H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

FEBRUARY 1966 — OKINAWA

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology Reports for 17 December 1965 – 22 February and 23 February – 5 April 1966

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines · 1st Marine Division · Camp Schwab, Okinawa

1. Unit Overview

Unit Designation	Hotel Company (H Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division
Reporting Period	1–28 February 1966
Commander	1st Lieutenant J. J. Doherty, commanding Company H (battalion assignments lists of 22 February and 5 April 1966)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol R. H. Uskurait). Under Fleet Marine Force, Pacific at sea; under 1st Marine Division from 2 February and under the 5th Marines from 5 February.
Area of Operations	At sea (to 2 February); Camp Schwab, Okinawa, and the Northern Training Area (from 2 February)
Combat Posture	Pre-deployment training — counter-guerrilla warfare school, field firing and unit training on Okinawa
Base of Operations	Camp Schwab, Okinawa
Corps Area	Not applicable — Okinawa

2. Commander's Summary

Hotel Company reached Okinawa with the battalion on 2 February 1966 aboard the USS Bexar. The attached units carried with the Battalion Landing Team were detached to their parent commands on the island, BLT 2/5 was deactivated, and 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines came under the operational and administrative control of the 1st Marine Division. The USS Mathews and USS Belle Grove arrived on 4 February, and on 5 February the battalion passed to the control of the 5th Marines.

Training began at once. “Training began upon arrival on Okinawa on 2 February 1966,” the battalion reported; “all units are accomplishing field training and field firing.” Crew-served weapons crews completed a week-long organisational school, most Marines fired their weapons for battle sights, and the first rifle company went through the Counter-Guerrilla Warfare School in the Northern Training Area — a course scheduled for every unit in the battalion in turn.

The month was also spent making good the shortfalls of a hurried departure. The battalion had turned its mount-out in to Third Force Service Regiment on arrival, 98 percent complete, and began drawing

the stocks it would take to Vietnam. On 25 February, with the formation of a scout-sniper platoon, the battalion transferred 30 men to the 5th Marines.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Arrival on Okinawa	2–5 February 1966	BLT 2/5 arrived on 2 February; attached units aboard USS Bexar were detached to parent commands and the BLT was deactivated. The USS Mathews and USS Belle Grove arrived on 4 February. On 5 February 2/5 came under the operational and administrative control of the 5th Marines.
Counter-Guerrilla Warfare School	February – March 1966	Conducted in the Northern Training Area of Okinawa; eight days per company, with formal instruction, patrolling and a two-day guerrilla problem. The first rifle company was in the course during February.
Unit and weapons training	Throughout February 1966	Field training and field firing by all units; a one-week organisational school for crew-served weapons personnel; battle-sight firing; instruction in the use of the sniperscope; day and night live fire.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

Compiled from the battalion's command chronology report for 17 December 1965 – 22 February 1966 and its successor for 23 February – 5 April 1966. Both are written at battalion level.

Date	Activity / Events
1 Feb	At sea, closing Okinawa.
2 Feb	BLT 2/5 arrived at Okinawa and moved into Camp Schwab. Attached units aboard the USS Bexar were detached to their parent units, the BLT was deactivated, and 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines came under the operational and administrative control of 1st Marine Division (Rein). Training began the same day.
4 Feb	The USS Mathews (AKA-96) and USS Belle Grove (LSD-2) arrived at Okinawa; the units aboard them were detached to their parent commands.
5 Feb	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines came under the operational and administrative control of the 5th Marines.
6–24 Feb	Field training and field firing at Camp Schwab and in the Northern Training Area. The first rifle company began the eight-day Counter-Guerrilla Warfare School; crew-served weapons personnel completed a one-week organisational school.

Date	Activity / Events
25 Feb	Thirty men were transferred to the 5th Marine Regiment on the formation of a scout-sniper platoon.
26–28 Feb	Training continued, with the accumulation of supplies for Vietnam. The command chronology for this period notes no significant personnel changes in the battalion during the Okinawa tour.

5. Notes and Caveats

This file was rewritten on 19 September 2026 directly from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines command chronologies. The notes below record what changed and where the record is thin.

1. SOURCE. February straddles two reports: the special report for 17 December 1965 – 22 February 1966 (Texas Tech item 1201048066) and the report for 23 February – 5 April 1966 (item 1201048067). Both are used here.

2. SCHOOL NAME CORRECTED. The earlier version of this file described “Jungle Warfare School” at Okinawa in phases, with dated weekly syllabus entries. The chronologies call the course the Counter-Guerrilla Warfare School, held in the Northern Training Area, eight days per company, with formal instruction, patrolling and a two-day guerrilla problem. No weekly phase structure and no Hotel Company course dates appear in the record; the dated training entries in the old file were not supported and have been removed.

3. WHAT THE RECORD DOES NOT SAY. Neither report breaks the training down by company, so the exact days Hotel Company spent at the Counter-Guerrilla Warfare School are not documented. The battalion states only that the course was scheduled for all units and that the first rifle company was in it during February.

4. COMMAND. The battalion assignments list dated 22 February 1966 names 1stLt J. J. Doherty as commanding officer of Company H; the list of 5 April 1966 still does. Battalion commander throughout was LtCol R. H. Uskurait.

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

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology Report for the period 17 December 1965 to 22 February 1966, dated 24 February 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048066).

— 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology Report for the period 23 February 1966 to 5 April 1966, dated 5 April 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048067).

SECONDARY SOURCES

— “Hotel Company.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com/hotel-company

— Related files in this collection: H_Co_2-5_Marines_1966-01_January.docx and H_Co_2-5_Marines_1966-03_March.docx.

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. | Hotel Company, 2/5 Marines, February 1966