

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS

3d Battalion, 7th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
San Francisco, California 96602

3/GJO/lrd
5750
1 April 1969

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
Via: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology for Period 1 March 1969 to 31 March 1969

Ref: (a) MCO P5750.1
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2

Encl: (1) 1 March 1969 to 31 March 1969 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c) enclosure (1) is submitted.

J. O. Allison
J. O. ALLISON

Copy to:
S&C, 3/7 (5)

3RD BN. 7TH MAR. CONTROL NO.
COPY # 1 OF 11
SERIAL NO: 16-69

7thMar S&C Log Nr.
0145-69 Copy# 1 of 6

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1969

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HEADQUARTERS
3d Battalion, 7th Marines
1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
APO, San Francisco, California 96602

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5750
1 April 1969

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 March 1969 to 31 March 1969

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5750
1 April 1969

PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

DESIGNATION

3d Battalion, 7th Marines

COMMANDER

LTCOL F. X. QUINN
(1-22Mar69)
LTCOL J. O. ALLISON
(23-31Mar69)

SUBORDINATE UNITS

H&S

2ndLt T. A. WILLIAMSON

"I"

1stLt R. W. RAMAGE
(1-18Mar69)
CAPT P. W. MILES
(19-31Mar69)

"K"

CAPT F. T. FAGAN

"L"

1stLt C. L. JARDINE
(1-12Mar69)
CAPT J. K. RIDER
(13-31Mar69)

"M"

CAPT P. K. VAN RIPER

ATTACHED UNITS

Btry G, 3d Bn, 11th Marines

1stLt A. W. POWELL
(1-22Mar69)
1stLt C. A. CAMPBELL, JR.
(23-31Mar69)

1st Plat, Co C, 1st Engrs

1stLt C. L. DISMORE (DS)

1st Plat, Co A, 3d AMTRAC Bn

1stLt P. J. HOUSTON

1st Plat, Co B, 1st Tank Bn

1stLt D. C. EHLERS
(1-5Mar69)
2ndLt R. B. GOODRICH
(6-31Mar69)

2. LOCATION

(1-31 March 1969, QUAN HIEU DUC, RVN, HILL 10)

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XO

S-1/Adjutant

S-2

S-3

S-3A

S-4

S-5

Supply Officer

Motor Transport Officer

Air Liaison Officer

Forward Air Control Officer

Forward Air Control Officer

Battalion Chaplain

Battalion Surgeon

Assistant Battalion Surgeon

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH REPORT

<u>USMC</u>		<u>NAV</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
38	1166	3	54	0	0

Maj B. E. DAVIDSON

Capt C. C. DAVIS

(1-18Mar69)

1stLt J. O. VAUGHN

(27-31Mar69)

2ndLt J. W. DRISCOLL

Maj F. F. POWELL, JR.

(1Mar69)

Capt G. J. OBERNDORFER

(2-31Mar69)

1stLt T. H. HARREL, JR.

(2-31Mar69)

1stLt S. C. MOORE

1stLt B. L. WEBER

1stLt W. J. CHAPUT

1stLt D. L. JACKSON

1stLt R. M. WILLIAMS

(1-8Mar69)

1stLt R. W. ESTRUP

(9-31Mar69)

1stLt R. M. WILLIAMS

(9-31Mar69)

1stLt S. R. HODGSON

(10-31Mar69)

Lt S. B. SCOTT (CHC)

Lt D. L. OLSON (MC)

Lt K. W. KOLDYS (MC)

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1 April 1969~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

General: The 3d Battalion, 7th Marines continued normal operations in their Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR). Co I, 3/7 located on Hill 10 held the responsibility for the platoon combat base, Tug Boat, and the portion of the TAOR east of the Song Yen. A platoon from Co I continued to provide security for Cobb Bridge while another platoon patrolled the La Chau's. Co K, 3/7 remained on Hill 41 and continued their aggressive patrolling of the Duyen Son's, the Phu Son's and the foothills of Charlie Ridge. Co L, 3/7 operated from Hill 10 and patrolled the area south of the Song Tuy Loan, An Tan Ridge, the Dong Bich's and also provided the 7th Marine Regiment Ready Reaction Platoon from 15-27 March. Company M, 3/7 operated from Hill 10, constantly patrolling the Bo Ban's, the Duong Lam's, and also manned Mike Tower from which the Phuoc Ninh's were patrolled. Elements from Co I, Co K, and H&S Co provided security for daily road sweeps within the TAOR.

