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

JULY 1969 — PHU LAC (6) COMBAT OUTPOST

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for July 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 July 1969
Commander	1stLt M. R. Baggs (1–15 July); 1stLt J. F. Sheehan (16–31 July)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. H. Higgins); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Phu Lac (6) combat outpost, LZ Lily, An Hoa Combat Base, Liberty Bridge
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (14 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Phu Lac (6) combat outpost
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for July 1969 place it most often at or near Phu Lac (6) combat outpost (8 of 19 entries with a named place or grid), and also at LZ Lily, An Hoa Combat Base, Liberty Bridge.

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt M. R. Baggs (1–15 July); 1stLt J. F. Sheehan (16–31 July); the battalion by LtCol J. H. Higgins (1–31 July).

For July 1969 this report lists 32 entries (14 combat, 9 organization, 4 logistics, 2 civic, 2 movement, 1 medical): 9 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 July 1969: Company L, 3/5 moving at AT 900539 found a Vietnamese body with gunshot wounds in the skull — 1 VC KIA.

On 1 July 1969: the 106mm recoilless rifle section at AT 888526 saw 10 VC/NVA at AT 886533 and fired five rounds — negative.

On 2 July 1969: platoon found a VC killed by artillery at AT 871531 — 1 VC KIA.

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	On 18 July the 5th Marines shifted its battalions for Operation Durham Peak: “In order to free the 2d Battalion, two of Lieutenant Colonel Riley’s companies moved from the Arizona to Phu Lac (6).” The rest of 1/5 airlifted to An Hoa, relieving 3/5.
Operation Henderson Hill	23 Oct – 6 Dec 1968	County Fair at Henderson Hill.
Operation Durham Peak	20 Jul – 13 Aug 1969	Mountain gear issued for Durham Peak.

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for July 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 Jul 08:30	Company L, 3/5 moving at AT 900539 found a Vietnamese body with gunshot wounds in the skull — 1 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 13]
1 Jul 09:00	Company L, 3/5 at AT 896543 was approached by a man waving his hat; later classified a civil defendant — 1 civil defendant rallier [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 13]
1 Jul 12:25	the 106mm recoilless rifle section at AT 888526 saw 10 VC/NVA at AT 886533 and fired five rounds — negative [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 13]
1 Jul 15:15	the command group at AT 925526 detained two women believed to be VC nurses — 2 detainees [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 13]
1 Jul 17:08	Company L, 3/5 moving to the objective at AT 880542 detained two men on the advice of the Kit Carson Scout — 2 detainees [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 13]
July day unstated	County Fair at Henderson Hill. [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 10]
July day unstated	Mountain gear issued for Durham Peak. [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 8]

