

4-1-2
May 27, 1968

SUBJECT: Morale

The executive officer from a company of the 6th VC Battalion, captured on April 30, states that before Tet, morale was very high. Their battalion was up to strength in men and weapons and the political officer had the men very well prepared for the upcoming attack. Now, however, source said that morale was extremely low and the men were not at all anxious for another offensive. They are very afraid to fight in Saigon because of the results of the last encounter. The men who engaged in the Tet Offensive were very tired of fighting and the new recruits were disillusioned and did not think that they could win in Saigon because of past results. The last time they had trained very hard and were prepared for the offensive. Now they have not had the long months to prepare that they had before, they have lost weapons, and if they could not win during Tet when they were strong, they do not really believe that this attack will end any different than the last one. Their PO did not try to make them forget the last attack but tried to make them want to avenge their poor showing. Source stated that this had little effect on the men, however.

The 6th Battalion went into the Tet Offensive with approximately 360 men and returned to their base camp with about 85. Because of the results of the Tet Offensive, recruiting by local infrastructure VC groups had been very poor. Therefore, this unit had been forced to capture replacements for those men lost in the Tet Offensive. Source's company received from 50 to 60 KIAs in the last Tet Offensive and now has received about 40 replacements.

He did not consider his unit to be as effective as it should have been for the Tet Offensive. This unit had been resting in the jungle and training new recruits. However, most of the recruits were impressed into service and did not respond to the training to their utmost.

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