H&S COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

OCTOBER 1966 — CON THIEN

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for October 1966

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

1. Unit Overview

Unit Designation	Headquarters and Service Company (H&S Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division; including the battalion command post, the 106mm section and the S-2 and S-5 sections
Reporting Period	1–31 October 1966
Commander	Capt A. J. Bocutti (1–31 October)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (Maj L. E. Wood; LtCol W. C. Airheart); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Con Thien, Prairie patrol base north of Cam Lo, Hill 69 (battalion CP, Chu Lai)
Combat Posture	Security, movement and support (no combat entry recorded)
Base of Operations	Con Thien
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for October 1966 place it most often at or near Con Thien (7 of 11 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Prairie patrol base north of Cam Lo, Hill 69 (battalion CP, Chu Lai).

H&S Company was commanded by Capt A. J. Bocutti (1–31 October); the battalion by Maj L. E. Wood (1–3 October); LtCol W. C. Airheart (3–31 October).

For October 1966 this report lists 29 entries (23 organization, 6 movement): 0 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 29 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 3 October 1966: The command group perimeter took about 40 82mm mortar rounds from 4-5 guns near YD085620; the battalion commander, Maj L.

On 7 October 1966: 2/5 (-): all units moved from Battalion position (YD 066 654) to 360-degree perimeter (YD 095 702) on foot.

On 8 October 1966: The artillery FO with the CP group saw 4 enemy digging in at YD069699; air strike and artillery — 4 VC KIA probable.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Con Thien operations	October 1966	No named operation appears in this month's entries for the company; activities are listed in the chronology below.

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for October 1966 in the hotel25vv research database. Entries naming H&S or its sections and all battalion-level entries are listed; entries naming only a rifle company are left out. Times and grid references are as recorded; each entry ends with its source page.

Date	Activity / Events
2 Oct 08:40	2/5 (-) was lifted by helicopter into the operational area (chronology writes YD 0806) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 8]
2 Oct 08:40–14:00	2/5 (-) moved from Dong Ha airfield (YD 243 597) to Operational area, grid square YD 08 06 (YD 08 06) by helicopter. All units in the operational area by 1400. For October the battalion reported 29 helicopter requests and 921 troops lifted. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 8; 2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 9]
3 Oct 01:30	The command group perimeter took about 40 82mm mortar rounds from 4-5 guns near YD085620; the battalion commander, Maj L. E. Wood, was wounded and evacuated — 1 USMC KIA, 38 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 9]
3 Oct 12:10	The command group took 5 82mm rounds from grid square YD1063 [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 9]
3 Oct 17:00	Foxtrot at YD065618, Golf at YD085635, command group with Hotel at YD070612; moving north toward the objective at YD076627 with air strikes [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 10]
4 Oct 11:00–17:00	Battalion CP and Foxtrot moved from Combat base (YD 064 615) to Objective (YD 070 636) on foot. Swept toward the objective from north and south. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 10]
4 Oct 17:00	Combat bases: command group and Foxtrot at YD070636, Golf at YD074643, Hotel at YD075624 [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 10]
6 Oct 11:00–17:00	2/5 (-): all units moved from Combat bases (YD 070 636) to Battalion position (YD 066 654) on foot. Golf and Foxtrot swept to the new position; Hotel fought 8 NVA at YD 080 647 on the way. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 10; 2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 11]

Date	Activity / Events
7 Oct 11:00–17:00	2/5 (-): all units moved from Battalion position (YD 066 654) to 360-degree perimeter (YD 095 702) on foot. Moved under Frag Order 6-66; Hotel was hit by a reinforced platoon at YD 094 684 (3 KIA, 10 WIA) with Foxtrot passing through. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 11]
7 Oct 17:00	2/5 (-) in a 360 perimeter around YD095702 after meeting resistance at YD094684 and YD095644; an armed UH-1E was called in [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 11]
8 Oct 13:35	The artillery FO with the CP group saw 4 enemy digging in at YD069699; air strike and artillery — 4 VC KIA probable [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 12]
8 Oct 23:00	All units displaced to a new perimeter at YD117705 (Con Thien) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 12]
8 Oct 23:00	2/5 (-): all units moved from Perimeter (YD 095 702) to New perimeter (YD 117 705) (means not stated). "All units displaced as directed." [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 12]
11 Oct 14:50	3 ARVN soldiers who had escaped the NVA came in; a report placed 3 battalions of the 324 Division near YD135725, YD122719 and YD085697 [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 13]
12 Oct 11:30	1st Plt A Co, 3rd Tank Bn at YD123658 under automatic fire — 2 USMC KIA, 5 USMC WIA; two tanks disabled [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 14]
13 Oct 10:28	A tank hit a mine at YD132719 [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 14]
13 Oct 18:00	A UH-1E hit by automatic fire near YD123724 made an emergency landing at the 2/5 CP and burned; crew unhurt [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 14]
13 Oct 18:05	A second UH-1E took fire from the same place — 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 14]
13 Oct 20:15	ARVN forces fired their final protective line; a tank fired into friendly troops — 1 USMC KIA, 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 14]
14 Oct 17:00	The day's total: 2 USMC KIA, 5 USMC WIA, a cameraman wounded, 8 heat casualties, 1 snake bite; enemy 9 KIA confirmed, 5 KIA probable, 7 WIA, 1 WIA captured [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 15]
15 Oct 11:00	Two company sweeps: Golf with tanks to YD096704, YD092687, YD117688; Foxtrot to YD097704, YD090725, YD110723 [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 15]
17 Oct 14:00	The battalion CP group ran into an ambush at YD117678 — 1 USMC KIA, 1 NVA KIA probable [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 16]
21 Oct	2/5 came under OPCON of PUN-JAB [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 18]
25 Oct 17:00	Battalion CP near YD117705; Foxtrot found two 57mm rounds near YD135728; sweeps of the east-central TAOR planned [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 19]
27 Oct 15:14	The CP saw an unidentified swept-wing single-engine jet, not a US type, come from the north-west at about 1,000 feet and turn back north [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 20]
29 Oct 11:00	Battalion CP at YD148682 [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 20]
29 Oct 11:00	Battalion CP moved from Perimeter (YD 117 705) to Battalion CP (YD 148 682) (means not stated). Other units moved according to the operation overlay. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 20]

Date	Activity / Events
30 Oct 11:00	Battalion CP at YD148683; Foxtrot and Golf on sweeps [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 20]
30 Oct 11:30	2/5 (-) left Hill 69 for the Chu Lai airfield; last elements arrived at Dong Ha 2330 [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 8]

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 Oct 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048074); Bill Kindred, Location of Bases in Vietnam (list of bases, airfields and landing zones with grids).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. H&S 2/5 is recorded in the chronology under several names: H&S, H&S (Bn CP), Bn CP, the 106mm section and the S-2 and S-5 sections. All are combined here. Because H&S was the battalion headquarters, every battalion-level entry not tied to a rifle company is included too. Entries are listed in date and time order, each with the page of the chronology it was read from; entries naming only Echo, Foxtrot, Golf or Hotel 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 Oct 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048074)

— Bill Kindred, Location of Bases in Vietnam (list of bases, airfields and landing zones with grids)

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for October 1966, as published on hotel25vv.com (Battalion Chronology page): https://hotel25vv.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/1966October-2-5CommandChronology.pdf

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Shulimson, Jack and Charles M. Johnson. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: An Expanding War, 1966. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1982.

— “2/5 Battalion Chronology.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com/vietnam-war-chronology/battalion-chronology

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. | H&S Company, 2/5 Marines, October 1966