H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

FEBRUARY 1969 — TAYLOR COMMON AND GO NOI

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for February 1969

1st Marine Division · III Marine Amphibious Force · I Corps, Republic of Vietnam

1. Unit Overview

Unit Designation	Hotel Company (H Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division
Reporting Period	1–28 February 1969
Commander	Captain Ronald J. Drez, commanding Company H for the whole period 1–28 February 1969
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol James W. Stemple); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division; under the 3d Marines for Taylor Common
Area of Operations	The mountains west of An Hoa; An Hoa; Phu Loc (6) and the western approaches to Go Noi Island
Combat Posture	Offensive — Taylor Common, then blocking positions for the ARVN sweep of western Go Noi
Base of Operations	An Hoa; Phu Loc (6)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

February 1969 continued Taylor Common under Captain Ronald J. Drez. The S-3 journal shows the companies' patrols going out and returning by checkpoint, Hotel's platoons among them, as Companies F and G were lifted between fire support bases and chopped to the operational control of 3/3.

On 21 February, after three days' rest at An Hoa, the battalion trucked to Phu Loc (6) and set up blocking positions with the 1st ARVN Ranger Group and Regional Forces for the ARVN sweep of western Go Noi Island.

The battalion's February casualties were light compared with the months before. The chronology records the award of a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, a Navy and Marine Corps Medal and four Navy Commendation Medals during the month.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Taylor Common	February 1969	H COMPANY PARTICIPATED. Patrols by platoon under the 3d Marines.
Go Noi blocking positions	From 21 February 1969	2/5 trucked to Phu Loc (6) and blocked with the 1st ARVN Ranger Group and Regional Forces for the ARVN sweep of western Go Noi Island.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

Compiled from the narrative summary and the chronological sequence of events in the 2/5 command chronology for February 1969. Only entries naming Company H, or bearing directly on it, are listed. Grid references and times are as recorded.

Date	Activity / Events
Early Feb	Taylor Common patrols; the S-3 journal logs Hotel Company platoons leaving and re-entering friendly lines by checkpoint. Companies F and G were chopped to 3/3 and Company G lifted to FSB Saber.
18–20 Feb	The battalion rested for three days at An Hoa.
21 Feb	2/5 trucked to Phu Loc (6) and set up blocking positions for the ARVN sweep of western Go Noi Island.
22–28 Feb	Blocking positions on the Go Noi approaches.

5. Notes and Caveats

This file was rewritten on 21 September 2026 directly from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines command chronology. The notes below record what changed and where the record is thin.

1. SOURCE. The 2/5 command chronology for February 1969 (Texas Tech item 1201048112).

2. TET 1969. The old file described a “Tet 1969 Go Noi Island sweep” around 17 February. The chronology shows the battalion resting at An Hoa and then blocking for the ARVN sweep of western Go Noi from 21 February; the sweep itself was an ARVN operation.

3. COMMANDER. Captain R. J. Drez is listed for 1–28 February 1969.

4. BASE AREA 112. As in January, the Base Area 112 location in the old file is not supported.

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 for February 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048112).

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Smith, Charles R. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: High Mobility and Standdown, 1969. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1988.

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

— Related files in this collection: Operation_Taylor_Common.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 1969