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

OCTOBER 1970 — AN HOA COMBAT BASE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for October 1970

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 1970
Commander	Capt R. O. Tilley (1–28 October); 1stLt L. B. Hagel(?) (29–31 October)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base, Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy), Liberty Bridge, FSB Rainbow (LZ Rainbow)
Combat Posture	Security, movement and support (no combat entry recorded)
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 October 1970 place it most often at or near An Hoa Combat Base (9 of 16 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy), Liberty Bridge, FSB Rainbow (LZ Rainbow).

H&S Company was commanded by Capt R. O. Tilley (1–28 October); 1stLt L. B. Hagel(?) (29–31 October); the battalion by LtCol T. M. Hamlin (1–31 October).

For October 1970 this report lists 56 entries (49 organization, 3 logistics, 1 personnel, 1 medical, 1 other, 1 movement): 0 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 56 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

On 3 October 1970: Summary: at 0715 E3A, moving from its ambush site at grid 921492, observed two VC/NVA at 918496; one was carrying a rifle and both were fleeing NE; E3A took them under fire and swept the area with negative results; the Commanding General III MAF visited the An Hoa CB; at 2110 Phu Loc (6) (927527) received one lob bomb from grid 933516; a fire mission was called and the area will be swept at first light.

On 4 October 1970: Summary: the area around grid 927529 was swept with negative results; at 1217 four 122mm rockets impacted at the An Hoa CB (impact grids 873471, 874473, 877475 and 880478), no casualties or damage; counter-rocket artillery fire was initiated at 1600; a medevac was called for a Vietnamese female with a gunshot wound she claimed the ARVN gave her; E3B near grid 900490 observed two Vietnamese fleeing, caught one and forwarded him for questioning; three Marines medevaced as NBC for suspected malaria; a fire mission on an intelligence grid at 889506 resulted in two secondary explosions; 2/5 fired WP and illumination in support of the 121st PF platoon.

On 5 October 1970: Summary: the Mine and Booby Trap Contact Team gave instructions at An Hoa to Hotel and Echo; one NBC routine medevac called at 1030.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Imperial Lake	1 Sep 1970 – 7 May 1971	Summary: C-11 observed five enemy 500 meters away moving NE from 082360 to 082365, engaged in fire and swept the area, finding one KIA VC, two WIA VC and four detainees (mission for Imperial Lake received)

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for October 1970 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
October days unstated	Two memorial services. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 1]
3 Oct 10:50	CG III MAF visited the An Hoa Combat Base, departed 1100 [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 22]
3 Oct 21:10	Phu Loc (6) received one lob bomb [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 22]
3 Oct 24:00	Summary: at 0715 E3A, moving from its ambush site at grid 921492, observed two VC/NVA at 918496; one was carrying a rifle and both were fleeing NE; E3A took them under fire and swept the area with negative results; the Commanding General III MAF visited the An Hoa CB; at 2110 Phu Loc (6) (927527) received one lob bomb from grid 933516; a fire mission was called and the area will be swept at first light [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 22]
4 Oct 12:10	Vietnamese civilian with a gunshot wound [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 23]