Specific: On 2 March 1969, a platoon of Company M, 3/7 conducted a sweep in the vicinity of AT925675 in conjunction with a platoon of NPFF. The sweep resulted in the location and destruction of 01 enemy tunnel.

On 4 March 1969 a squad patrol from Company L, 3/7 observed 01 VN male standing in a rice paddy in the vicinity of AT908682. The patrol was attracted by his shouting and he was waving Chieu Hoi pamphlets in his hand. Upon calling him to its position the patrol assumed him to be a Chieu Hoi as he surrendered an AK-47, 02 Chi Coms and 02 M-26 grenades.

At 2015 on the same day, Company M, 3/7 observed 20-25 enemy moving east in the vicinity of AT920680. Illumination and HE missions were called on the grid, blocking fires were fired to the west and a Spooky ran numerous missions over the area. A search revealed 02 NVA KIA and assorted 782 gear and documents.

At 0045 on 5 March 1969, a squad from Company K, 3/7 spotted 04 enemy moving east in the vicinity of AT951669. They engaged the enemy with S/A's at a distance of 50 meters and called in 81mm fire mission. A search of the area revealed 01 NVA KIA and 01 AK-47.

On 6 March 1969, a squad of Company M, 3/7 observed 05 enemy moving west in the vicinity of AT923682. They engaged the enemy with small arms, hand grenades and called in 81mm mortar, 60mm mortar and 105mm fire missions. A search of the area revealed 01 NVA KIA.

On 9 March 1969, a combat patrol of Company M, 3/7 spotted 04 NVA moving east to west in the vicinity of AT940672. They engaged

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the enemy from their ambush position with claymores and small arms at a distance of 50 meters. A search of the area revealed 03 NVA KIA's, 01 M-79, 01 Russian-made pistol, 01 AK-47, 10 Chi Coms, 02 AK-47 magazines and assorted documents.

At 2215 on this same day, a Company K, 3/7 squad ambush observed 08 NVA moving north in the vicinity of AT944651. They engaged the enemy with small arms, M-60's and M-79's at a distance of 50 meters. Fire missions from the 81mm and 105mm were also called and the area of contact was then swept. The search revealed 04 NVA KIA's and 03 AK-47's.

On 12 March 1969, a squad ambush from Company K, 3/7 spotted 08 enemy moving west in the vicinity of AT952672. They opened up with small arms, claymores, M-79's and M-26's at a distance of 10 feet. A search of the area revealed 03 NVA KIA, 03 AK-47's and numerous Chi Coms.

On 13 March 1969, a platoon sweep of Company K, 3/7 in vicinity of AT953638 found 07 bunkers, 02 recently used rest areas, 01 tunnel 10 feet long and 3'x3', and fresh blood. All bunkers were bamboo reinforced and had numerous fresh trails leading to the river. All bunkers and tunnels were destroyed.

On 14 March 1969, a Company M, 3/7 sweep in the vicinity of AT925675 resulted in 01 M-14 captured, 02 Chi Com booby traps, 01 82mm mortar site, blasting caps and detonation cord, 50 lbs of rice, 01 60mm mortar round, 05 81mm mortar rounds, assorted NVA 782 gear, numerous documents and 12 enemy bunkers.

At 1200 on that same day, a squad from the 1st Platoon, Company L, 3/7 observed 01 NVA sniper in a tree in the vicinity of AT910690. They engaged him with small arms fire resulting in 01 NVA KIA.

On 15 March 1969, 2nd Platoon, Company L, 3/7 spotted 01 NVA and opened fire resulting in 01 NVA KIA. The area and body were searched thoroughly revealing 01 AK-47, 02 Chi Coms.

On 19 March 1969, Company M, 3/7 CP Section observed 01 enemy at AT927690 running east to west. He was taken under small arms fire and a search of the area revealed 01 NVA KIA, 01 60mm mortar tube, 05 60mm mortar rounds with fuses, 03 Chi Coms, and 01 NVA pack with assorted gear.

At 1630 on that same day, a squad combat patrol from Company K, 3/7 encountered an unknown size enemy force in a concrete hootch and bunker in the vicinity of AT949667. They engaged the enemy with small arms, M-26's, flame throwers and satchel charges. The result of this action was 06 enemy KIA (04 NVA and 02 female VC) and 01 AK-47 and 01 M-16 captured.

