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

MARCH 1971 — BALDY COMBAT BASE (LZ BALDY)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for March 1971

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 1971
Commander	1stLt J. A. Messerschmidt (1–22 March)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy), Hill 34 (Da Nang), Hill 381
Combat Posture	Security, movement and support (no combat entry recorded)
Base of Operations	Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for March 1971 place it most often at or near Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) (6 of 12 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Hill 34 (Da Nang), Hill 381.

H&S Company was commanded by 1stLt J. A. Messerschmidt (1–22 March); the battalion by LtCol T. M. Hamlin (1–22 March).

For March 1971 this report lists 23 entries (10 organization, 9 movement, 2 logistics, 1 personnel, 1 training): 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 3 March 1971: 81mm mortars fired 430 rounds on suspected enemy positions before leaving Hill 381.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) operations	March 1971	No named operation appears in this month's entries for the company; activities are listed in the chronology below.

4. Chronology of H&S Company Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for March 1971 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 11:05	Battalion CP returned from Hill 381 to Baldy Combat Base [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 68]
1 Mar 15:45	Company C 1/5 extracted from the Que Sons and back to the 5th Marines [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 68]
1–11 Mar days unstated	125 awards processed, including 7 Bronze Stars and 3 Legions of Merit. [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 65]
1 Mar	Battalion forward command post moved from Hill 381 (AT 994 391) to Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) (BT 131 453) (means not stated). "On 1 March, the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines pulled its forward CP back from Hill 381 to LZ Baldy." (From the official history; the 2/5 chronology has no separate entry for this move.) [U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1, PDF p. 236]
2 Mar	81mm mortars moved from Hill 381 to Baldy [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 68]
3 Mar 15:20	Battalion stood down from all combat operations [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 68]
3 Mar 17:30	Defense of Baldy Combat Base passed to the Baldy defense commander [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 68]
3 Mar	81mm mortars fired 430 rounds on suspected enemy positions before leaving Hill 381 [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 68]
3 Mar	Foxtrot, Hotel moved from Que Son Mountains to Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) (BT 131 453) (means not stated). Foxtrot and Hotel "continued patrolling in the Que Sons until the 3d, when they, too, joined the battalion headquarters and Company E at Baldy"; Golf reassembled at Baldy the same day after leaving its CUPP hamlets. (From the official history; the 2/5 chronology has no separate entry for this move.) [U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1, PDF p. 236; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1, PDF p. 240]
4 Mar	Battalion CP with Echo and Golf moved to Hill 34; Mess Section took over the mess at Hill 34 [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 69]

Date	Activity / Events
4–24 Mar days unstated	Training at Hill 34 for the voyage home (shipboard life, drill, race relations). [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 69]
4 Mar	2/5 (battalion) moved from Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) (BT 131 453) to Hill 34 (AT 988 720) (means not stated). “During the next two days [after 3 March], the entire battalion and the 5th Marines’ regimental Headquarters moved from Baldy to Hill 34 to prepare for embarkation.” Date shown is the first of the two days; the history gives no grid for Hill 34. Map point AT 988 720: “Hill 34 complex, Da Nang” in Bill Kindred, Location of Bases in Vietnam, PDF p. 58 (added 18 Nov 2026). (From the official history; the 2/5 chronology has no separate entry for this move.) [U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1, PDF p. 236; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1, PDF p. 240]
6 Mar	Communications equipment turned in for redistribution to units staying in Vietnam [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 70]
10 Mar	One T-195 and eleven radios transferred to the Vietnamese Marine Corps; on 11 March nine radios to the ARVN [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 70]
12 Mar	Six 106mm recoilless rifles transferred to the Vietnamese Marine Corps; 36 corpsmen transferred to other units [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 68]
24 Mar 12:43	The Denver, arriving from Hong Kong, “moored stbd side to Deep Water Pier No. 1, Naval Supply Annex, Danang RSVN” at 1243 and at 1300 “commenced onloading cargo” (deck log, March 1971, PDF p. 47). The USS Duluth (LPD-6) was also at the pier. The battalion loaded and embarked that day (chronology, PDF p. 69). [USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, March 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 47; 2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 69]
24 Mar	Battalion began loading USS Denver (LPD-9) and embarked [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 69]
24 Mar	2/5 (battalion) moved from Hill 34, Da Nang (AT 988 720) to Deep Water Pier No. 1, Naval Supply Annex, Da Nang, to load onto USS Denver (LPD-9) (BT 025 836) (means not stated). 24–25 Mar March: The battalion loaded USS Denver (LPD-9); at 0400 on 25 March the ship sailed for the United States. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) The Denver’s deck log: at 1243 on 24 March the ship “moored stbd side to Deep Water Pier No. 1, Naval Supply Annex, Danang RSVN” and at 1300 “commenced onloading cargo” (March 1971 log, PDF p. 47). The chronology: on 24 March the battalion commenced loading and completed embarkation (PDF p. 69). How the battalion got from Hill 34 to the pier is not stated. (Deck log read 18 Nov 2026.) Map points: Da Nang deep-water piers BT 025 836 and Hill 34 AT 988 720 are from Bill Kindred, Location of Bases in Vietnam (“Da Nang deepwater piers”, PDF p. 250; “Hill 34 complex, Da Nang”, PDF p. 58). Outside Vietnam the points are for the facility, not the berth: Naha Military Port 26.20833, 127.66667 (Wikipedia, “Naha Military Port”); Pearl Harbor 21.3679, -157.9771 (Wikipedia, “Pearl Harbor”: the harbor, not Berth K-10 on Kuahua); Naval Air Station North Island 32.69922, -117.21531 (GeoNames 6301679: the air station, not Piers Oscar and Papa). (Points added 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 69; USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, March 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 47]
25 Mar 04:00	USS Denver set sail for the United States with the battalion [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 69]
25 Mar 04:24	2/5 (battalion) moved from Deep Water Pier No. 1, Naval Supply Annex, Da Nang (BT 025 836) to Pier 5, Naha, Okinawa (LL 26.20833 127.66667) by ship. Deck log: at 0424 on 25 March the ship was “underway for Naha Okinawa independently” under

