnam era footage is on 16mm or 35mm film. The "intermediate" copies – the copy NARA sends to the lab to make your copy – may be 16 or 35mm or 1" video or digi-beta.

At the moment, I can copy video or film reference copies onto mini-dv, but I don't have the capability to copy my mini-dv onto DVD. If you don't have a way to view mini-dv or copy it onto DVD, I can either copy the reference tape onto VHS for you, or try to find another researcher who can copy it onto mini-dv. However, for the two reels for which I requested reference copies to be made, NARA is now making DVD reference copies only. Further, they *just* installed a DVD copying machine in the reference room (so new they haven't set a fee schedule for it yet, so they're letting people try it out for free). Since one of the three reels I dubbed was on DVD (111 LC 56583), I was able to copy that onto DVD (and mini-dv as a comparison). NARA is *not* currently making reference DVD's of any item which already has a reference copy in another format, so our options for the DVD copier are limited.

If you are going through a vendor lab, you'll want to go ahead and order broadcast quality copies (on DVD or any other format). I can't give you an estimate, because I haven't ordered DVD format much, and there's a lot of variables. Generally it's cheaper to place one larger order than several small ones. The procedure for ordering is to send into NARA an Item Approval Request Form (I can do this via email). NARA completes it (with the intermediate elements, time, etc). and returns it (usually a couple of days). You send the completed form to a vendor lab and they send you an estimate. Of the labs on the list, I most often use Colorlab. I believe only Colorlab and Bono have HD capability. If you don't need HD and all of your items have existing intermediate copies (at this point, I believe that they do), then Henninger may be a little cheaper, and they are usually efficient. The other labs should also do an adequate job. The sound recording has to go to a different lab, but let me first find out if there already is a DVD reference copy for you (a staff member thought it may have been in the back).

When do you need to see a reference copy and when do you need a reproducible copy (if different?). I can send you right now the DVD and the mini-DV tape (or just the DVD). I will send it first-class mail to the post office box, unless you specify otherwise. Do you want me to make mini-dv or vhs reference copies of the remaining films which have only film or video cassette copies available? These would be:

111-LC-56854 Combat Activities... [there's no reference copy indicated on ARC, but I have to check the shelves]
474.1 Combat Tow Firings

To simplify, I'm skipping ARC numbers, since they are *only* helpful in looking things up in ARC. The labs use the other identifiers (record group, series, item number) to order. I'm sorry that this message is so long and complicated. Please call me with questions. I'll be here until 2:00 today, and Saturday morning, and Monday morning. You can leave a message for me any time, though.

—Susan

From: Tom Marshall
To: 'Susan Hormuth'

Sent: Friday, May 08, 2009 7:47 AM
Subject: RE: NARA search

Hi Susan,

Good Work!

Please send me a dvd of the film you have.

I guess the best thing to do is have reference copies of all eight you list, in DVD format. I do not have a mini dv capability, except with an expensive local production company. What would be your cost estimate to get copies in mini dv format from an approved vendor.

I found the following items in January. I would like to get reference copies in DVD format on the following:

ARC Identifier 133924, Senate Reaction

ARC 34192, ARC 33997, ARC 56854 Combat Activities 101st ABN in addition to 56583, and ARC 88518, Combat Tow firings.

I would like your recommendation of two or three companies to use, to make my copies.

I have the Archive list of approved vendors and also have the sources for permission to use.

Toward the end of this month, I will send you another \$360.00. I would like to know what to budget to get mini dv's on the group you researched and the likely cost on the additional group I have.

I expect I will have you do additional research later this summer. This is more than I expected.

Thanks,

Tom Marshall

From: Susan Hormuth [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2009 4:56 PM
To: Tom Marshall
Subject: NARA search

Dear Tom,

I dubbed some footage at the National Archives yesterday. On one 60 minute mini-dv tape I have two of the reels from your list: 111-LC-56583 (ARC 34215) and 111-LC-56522 (ARC 34192). I also copied most of another reel, 111-LC-54915 (ARC 33091) ["Lamar Plane (101 Airborne)" 5/18/69 - 5/19/69].

The other reel which you requested to be copied, 111-LC-56246 (ARC 33997 - "Documentary of XXIV Corps"), did not have a reference copy available. I requested that NARA make a reference copy, which

usually takes at least two weeks. I also requested that a reference copy be made of 111-LC-54449 (ARC 32757) which shows troops of the 502nd, 101st Airborne and an enemy cache of weapons. You may want to look at the shot list on ARC to see if it's anything you are interested in. Since I don't know which items you may have already looked at on ARC and rejected, here is a list of other films I have identified on ARC which may be worth screening or dubbing:

342-USAF-45835 (ARC 71167) [Combat Controllers, A Shau Valley...]

111-LC-54029 (ARC 32467) ["Chapel Dedication..." shows Melvin Zais]

111-LC-54137 (ARC 32551) ["Miscellaneous subjects.." shows jungle terrain of A Shau Valley]

I didn't find much else which was specific to you subjects and time periods, apart from what you already have. And while I didn't find any footage of a the Senate hearing with General Zais testifying, I did find a reference to a CBS news story of May 23, 1969 in which General Zais is interviewed and comments on Senator Kennedy's views concerning the "Hill." The Department of Defense dubbed off-air evening network news stories on the Vietnam war. I did not have a chance to call for this film (on film reference only), but can do so if you want to see it. Of course, as it's network news, you would have to contact CBS for permission to use it.

So far, I have spent most of one research day on this project. I can still call for and dub one or two identified reels next week with the remaining time. Since the new reference copies will be made on DVD, and if you can wait a few weeks, I can copy them onto DVD when they come in. Or, I can send you the tape I have now, along with ARC print-outs of the above-referenced reels. Let me know how you want the tape sent to you. I didn't have a chance to call for the audio tape, so I'm not sure if there is a reference CD to copy. I can do so next time.

Let me know how you want me to proceed.

Best regards,

Susan