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

APRIL 1971 — STAND-DOWN AND HOME

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for April 1971

1st Marine Division · 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines · Redeployment

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	1–30 April 1971
Commander	Capt J. L. Hickman (13 April – 30 June)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Hill 34 (Da Nang)
Combat Posture	Redeployment and stand-down
Base of Operations	Hill 34 (Da Nang)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam, and redeployment

2. Commander's Summary

H&S Company’s entries for April 1971 place it most often at or near Hill 34 (Da Nang) (1 of 1 entries with a named place or grid).

H&S Company was commanded by Capt J. L. Hickman (13 April – 30 June); the battalion by LtCol T. M. Hamlin (in post from 25 March 1971).

For April 1971 this report lists 7 entries (5 movement, 1 organization, 1 training): 0 naming H&S or one of its sections (the battalion command post, the 106mm section, S-2, S-5), and 7 battalion-level entries recorded by the battalion headquarters.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Hill 34 (Da Nang) operations	April 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 April 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
7 Apr 09:54	After crossing the International Date Line (two log pages dated Monday 5 April), the Denver moored "stbd side to Berth K-10 U.S. Naval Supply Center" at Pearl Harbor at 0954 (deck log, April 1971, PDF pp. 11, 13 and 17). It stayed in port through 9 April. [USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, April 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 17; USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, April 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 11]
10 Apr 08:50	At 0850 the ship was "underway for San Diego, Calif." (deck log, April 1971, PDF p. 23). [USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, April 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 23]
10 Apr 08:50	2/5 (battalion) moved from Berth K-10, U.S. Naval Supply Center, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (LL 21.3679 -157.9771) to Piers Oscar and Papa, Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego (LL 32.69922 -117.21531) by ship. Deck log: in port at Pearl Harbor 7–9 April; at 0850 on 10 April the ship was "underway for San Diego, Calif." (April 1971 log, PDF p. 23). On 15 April it offloaded an LCU entering San Diego Bay, moored at 1153 "stbd side to Pier Oscar & Papa, North Island Naval Air Station" and offloaded helicopters, then at 1250 shifted to the Naval Station San Diego, mooring at Pier 8 at 1348 (PDF p. 33). The chronology: the battalion disembarked at North Island on 15 April (PDF p. 85). (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, April 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 23; USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, April 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 33]
14 Apr	At Camp Pendleton (Margarita Area) the battalion was redesignated 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (-)(Rein), FMF, by CG 5th MAB message 140400Z April 1971. (Chronology, PDF p. 86.) [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 86]
15 Apr 11:53	Entering San Diego Bay the Denver offloaded a landing craft (LCU); at 1153 it moored "stbd side to Pier Oscar & Papa, North Island Naval Air Station", offloaded helicopters, and at 1250 shifted to Pier 8, Naval Station San Diego (deck log, April 1971, PDF p. 33). The chronology: "On the 15th of April, the Second Battalion disembarked from the USS DENVER (LPD-9) at North Island, San Diego and proceeded to the Vietnam Returnee Center at Camp Pendleton" and then to the Margarita area (PDF p. 85).

Date	Activity / Events
	[USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, April 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 33; 2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 85]
15 Apr – 30 Jun	Rebuilding at Camp Pendleton: refitting, training and physical fitness. [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 85]
15 Apr	2/5 (battalion) moved from Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego (USS Denver, Piers Oscar and Papa) (LL 32.69922 -117.21531) to Camp Pendleton: Vietnam Returnee Center, then the Margarita area (LL 33.308611 -117.367778) (means not stated). On 15 April 1971 the battalion came ashore from USS Denver at North Island, San Diego, went through the Vietnam Returnee Center at Camp Pendleton and moved into the Margarita area (Building 33465, then 33451 from 10 June). (From the monthly "by Company" summary, written from the chronology page images.) The chronology: "On the 15th of April, the Second Battalion disembarked from the USS DENVER (LPD-9) at North Island, San Diego and proceeded to the Vietnam Returnee Center at Camp Pendleton" (PDF p. 85). The Denver's log has the ship moored at Piers Oscar and Papa, North Island, from 1153 to 1250 that day (April 1971 log, PDF p. 33). How the battalion travelled to Camp Pendleton is not stated. (Deck log read 18 Nov 2026.) The end point is the Camp Margarita reference point already used on the site for 1965 (33.308611, -117.367778; coordinate from Wikimedia Commons, Category: Camp Margarita): a modern orientation point for Camp Margarita, not a verified 1971 battalion position or building location. The chronology names Building 33465, then 33451 from 10 June (PDF p. 85). [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 85; USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, April 1971 (National Archives, , PDF p. 33]

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 USS Denver (LPD-9) deck log, April 1971 (National Archives, RG 24, NAID 305955654); 2/5 Command Chronology Feb-Dec 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049006).

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

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

— 2/5 Command Chronology Feb-Dec 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049006)

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for April 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, April 1971