Date	Activity / Events
	CTF 76's order for Keystone Robin Charlie (March 1971 log, PDF p. 49); it moored "stbd side to Pier 5, Naha Okinawa" at 0834 on 28 March (PDF p. 55). The chronology: "At 0400 on 25 March the Battalion set sail for CONUS aboard USS Denver (LPD-9)" (PDF p. 69). (Deck log read 18 Nov 2026.) Map points: Da Nang deep-water piers BT 025 836 and Hill 34 AT 988 720 are from Bill Kindred, Location of Bases in Vietnam ("Da Nang deepwater piers", PDF p. 250; "Hill 34 complex, Da Nang", PDF p. 58). Outside Vietnam the points are for the facility, not the berth: Naha Military Port 26.20833, 127.66667 (Wikipedia, "Naha Military Port"); Pearl Harbor 21.3679, -157.9771 (Wikipedia, "Pearl Harbor": the harbor, not Berth K-10 on Kuahua); Naval Air Station North Island 32.69922, -117.21531 (GeoNames 6301679: the air station, not Piers Oscar and Papa). (Points added 18 Nov 2026.) [Bill Kindred, Location of Bases in Vietnam (list of bases, a, PDF p. 250; USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, March 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 49]
28 Mar 08:34	With the battalion aboard, the Denver "moored stbd side to Pier 5, Naha Okinawa" at 0834 (deck log, March 1971, PDF p. 55). [USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, March 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 55]
29 Mar 08:13	At 0813 the ship was "underway for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, independently" under CTF 76's order for Keystone Robin Charlie (deck log, March 1971, PDF p. 57). [USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, March 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 57]
29 Mar 08:13	2/5 (battalion) moved from Pier 5, Naha, Okinawa (LL 26.20833 127.66667) to Berth K-10, U.S. Naval Supply Center, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (LL 21.3679 -157.9771) by ship. Deck log: at 0813 on 29 March the ship was "underway for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii" from Naha (March 1971 log, PDF p. 57); it crossed the International Date Line (two log pages dated Monday 5 April, April log PDF pp. 11 and 13) and at 0954 on 7 April moored "stbd side to Berth K-10 U.S. Naval Supply Center" (April log, PDF p. 17). (Deck log read 18 Nov 2026.) Map points: Da Nang deep-water piers BT 025 836 and Hill 34 AT 988 720 are from Bill Kindred, Location of Bases in Vietnam ("Da Nang deepwater piers", PDF p. 250; "Hill 34 complex, Da Nang", PDF p. 58). Outside Vietnam the points are for the facility, not the berth: Naha Military Port 26.20833, 127.66667 (Wikipedia, "Naha Military Port"); Pearl Harbor 21.3679, -157.9771 (Wikipedia, "Pearl Harbor": the harbor, not Berth K-10 on Kuahua); Naval Air Station North Island 32.69922, -117.21531 (GeoNames 6301679: the air station, not Piers Oscar and Papa). (Points added 18 Nov 2026.) [USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, March 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 57; USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, April 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 11]

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 Feb-Dec 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049006); 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); USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, March 1971 (National Archives, RG 24, NAID 305955590).

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 Feb-Dec 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049006)

— 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)

— USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, March 1971 (National Archives, RG 24, NAID 305955590)

— USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, April 1971 (National Archives, RG 24, NAID 305955654)

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for March 1971, as published on hotel25vv.com (Battalion Chronology page): https://hotel25vv.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/1971February-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, March 1971