E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

MAY 1969 — 2/5 FIELD COMMAND POST IN THE ARIZONA

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for May 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	1–31 May 1969
Commander	1stLt R. H. Henry (1–25 May); Capt J. L. McClung (26–31 May)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. H. Higgins); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	2/5 field command post in the Arizona, LZ Lily, Tam Hoa hamlet, Phu Da (1) and (2)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (23 combat entries)
Base of Operations	2/5 field command post in the Arizona
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company E's entries for May 1969 place it most often at or near 2/5 field command post in the Arizona (10 of 24 entries with a named place or grid), and also at LZ Lily, Tam Hoa hamlet, Phu Da (1) and (2).

Company E was commanded by 1stLt R. H. Henry (1–25 May); Capt J. L. McClung (26–31 May); the battalion by LtCol J. H. Higgins (1–31 May).

The battalion's command chronology names Company E in 25 entries this month (23 combat, 1 medical, 1 organization).

On 4 May 1969: Marine on patrol at AT 834476 detonated booby-trapped M-26 in open field with waist-high grass — 1 USMC WIA evac.

On 5 May 1969: Marine detonated booby-trapped M-26 in treeline at AT 838471 — 2 USMC WIA non-evac.

On 9 May 1969: on sweep at AT 875522 received fire from one NVA; assaulted; enemy fled into a bunker; Echo threw a grenade in, causing a secondary explosion — 1 VC/NVA KIA.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
2/5 field command post in the Arizona operations	May 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 May 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
4 May 16:20	a Marine riding security on a Husky crossing the river at AT 847475 drowned when the Husky sank; Husky and equipment recovered — 1 USMC non-battle death [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 18]
4 May 16:30	Marine on patrol at AT 834476 detonated booby-trapped M-26 in open field with waist-high grass — 1 USMC WIA evac. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 18]
5 May 08:15	Marine detonated booby-trapped M-26 in treeline at AT 838471 — 2 USMC WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 19]
5 May 16:00	a Vietnamese man approached Echo at AT 834474, showed his ID card and told of a cache of mortar rounds at AT 838474; a patrol went with him — 12 82mm rounds, 24 fuses, 30 increments captured [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 19]
9 May 08:00	on sweep at AT 875522 received fire from one NVA; assaulted; enemy fled into a bunker; Echo threw a grenade in, causing a secondary explosion — 1 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 23]
9 May 11:20	assaulted the objective at AT 888537 — 4 VC KIA, SKS, NVA pack, 13 ChiCom grenades captured [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 23]
9 May 12:00	four NVA attacked Echo at AT 882545 with two B-40 rockets; tanks with Echo fired small arms, driving enemy into a bunker; tank fired two 90mm rounds destroying the bunker — 4 NVA KIA, 1 USMC WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 23]
9 May 12:30	at AT 882539 saw four NVA running into a bunker; destroyed the bunker — 4 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 23]
9 May 16:00	assaulted and captured the objective at AT 871558; search revealed an extensive bunker, housing and agricultural complex with NVA bodies killed by preparation fires — 43 NVA KIA, two Soviet 9mm automatic pistols, an RPG-2 and a German grease gun captured [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 25]
9 May 20:30	at AT 856557 saw one NVA 20 m east of night position moving west; fired small arms and an M-26 grenade, killing him; ten minutes later another NVA moved to help the

Date	Activity / Events
	first; Echo fired again with small arms and M-26 grenades; search found three NVA dead — 3 NVA KIA, M-2 carbine and equipment [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 25]
10 May 23:50	at AT 866560 received three rounds from one enemy; returned fire and called medevac — 1 WIA evac. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 27]
11 May 10:00	platoon found one dead NVA and equipment at AT 872522 — 1 NVA KIA, 3 grenades, 2 mags, documents [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 29]
11 May 16:00	at AT 870550 saw one VC/NVA at AT 870549; fired automatic weapons and searched — 1 NVA KIA, 2 grenades [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 29]
12 May 13:00	searching at AT 872559 and AT 873557 found numerous bunkers and NVA killed by air strikes — 1 VC KIA, 4 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 32]
13 May 16:00	Marine on sweep detonated booby-trapped 82mm round with pressure detonation in high grass at AT 870523 — 1 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 35]
13 May 17:00	at AT 867512 received 20 rounds of 82mm from AT 859509; returned fire — 2 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 36]
13 May 18:00	at AT 859504 received 20 rounds of 82mm from AT 864507; returned fire - — 6 USMC WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 36]
14 May 12:45	Marine detonated booby-trapped M-26 with trip wire in a hootch at AT 849487 — 1 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 38]
14 May 18:50	Marine detonated booby-trapped M-26 off a paddy dike at AT 850488 — 2 WIA non-evac. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 38]
15 May 16:30	crossing an open rice paddy at AT 832478, Echo's 1st Platoon came under heavy fire from enemy 10 m southwest of the point man. The 2d Platoon moved to help and was soon pinned down. The Echo CP with two tanks moved in to support; the tanks were hit by accurate B-40 rockets and knocked out. Echo laid down suppressive fire until all Marines could be pulled back; as it pulled back it took 60mm mortar fire. Supporting arms, air strikes and "Spooky" gunships were called — 6 USMC KIA, 16 WIA evac, 18 WIA non-evac. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 41]
16 May 11:33	a tank supporting Echo detonated a pressure-type 75-100 lb box mine — 7 WIA evac, 6 non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 42]
17 May 14:00	searching at AT 891472 found two NVA killed by napalm three days earlier — 2 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 43]
18 May 16:50	squad at AT 859490 saw 3 VC/NVA moving east on a trail at AT 857490; opened fire with small arms and 81mm — 1 VC/NVA KIA. [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 44]
20 May 01:15	in night positions at AT 849487 saw a platoon-size enemy force 100 m from the perimeter; opened fire with grenades and claymores. At 0545 Echo and the battalion command group received 60 rounds of small arms fire; returned fire with organic weapons and supporting arms — 8 NVA KIA; AK-47, AKM, 9mm pistol, 9 mags, 26 grenades, M-26, 2 B-40 rockets, 4 boosters captured [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 46]
21 May 03:00	at AT 849486 detected an estimated enemy platoon NW, E and S of its positions; opened fire with claymores, M-79 and small arms; called illumination and saw the enemy retreating with dead and wounded — 2 WIA non-evac, 1 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC May 1969, PDF p. 47]

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 May 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048115).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for May 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 May 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048115)

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, May 1969