E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

NOVEMBER 1966 — AN HOA COMBAT BASE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for November 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 November 1966
Commander	not named in the monthly organisation data
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol W. C. Airheart); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base, Con Thien, Hill 42, Phu Lac (6) combat outpost
Combat Posture	Security, movement and support (no combat entry recorded)
Base of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

The battalion’s entries for November 1966 place it most often at or near An Hoa Combat Base (5 of 5 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Con Thien, Hill 42, Phu Lac (6) combat outpost.

The monthly organisation data does not name the commander of Company E for November 1966; the battalion was commanded by LtCol W. C. Airheart (1–30 November).

No entry in the November 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
Operation Prairie (Prairie I)	3 August 1966 – 31 January 1967 (whole operation). H Company, 2/5 in the operation: 30 September – 23 November 1966	The battalion moved from Con Thien and Operation Prairie south to An Hoa; the date of the move is not in the files.
Operation Mississippi	291000H November – 071730H December 1966 (D-Day was set for 25 November and postponed each day by weather until 29 November)	"The initial warning order for Operation Mississippi was received on 22 November 1966, when the battalion was still deployed at Dong Ha, OPCON to 4th Marine Regiment on Operation Prairie." (Mississippi after action report, Execution, PDF p.

4. Chronology of Company E Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for November 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
November before 27 November	The battalion moved from Con Thien and Operation Prairie south to An Hoa; the date of the move is not in the files. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 9]
22 Nov	"The initial warning order for Operation Mississippi was received on 22 November 1966, when the battalion was still deployed at Dong Ha, OPCON to 4th Marine Regiment on Operation Prairie." (Mississippi after action report, Execution, PDF p. 37.) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 37]
23 Nov 08:00–11:00	2/5 (-): leading elements moved from Dong Ha airfield (YD 243 597) to An Hoa airfield (AT 874 475) by air. Warned on 22 November while at Dong Ha under the 4th Marines; came under the 9th Marines for Mississippi and later took the An Hoa TAOR (27 November). The rear later arrived from Chu Lai. Airfield grids from Kindred, Location of Bases in Vietnam. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 37; 2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 7]
24 Nov	Ninth Marines Operation Order 124-66 was received on 24 November 1966 and the initial briefing on the operation was held that day, with additional briefings daily. 2/5 issued Frag Order 30-66 on 24 November. (Mississippi after action report, PDF p. 37.) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 37]
25 Nov – 28 Nov	D-Day was tentatively set for 25 November 1966. Because of adverse weather, which hampered operations all through Mississippi, and the availability of aircraft, the operation was postponed daily until 29 November. Several changes to the battalion

Date	Activity / Events
	frag order were made and briefed during the delay; no additional frag orders were issued. (Mississippi after action report, PDF p. 37.) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 37]
27 Nov 12:00	2/5 took responsibility for the An Hoa TAOR (C-Dec chronology, PDF 9): Echo 2/5 and M 3/9 at the An Hoa combat base AT874474, K 3/9 (-) at AT915484, a platoon of K at AT911514, B 1/26 at AT926527 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 9]
29 Nov 10:15	Operation Mississippi: the command group (Cass) began the helicopter lift from An Hoa into the objective area; the LZ near AT988355 took sporadic sniper fire [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 39]
29 Nov 10:15–15:00	2/5 (-): Foxtrot, command group, Hotel, then Golf moved from An Hoa (AT 874 474) to LZ, Que Son area (AT 988 355) by helicopter. Operation Mississippi, delayed daily from 25 November by weather. Sniper fire on landing; one Marine hit in a helicopter coming into the zone (died the next day). The AAR says it took four hours to lift the battalion; 1,076 troops lifted in all. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 39; 2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 34]
29 Nov 13:30	A Marine hit by sniper fire in a helicopter coming into the LZ — 1 USMC WIA, died of wounds the next day [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 39]
29 Nov 15:15–20:00	Battalion CP, Golf and Hotel moved from LZ (AT 988 355) to Night position on the trail (AT 965 362) on foot. Moved west as planned; Golf fought an enemy platoon at AT 986 356 on the way. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 39]
29 Nov 20:00	Night positions: CP, Golf and Hotel along the trail from AT953366 to AT967360; Foxtrot on Hill 90 at AT936366 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 39]
30 Nov 11:00	Combat bases: Hotel at AT933376 patrolling; Foxtrot holding; Golf patrolling grid squares 9137, 9037, 9036, 9136; about 200 Vietnamese asked to be relocated; a VC agent turned himself in [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 39]
30 Nov 17:00	Hotel at AT924375; block at AT935365; platoon search and destroy near AT9236 and AT9235 against snipers — 1 USMC WIA (non-evac), 2 non-battle [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 40]

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 Dec 1966 (with Nov Mississippi AAR) (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048075); Bill Kindred, Location of Bases in Vietnam (list of bases, airfields and landing zones with grids).

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. No commander of Company E is named for this month.

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 Dec 1966 (with Nov Mississippi AAR) (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048075)

— Bill Kindred, Location of Bases in Vietnam (list of bases, airfields and landing zones with grids)

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, November 1966