E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JANUARY 1966 — EMBARKATION

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for January 1966

1st Marine Division · Battalion Landing Team 2/5 · Western Pacific

1. Unit Overview

Unit Designation	Echo Company (E Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division
Reporting Period	1–31 January 1966
Commander	1stLt D. E. Marcum (in post from 20 December 1965)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol R. H. Uskurait); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Camp Pendleton, Long Beach and the voyage to Okinawa
Combat Posture	Embarked and training as Battalion Landing Team 2/5
Base of Operations	Camp Pendleton and at sea
Corps Area	Western Pacific (Camp Pendleton, at sea, Okinawa)

2. Commander's Summary

In January 1966 Battalion Landing Team 2/5 embarked at Long Beach and crossed the Pacific toward Okinawa.

Company E was commanded by 1stLt D. E. Marcum (in post from 20 December 1965); the battalion by LtCol R. H. Uskurait (in post from 20 December 1965).

No entry in the January 1966 record names Company E by itself. The 15 battalion entries listed below applied to the whole battalion, Company E included.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Embarkation, voyage and training	January 1966	No named operation appears in this month's entries for the company; activities are listed in the chronology below.

4. Chronology of Company E Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for January 1966 in the hotel25vv research database. No entry names Company E; the battalion-wide entries are listed. Times and grid references are as recorded; each entry ends with its source page.

Date	Activity / Events
1 Jan	The battalion landing team was activated on January 1, following its December 17 designation for planning. The attachment list records Battery E, 2/11 (Capt F. Bubenhoffer, Jr.) and 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Antitank Battalion (2ndLt W. D. Webster). Other attachments were 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion (2ndLt G. W. Jones); 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion (1stLt A. J. Lecrone); 2nd Landing Support Platoon, Company B, 1st Shore Party Battalion (2ndLt F. Rosenberg); 2nd Platoon, Company B, 7th Motor Transport Battalion (1stLt A. J. Boccuti); the reinforced 2nd collecting and clearing section, Company B, 1st Medical Battalion; and a 1st Force Service Regiment detachment. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 3; Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 2]
3 Jan	The report records the S-2 officer's assignment on January 3. It gives the date here without naming the officer. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 4]
5 Jan	The S-2 chief was assigned on January 5, two days after the S-2 officer. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 4]
6 Jan	The RLT-5 advance party departed the continental United States by air for the Western Pacific on January 6. BLT 2/5's members were Maj R. A. Pape, battalion S-3; 1stLt W. E. Smith, motor transport officer; SSgt J. D. WYZSMIRSKI, property NCO; and Cpl H. K. NOE, S-1 clerk. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 7; Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 8]
7 Jan	BLT 2/5 began loading cargo at Long Beach on January 7 for the movement to the Western Pacific. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 8]
As late as 7 Jan	Back-ordered supplies were still arriving at Camp Pendleton as late as January 7, forcing changes to completed loading plans. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 6]
8 Jan	Cargo loading was completed on January 8. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 8]
9–10 Jan	Troops embarked on January 9, and the ships sailed from Pier E at Long Beach on January 10, after cargo loading on January 7–8. H&S Company, 3rd Amtrac Battalion embarked aboard the dock landing ship for transportation only; it was not attached to BLT 2/5. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 8; Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 7]

Date	Activity / Events
At embarkation 9 Jan	The landing team embarked with 93% of its operating stocks and 98% of its mount-out supplies. Listed shortages were sniperscope batteries, suspender straps, tent pins, bayonet scabbards and mess pans. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 5]
9 Jan	The embarkation table reports 1,446 personnel on board against a manning level of 1,440. These are the report's totals for the landing team and its attachments. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 4]
Sea passage Jan–Feb	Training aboard ship consisted of formal instruction and physical training. Subjects included general military topics, Vietnam orientation and landmine warfare. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 5]
Before Okinawa arrival exact dates unstated	The S-4 officer and S-4 chief stayed behind to secure the camp, then flew to Okinawa to arrange debarkation. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 6]
10 Jan	As the ships sailed from Long Beach, BLT 2/5 came under the operational control of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 8]
10–18 Jan Eight-day crossing	The ships sailed from Pier E at Long Beach on January 10, 1966, and the landing team reached Pearl Harbor on January 18. The first Pacific crossing took eight elapsed days. After two days in Hawaii, the landing team departed for Okinawa on January 20. During the sea passage, the Marines continued formal instruction and physical training. Classroom subjects included general military topics, Vietnam orientation and landmine warfare. The chronology describes this training for the voyage as a whole, without a daily schedule for the Hawaii leg. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 8; Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 5]
20 Jan–4 Feb	The landing team left Pearl Harbor on January 20, 1966, bound for Okinawa. The battalion arrived on February 2, a calendar span of 13 days from Hawaii and 23 days from Long Beach, including the Pearl Harbor stop. The arrivals were staggered: attached units aboard USS Bexar returned to their parent units on February 2. USS Mathews and USS Belle Grove reached Okinawa on February 4, bringing the remaining attached units aboard those ships. At sea, preparation continued through formal instruction and physical training. The Marines studied general military subjects, Vietnam orientation and landmine warfare. On reaching Okinawa, their training shifted to field work and live firing. After debarkation, the landing team's attachments returned to their parent organizations. The battalion came under the 1st Marine Division on February 2, then the 5th Marines on February 5. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 8; Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 5]

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 Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048066).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. No entry names Company E; the chronology lists the battalion-wide entries instead.

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

— Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048066)

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Shulimson, Jack and Charles M. Johnson. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: An Expanding War, 1966. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1982.

— “Echo Company.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com

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. | Echo Company, 2/5 Marines, January 1966