Date	Activity / Events
4 Oct 12:17	An Hoa Combat Base received incoming (122mm rockets) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 23]
4 Oct 15:50	Message from 1st MarDiv COC on river status [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 23]
4 Oct 20:05	Three Marines medevaced as NBC for suspected malaria [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 23]
4 Oct 24:00	Summary: the area around grid 927529 was swept with negative results; at 1217 four 122mm rockets impacted at the An Hoa CB (impact grids 873471, 874473, 877475 and 880478), no casualties or damage; counter-rocket artillery fire was initiated at 1600; a medevac was called for a Vietnamese female with a gunshot wound she claimed the ARVN gave her; E3B near grid 900490 observed two Vietnamese fleeing, caught one and forwarded him for questioning; three Marines medevaced as NBC for suspected malaria; a fire mission on an intelligence grid at 889506 resulted in two secondary explosions; 2/5 fired WP and illumination in support of the 121st PF platoon [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 23]
5 Oct 24:00	Summary: the Mine and Booby Trap Contact Team gave instructions at An Hoa to Hotel and Echo; one NBC routine medevac called at 1030 [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 25]
6 Oct 20:30	Spot report: Phu Loc (6) contact [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 26]
6 Oct 24:00	Summary: at 0645 Echo-2C observed four VC/NVA dressed in black pajamas moving SW near grid 897499, two carrying rifles; Echo-2C initiated small-arms fire; while sweeping, one male aged 35 and one female aged 30 were detained for questioning; at 1051 Echo-1 found three RPG rounds while digging the debris from around Liberty Bridge; at 2040 Echo-3B observed two VC about 25 meters from their ambush site at grid 896481 and initiated small-arms fire with negative results; a priority medevac called for one USMC NBC (possible malaria) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 26]
7 Oct 24:00	Summary: at 0715 Echo-2A detected two males at grid 892494 walking south; when told to stop (Dung Lai) one man began to run; Echo-2A fired warning shots and then shot to kill; the man was wounded and medevaced; the other man was released; at 2115 Echo-3B detected enemy movement while in an ambush at 917505; the ambush was sprung with negative results [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 28]
8 Oct 16:55	A command-detonated mine fired near grid 888472 — 3 Vietnamese WIA [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 29]
8 Oct 24:00	Summary: two USMC NBC (malaria) were medevaced, one routine and one priority; a command-detonated mine was fired at 1655 near grid 888472 resulting in three Vietnamese WIAs; they were transported to Duc Duc for medical treatment (Nam Chanh (1) schoolhouse) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 29]
9 Oct 20:40	Spot report from the 1/5 Pacifier [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 31]
9 Oct 24:00	Summary: one USMC NBC was emergency medevaced; Echo-1 was informed by ARVNs of the location of a 155 round; at grid 927527 it was a lob bomb launched from the area east of Phu Loc (6) and destroyed in place (1/5 Pacifier near AT 877504: 1 POW, 1 WIA, 19 detainees) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 31]
10 Oct 24:00	Summary: a Vietnamese child informed Echo-2 of the location of a booby trap, a 60mm illumination canister, destroyed in place, and the child was rewarded with food; at 2240 Echo-2C observed about three VC/NVA fleeing, wearing black pajamas and carrying no weapons; the Echo unit took them under fire with negative results [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 32]
11 Oct 10:55	AO destroyed bunkers [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 34]

