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

DECEMBER 1966 — AN HOA COMBAT BASE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for December 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 December 1966
Commander	Capt A. J. Bocutti (1–31 December)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol W. C. Airheart); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base, Hill 42, Dai Phong rice storage (Mississippi)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (1 combat entries)
Base of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for December 1966 place it most often at or near An Hoa Combat Base (5 of 12 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Hill 42, Dai Phong rice storage (Mississippi).

H&S Company was commanded by Capt A. J. Bocutti (1–31 December); the battalion by LtCol W. C. Airheart (1–31 December).

For December 1966 this report lists 20 entries (13 organization, 2 medical, 2 civic, 1 logistics, 1 movement, 1 combat): 0 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 20 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 3 December 1966: The 2/5 CP at An Hoa AT874474 took 18 rounds in the landing zone from 5-6 VC at AT878479; two H-34s engaged — 2 VC WIA captured, both DOW.

On 4 December 1966: The command group, Foxtrot and Hotel moved to the VC rice storage area: about 30 tons of rice in 5 bins near AT930402; sniper and mortar fire.

On 5 December 1966: A mine-sweeping detail found an ARVN minefield near AT868482 that the VC had added to.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Mississippi	291000H November – 071730H December 1966 (D-Day was set for 25 November and postponed each day by weather until 29 November)	2/5 (-): X-Ray, Golf, Cass 6, Hotel, then Foxtrot moved from Operational area (AT 857 402) to An Hoa (AT 874 474) by helicopter.

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for December 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
December days unstated	10–12 percent of the rifle companies treated for immersion foot during the monsoon. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 2]
December days unstated	Monsoon floods closed the streams and grounded helicopters; LCUs and amtracs carried troops and supplies. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 2]
2 Dec 17:00	About 600 Vietnamese evacuated toward 3/7's positions, the young, old and sick by helicopter [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 41]
3 Dec 14:50	The 2/5 CP at An Hoa AT874474 took 18 rounds in the landing zone from 5-6 VC at AT878479; two H-34s engaged — 2 VC WIA captured, both DOW [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 9]
3 Dec 17:00	28 Marines evacuated for immersion foot and cellulitis [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 43]
4 Dec 12:00	The command group, Foxtrot and Hotel moved to the VC rice storage area: about 30 tons of rice in 5 bins near AT930402; sniper and mortar fire [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 43]
5 Dec 14:30	A mine-sweeping detail found an ARVN minefield near AT868482 that the VC had added to [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 10]

Date	Activity / Events
7 Dec 14:50	Rice evacuation from Dai Phong finished: 531 large and 1,128 small bags, about 43.6 tons [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 43]
7 Dec 15:50–17:00	2/5 (-): X-Ray, Golf, Cass 6, Hotel, then Foxtrot moved from Operational area (AT 857 402) to An Hoa (AT 874 474) by helicopter. Extracted after the rice lift (531 large and 1,128 small bags); the AAR calls the helicopter extraction smooth and rapid. Mississippi ended at 1730. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 43; 2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 52]
7 Dec 17:00	All units returned to An Hoa; Operation Mississippi ended (2/5 results: 1 VC KIA, 3 VC KIA probable, 14 VCC, 11 ralliers) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 43]
7 Dec 17:30	At 071700H 2/5 (-)(Rein) returned to An Hoa Combat Base and Operation Mississippi terminated. At 071730H 2/5 chopped from OPCON 9th Marines to OPCON 1st Marine Division. (Chronological sequence of events, PDF p. 10.) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 10]
12 Dec 06:45	A joint operation with ARVN local forces near grid squares AT8950 and AT9050; caves and tunnels found at AT891509 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 12]
16 Dec 16:00	A road mine-sweep team found an abandoned USMC bulldozer damaged by a VC grenade at AT909483 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 15]
17 Dec 13:00	312 rounds of 105mm on grid square 5395 and the sweep began [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 16]
18 Dec 07:00	Echo, Golf and Foxtrot began search and destroy in Quan Duy Xuyen and Quan Dien Bon districts [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 17]
22 Dec 08:10	County Fair with H&S and 3/51 ARVN: a VC hit fleeing at AT907502 — 1 VC WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 20]
24 Dec	The Christmas truce began at 0700 on 24 December and was broken at 0815 when the enemy fired on a resupply helicopter [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 22]
25 Dec 15:40	An H-34 helicopter crashed at the south-west end of the runway near AT8724 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 22]
30 Dec 13:35	An amtrac returning from resupply hit a 40-lb mine at AT907496 — 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 23]
30 Dec 15:10	An amtrac at AT907496 took 20 rounds from AT895493 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 23]

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 Dec 1966 (with Nov Mississippi AAR) (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048075).

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 Dec 1966 (with Nov Mississippi AAR) (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048075)

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