E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JANUARY 1968 — AN HOA COMBAT BASE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for January 1968

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 January 1968
Commander	Capt S. K. McKee III (1–15 January); Capt P. A. Duffy (16–31 January)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol G. C. McNaughton; LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr.); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Battalion area: An Hoa Combat Base, Song Truoi Bridge, Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP), Phu Loc District headquarters
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (6 combat entries)
Base of Operations	With the battalion: An Hoa Combat Base
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

The battalion’s entries for January 1968 place the battalion most often at or near An Hoa Combat Base (10 of 16 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Song Truoi Bridge, Cao Doi tunnel (battalion CP), Phu Loc District headquarters. None of Company E’s own entries names a place.

Company E was commanded by Capt S. K. McKee III (1–15 January); Capt P. A. Duffy (16–31 January); the battalion by LtCol G. C. McNaughton (1–2 January); LtCol E. C. Cheatham Jr. (3–31 January).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 8 entries this month (6 combat, 2 movement).

On 5 January 1968: An Echo platoon patrol set off a booby trap — 3 USMC WIA, not evacuated.

On 6 January 1968: An Echo Marine set off a booby trap at AT 906496 — 1 USMC WIA.

On 6 January 1968: An Echo Marine set off a booby-trapped M-26 at AT 907500 — 1 USMC WIA.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
With the battalion: An Hoa Combat Base operations	January 1968	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 January 1968 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
5 Jan	An Echo platoon patrol set off a booby trap — 3 USMC WIA, not evacuated [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 13]
6 Jan	An Echo Marine set off a booby trap at AT 906496 — 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 13]
6 Jan	An Echo Marine set off a booby-trapped M-26 at AT 907500 — 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 14]
10 Jan	Echo's road sweep: a Marine stepped on a 20-lb box mine near a crater, then a second mine (15-lb) failed to fire; a Vietnamese truck hit a 25-lb box mine at AT 910507 - 1 civilian KIA, 9 civilians WIA; a Marine tripped an M-26 booby trap at AT 916517 — 2 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 14; 2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 15]
18 Jan	Echo took over security of the rock crusher at Nam Hoa; Golf manned OPs on Hills 180 and 230 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 18]
31 Jan 04:20	The battalion S-3 journal for 31 January 1968: 0420, H6 reports Truoi River Bridge #5 under fire; 0422, reaction force alerted; 0423, H6 reports bridges 6 and 7 taking incoming mortar rounds; 0430, H reports 1 KIA; 0500, H reaction force deployed to rear point 8; 0623, reaction platoon under fire between bridges 6 and 7; 0625, contact broken, proceeding to the R-8 position; 0650, in contact at bridge 7; 0655, Echo deployed as strike force; 0658, H reports 1 dead VC, a rocket launcher and 1 AK-47; 0710, H deploying 1 squad to the H-8 position; 0719, H has 3 VC KIA; 0728, 1 more VC KIA; 0732, H3 requests med evac. (S-3 journal, PDF p. 104.) [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 104]
31 Jan	Echo moving to a blocking position engaged 6 enemy at YD 976025 — 2 enemy KIA, 2 AK-47s captured, 1 USMC KIA, 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, PDF p. 16]
31 Jan	Echo moved from Not stated to Reported position (YD 976 025) (means not stated). Echo moving to a blocking position engaged 6 enemy at YD 976025. Result: 2 enemy KIA, 2 AK-47s captured, 1 USMC KIA, 1 USMC WIA. [2/5 ComdC Jan 1968, 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 Jan 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048097).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for January 1968 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 Jan 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048097)

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Shulimson, Jack, Leonard A. Blasiol, Charles R. Smith and David A. Dawson. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Defining Year, 1968. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1997.

— “Echo Company.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com