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On 20 March 1969, a squad combat patrol from Company M, 3/7 had 01 VC come out of a tunnel and give himself up in the vicinity of AT940667. A search of the tunnel revealed 01 NVA KIA, 02 AK-47's, 01 M-16 and 04 Chi Coms. The VC was classified as a Chieu Hoi.

At 2130 on that same day, CP Hill 10, picked up movement on the PPS-6 of approximately 30(+) enemy moving west to east at AT918683. Fired 60mm and 81mm mortars, M-60 and 50 cal. machine guns, and 90mm tank fire on the enemy position. The enemy was observed fleeing to the west. Blocking fires were fired to the west by the 105mm howitzers. A search of the area the following morning revealed 01 NVA KIA, 06 60mm Chi Com mortar rounds, 05 RPG boosters and assorted other gear.

At 1100 on that same day, a sweep conducted by Company L(-), 3/7 observed 05 NVA moving east to west at AT877704. They engaged the enemy with small arms resulting in 01 NVA KIA.

At 1430 on that same day, a platoon sweep of Company M, 3/7 resulted in 01 detainee who pointed out a 500 pound rice cache in the vicinity of AT949689.

On 22 March 1969, Mike Tower, 3/7 AT920675 picked up movement through their starlight scope of approximately 10 enemy moving west to east. Fired 60mm and 81mm mortars, M-60 and 50 cal. machine guns on the enemy position. The enemy was observed fleeing both east and west. Blocking fires were fired to the west with the 105mm howitzers and a unit was maneuvered to intercept the fleeing enemy to the east. This unit made contact with a small enemy force with small arms and hand grenades at close range. This action resulted in 02 NVA KIA. A further search of the area the following morning revealed an additional 03 NVA KIA. The search continued to the west and in the vicinity of AT912682 an apparent field aid station, that had been recently used, was discovered.

On 25 March 1969 a platoon sweep of Company K, 3/7 in the vicinity of AT928670 resulted in 01 VC KIA, 06 spider holes, 01 female detainee, 01 AK-47, 03 60mm mortar rounds, 03 82mm mortar rounds, 02 VC wrapped in a parachute in a grave, 20 VC flags and 01 PRC-25, SN-12152.

At 1800 on 29 March 1969, operational control of 3/7's TAOR was transferred to 2/26.

At 2000 on 30 March 1969, 3/7 commenced operation "Oklahoma Hills".

D-Day for operation "Oklahoma Hills" was 311100HMar69.

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1 April 1969

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SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Topics

a. Mission Assigned. Occupy and defend Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR); conduct unilateral offensive operations and aggressive day/night patrols and ambushes throughout the TAOR and, with approval, in the RZ. Maintain maximum surveillance and interdiction of waterway access/egress routes into the TAOR and of possible rocket sites located therein. Locate, capture, or destroy enemy forces attempting to move material or rockets into the Rocket Belt. Prepare to conduct combined and coordinated operations with GVN forces, within and beyond the TAOR; provide alert forces and convoy escorts from squad to company size, as a reserve/alert force for operations anywhere in RVN; launch counter attacks against enemy penetrations in TAOR; conduct concentrated and sustained Civic Action and Psychological Warfare programs in Revolutionary Development and maintain security of vital lines of communications in coordination with GVN forces within the TAOR.

b. Administration. Administrative support was satisfactory.

c. Personnel. The Battalion's category of readiness was C-1 for personnel. The total end of month strength was 42 Marine Officers, 1136 Marine Enlisted, 3 Navy Officers and 54 Navy Enlisted. Total 1235.

(1) Casualties Sustained. 1-31 March 1969

<u>U. S.</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>NBC</u>
H&S Co	1	7	7
I Co	1	10	11
K Co	0	5	7
L Co	3	13	7
M Co	<u>1</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	6	60	35

d. Intelligence

(1) Enemy Situation, 1-31 March 1969. The large volume of intelligence reports continued to indicate the enemy's desire to continue his Winter-Spring offensive. The rocket attack on the 19th, was the first such attack on Hill 10 this year. This rocket attack and infiltration attempt into the lowlands are evaluated as part of the enemy's increased activity during his Winter-Spring offensive. However, this offensive has lacked the ferocity expected.

On 22 March, Mike Company made contact with an enemy force of approximately ten men. The engagement resulted in five NVA KIA.

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Infiltration passes found on the bodies identified the force as part of the 2nd Battalion, 31st Regiment. A belt taken off one of the bodies revealed the designation K.5, D.8, E.13. Obviously, Mike Company had engaged elements of the 5th Company, 2nd Battalion, 31st Regiment.