Date	Activity / Events
11 Oct 16:48	Spot report of ARVNs injured by an M-79 [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 34]
11 Oct 24:00	Summary: at 1055 Hotel-2C at grid 880487 reported intensive fire; they observed two VC/NVA fleeing; after opening fire they found one WIA female, 30 years of age, with no ID card; medevac called at 1015; a member of H-2C tripped a booby trap resulting in two USMC WIA emergency medevaced; Echo, firing an 81mm mission in a clear grid, observed green smoke; eight ARVN were wounded; investigation shows MAV Advisory Team 1, 1st Bn 51st ARVNs and a GySgt cleared the grid [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 34]
12 Oct 09:30	Serious incident report [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 35]
12 Oct 24:00	Summary: at 0745 E-1C uncovered a booby trap at 905516, a 105 placed in a hole, blown in place; at 0705 E-2C spotted two VC/NVA with packs and rifles fleeing to the north and brought them under fire with negative results; at 1125 at grid 908477 E-3C received two sniper rounds; one VC/NVA disappeared immediately; while attempting to cross a river members of Hotel lost one rifle and three helmets; recovery attempts negative; E-1C on patrol received two sniper rounds, one VC/NVA seen fleeing (Echo also found 1,400 lb of rice) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 35]
13 Oct 12:16	Spot report [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 37]
13 Oct 24:00	Summary: one ARVN truck with 25-30 civilians aboard attempted to cross Liberty Bridge; the truck became stranded on the flooded south approach; a helicopter of unknown origin rescued all persons aboard the submerged truck [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 37]
14 Oct 06:45	Spot report [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 38]
14 Oct 19:25	Casualty report [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 38]
14 Oct 24:00	Summary: at grid 918470 E-2C, while searching a hamlet, found one VC/NVA; he gave up yelling Chieu Hoi and was taken to the CP for evacuation (an Echo squad also killed 1 VC/NVA) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 38]
15 Oct 11:36	Message about convoy [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 39]
15 Oct 12:30	Forecast of operations [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 39]
15 Oct 12:30	Typhoon Condition Four [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 39]
15 Oct 18:30	Report: 2/5 CP at An Hoa closed down [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 39]
15 Oct 18:30–18:55	The battalion command post moved from An Hoa Combat Base (AT 874 475) to LZ Baldy (BT 131 453). The S-3 journal logs a message about a convoy at 1136, reports that the An Hoa CP had closed down (1830 and 1840) and that the CP had arrived at Baldy (1855); the road sweep found a mine filled with C-4 at grid 908490 and blew it in place (Typhoon Kate). These are the times the reports were logged, not travel times; the journal does not say how or when the CP group itself travelled. The official history says the An Hoa withdrawal plan was “to emphasize secretly scheduled and heavily guarded movement of the road convoys,” and that “On 15 October, the last Marines finally moved out of An Hoa”; the III MAF chronology says the same. An Hoa grid from Kindred (p. 28). [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 39; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1, PDF p. 117]
15 Oct 18:40	Report: 2/5 CP at An Hoa closed down [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 39]
15 Oct 18:55	Report of arrival of the CP at Baldy [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 39]

Date	Activity / Events
15 Oct 24:00	Summary: at grid 908490 the roadsweep found a mine filled with C-4 and blew it in place; An Hoa Combat Base closed at 1830; at 1855 the Bn CP arrived at LZ Baldy [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 39]
October day unstated	Relay station placed on LZ Rainbow. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 1]
16 Oct 24:00	Summary: CUPP 2 on patrol: the scout dog tripped an M-26 booby trap resulting in three USMC and one scout dog being medevaced with multiple shrapnel wounds; a village chief gave the approximate location of four guerrillas armed with AK-47s at 120394; recommend a quick reaction force raid with point target [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 40]
17 Oct 24:00	Summary: nothing of significance happened in the AO on 17 October [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 41]
18 Oct 24:00	Summary: nothing of significance happened in the AO on 18 October (Foxtrot and the Hotel squads return to 2/5) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 42]
19 Oct 24:00	Summary: C-11 observed five enemy 500 meters away moving NE from 082360 to 082365, engaged in fire and swept the area, finding one KIA VC, two WIA VC and four detainees (mission for Imperial Lake received) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 43]
20 Oct 24:00	Summary: at 1815 at grids 113412 and 103402 Golf 3 observed 40 to 60 stationary VC/NVA; negative observation on clothing or weapons; fire mission called at 1916 and the OP did observe casualties; a member of E-2C used his rifle as a crutch on his foot; the weapon fired and shot off his 2nd and 3rd toes (Frag Order 39-70: Echo Category II at Phuoc Chi (2), Hotel the Bald Eagle reaction force, Foxtrot Category III in the Que Son Mountains) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 44]
21 Oct 24:00	Summary: Echo-1 spotted eight VC/NVA at their ambush site, all with rifles and packs and dressed in black; small arms were employed; a sweep of the area in the morning resulted in one KIA wearing all blue, one AK-47 rifle, one ChiCom, two blasting caps and nine pressure-type firing devices; at 1150 a recon team spotted 10 VC/NVA near 040415 resulting in Sparrow Hawk (Hotel 3rd Platoon) being called; small arms were employed; a sweep resulted in camouflage clothing, a cartridge belt, three packs with assorted documents and two 1,000-lb kegs of rice; also one SKS rifle and blood trails; PC-6 observed one VC/NVA wearing a uniform and cartridge belt with canteens; M-60s were used resulting in one KIA; Echo-1 detained five females aged 25-50, one carrying a cartridge belt, blasting caps, first aid bandages and an M-14 pouch; Sparrow Hawk lifted out from LZ Baldy at 1755; Hotel 2 observed one VC/NVA fleeing into a treeline, small arms employed with negative results [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 45]
22 Oct 24:00	Summary: extraction of Hotel 2 started at 0945 and completed at 1051; at 1055 E-2 found 15 bombs at grid 964445 and blew them in place; H-1B commenced search of the area at grid 018406 and found three VC/NVA wearing green uniforms with assorted 782 gear, ages 20-25, killed; Echo airborne at 1400 and touched down at 1423; H-3 Sparrow Hawk upon landing found a booby-trap ChiCom with five pounds of Composition B; H-1C observed two VC/NVA fleeing and employed small-arms fire resulting in one KIA wearing a green uniform with a pack containing first-aid dressings, sealed documents and 782 gear; H-2 Sparrow Hawk launched at 1830 to grid 042401 and found a bunker complex of nine well-constructed holes, one pack, 700 lb of rice, one mess kit and one SKS rifle; PC-E with Que Son District forces searched near 105400 with negative results [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 47]
23 Oct 24:00	Summary: at 0620 E1C at grid 133412 while leaving its ambush site received four rounds resulting in one USMC WIA; fire returned with negative results; at 0900 H3C at grid 994393 mistook their Kit Carson Scout for a VC/NVA and shot him; the KCS died

