E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

FEBRUARY 1966 — EN ROUTE AND TRAINING ON OKINAWA

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for February 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	1–28 February 1966
Commander	1stLt D. E. Marcum (in post from 20 December 1965); 1stLt D. R. Marcum (from 22 February 1966)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol R. H. Uskurait); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Camp Schwab, the Northern Training Area and Kin Beach, Okinawa
Combat Posture	Embarked and training as Battalion Landing Team 2/5
Base of Operations	Okinawa (Camp Schwab)
Corps Area	Western Pacific (Camp Pendleton, at sea, Okinawa)

2. Commander's Summary

In February 1966 Battalion Landing Team 2/5 reached Okinawa and began training for Vietnam.

Company E was commanded by 1stLt D. E. Marcum (in post from 20 December 1965); 1stLt D. R. Marcum (from 22 February 1966); the battalion by LtCol R. H. Uskurait (in post from 20 December 1965).

No entry in the February 1966 record names Company E by itself. The 13 battalion entries listed below applied to the whole battalion, Company E included.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Embarkation, voyage and training	February 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 February 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
Three-day field exercise; command-post dates unknown Feb–early Apr; dates unspecified	The battalion and attached units conducted two command-post exercises and a three-day battalion field exercise. The source does not identify exact dates or the locations of these exercises. [Command chronology · February–April 1966, PDF p. 6]
By 22 Feb exact dates unstated	By the end of the reporting period, most personnel had fired their assigned weapons to establish battle sights. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 5]
One day per rifle company Feb–early Apr; dates unspecified	Each rifle company received one day of intensive helicopter training in the Camp Schwab and Northern Training Areas. [Command chronology · February–April 1966, PDF p. 5]
One week 2–22 Feb; exact dates unstated	Crew-served weapons personnel completed a one-week organizational-level school after arriving on Okinawa. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 5]
2 Feb	On arrival on Okinawa, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines came under the operational and administrative control of the 1st Marine Division (Reinforced). Attached units aboard USS Bexar returned to their parent units. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 8]
One day Feb–early Apr; dates unspecified	A day of instruction on jungle lanes emphasized current techniques and lessons for Vietnam. [Command chronology · February–April 1966, PDF p. 5]
Four days Exact dates unknown; before April 8	Before departure, BLT 2/5 conducted a four-day amphibious landing exercise at Kin Beach, Okinawa. The retrospective account does not give its exact dates. [Command chronology · April 1966, PDF p. 2]

Date	Activity / Events
Exact dates unknown Feb–early Apr; dates unspecified	All units trained with landing vehicles, tracked (LVTs), in the Camp Schwab area, practicing procedures and their use in combat operations. [Command chronology · February–April 1966, PDF p. 5]
Two days Feb–early Apr; dates unspecified	Marines received two days of instruction at Land Mine and Demolition School, emphasizing lessons relevant to Vietnam. [Command chronology · February–April 1966, PDF p. 5]
2–4 Feb	The chronology dates the battalion's arrival to February 2. USS Mathews and USS Belle Grove arrived on February 4. Attached units returned to their parent units on Okinawa. The landing team was deactivated upon debarkation, with its attachments returning to their parent units. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 8; Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 4]
Eight days per company Feb–early Apr; dates unspecified	Each company spent eight days at Counter-Guerrilla Warfare School in Okinawa's Northern Training Area. Classroom instruction and patrolling culminated in a two-day guerrilla exercise. [Command chronology · February–April 1966, PDF p. 5]
Exact dates unknown Feb–early Apr; dates unspecified	All units conducted day and night live-fire exercises, practiced night-firing techniques, and received instruction and practical training with the sniper scope. [Command chronology · February–April 1966, PDF p. 5]
5 Feb	The battalion came under the operational and administrative control of 5th Marines on February 5. [Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966, PDF p. 8]

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 · February–April 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048067); Command chronology · December 1965–February 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048066); Command chronology · April 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048068).

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 · February–April 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048067)

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

— Command chronology · April 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048068)

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, February 1966