A Chieu Hoi rallied to Mike Company on 21 March 1969. He revealed that the enemy had begun another phase of its offensive. The enemy intends to infiltrate this area in a series of groups with the first group digging in and later groups reinforcing the first group. Their strategy is to ambush American Forces and expand this initial contact. To date, contacts indicate that the enemy is executing his plan but has met resistance while infiltrating and has been unsuccessful in attempts to initiate these ambushes.

(2) There was no marked increase in the employment of surprise firing devices. These devices were most often encountered in the vicinity of AT955688. Terrorist activities included the assassination of a PF and the Chief of YEN-NE Hamlet. This occurred on the 16th of March in the vicinity of AT943663.

(3) Enemy Weapons, Equipment and Supplies Destroyed/Captured Weapons

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>
18 AK-47 Rifles	11052925, BD2333, 11085315, 70139825, 7532 5300, 0251850, 011501, 0792, BD1442, 10043516, 1013216, BD2098, BD1377, BD0483, 3511, 11085393, 10139863
1 RPG-7	B999540564
2 US 45's	14241, 2633767
1 60mm M/T	10992
1 M-79	1169
1 Chi. Com Type 56	10040974
1 M-14	879747
2 M-16	640538, 639648
1 B-40 Rocket Launcher	L-2677

Equipment - 73 Chi Com grenades, 07 RPG boosters, 07 AK-47 magazines, 01 82mm fuse, 50 .50 cal. rds, 01 RPG drum with 100 rds, 30 SKS rds, 13 82mm rds, 13 60mm rds, 06 M-26 grenades, 09 M-79 rds, 05 E-tools, 01 82mm sight, 02 ponchos, 01 140mm rocket, 01 B-40 rocket, 20 lbs of medical equipment, 900 lbs of rice, various pieces of 782 gear, and numerous assorted documents and papers.

(4) Enemy Personnel Losses

- (a) VC/NVA KIA in TAOR - 87
- (b) VC/NVA KIA by 3/7 - 54
- (c) VC/NVA KIA by ARTILLERY - 0
- (d) VC/NVA KIA by AIR - 2
- (e) VC/NVA KIA by CAP and Vietnamese Units - 31

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(a) Number of fixed wing missions flown: 6

(b) Number of Aerial Observer or Reconnaissance missions flown: 173 Total number of hours: 104 hrs 04 mins.

(c) Helicopter missions flown were as follows:

1 Medical Evacuations: 58a USMC: 79b ARVN: 5c CIVILIAN: 262 Logisticala Cargo: 61,000 poundsb Troops: 1,4193 Firefly: 04 Unit Commander: 33

(d) Number of Flaeship missions flown: 76

1 Total number of hours: 97 hrs 35 mins

(e) Number of Spooky Missions flown: 3

1 Total number of hours: 3 hrs 10 mins

(f) KBA (Confirmed): 0

h. Formal Training

(1) Orientation. All newly joined personnel received a three-day intensive Orientation and Indoctrination which included instruction in care, maintenance, safe handling, familiarization and firing of the M-16 rifle, both on the day and night firing ranges.

(2) Personnel of the battalion, in the numbers indicated, attended the following schools:

(a) Officer Leadership Crs (1st Mar Div) 1

(b) NCO Leadership Crs (1st Mar Div) 4

(c) Embarkation Crs-Emb (Onward) 1

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- (d) Land Mine Warfare Trng (1st Engrs) 35
- (e) Ground Surveillance Crs "B" (1st Mar Div) 6
- (f) Basic Inf Wpns Repair Crs (Okinawa) 1
- (g) Maint Trng Crs KY-38 (1st Mar Div) 2
- (h) Comm Security/Crypto Crs (Japan) 1
- (i) Regt'l Driver's School (7th Marines) 9
- (j) Basic Organic Sup Acct Crs (1st Mar Div) 1

(3) An NCO School is conducted on the battalion level weekly for Lance Corporals, Corporals and Sergeants, and those Private First Class assigned to an NCO Billet.

1. Logistics, Equipment and Supply

(1) Logistics

(a) Eight Engineer Assistance requests have been submitted this month.

(b) The generator was replaced on Hill 10.

(c) Nine Engineer Assistance requests were approved

(d) The generator at Cobb Bridge was inoperative due to a broken drive shaft coupling and was repaired.

(2) Supply

(a) The overall supply situation remains good. However, there is a shortage of 2d Echelon spare parts for Motor Transport and Communication items.