Date	Activity / Events
	of wounds; E3B at grid 130416 observed and apprehended one Vietnamese male, 20; H1 lifted as Sparrowhawk landing at grid 984304; E2 at grid 125413 checked 26 Vietnamese carrying foodstuff wrapped in paper of a classified nature, brought back to LZ Baldy; E1B at grid 140420 observed a Vietnamese at a well who fled leaving clothing and documents in Vietnamese and Chinese; H2 lifted out as Sparrowhawk landing at grid 009402 [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 48]
24 Oct 24:00	Summary: as above (the chronology's entries list the 24 Oct Hotel and Foxtrot actions) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 50]
25 Oct 11:00	The chronology's logistics report says that on 15 October Typhoon Kate moved inland and struck the Baldy Combat Base at 1100H. The battalion was well prepared for the rain and high winds and suffered no major damage and no casualties. A 1986 study of the storm has Kate crossing the Vietnam coast near 15°N on 25 October; the event is dated 25 October on that basis. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 9; Holliday and Thompson, "An Unusual Near-Equatorial Typhoon" , PDF p. 1]
25 Oct 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 51]
26 Oct 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 52]
27 Oct 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 53]
27–31 Oct	From 27 through 31 October 1970 torrential rains and gale-force winds restricted the mobility and support of the companies; all companies continued operations. The chronology's weather report puts it down to increased rain and the residual effects of Typhoon Kate, which hampered movement and resupply. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 6; 2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 7]
28 Oct 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 55]
29 Oct 13:32	Change one of frag order issued [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 56]
29 Oct 24:00	Summary: change one of the frag order issued [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 56]
30 Oct 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 57]
31 Oct 24:00	Summary: as above [2/5 ComdC Oct 1970, PDF p. 58]

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 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049002); U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970–1971; Bill Kindred, Location of Bases in Vietnam (list of bases, airfields and landing zones with grids); Holliday and Thompson, "An Unusual Near-Equatorial Typhoon" (Typhoon Kate), Monthly Weather Review 114, December 1986, pp. 2674–2677.

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 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049002)

— U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970–1971

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

— Holliday and Thompson, “An Unusual Near-Equatorial Typhoon” (Typhoon Kate), Monthly Weather Review 114, December 1986, pp. 2674–2677

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for October 1970, as published on hotel25vv.com (Battalion Chronology page): https://hotel25vv.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/1970October-2-5CommandChronology.pdf

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Cosmas, Graham A. and Terrence P. Murray. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970–1971. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1986.

— “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 1970