E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

MARCH 1967 — LE THAP (1)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for March 1967

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 March 1967
Commander	Capt T. J. Blessing (1–31 March)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol M. C. Jackson Jr.); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Le Thap (1), Phu Da (1) (CAP N-3), Tuscaloosa river crossing, An Hoa Combat Base
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (6 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Le Thap (1)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company E’s entries for March 1967 place it most often at or near Le Thap (1) (2 of 6 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Phu Da (1) (CAP N-3), Tuscaloosa river crossing, An Hoa Combat Base.

Company E was commanded by Capt T. J. Blessing (1–31 March); the battalion by LtCol M. C. Jackson Jr. (1–31 March).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 9 entries this month (6 combat, 2 movement, 1 organization).

On 1 March 1967: VC trying to cross the Song Thu Bon by boat east of the outpost were fired on by an M-48 tank — 3 VC KIA (conf) by 90mm.

On 2 March 1967: An Echo squad patrol took fire from 2 entrenched VC near Le Thap (1) (AT942516) — 1 VC KIA, an NVA K-50 submachine gun captured.

On 3 March 1967: Five Marines of an Echo ambush were wounded by an 81mm mortar round rigged as a mine — 5 USMC WIA.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Le Thap (1) operations	March 1967	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 March 1967 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 Mar 21:00	VC trying to cross the Song Thu Bon by boat east of the outpost were fired on by an M-48 tank — 3 VC KIA (conf) by 90mm [2/5 ComdC Mar 1967, PDF p. 15]
1 Mar	Echo held the Phu Lac (6) outpost on the south bank of the Song Thu Bon (AT966527) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1967, PDF p. 15]
2 Mar	An Echo squad patrol took fire from 2 entrenched VC near Le Thap (1) (AT942516) — 1 VC KIA, an NVA K-50 submachine gun captured [2/5 ComdC Mar 1967, PDF p. 15]
3 Mar	Five Marines of an Echo ambush were wounded by an 81mm mortar round rigged as a mine — 5 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Mar 1967, PDF p. 15]
4 Mar	An Echo squad patrol took fire from 4 VC near Phu Lac (2) (AT927505); a fire team flanked them — 3 VC KIA (conf) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1967, PDF p. 15]
4 Mar	A squad patrol saw 12 armed VC moving into a tree line and called artillery — 8 VC KIA (prob) [2/5 ComdC Mar 1967, PDF p. 15]
16 Mar	Echo was relieved at Phu Lac (6) by Hotel and became the maneuver company at An Hoa [2/5 ComdC Mar 1967, PDF p. 16]
17 Mar 08:00	Echo made a river reconnaissance by amtrac from AT856440 to AT868501 before a planned operation in Hanh Tay (1) (AT848482); the amtracs took fire from the west bank, answered with 106mm recoilless rifles [2/5 ComdC Mar 1967, PDF p. 16]
17 Mar 08:00	Echo moved from Position (AT 856 440) to Phu Da (1) (CAP N-3) (AT 868 501) by amtrac (LVT). Echo made a river reconnaissance by amtrac from AT856440 to AT868501 before a planned operation in Hanh Tay (1) (AT848482); the amtracs took fire from the west bank, answered with 106mm recoilless rifles. [2/5 ComdC Mar 1967, PDF p. 16]

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 Mar 1967 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048081).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for March 1967 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 Mar 1967 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048081)

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Telfer, Gary L., Lane Rogers and V. Keith Fleming Jr. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese, 1967. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1984.

— “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, March 1967