E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JULY 1969 — HENDERSON HILL

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for July 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 July 1969
Commander	Capt J. L. McClung (1–31 July)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. H. Higgins); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Henderson Hill, Phu Lac (6) combat outpost, LZ Lily, Alligator Lake
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (23 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Henderson Hill
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company E’s entries for July 1969 place it most often at or near Henderson Hill (7 of 20 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Phu Lac (6) combat outpost, LZ Lily, Alligator Lake.

Company E was commanded by Capt J. L. McClung (1–31 July); the battalion by LtCol J. H. Higgins (1–31 July).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 29 entries this month (23 combat, 4 movement, 2 organization).

On 1 July 1969: platoon at AT 885527 saw one VC/NVA with weapon moving SW at AT 875525; opened fire — negative.

On 1 July 1969: at AT 882528 saw six VC/NVA with weapons moving through a treeline at AT 877525; fired automatics, 3.5 rockets, 60mm — negative.

On 4 July 1969: platoon on patrol at AT 935528 found a booby-trapped M-26 with pressure detonation in an open field — destroyed.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Arizona	140800H – 181915H June 1967 (2/5 participation; the S-2 lists the operation as 15–19 June); previously listed as 13–26 June	The 2/5 S-3 journal is headed “FORSYTH GROVE” for 1–3 July.
Operation Forsyth Grove	010800H – 032400H July 1969 (5th Marines Command Chronology). Units moved into blocking positions during the night of 30 June – 1 July.	The 2/5 S-3 journal is headed “FORSYTH GROVE” for 1–3 July.

4. Chronology of Company E Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for July 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 Jul 12:10	at AT 897527 detained three men aged 30-40 — 3 detainees [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 13]
1 Jul 16:45	platoon at AT 885527 saw one VC/NVA with weapon moving SW at AT 875525; opened fire — negative [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 13]
1 Jul 19:00	at AT 882528 saw six VC/NVA with weapons moving through a treeline at AT 877525; fired automatics, 3.5 rockets, 60mm — negative [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 13]
1 Jul	The 2/5 S-3 journal is headed “FORSYTH GROVE” for 1–3 July. At 0630 on 1 July a Foxtrot platoon was “moving into position at AT890555”, and at 0700 a Foxtrot platoon was “in blocking positions at AT891554”; Echo was at AT897527 by 1210 (PDF p. 13). The narrative counts “three company sweep and block type operations” in July (PDF p. 5). The official history: Forsyth Grove was a 5th Marines cordon and search in a two-kilometer-square area of the northern Arizona with 1/5, 2/5 and 1/7; “the 2d Battalion covertly completed a crossing of the Song Thu Bon and occupied blocking positions to

