E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

DECEMBER 1966 — PHU LAC (6) COMBAT OUTPOST

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for December 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 December 1966
Commander	1stLt T. J. Ebbert (1–24 December); 1stLt S. H. Williams (25–31 December)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol W. C. Airheart); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Phu Lac (6) combat outpost, Downed helicopter near My Loc (2), Hill 42, An Hoa Combat Base
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (28 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Phu Lac (6) combat outpost
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company E’s entries for December 1966 place it most often at or near Phu Lac (6) combat outpost (12 of 24 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Downed helicopter near My Loc (2), Hill 42, An Hoa Combat Base.

Company E was commanded by 1stLt T. J. Ebbert (1–24 December); 1stLt S. H. Williams (25–31 December); the battalion by LtCol W. C. Airheart (1–31 December).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 33 entries this month (28 combat, 4 movement, 1 organization).

On 3 December 1966: An Echo squad at AT936515 took fire from AT941515 and AT930509.

On 3 December 1966: An Echo squad at AT904513 took 200 rounds from 8-10 VC with 5 automatic weapons — 3 USMC WIA.

On 5 December 1966: Echo at AT935525 took fire from AT940527, AT940525 and AT940521 — 1 USMC WIA.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Phu Lac (6) combat outpost operations	December 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 December 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 Dec 12:45	Echo 2/5 relieved K 3/9 on Hill 42 (AT916483) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 9]
1 Dec 12:45	Echo moved from An Hoa combat base (AT 874 474) to Hill 42 (AT 916 483) (means not stated). Relieved K/3/9, which went back to An Hoa. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 9]
3 Dec 10:15	An Echo patrol at AT941520 took 35 rounds from AT947520 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 9]
3 Dec 14:30	An Echo squad at AT936515 took fire from AT941515 and AT930509 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 9]
3 Dec 22:43	An Echo squad at AT904513 took 200 rounds from 8-10 VC with 5 automatic weapons — 3 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 9]
4 Dec 10:30	Echo found a tunnel complex at AT903512 with about 1,500 lb of rice; destroyed, rice given to villagers [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 9]
5 Dec 12:30	Echo at AT935525 took fire from AT940527, AT940525 and AT940521 — 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 10]
6 Dec 10:55	An Echo patrol at AT928515 set off a grenade on a trip wire — 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 10]
8 Dec 09:00	An Echo patrol took about 1,000 rounds of small-arms and automatic fire at AT937523 — 1 USMC KIA, 6 VC KIA (prob); trench line and bunkers at AT943527 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 10]
9 Dec 09:51	Echo (-) at AT938524 took 50 rounds from a hedgerow near AT938526 and 8 82mm rounds; while securing the medevac LZ took 2,000 rounds from AT944521; air strike — 9 USMC WIA, 10 VC KIA (prob) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 10]
9 Dec 15:45	Echo at AT931516 under fire from AT930512 — 1 USMC WIA; a Vietnamese boy with a gunshot wound medevaced [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 11]

Date	Activity / Events
13 Dec 09:45	Echo (-) at AT942521 took fire from a tree line; a booby-trapped M-26 grenade at AT948519 — 2 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 12]
13 Dec 12:00	Echo (-) at AT950520 took 250 rounds from an estimated platoon — 1 USMC KIA, 1 USMC WIA, 2 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 13]
16 Dec 11:00	Echo at AT869525 shot a VC jumping from a trench line — 1 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 15]
16 Dec 11:45	Echo at AT869523 under fire from 2-3 VC — 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 15]
16 Dec 16:45	Echo point man killed a running VC at AT869528 — 1 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 15]
16 Dec 17:00	Echo at AT898527 under heavy fire boarding an LCU — 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 16]
16 Dec 17:00	Echo (+) moved from River bank (AT 898 527) to Company CP by LCU landing craft. Took heavy automatic-weapons fire while boarding the LCU; 1 Marine wounded. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 16]
19 Dec 13:30	Echo (-) at AT956545 took 1,000 rounds and 10 rockets from a reinforced VC company; Echo assaulted through the rice paddy and over the VC position — 5 VC KIA, 15 VC WIA, 3 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 18]
19 Dec 20:45	Echo (-) at AT960550 took 10 82mm rounds and heavy fire from 100 meters east [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 18]
20 Dec 06:30	Echo found 2 VC killed at AT960550 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 18]
20 Dec 08:15	An Echo Marine stepped on a VC antipersonnel mine at AT969559 — 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 18]
20 Dec 09:20	Echo (-) at AT969547 took 100 rounds crossing open ground; assaulted through [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 18]
20 Dec 15:45	Echo (-)/S&D at AT976531 took 3,000-4,000 rounds from a VC company to the north, south and east - 2 USMC KIA, 8 USMC WIA; the command group and Foxtrot crossed the river to link up; Foxtrot took heavy fire at AT983527 — 5 USMC WIA; total 15 USMC WIA, 2 USMC KIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 19]
21 Dec 20:20	An Echo squad at AT912514 fired on 3-4 VC at AT914517 — 1 VC WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 20]
22 Dec 13:00	Echo found medical documents and VC gear at AT978530 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 20]
23 Dec 05:00	Echo (-) at AT974522 fired a recon by fire south of the river at AT975521 before crossing; took 200 rounds from a VC squad; a Marine caught by the river current drowned — 1 USMC non-battle death [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 20]
23 Dec 15:45	Echo at AT915490 took 100 rounds from AT925506 — 1 USMC WIA, 1 VC KIA (prob) [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 20]
24 Dec 15:15	Echo (-), the resupply and relief element at AT955545 en route to Golf, took 2,500 rounds and 20 82mm rounds — 1 USMC KIA, 9 USMC WIA; artillery fired; Hotel at AT964537 fired to keep the VC pinned; medevac delayed by weather [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 21]

Date	Activity / Events
24 Dec 18:40	Echo moving to link up with Golf took about 2,000 rounds and 15 82mm rounds from a VC platoon near AT972535 — 15 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 21]
24 Dec 21:55	Echo reached Golf's position at AT976533; enemy for 24 Dec from body count and observed hits: 9 VC KIA, 22 VC WIA confirmed, 14 KIA and 32 WIA probable; at least a VC battalion, 350-400 men [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 22]
24 Dec–21:55	Echo moved from Position (AT 974 522) to Golf's helicopter-security position, My Loc (2) (AT 976 533) (means not stated). Reached Golf, which had guarded a downed helicopter since 21 December under attack by a VC battalion. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 20; 2/5 ComdC Dec 1966, PDF p. 22]
31 Dec 09:45	Echo (-) recon at AT944528: a Marine stepped on a booby-trapped grenade — 1 USMC KIA, 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 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 Dec 1966 (with Nov Mississippi AAR) (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048075).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for December 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 Dec 1966 (with Nov Mississippi AAR) (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048075)

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, December 1966