H COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

MAY 1971 — CAMP PENDLETON

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for 13 April – 30 June 1971

2nd Battalion, 5th Marines · 1st Marine Division, FMF · Camp Pendleton, California

1. Unit Overview

Unit Designation	Hotel Company (H Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division
Reporting Period	1–31 May 1971
Commander	None listed. H&S Company (Capt J. L. Hickman) was the battalion's only subordinate unit.
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines — LtCol T. M. Hamlin to 24 May, then Maj J. A. Linnemann; 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Camp Pendleton, California (Margarita area)
Combat Posture	Not applicable — battalion rebuilding in cadre status
Base of Operations	Margarita area, Camp Pendleton (Building 33465)
Corps Area	Not applicable — Camp Pendleton, California

2. Commander's Summary

In May 1971 the battalion was at Camp Pendleton, “in an understrength status and rebuilding at a slow rate.” Its average strength for the month was six officers and 135 enlisted men. On 25 May Major J. A. Linnemann relieved LtCol T. M. Hamlin as commanding officer.

“Training is being conducted in ... physical fitness, but the main emphasis has been on refurbishing and refitting.” Classes covered drug abuse, history and traditions, interior guard, mines and booby traps, driving safety and close-order drill; all NCOs received leadership instruction and care and cleaning of the .45 pistol, and twenty men familiarisation-fired it. Twenty-two Marines were enrolled in Marine Corps Institute courses, and physical training was held daily.

Hotel Company does not appear in the organisation.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Refurbishing and refitting	May 1971	The battalion's main effort.
Training	May 1971	Drug abuse, history and traditions, interior guard, mines and booby traps, driving safety, close-order drill; NCO leadership; .45 pistol.
Change of command, 2/5	25 May 1971	Maj J. A. Linnemann relieved LtCol T. M. Hamlin.

4. Chronology of Company H Activities

Compiled from the 2/5 command chronology for 13 April – 30 June 1971, which lists no rifle companies.

Date	Activity / Events
May	Refurbishing, refitting and training at the Margarita area; daily physical training.
25 May	Major J. A. Linnemann relieved LtCol T. M. Hamlin as commanding officer of 2/5.

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 13 April – 30 June 1971 portion of the 2/5 command chronology filed as Texas Tech item 1201049006.

2. NO HOTEL COMPANY IN THE ORGANISATION. From 25 March 1971 the battalion's organisational data lists no rifle companies at all: “Subordinate units — H&S Company.” The battalion came home as a cadre of about 150 Marines, most of its men having been transferred to other units before it sailed. There is therefore no Hotel Company commander, strength or activity to record for this month, and the earlier version's company narrative has been removed.

3. IMPERIAL LAKE. The old file listed the conclusion of Imperial Lake “in absentia” on 7 May. The operation ended on 12 May 1971, under the 1st Marines, long after 2/5 had left it.

4. GARRISON TRAINING. The training listed above was battalion training for the cadre; it is not recorded by company.

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 Chronologies for February–December 1971, filed together (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049006): February 1971; 1–22 March 1971; 25 March – 13 April 1971 (at sea); 13 April – 30 June 1971 (Camp Pendleton).

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.

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

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, May 1971