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

JANUARY 1968 — AN HOA COMBAT BASE

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	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 January 1968
Commander	1stLt J. P. Pindel Jr. (1–23 January); 1stLt J. R. Allen (24–31 January)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol G. C. McNaughton; LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr.); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base, Phu Loc District headquarters
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 January 1968 place it most often at or near An Hoa Combat Base (9 of 10 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Phu Loc District headquarters.

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt J. P. Pindel Jr. (1–23 January); 1stLt J. R. Allen (24–31 January); the battalion by LtCol G. C. McNaughton (1–2 January); LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr. (3–31 January).

For January 1968 this report lists 23 entries (19 organization, 1 combat, 1 leadership, 1 movement, 1 personnel): 0 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 23 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 1 January 1968: 14 booby traps and mines destroyed on Liberty Road, many found by the An Hoa security guards.

On 2 January 1968: An An Hoa security policeman with a Marine road sweep on Liberty Road tripped a booby-trapped 60mm round at AT 924518 — 1 Vietnamese KIA, 1 Vietnamese WIA, 1 USMC WIA.

On 2 January 1968: CAP N-2 patrol near Thu Bon (2) (AT 875505) found a booby-trapped VC arch with a Main Force flag at AT 873501.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Auburn	28 December 1967 – 3 January 1968 (whole operation). 2/5 companies took part 29–30 December 1967.	Echo and Golf under 3/5 for Operation Auburn, 1-4 January
Operation Checkers	III MAF began Checkers in late December 1967. 2/5's part: 9–13 January 1968 in the Part II narrative; the S-3 report has the move beginning at 0800 on 9 January and ending at 1530 on 15 January 1968, when the last flight of the main body reached Phu Bai.	Advance party left An Hoa for Phu Bai by C-130 (Operation Checkers, 9-13 January)

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for January 1968 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
1 Jan	2/5 at An Hoa Combat Base, under the 5th Marines from 1 January [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 11]
1 Jan	Echo and Golf under 3/5 for Operation Auburn, 1-4 January [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 10]
1–13 Jan days unstated	14 booby traps and mines destroyed on Liberty Road, many found by the An Hoa security guards. [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 10]

Date	Activity / Events
2 Jan	An An Hoa security policeman with a Marine road sweep on Liberty Road tripped a booby-trapped 60mm round at AT 924518 — 1 Vietnamese KIA, 1 Vietnamese WIA, 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 11]
2 Jan	CAP N-2 patrol near Thu Bon (2) (AT 875505) found a booby-trapped VC arch with a Main Force flag at AT 873501 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 11]
2 Jan	Night 2-3 Jan: An Hoa perimeter took small-arms fire and about 4 rounds from AT 874493; CAP N-2 at Mau Chanh (2) (AT 888473) hit by heavy fire from AT 892473 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 11; 2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 12]
2 Jan	Crater analysis at first light found 8 satchel charges hurled onto the An Hoa airstrip by improvised mortars [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 12]
3 Jan	LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr. took command of 2/5 from LtCol G. C. McNaughton [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 11]
4 Jan	Night 4 Jan: CAP N-2 and N-3 probed with homemade mortars [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 12]
5 Jan	A villager from Mau Chanh (2) showed CAP N-2 satchel-charge launching sites at AT 891475 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 12; 2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 13]
5 Jan	A tank on Liberty Road set off a 30-lb box mine at AT 918511 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 13]
8 Jan	A security Marine with a 7th Engineer road crew set off a booby-trapped 60mm round at AT 907504 — 1 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 14]
9 Jan 08:00	Advance party left An Hoa for Phu Bai by C-130 (Operation Checkers, 9-13 January) [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 18]
10 Jan	A villager led Marines at Phu Lac (6) to a hidden Russian rifle and ammunition [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 14]
10 Jan	A 7th Engineer truck set off a box mine at AT 910485 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 15]
13 Jan	Battalion flown from An Hoa to Phu Bai, 13-15 January; final flight 1530 on 15 January; Cantonment 5 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 18]
15 Jan	2/5 (battalion) moved from An Hoa airfield (AT 874 475) to Phu Bai airfield (YD 885 149) by fixed-wing aircraft. From 9 to 15 January the battalion flew by C-130 from An Hoa to Phu Bai (Operation Checkers), joining Task Force X-Ray. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) Official history: “From 13–15 January, Air Force transports flew the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines directly from the small airfield at An Hoa south of Da Nang to the Phu Bai airfield.” Airfield grids from Kindred, Location of Bases (An Hoa p. 28; Phu Bai p. 104, “Grid is Phu Bai AF”). [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 18; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · The Defining Year, 1968, PDF p. 122]
20 Jan	Battalion (-) with Foxtrot, Golf and Hotel to Phu Loc District headquarters (ZD 085003) on threat intelligence, 20-24 January [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 10]
24 Jan	H&S men on OP 230 (YD 849087) received 4 grenades [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 16]
24 Jan	Battalion alerted for a move south to Phu Loc [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 10]
26 Jan	Hill 230 attacked: 8 grenades, 2 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 16]

Date	Activity / Events
28 Jan	Chaplain held a memorial service for four Marines killed (30 January) [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 4]
30 Jan	2/5 moved to the field near Phu Loc, 26-31 January [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 10]

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; 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 Jan 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048097)

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

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

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for January 1968, as published on hotel25vv.com (Battalion Chronology page): https://hotel25vv.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/1968January-2-5CommandChronology.pdf

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.

— “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, January 1968