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

MARCH 1969 — 2/5 FIELD COMMAND POST IN THE ARIZONA

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for March 1969

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 March 1969
Commander	1stLt D. L. Lister (1–10 March); 1stLt M. R. Baggs (11–31 March)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. W. Stemple; LtCol J. H. Higgins); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	2/5 field command post in the Arizona, An Hoa Combat Base, Henderson Hill, Phu Da (1) and (2)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (3 combat entries)
Base of Operations	2/5 field command post in the Arizona
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for March 1969 place it most often at or near 2/5 field command post in the Arizona (4 of 9 entries with a named place or grid), and also at An Hoa Combat Base, Henderson Hill, Phu Da (1) and (2).

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt D. L. Lister (1–10 March); 1stLt M. R. Baggs (11–31 March); the battalion by LtCol J. W. Stemple (1–13 March); LtCol J. H. Higgins (14–31 March).

For March 1969 this report lists 20 entries (13 movement, 3 combat, 3 civic, 1 logistics): 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 1 March 1969: An Hoa received incoming rounds, fire started.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Arizona	140800H – 181915H June 1967 (2/5 participation; the S-2 lists the operation as 15–19 June); previously listed as 13–26 June	Command group, Hotel moved from Football Island crossing area (AT 895 514) to Battalion objective B (Arizona) on foot.

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for March 1969 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 Mar 00:50	An Hoa received incoming rounds, fire started [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 16]
March day unstated	Battalion doctor arranges surgery for three village children. [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 11]
March day unstated	Election in Xuyen Thu village. [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 11]
March day unstated	Homes, wells and a road for Phu Da (1) and (2). [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 11]
March day unstated	Medical bunker built at the aid station. [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 10]
1–26 Mar days unstated	Three night positions hit by mortars. [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 7]
4 Mar 11:45	tanks reached Company E position [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 22]
7 Mar 16:08	Bn CP at Obj P 889507 [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 28]
7 Mar	Command group, Echo, Foxtrot moved from Not stated to Football Island (AT 889 507) (means not stated). 7 Mar March: 2/5 Echo, Foxtrot and the command post moved through lettered objectives; the command post set up at Objective P (AT 889507). (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 28]
8 Mar 13:40	tanks at E position [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 31]
9 Mar 13:40	Bn CP left position [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 34]

Date	Activity / Events
9 Mar 14:15	Bn CP reached new position, set in for night [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 34]
10 Mar 11:50	An Hoa taking incoming [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 36]
12 Mar 07:00	Bn night activities secured [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 41]
19 Mar 10:50–12:35	Echo, Foxtrot moved from Not stated to Football Island (AT 895 514) (means not stated). Foxtrot patrolled south of the crossing and Echo moved to AT 895514. (From the monthly "by Company" summary, written from the chronology page images.) Journal 19 March: "1050 LLE is on move", "1235 LLE at 895514" (PDF pp. 63–64; LLE is Echo's call sign in March). (Checked against the March 1969 journal, 18–22 March, 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 6; 2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 63]
20 Mar 09:35–10:45	Command group, Hotel moved from Football Island crossing area (AT 895 514) to Battalion objective B (Arizona) on foot. Journal 20 March: "0935 LL & LLH departed for objective", "1045 LL at Bn. objective B" (PDF p. 66). The narrative: "On 19 March the Battalion crossed the Song Thu Bon River and commenced search and clear operations moving west in the Arizona area" (PDF p. 6). Objective B is not given a grid. Mode inferred as on foot. (Checked against the March 1969 journal, 18–22 March, 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 66; 2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 6]
20 Mar 10:45	Bn at Objective B [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 66]
21 Mar 16:45	Command group, Hotel moved from Not stated to Reported position (AT 850 510) on foot. The command post and Hotel reached Battalion Objective E (AT 850510); (From the monthly "by Company" summary, written from the chronology page images.) Journal 21 March: "1430 LLF at objective E (850510)", "1645 LL & LLH at Bn. obj. E (850510)" (PDF p. 68; LL is the battalion command group, LLH Hotel). The narrative: "On 19 March the Battalion crossed the Song Thu Bon River and commenced search and clear operations moving west in the Arizona area" (PDF p. 6). The journal follows the companies objective by objective and names no helicopter or vehicle, so the mode is inferred as on foot. (Checked against the March 1969 journal, 18–22 March, 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 3; 2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 68]
22 Mar 07:50–09:17	Echo, Foxtrot, Hotel moved from Battalion objective E (AT 850 510) to New positions further west (AT 817 485) on foot. Journal 22 March: "0750 LLH moving toward new position", "0755 LLF & LLE moving toward new positions", "0832 LLF passing through objective O", "0917 LLF at 817485" (PDF p. 69). End grid is Foxtrot's; Echo's and Hotel's are not given. The narrative: "On 19 March the Battalion crossed the Song Thu Bon River and commenced search and clear operations moving west in the Arizona area" (PDF p. 6). Mode inferred as on foot. (Checked against the March 1969 journal, 18–22 March, 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 69; 2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 6]
31 Mar	Echo, Foxtrot, Golf moved from Not stated to Not stated on foot. 31 Mar March: Echo, Golf E3 and G3 swept toward Foxtrot; (From the monthly "by Company" summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1969, PDF p. 88]

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 Mar 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048113).

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 Mar 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048113)

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for March 1969, as published on hotel25vv.com (Battalion Chronology page): https://hotel25vv.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/1969March-2-5CommandChronology.pdf

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Smith, Charles R. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: High Mobility and Standdown, 1969. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1988.

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