E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JULY 1966 — THANH MY TRUNG (1) (ECHO PATROL BASE)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for July 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	1–31 July 1966
Commander	Capt J. L. Cooper (1–31 July)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol W. Moore); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Thanh My Trung (1) (Echo patrol base), Hill 69 (battalion CP, Chu Lai)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (22 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Thanh My Trung (1) (Echo patrol base)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company E’s entries for July 1966 place it most often at or near Thanh My Trung (1) (Echo patrol base) (18 of 19 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Hill 69 (battalion CP, Chu Lai).

Company E was commanded by Capt J. L. Cooper (1–31 July); the battalion by LtCol W. Moore (1–31 July).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 23 entries this month (22 combat, 1 medical).

On 1 July 1966: An Echo fire-team ambush at BT432042 saw 3 VC in OD uniforms with helmets at BT431041 and fired M-79 and small arms — 1 VC WIA.

On 1 July 1966: A reinforced Echo fire-team ambush at BT420043 took 250 rounds and automatic fire from about a VC company (30-60) at BT428045; two reinforced platoons reacted; artillery and 196 81mm rounds fired; at first light one body found — 5 VC KIA (est), 2 VC WIA by artillery.

On 2 July 1966: A reinforced Echo fire-team patrol at BT438038 under heavy fire from 5-10 VC — 1 USMC WIA medevac, 1 VC KIA probable, 2 VC WIA probable.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Thanh My Trung (1) (Echo patrol base) operations	July 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 July 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 Jul 05:50	An Echo fire-team ambush at BT432042 saw 3 VC in OD uniforms with helmets at BT431041 and fired M-79 and small arms — 1 VC WIA [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 10]
1 Jul 21:00	A reinforced Echo fire-team ambush at BT420043 took 250 rounds and automatic fire from about a VC company (30-60) at BT428045; two reinforced platoons reacted; artillery and 196 81mm rounds fired; at first light one body found — 5 VC KIA (est), 2 VC WIA by artillery [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 10]
2 Jul 11:00	A reinforced Echo fire-team patrol at BT438038 under heavy fire from 5-10 VC — 1 USMC WIA medevac, 1 VC KIA probable, 2 VC WIA probable [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 10]
2 Jul 22:45	An Echo fire team en route to an ambush site set off a pressure-type booby-trapped 105mm round at BT423022 — 3 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 11]
3 Jul 11:30	An Echo fire team at BT438042 took sniper fire from BT438043 [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 11]
3 Jul 13:00	An Echo fire team apprehended 35 VCS armed with cane knives near BT428045 [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 11]
3 Jul 13:55	An Echo patrol at BT439043 took sniper fire from BT436045 — 1 USMC WIA, later DOW [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 11]
3 Jul 13:55	The patrol swept Ky Long (2) BT436054 and came under fire from 10-15 VC; extensive trench and bunker network; air strike by Klondike aircraft [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 11]
3 Jul 18:34	Echo (-) swept Ky Long (2) near BT432043 and found trenches and fighting holes destroyed by mortar and artillery; one VCS sent to ITT [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 12]

Date	Activity / Events
3 Jul 21:15	Part of Echo sweeping west through Ky Long (2): the 3rd platoon took fire from about 3 VC at BT431043; returned fire with 14 81mm rounds — 3 VC KIA probable [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 12]
4 Jul 04:30	An Echo squad moving to an ambush site at BT420028 saw 10 VC with a machine gun setting up an ambush at BT420029 and fired; reinforced; a second contact — 3 VC WIA probable [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 12]
5 Jul 22:00	An Echo platoon at BT459023 fired on 8 VC at BT459022; VC returned heavy MG fire — 2 VC KIA, 2 VC WIA (est) [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 13]
9 Jul 16:45	The Echo CP saw 10 VC at BT423048 and called 50 81mm rounds — 5 VC WIA probable [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 14]
9 Jul 22:30	A fire-team ambush at BT458037 fired on 2 men — 1 VCS WIA, 1 VCS detained [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 14]
11 Jul 23:45	An Echo fire-team ambush at BT442037 took 40 rounds from 4 VC at BT442038 [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 16]
14 Jul 03:05	An Echo squad on S&D saw 7 uniformed VC at BT429044, fired 106mm and 81mm — 2 VCS apprehended [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 16]
14 Jul 12:50	Echo found a booby trap on a trail at BT439045; EOD found more booby traps (ChiCom grenade, 105mm round, US grenade) and destroyed them [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 16]
20 Jul 23:00	An Echo squad on Hill 270 BT425049 took 6 rounds from BT416050; artillery fired — 1 VC WIA (est) [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 18]
25 Jul 13:45	An Echo squad on Hill 270 BT421047 saw 6 armed VC at BT428038; Echo sent a reaction platoon — 1 VCS apprehended [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 20]
26 Jul 00:25	An Echo squad ambush en route to BT441051 saw 3 VC at BT439051 and fired [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 20]
26 Jul 16:30	Echo Marines injured a Vietnamese boy caught trying to steal a pack at BT447029; the boy was medevaced [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 20]
27 Jul 13:45	An Echo squad at BT460062 took 5 rounds from BT461063 [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 20]
30 Jul 08:40	An Echo patrol found a homemade antitank mine on an LVT resupply trail at BT441039; destroyed in place [2/5 ComdC Jul 1966, PDF p. 20]

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 Jul 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048071).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for July 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 Jul 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048071)

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, July 1966