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S U M M A R Y

VIET CONG (VC) cadres and soldiers were instructed to turn prisoners of war (POW's) over to the next higher echelon and eventually to the local authorities in a VC-controlled area after first searching them for documents and weapons and interrogating them for intelligence information. U.S. POW's were sent to NVN. On two occasions Source observed groups of captured GVN policemen, and in June 1967 he saw 33 U.S. commandoes imprisoned in HAU MY Village, DINH TUONG Province.

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1. In June 1967 Source received reorientation training which was organized by VC Battalion 263 during its temporary stop at the Canal 28 area in CAI BE District, DINH TUONG Province. Part of the training course dealt with procedures for handling POW's. BA TAN, the Company Commander and Political Officer of Company 3, taught this portion of the training course.
2. The VC divided POW's into the following three categories: U.S. POW's, Korean POW's and GVN POW's. Immediately after capturing enemy personnel during an engagement, the VC were instructed to search them for documents and weapons. They then had to tie their arms and blindfold them. They were instructed not to kill or mistreat prisoners; not to confiscate their personal property, and to adopt a freindly manner toward them.
3. Each VC cadre and soldier was given a pamphlet containing 36 English words which could be used to give orders during the evacuation of a POW. Most of the troops did not memorize them, although they had been taught the proper pronunciation and encouraged to learn them by the company cadres.
4. POW's were transferred from the squad level to the company level. After a POW reached the company level, responsibility for his evacuation was assumed by the Reconnaissance Team because they had been well trained to handle this type of operation. Battalion orders specified that POW's be turned over to local organizations for interrogation and confinement, these local organizations could be at the village, district or province level. Evacuation of POW's from a military to a local unit was dependent upon operational conditions; the nearest organization was responsible for receiving any POW, although most local organizations did not have adequate jails. As a result, most POW's were separated and sent to higher levels which did have confinement facilities.
5. U.S. POW's were sent to NVN after capture. Political Officer BA TAN told the unit that these POW's were used to demonstrate U.S. agression before world public opinion.
6. In April 1967 Source observed six captives in Hamlet 15 of LONG TRUNG Village, they were confined in a private house by the local Party Chapter. Local VC cadres informed him that these captives were GVN policemen and intelligence agents. In June 1967 Source observed four captives imprisoned in a private house in the area of Canal 10; they were also policemen and intelligence agents. In June 1967 Source also observed 33 U.S. commandoes imprisoned in HAU MY Village; they had been captured after the battle in the GIUA Canal area of HAU MY District, DINH TUONG Province.

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