(b) 5-6 March 1969. Ordnance Contact Team was requested and received. All weapons inspected and repaired as needed.

(c) 13-20 March 1969. Commenced planning and preparing for operation "Oklahoma Hills".

(d) 21 March 1969. Supply instruction period given all Supply NCO's. Office equipment Contact Team was requested and received.

(e) 22-23 March 1969. Supplies were issued to the companies in preparation for the upcoming operation.

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(f) 24-26 March 1969. An inventory and reconciliation was conducted.

(g) 27 March 1969. Four tents which were destroyed in a recent rocket attack were replaced.

(h) 29 March 1969. Conducted move of LSA to Hill 55.

(3) Motor Transportation. The Motor Transport status remains satisfactory.

(4) Messhall. The Messhall status remains satisfactory.

j. Civil Affairs/Civic Action

(1) Materials Distributed

(a) 350 bars of soap on Medcaps.

(2) Serious Incidents. There were no Serious Incidents.

(3) Medcap. The Medcap unit of the Battalion treated 238 Vietnamese within the Battalion CAOR.

(4) Projects. Pig and road safety projects were commenced during the month.

k. Psychological Operations

(1) During the month of March the total amount of leaflets distributed by the Battalion was as follows: 4,000 Chieu Hoi, 1,153 Weapons Rewards, 900 Rocket Rewards, 850 Report VC Mines, 1,000 Report VC Cadre, 993 Ban Tin Newspapers and 100 Health and Sanitation Leaflets.

(2) This month the Battalion had 4 HB team broadcast operations. The first broadcast was on 3 March in exploitation of VC Terrorist, broadcast coordinates AT943663. The second was on 12 March in exploitation of VC/NVA tactics of building bunkers that resemble graves, broadcast coordinates AT9272 and AT9363. The third was on 15 March in exploitation of Report VC Mines and Booby Traps, broadcast coordinates AT938709 and AT942643. The fourth was on 18 March in exploitation of Report VC Cadre, broadcast coordinates AT938709 and AT942643.

(3) Total number of air drops requested was 39, thirty-five confirmed and 4 cancelled due to leaflets not in stock. The themes utilized were Pro-GVN, Chieu Hoi, Safe Conduct Passes and Rallying Instructions. Eight tapes were requested with seven confirmed and one cancelled due to artillery. Tapes requested were used as back ups on Chieu Hoi drops.

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(4) The HE Team from 7th Psyops Battalion arrived on 16 March and showed 2 films on Pro-GVN.

(5) The only problem experienced this month was that the Hamlet Chiefs were not in the villages during the day.

(6) The Psychological warfare campaigns of the Battalion were geared primarily to the Chieu Hoi and Rocket Rewards.

1. Communications

(1) Communications for the month of March were satisfactory with minor radio interferences. The cause of this interference was other friendly units operating on the same frequencies as this Battalion.

(2) A problem still exists with power failures on the Radio relay equipment due to the long hours of operation, insufficient supply of replacement generators and some spare parts.

(3) The Communications Platoon convened two three-day classes for the purpose of training company personnel in radio procedures and operations. Technical classes and on the job training are being conducted daily for all communications replacement personnel.

m. Chaplain. The Battalion Chaplain performed the following in support of the Battalion:

(1) Thirty Sunday Divine Services were held with a combined attendance of 396 personnel.

(2) Six weekday services were conducted for personnel of the battalion with a combined attendance of 88.

(3) Seven Memorial Services were conducted with a combined attendance of 794 personnel.

(4) Troop Indoctrination/NCO Leadership lectures were presented with 203 personnel attending 10 lectures.

(5) Four visits were made to the hospitals in the DaNang area, with 34 persons being visited.

(6) Three persons were visited while in confinement in the III MAF Brig.

(7) Counselling interviews: 22

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(8) The Chaplain was inspected by the Division Chaplain on 14 March 1969.

(9) On 12 March, 3/7 Chaplain briefed the PACFLT Chaplain, Rear Admiral J. H. ROTRIGE, CHC, USN, on the activities in the Battalion.

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(10) On 19 March 1969, Chaplain Stanley B. SCOTT, CHC, USNR, was wounded in action, resulting in his evacuation to the Naval Support Activity, DaNang Hospital for treatment. He is being temporarily replaced by LCDR R. W. HARPER, CHC, USN of the Division Chaplain's Office, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF.

n. Medical

(1) General: The overall health of the Marines in the Battalion continues to be excellent. There have been no major outbreaks of illness.