Date	Activity / Events
	the east", and 1/7 closed the trap before sunrise on the 1st (printed page 193). [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 13; 2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 5]
1 Jul–12:10	Echo (Operation Forsyth Grove) moved from Phu Lac (6) area to Blocking position, Operation Forsyth Grove (AT 897 527) (means not stated). Operation Forsyth Grove, a 5th Marines cordon and search in the northern Arizona with 1/5, 2/5 and 1/7. The 2/5 S-3 journal is headed "FORSYTH GROVE" for 1–3 July and "SEARCH AND CLEAR" again from 4 July (July 1969 chronology, PDF pp. 13–20); the narrative counts "three company sweep and block type operations" in July (PDF p. 5). The official history: "the 2d Battalion covertly completed a crossing of the Song Thu Bon and occupied blocking positions to the east", and 1/7 closed the trap "before sunrise on the 1st" (printed page 193). Journal 1 July: Echo "at AT897527 detained three … males" at 1210 and was at AT882528 at 1900 (PDF pp. 13–15); 2 July searching at AT897526 (PDF p. 16). First position the journal gives for Echo in the operation; the move itself is not logged. (Added 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 13; 2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 15]
2 Jul 09:00	searching at AT 897526 found nine vials of penicillin, two cans of pills, a VC pack and a sack of beans [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 16]
3 Jul 07:45	on road sweep at AT 896557 apprehended two men without proper ID — 2 detainees [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 17]
3 Jul 08:30	at AT 900557 apprehended three men with no ID — 3 detainees [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 17]
3 Jul	The last Forsyth Grove entries are on 3 July: Foxtrot "on sweep at AT893545" at 0700, Echo at AT896557 and AT900557 at 0745 and 0830 (PDF p. 18). From 4 July the journal is headed "SEARCH AND CLEAR" again, with Foxtrot sweeping at AT935500 and an Echo platoon on patrol at AT935528 (PDF p. 20). The official history: after the three-day operation "Lieutenant Colonel Higgins' Marines returned to Phu Lac (6) and reassumed security for Liberty Bridge and Road (North)" (printed page 193). [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 18; 2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 20]
3 Jul	Echo (Operation Forsyth Grove) moved from Forsyth Grove area (AT 900 557) to Phu Lac (6) area (means not stated). End of Operation Forsyth Grove. Echo's last Forsyth Grove entries are 0745 and 0830 on 3 July at AT896557 and AT900557 (PDF p. 18); on 4 July, under "SEARCH AND CLEAR", an Echo platoon is on patrol at AT935528 (PDF p. 20). The official history: after the three-day operation "Lieutenant Colonel Higgins' Marines returned to Phu Lac (6)" (printed page 193). The return is not logged; date and means not stated. (Added 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 18; 2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 20]
4 Jul 08:00	platoon on patrol at AT 935528 found a booby-trapped M-26 with pressure detonation in an open field — destroyed [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 22]
4 Jul 13:30	squad at AT 957517 detained a man without proper ID — 1 detainee [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 20]
5 Jul 10:15	at AT 963508 saw two VC, one armed, 200 m east; opened fire and assaulted, finding one dead VC stripped of all equipment — 1 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 22]
7 Jul 13:00	on patrol at AT 945503 found a booby-trapped COFRAM fuse with trip wire in dense bamboo — destroyed [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 27]
7 Jul 18:30	squad set in an OP at AT 945504 searched nearby and found enemy ordnance — 300 rds AK, 300 rds 7.62, 11 M-16 mags, 200 rds 5.56, an NVA corpsman bag with instruments, 2 gas masks captured [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 27]

Date	Activity / Events
8 Jul 08:04	platoon found four unfused 82mm rounds and a toolbox with carpenter and electrician tools at AT 949499 — captured [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 29]
8 Jul 10:00	children gave an Echo squad at AT 943506 five bomb fuses, a timing device, two 20mm rounds, a 2.75 rocket, a 60mm round, a U.S. M151 warhead and an NVA canteen [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 29]
8 Jul 10:00	platoon found five bunkers and two tunnels set up as a fortified defense area at AT 954507 — destroyed [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 29]
8 Jul 10:15	on patrol at AT 947504 a Marine detonated a booby-trapped M-26 with trip wire in brush on high ground — 1 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 29]
8 Jul 10:30	a man walked into Echo's position at AT 945503 and rallied; field interrogation found 32 VC had been in the area before the company arrived — 1 VC Chieu Hoi [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 29]
10 Jul 17:55	unit moving to night positions found a booby-trapped M-26 with the pin pulled in a C-ration can at AT 934522 — destroyed [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 32]
10 Jul 19:30	in night positions at AT 945516 saw seven VC/NVA moving SW about 300 m away at AT 943513; fired automatics, 3.5 rockets, 81mm; checked at first light — negative [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 32]
10 Jul 20:00	moving to search the enemy position a Marine detonated a booby-trapped M-26 with trip wire in a treeline at AT 944514 — 1 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 32]
11 Jul 13:40	squad at AT 933501 saw about 20 VC/NVA wearing white capes moving NE at AT 915503; fired small arms, automatics, 81mm; enemy split into groups of 12 (NE) and 8 (SW) — negative [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 34]
12 Jul 13:30	at AT 928515 found a Chinese-made anti-personnel mine 1.5 inches across on a paddy dike — destroyed [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 36]
15 Jul 09:40	walking flank security for the road sweep a Marine set off a booby-trapped 105mm round with trip wire in high grass at AT 911503 — 1 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 40]
15 Jul 10:40	Echo's road sweep found a 40-lb pressure box mine in the middle of the road at AT 914513 — destroyed [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 40]
18 Jul 21:00	squad in ambush at AT 923533 saw a body, the lower half dismembered, floating down the river; dressed in NVA uniform, it was pulled out for burial — 1 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 45]
19 Jul 10:00 – 29 Jul 15:00	“Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines OPCON to 5th Marines from 191000H to 291500H.” [2/5 ComdC Jul 1969, PDF p. 7]

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 Jul 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048117); U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969.

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for July 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 Jul 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048117)

— U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969

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, July 1969