F COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JANUARY 1971 — HILL 290

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for January 1971

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 1971
Commander	Capt E. J. Easton Jr. (1–31 January)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Hill 290, Hill 510, Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (12 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Hill 290
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company F’s entries for January 1971 place it most often at or near Hill 290 (3 of 6 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Hill 510, Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy).

Company F was commanded by Capt E. J. Easton Jr. (1–31 January); the battalion by LtCol T. M. Hamlin (1–31 January).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company F in 18 entries this month (12 combat, 3 movement, 2 organization, 1 medical).

On 10 January 1971: Foxtrot's 2nd Platoon found three factory-made booby traps at AT 968388.

On 25 January 1971: Foxtrot's 1st Platoon fired on 3 VC/NVA at BT 039405 — 1 VC/NVA nurse KIA, two packs of food and medical equipment captured.

On 28 January 1971: Foxtrot's 1st Platoon B at BT 052412 had 3 medevacs from a 60mm booby trap; at 1725 2 emergency medevacs and 3 not evacuated from an M-26 booby trap (journal PDF 54-55); Pvt Ronald M.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Hill 290 operations	January 1971	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 1971 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
2 Jan	While a CH-46 tried to insert the Foxtrot CP at AT 965385 its rotor blades struck a small tree, forcing an emergency landing at AT 959378; two Foxtrot squads secured the aircraft — No casualties, aircraft and gear extracted [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 16]
2 Jan	Foxtrot moved from Not stated to Reported position (AT 959 378) by helicopter. While a CH-46 tried to insert the Foxtrot CP at AT 965385 its rotor blades struck a small tree, forcing an emergency landing at AT 959378; two Foxtrot squads secured the aircraft. Result: No casualties, aircraft and gear extracted. [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 16]
4 Jan	Foxtrot's 2nd Platoon found an 82mm mortar tube at AT 958375 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 16]
7 Jan	Foxtrot's 2nd Platoon found a body dead two to six weeks at AT 968391 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 17]
9 Jan	Foxtrot's 1st Platoon at AT 964397 found a cache: 48 82mm rounds, 11 60mm rounds, 10 RPG rounds, 6 82mm fuzes, 15 ChiCom mini-grenades, 200 7.62 rounds, 25 lb TNT and 2 cases of AK-47 rounds [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 17]
10 Jan	Foxtrot's 2nd Platoon found three factory-made booby traps at AT 968388 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 17]
12 Jan	Foxtrot's 1st Platoon found 850 electrical blasting caps, six 82mm fuzes, 350 7.62 rounds and salt at AT 967396 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 18]
18 Jan 10:45	Foxtrot extracted from the Que Sons to Baldy; at 1605 inserted at AT 046407, AT 038418 and AT 051425; OPCON to 3/5 from 1605 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 19]
18 Jan 10:45–16:05	Foxtrot moved from Que Son Mountains to Three insertion points near BT 038418, by way of Baldy (BT 038 418) by helicopter. Foxtrot extracted from the Que Sons to Baldy; at 1605 inserted at AT 046407, AT 038418 and AT 051425; OPCON to 3/5 from 1605. The journal writes the insertion grids as "AT 046407, AT 038418 and AT 051425", which would be about 100 km west; they must be BT grids in the Que Son Mountains, as for the other 1971 positions. Foxtrot was extracted to Baldy at 1045 and

Date	Activity / Events
	inserted at 1605 under 3/5. The start grid is not given. (Corrected 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 19]
19 Jan	PFC William Ruiz Jr. of Foxtrot drowned (non-battle death; Virtual Wall W5 L56) — 1 USMC NBD [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 20]
21 Jan 08:00	Foxtrot back under 2/5 from 3/5 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 20]
24 Jan	Foxtrot's 1st Platoon found an M-60 machine gun at BT 037417 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 21]
25 Jan	Foxtrot's 1st Platoon fired on 3 VC/NVA at BT 039405 — 1 VC/NVA nurse KIA, two packs of food and medical equipment captured [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 21]
28 Jan 16:45	Foxtrot's 1st Platoon B at BT 052412 had 3 medevacs from a 60mm booby trap; at 1725 2 emergency medevacs and 3 not evacuated from an M-26 booby trap (journal PDF 54-55); Pvt Ronald M. Rigdon, 1st Platoon, died of multiple fragmentation wounds (Virtual Wall W5 L67) — 1 USMC KIA [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 21]
28 Jan	Foxtrot's 1st Platoon wounded and captured one VC/NVA at BT 074410 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 21]
28 Jan	Foxtrot's 3rd Platoon followed a blood trail by a 60mm impact area — Negative [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 21]
30 Jan 12:45	Foxtrot's 1st Platoon B at BT 074410 had 2 medevacs from an M-26 booby trap (journal PDF 58) [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 21]
30 Jan	Foxtrot's 3rd Platoon and CP made contact with 9 VC/NVA — 1 KIA, 1 WIA, two packs captured [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 22]

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 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049005).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company F (Foxtrot) for January 1971 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 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049005)

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Cosmas, Graham A. and Terrence P. Murray. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970–1971. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1986.

— “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 1971