Date	Activity / Events
July day unstated	Two Soviet heavy flamethrowers captured. [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 11]
July day unstated	Village chiefs build an office beside the Phu Lac (6) cantonment. [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 11]
2 Jul 11:00	platoon found a VC killed by artillery at AT 871531 — 1 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 16]
3 Jul 10:00	engineers supporting the battalion destroyed 13 bunkers near AT 898542 [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 17]
3 Jul 11:00	the convoy from Da Nang moving from Liberty Bridge: a tractor-trailer hit a box mine on the left side of the road at AT 918512 — no casualties, truck hauled to An Hoa [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 17]
4 Jul 15:30	an aerial observer received AK-47 fire from AT 888531 and directed fixed wing — 1 VC killed by air [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 20]
6 Jul 09:30	a boy turned in an illumination grenade, six M-16 magazines and a 105mm round at AT 927528 — rewarded 400 piasters [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 24]
7 Jul 13:30	AO supporting Foxtrot at AT 952535 saw 4 VC/NVA run into a bunker at AT 945538 and directed fixed wing, destroying the bunker; not searched — negative [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 27]
8 Jul 09:10	AO supporting Foxtrot saw a VC/NVA running SW at AT 968525 and fired — 1 killed by air [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 29]
9 Jul 18:50	tower watch at AT 926527 saw 16 VC/NVA, one with a rifle and one carrying a mortar tube, at AT 965550; 105mm mission — unknown [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 31]
10 Jul 15:30	tanks supporting the battalion command group at AT 926529 were going to the river to be washed when a crew member fell off the tank and was killed — 1 tank crewman non-battle death; investigation under way [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 32]
11 Jul 17:45	a child turned in two claymores, an 81mm round and two bomb fuses at AT 926527 — rewarded 1,500 piasters [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 34]
12 Jul 08:20	a child turned in two 81mm illumination rounds at AT 927527 — rewarded 400 piasters [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 35]
12 Jul 08:45	a child turned in two 81mm illumination rounds — rewarded 400 piasters [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 35]
12 Jul 09:00	a child turned in a 155mm round — rewarded 400 piasters [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 35]
16–20 July	In preparation for leaving Phu Lac (6), all organic property not signed over to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was returned to An Hoa by truck convoy, in five-ton 6x6 trucks from the regiment and the battalion's own vehicles. "The move was completed from 16 to 20 July 1969." [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 8]
18 Jul	On 18 July the 5th Marines shifted its battalions for Operation Durham Peak: "In order to free the 2d Battalion, two of Lieutenant Colonel Riley's companies moved from the Arizona to Phu Lac (6)." The rest of 1/5 airlifted to An Hoa, relieving 3/5. [U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969, PDF p. 208]
19 Jul 22:00	the command group at AT 926526 saw five VC/NVA moving along the south side of the perimeter; fired M-79, 106mm and 81mm — negative [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 47]

Date	Activity / Events
20 Jul	"First Battalion, Fifth Marines returned to Liberty Bridge on 20 July" and will continue the work with the village chiefs on the new village beside Phu Lac (6). [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 11]
20 Jul	"On 20 July, the Battalion commenced participation in Operation DURHAM PEAK." The battalion was lifted into the Que Son Mountains on 31 July. The official history: that morning Batteries B and F, 11th Marines, from a temporary fire support base on the southern edge of Go Noi Island, and the cruiser USS Boston fired on targets across the operational area, while the 37th ARVN Ranger Battalion and later 3/5 went into blocking positions in Antenna Valley. [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 7; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969, PDF p. 209]
20–21 July	The 100-kilowatt generator powering the battalion rear was put out of action by lightning on 20 July. A replacement came quickly from Da Nang and full power was restored on 21 July. [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 9]
20 Jul	Lightning struck the communications complex at the An Hoa tower and burned out the cable between the tower and the COC. The log-periodic antenna, an AN/PRC-25 and a remote unit were destroyed. The radio operator was knocked off his seat but not injured; the grounded system prevented further damage and any casualties. [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 10]
21 Jul	As 2/1 helilifted into the Phu Loc Valley on the second day of Durham Peak, "Lieutenant Colonel Higgins' 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, designated regimental reserve, remained at Phu Lac (6)." [U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969, PDF p. 209]
31 Jul	"On 31 July, the Battalion helilifted into the Que Son Mountains. Four CH-46 and two CH-53 helicopters were employed to lift 643 combat troops." The official history: Colonel Zaro "committed Lieutenant Colonel James H. Higgins' 2d Battalion, 5th Marines to Durham Peak, which immediately established blocking positions near Hill 848 in the center of the area of operations." [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 7; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969, PDF p. 210]
31 Jul	2/5 (battalion) moved from Phu Lac (6) (AT 925 527) to Blocking positions near Hill 848 (AT 979 409) by helicopter. Operation Durham Peak: 2/5, the regimental reserve at Phu Lac (6), was committed on 31 July and "immediately established blocking positions near Hill 848." The history does not say how it moved into the Que Son Mountains; the July 1969 chronology does: "On 31 July, the Battalion helilifted into the Que Son Mountains. Four CH-46 and two CH-53 helicopters were employed to lift 643 combat troops" (PDF p. 7; checked 18 Nov 2026). (From the official history; the 2/5 chronology has no separate entry for this move.) [U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969, PDF p. 209; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969, PDF p. 210]

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 Jul 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048117); U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969.

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 Jul 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048117)

— U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969

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