E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

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

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for October 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 October 1966
Commander	1stLt T. J. Ebbert (1–31 October)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (Maj L. E. Wood; LtCol W. C. Airheart); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Hill 69 (battalion CP, Chu Lai), Tam Ky (Colorado base), Hill 22 (Hotel, Chu Lai), Thanh My Trung (1) (Echo patrol base)
Combat Posture	Security, movement and support (no combat entry recorded)
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 October 1966 place it most often at or near Hill 69 (battalion CP, Chu Lai) (4 of 4 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Tam Ky (Colorado base), Hill 22 (Hotel, Chu Lai), Thanh My Trung (1) (Echo patrol base).

Company E was commanded by 1stLt T. J. Ebbert (1–31 October); the battalion by Maj L. E. Wood (1–3 October); LtCol W. C. Airheart (3–31 October).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 4 entries this month (4 movement).

On 20 October 1966: Echo moved from Hill 69 (BT 464 072) to Beached fishing trawler west of Tam Ky by helicopter.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Golden Fleece	30 September 1967 is the only date on which the 2/5 Command Chronology records the battalion taking part. Golden Fleece was not a single operation: III MAF used the name repeatedly from 1965 onward for rice-harvest protection operations across I Corps.	Echo, 1st Platoon moved from Hill 69 (BT 464 072) to Hill 22 North (BT 429 091) (means not stated).

4. Chronology of Company E Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for October 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
8 Oct	Echo, 1st Platoon moved from Hill 69 (BT 464 072) to Hill 22 North (BT 429 091) (means not stated). Operation Golden Fleece under L/3/5, 8–14 October. Echo stayed at Chu Lai under 3/5 all month. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 22]
10 Oct	Echo, 3rd Platoon moved from Hill 69 (BT 464 072) to Downed helicopter in the Pineapple forest west of Tam Ky by helicopter. "Flown out" to guard a downed helicopter; stayed until it was lifted out. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 22]
20 Oct	Echo moved from Hill 69 (BT 464 072) to Beached fishing trawler west of Tam Ky by helicopter. "Received fire after landing"; swift boats kept the VC inland; Echo pulled out at dark. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 22]
25 Oct	Echo, 3rd Platoon moved from Hill 69 (BT 464 072) to Thanh My Trung (1) (BT 448 028) (means not stated). Took over all operations there, 25–31 October. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1966, PDF p. 23]

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 Oct 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048074).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for October 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 Oct 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048074)

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, October 1966