E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

APRIL 1969 — LZ LILY

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for April 1969

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 April 1969
Commander	1stLt R. H. Henry (1–30 April)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. H. Higgins); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	LZ Lily, 2/5 field command post in the Arizona, Duc Duc District headquarters
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (10 combat entries)
Base of Operations	LZ Lily
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company E’s entries for April 1969 place it most often at or near LZ Lily (3 of 6 entries with a named place or grid), and also at 2/5 field command post in the Arizona, Duc Duc District headquarters.

Company E was commanded by 1stLt R. H. Henry (1–30 April); the battalion by LtCol J. H. Higgins (1–30 April).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 12 entries this month (10 combat, 1 training, 1 movement).

On 1 April 1969: patrol at AT 839482 received sporadic AK-47 fire from 4 VC/NVA in treeline AT 837480; returned small arms and artillery - 1 USMC WIA non-evac.

On 2 April 1969: at AT 835495 received AK-47 and M-79 fire from AT 833497; returned 81mm and artillery - 2 USMC WIA non-evac.

On 3 April 1969: squad patrol approaching village and treeline at AT 807465 received fire from one VC in a hootch 25 m ahead; returned fire with small arms and M-79, maneuvered into village, found two VC KIA with weapons - 2 VC KIA, captured AK-47, M-16, M-26 grenade, 2 ChiCom grenades, 6 M-16 mags, 2 NVA uniforms, cartridge belt, documents.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
LZ Lily operations	April 1969	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 April 1969 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 Apr 11:10	patrol at AT 839482 received sporadic AK-47 fire from 4 VC/NVA in treeline AT 837480; returned small arms and artillery - 1 USMC WIA non-evac. [2/5 ComdC Apr 1969, PDF p. 14]
April day unstated	Echo completes the six-day regimental refresher course. [2/5 ComdC Apr 1969, PDF p. 8]
2 Apr 13:30	at AT 835495 received AK-47 and M-79 fire from AT 833497; returned 81mm and artillery - 2 USMC WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC Apr 1969, PDF p. 15]
3 Apr 14:00	squad patrol approaching village and treeline at AT 807465 received fire from one VC in a hootch 25 m ahead; returned fire with small arms and M-79, maneuvered into village, found two VC KIA with weapons - 2 VC KIA, captured AK-47, M-16, M-26 grenade, 2 ChiCom grenades, 6 M-16 mags, 2 NVA uniforms, cartridge belt, documents [2/5 ComdC Apr 1969, PDF p. 16]
9 Apr 17:15	E Marine returning from patrol at AT 837463 detonated booby-trapped M-26: 1 WIA evac, 1 non-evac. [2/5 ComdC Apr 1969, PDF p. 53]
11 Apr 16:30	E 1st Plt escorting M116 Huskies across the Tinh Yen River at AT 846475 received small arms fire from treeline 300 m NW; returned fire: 1 USMC WIA evac. [2/5 ComdC Apr 1969, PDF p. 53]
13 Apr 10:45	E sweeping AT 833546 received accurate automatic fire from 3-4 enemy 400 m SE at AT 836541 and 833547; returned fire, small arms, automatics, 60mm, 81mm, artillery, secured enemy positions. In prep fires for further maneuver east, one erratic artillery round wounded one man: 1 WIA evac. [2/5 ComdC Apr 1969, PDF p. 54]
14 Apr 07:00	E searching previous evening's contact found 2 dead NVA, 2 AK-47, 1 K-44, 15 ChiCom grenades, 2 AK mags, 100 rds, 1 RPG-2, 2 B-40 rounds, 3 boosters: 2 NVA KIA. [2/5 ComdC Apr 1969, PDF p. 53]

Date	Activity / Events
14 Apr 15:30	E Marine at AT 858548 detonated booby-trapped M-26: 1 WIA evac. [2/5 ComdC Apr 1969, PDF p. 53]
15 Apr 10:30	E 2d Plt saw 1 NVA 300 m east, killed him; sweeping, received small arms fire; moving to LZ for medevac received automatic fire; secured LZ but helicopter received automatic and light MG fire on takeoff: 1 WIA evac, 1 NVA KIA, AK-47, pack, binoculars, documents. [2/5 ComdC Apr 1969, PDF p. 53]
15 Apr 18:30	E squad ambush at AT 862543 saw 10-12 NVA 75-100 m NW; enemy opened fire with 200 rds AK and 6 ChiCom grenades; ambush returned fire (small arms, automatics, M-79), returned to company patrol base to call artillery: 4 WIA non-evac, 2 NVA KIA. [2/5 ComdC Apr 1969, PDF p. 53]
15 Apr 18:30	Echo moved from Last reported position (AT 858 548) to LZ Lily (AT 862 543) (means not stated). E squad ambush at AT 862543 saw 10-12 NVA 75-100 m NW; enemy opened fire with 200 rds AK and 6 ChiCom grenades; ambush returned fire (small arms, automatics, M-79), returned to company patrol base to call artillery: 4 WIA non-evac, 2 NVA KIA. Starting point is Echo's last reported position (14 Apr 1530), not stated in this entry. [2/5 ComdC Apr 1969, PDF p. 53]

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 Apr 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048114).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for April 1969 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 Apr 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048114)

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Smith, Charles R. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: High Mobility and Standdown, 1969. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1988.

— “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, April 1969