F COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JANUARY 1968 — CAO DOI TUNNEL (BATTALION CP)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for January 1968

1st Marine Division · III Marine Amphibious Force · I Corps, Republic of Vietnam

1. Unit Overview

Unit Designation	Foxtrot Company (F Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division
Reporting Period	1–31 January 1968
Commander	Capt M. P. Downs (1–31 January)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol G. C. McNaughton; LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr.); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP), Song Truoi Bridge
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (2 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company F’s entries for January 1968 place it most often at or near Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP) (2 of 3 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Song Truoi Bridge.

Company F was commanded by Capt M. P. Downs (1–31 January); the battalion by LtCol G. C. McNaughton (1–2 January); LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr. (3–31 January).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company F in 3 entries this month (2 combat, 1 movement).

On 30 January 1968: Foxtrot moving toward Phu Loc on Highway 1 engaged about 5 VC at ZD 066014 — 1 USMC KIA, 3 USMC WIA.

On 30 January 1968: Foxtrot moved from Cao Dai Peninsula (2/5 command post) to Reported position (ZD 066 014) (means not stated).

On 31 January 1968: Foxtrot and Hotel maneuvering on an enemy position at YD 960048 took small arms, rifle grenades and mortar fire — 2 USMC KIA, 7 USMC WIA, 2 VC KIA, 1 AK-47 captured.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP) operations	January 1968	No named operation appears in this month's entries for the company; activities are listed in the chronology below.

4. Chronology of Company F Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for January 1968 in the hotel25vv research database. Only entries naming Company F are listed. Times and grid references are as recorded; each entry ends with its source page.

Date	Activity / Events
30 Jan	Foxtrot moving toward Phu Loc on Highway 1 engaged about 5 VC at ZD 066014 — 1 USMC KIA, 3 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 16]
30 Jan	Foxtrot moved from Cao Dai Peninsula (2/5 command post) to Reported position (ZD 066 014) (means not stated). Foxtrot moving toward Phu Loc on Highway 1 engaged about 5 VC at ZD 066014. Result: 1 USMC KIA, 3 USMC WIA. Official history: LtCol Cheatham, who had just set up his CP on the Cao Dai Peninsula, sent Foxtrot to reinforce 1/5 at Phu Loc; it was ambushed "around 2300, on the 30th, about 1,000 meters southeast of the Cao Dai Peninsula along Route 1." [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 16; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · The Defining Year, 1968, PDF p. 185]
31 Jan	Foxtrot and Hotel maneuvering on an enemy position at YD 960048 took small arms, rifle grenades and mortar fire — 2 USMC KIA, 7 USMC WIA, 2 VC KIA, 1 AK-47 captured [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 16]

5. Notes and Caveats

This file was built on 22 November 2026 in the same format as the Company H reports, directly from the checked, page-cited transcriptions of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines command chronologies. The notes below record its sources and where the record is thin.

1. SOURCE. The entries come from 2/5 Command Chronology Jan 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048097); U.S. Marines in Vietnam · The Defining Year, 1968.

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company F (Foxtrot) for January 1968 is listed in date and time order, with the page of the chronology it was read from. Entries that name only another company are left out.

3. COMMANDER. Company and battalion commanders are taken from the monthly organisation data (Section I of each chronology) as recorded in the battalion leadership ledger.

4. CASUALTIES. Casualty figures are not totalled here. Individual losses appear in the entries as recorded; for authoritative totals see the casualty tables in the original chronology.

5. ORIGINALS. National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 127, Records of the United States Marine Corps. For full records contact National Archives II, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park MD 20740, or Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134.

6. Sources

This document was compiled from the following primary and secondary sources:

PRIMARY SOURCES

— 2/5 Command Chronology Jan 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048097)

— U.S. Marines in Vietnam · The Defining Year, 1968

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Shulimson, Jack, Leonard A. Blasiol, Charles R. Smith and David A. Dawson. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Defining Year, 1968. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1997.

— “Foxtrot Company.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com

Document prepared for historical research purposes. For authoritative casualty figures, unit rosters, and engagement details, consult original 2/5 Command Chronology records at NARA RG 127. | Foxtrot Company, 2/5 Marines, January 1968