E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JUNE 1966 — HILL 69 (BATTALION CP, CHU LAI)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for June 1966

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

1. Unit Overview

Unit Designation	Echo Company (E Co), 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division
Reporting Period	1–30 June 1966
Commander	Capt J. L. Cooper (1–30 June)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol W. Moore); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Hill 69 (battalion CP, Chu Lai), Hill 22 (Hotel, Chu Lai), Thanh My Trung (1) (Echo patrol base)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (5 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Hill 69 (battalion CP, Chu Lai)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company E’s entries for June 1966 place it most often at or near Hill 69 (battalion CP, Chu Lai) (4 of 7 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Hill 22 (Hotel, Chu Lai), Thanh My Trung (1) (Echo patrol base).

Company E was commanded by Capt J. L. Cooper (1–30 June); the battalion by LtCol W. Moore (1–30 June).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 12 entries this month (6 movement, 5 combat, 1 logistics).

On 1 June 1966: An Echo platoon at BT421099 took heavy fire; air strike, and a Sparrow Hawk platoon was lifted in as a blocking force.

On 1 June 1966: Echo swept the high ground at BT416093 after the air strike — 3 VC KIA, 4 VC KIA possible by air.

On 1 June 1966: The one exception to the battalion’s non-participation in Operations Kansas and Washington was “the heliborne insertion of Company E into the KANSAS area after a devastating B-52 attack on enemy installations there.” Echo was to observe the area and assess the bomb damage;

though it took enemy fire, it inflicted “considerable additional damage” with its own 81mm mortar fire and suffered only one man wounded on punji stakes near the landing zone.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Apache	090600H – 122000H June 1966. 2/5 Operation Order 305-66 was issued on 1 June 1966; the initial briefing was held on 5 June and a second on 7 June.	Echo (reinforced) moved from Battalion landing zone, Hill 69 (BT 468 073) to LZ Cobra, Quan Ly Tin area (BT 312 135) by helicopter.
Operation Kansas	17–22 June 1966 (official dates). The reconnaissance phase began 13 June; recon teams and artillery stayed in the area until 27–28 June.	The one exception to the battalion’s non-participation in Operations Kansas and Washington was “the heliborne insertion of Company E into the KANSAS area after a devastating B-52 attack on enemy installations there.” Echo was to observe the area and assess the bomb damage; though it took enemy fire, it inflicted “considerable additional damage” with its own 81mm mortar fire and suffered only one man wounded on punji stakes near the landing zone.

4. Chronology of Company E Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for June 1966 in the hotel25vv research database. Only entries naming Company E are listed. Times and grid references are as recorded; each entry ends with its source page.

Date	Activity / Events
1 Jun 11:00	An Echo platoon at BT421099 took heavy fire; air strike, and a Sparrow Hawk platoon was lifted in as a blocking force [2/5 ComdC Jun 1966, PDF p. 10]
1 Jun 12:50	Echo swept the high ground at BT416093 after the air strike — 3 VC KIA, 4 VC KIA possible by air [2/5 ComdC Jun 1966, PDF p. 10]
June day unstated	The one exception to the battalion’s non-participation in Operations Kansas and Washington was “the heliborne insertion of Company E into the KANSAS area after a devastating B-52 attack on enemy installations there.” Echo was to observe the area and assess the bomb damage; though it took enemy fire, it inflicted “considerable

Date	Activity / Events
	additional damage" with its own 81mm mortar fire and suffered only one man wounded on punji stakes near the landing zone. (Commander's narrative summary, PDF p. 2.) [2/5 ComdC Jun 1966, PDF p. 2]
9 Jun 06:00–06:20	Echo (reinforced) moved from Battalion landing zone, Hill 69 (BT 468 073) to LZ Cobra, Quan Ly Tin area (BT 312 135) by helicopter. Operation Apache (2/5 OpOrder 305-66). Echo landed about 1,000 meters east of the planned zone at BT 312 135. [2/5 ComdC Jun 1966, PDF p. 31]
12 Jun 07:50–08:15	Echo moved from Battalion combat base (BT 304 144) to LZ (BT 340 099) by helicopter. Touched down after artillery and air preparation of the zone. [2/5 ComdC Jun 1966, PDF p. 34]
12 Jun 12:50–14:30	Echo and Foxtrot moved from South-eastern sweep area (BT 340 099) to Battalion combat base (BT 305 146) (means not stated). Ordered to end Apache and return; Foxtrot was told to continue its sweep back to the CP. Arrived 1430. [2/5 ComdC Jun 1966, PDF p. 35]
16 Jun 06:00	Echo, 2nd Platoon, with a section of tanks and Ontos moved from Defensive perimeter (BT 435 062) to Hill 35, then Hill 69 (BT 464 072) by truck. At first light moved to Hill 35 to be picked up by trucks and returned to Hill 69. [2/5 ComdC Jun 1966, PDF p. 15]
16 Jun 06:00	Echo, two squads moved from Position (BT 478 050) to Hill 69 (BT 464 072) on foot. "Will walk into Hill 69 in the morning." [2/5 ComdC Jun 1966, PDF p. 15]
21 Jun 09:00	Company E was lifted into the B-52 Arc Light impact area east of Hiep Duc to assess damage in Operation Kansas, and extracted by 1015 [2/5 ComdC Jun 1966, PDF p. 15]
21 Jun 09:00–10:15	Echo moved from Chu Lai (Hill 69) (BT 464 072) to B-52 strike area, about 3,500 m east of Hiep Duc by helicopter. Operation Kansas: landed just before 0900 to check the Arc Light strike; back aboard the helicopters by 1015 for the flight to Chu Lai. No grid is given for the zone. [2/5 ComdC Jun 1966, PDF p. 15; An Expanding War, PDF p. 150]
24 Jun 11:10	An Echo squad tripped an M-26 grenade at BT436046 — 2 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Jun 1966, PDF p. 17]
25 Jun 12:20	An Echo patrol blew in place a 155mm shell and a bouncing mine at BT428047 [2/5 ComdC Jun 1966, PDF p. 17]

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 2/5 Command Chronology Jun 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048070); U.S. Marines in Vietnam · An Expanding War, 1966.

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for June 1966 is listed in date and time order, with the page of the chronology it was read from. Entries that name only another company are left out.

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

— 2/5 Command Chronology Jun 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048070)

— U.S. Marines in Vietnam · An Expanding War, 1966

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, June 1966