(2) Evacuations: Casualty evacuations continue to be satisfactory.

(3) Supply: Medical supplies are adequate.

(4) Malaria Cases: 1

Fever unknown origin: 1

V. D. 16: Six cases contracted in-country.
Ten cases contracted on R&R.

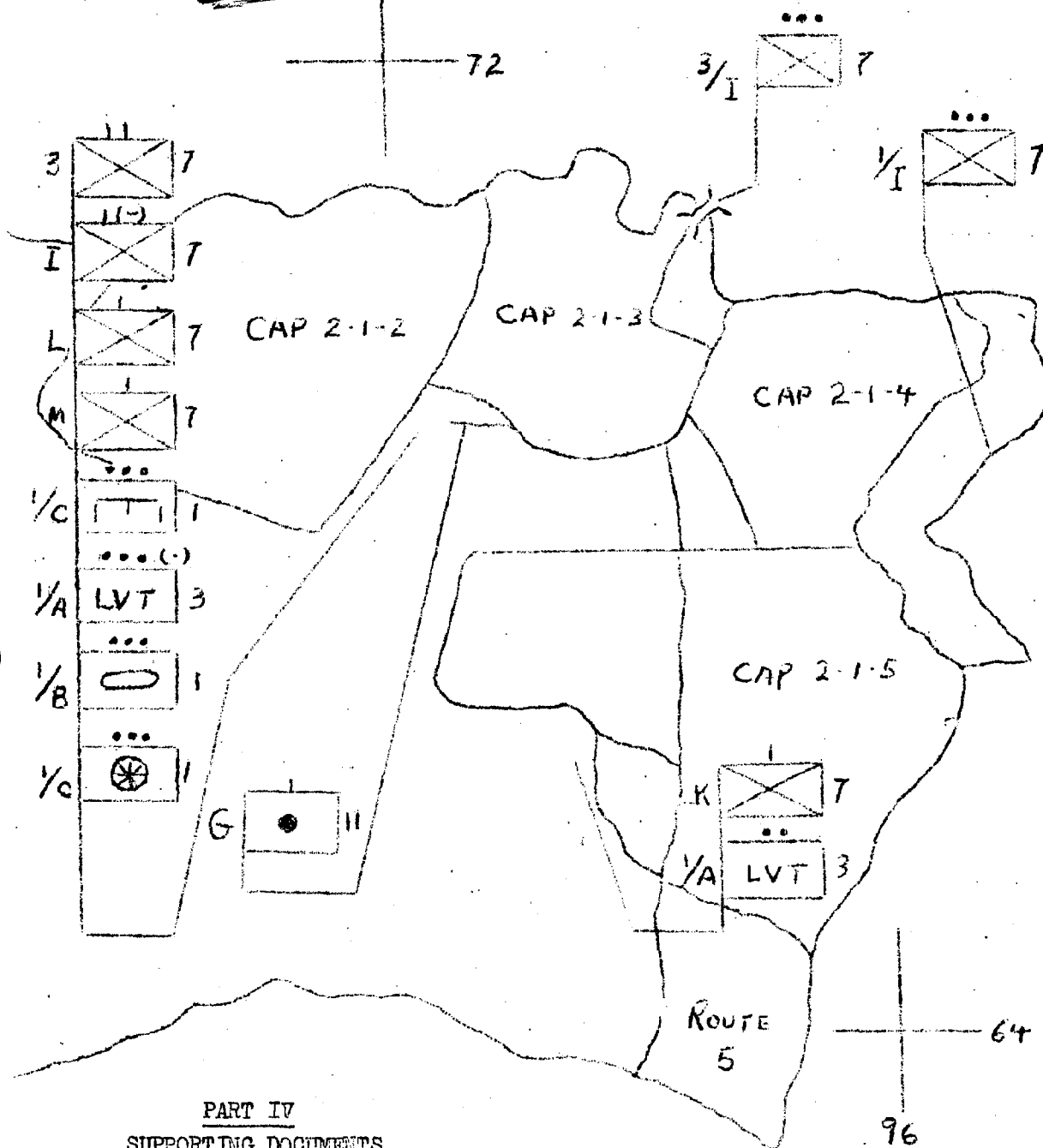
(5) Sanitation: The sanitation of the Battalion continues to improve.

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1. 3d Battalion, 7th Marines
unit positions as of 31 March 1969

Ref: (a) Maps; VIETNAM 1:50,000
AMS Series L7014, Sheets
6640 IV, 6641 III, 6640 I,
6641 II

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