E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

AUGUST 1969 — LZ LILY

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for August 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 August 1969
Commander	Capt J. L. McClung (1–31 August)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. H. Higgins; Maj R. E. Loehe; LtCol J. T. Bowen); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	LZ Lily, Tam Hoa hamlet, Truong An hamlet, Hill 65
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (36 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 August 1969 place it most often at or near LZ Lily (7 of 14 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Tam Hoa hamlet, Truong An hamlet, Hill 65.

Company E was commanded by Capt J. L. McClung (1–31 August); the battalion by LtCol J. H. Higgins (1–20 August); Maj R. E. Loehe (21–23 August); LtCol J. T. Bowen (24–31 August).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 36 entries this month (36 combat).

On 2 August 1969: Echo's 3d Platoon in a blocking position at AT 012412 was fired on by two U.S.

On 2 August 1969: in night positions at BT 009412 saw four VC/NVA moving through a stream 30 m away; opened fire and took two ChiCom grenades as the enemy fled — 1 WIA non-evac.

On 3 August 1969: platoon moving at BT 002409 took about 15 rounds of AK-47 sniper fire from four NVA at BT 000407; deployed, returned fire and assaulted — negative.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
LZ Lily operations	August 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 August 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
2 Aug 16:15	Echo's 3d Platoon in a blocking position at AT 012412 was fired on by two U.S. Army Cobra gunships; Echo marked with green smoke and the gunships left — 1 USMC non-battle evac, 1 non-battle non-evac [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 17]
2 Aug 21:40	in night positions at BT 009412 saw four VC/NVA moving through a stream 30 m away; opened fire and took two ChiCom grenades as the enemy fled — 1 WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 17]
3 Aug 12:30	platoon moving at BT 002409 took about 15 rounds of AK-47 sniper fire from four NVA at BT 000407; deployed, returned fire and assaulted — negative [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 19]
4 Aug 17:00	platoon moving at BT 004402 found an NVA base camp of 18 hootches — a map of Da Nang, a hand-drawn map, salt, fish sauce, kerosene, malaria tablets, first aid packs, utilities captured [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 20]
4 Aug 17:15	moving at BT 001400 found a small harboring site of four hootches and many tunnels — hootches destroyed, CS gas used on the tunnels [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 21]
6 Aug 08:10	platoon on patrol at BT 002393 found a recently used NVA staging area of three hootches and four tunnels — NVA pack captured [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 24]
6 Aug 09:15	platoon at BT 005390 found an enemy base area of ten hootches and four caves — NVA helmet, utilities, poncho, timetable, map, medical equipment, malaria pills, vitamins, morphine, 56 rds AK, a medical scrub shirt, pack captured [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 24]
6 Aug 11:00	platoon at BT 009391 saw 11 NVA in two groups; fired and swept, finding three blood trails — negative [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 24]
6 Aug 14:15	platoon at BT 007397 saw two NVA, a man and a woman; fired, killing the woman as the man fled north — 1 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 24]
6 Aug 16:45	platoon found an old corn field at AT 993377 with two small caves under rocks holding 30 one-pound packages of spaghetti, 20 lb of NVA candy, mackerel, a pack, documents and a dead NVA, cause unknown — 1 NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 24]

Date	Activity / Events
6 Aug 19:30	platoon found a dead NVA along a trail at AT 993377 — 1 NVA killed by air [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 24]
7 Aug 10:00	platoon at AT 997399 found three caves and two huts not recently used [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 27]
7 Aug 11:40	platoon at AT 996398 found five caves and five huts with a pistol holster and 100 ft of communication wire [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 27]
7 Aug 14:10	platoon at AT 994397 found four bundles of double-strand communication wire, then 10 caves and bloody battle dressings along the trail [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 27]
7 Aug 14:30	squad at AT 992379 saw two NVA moving NE; fired small arms and M-79 and assaulted; a search showed blood trails leading to three caves. caves were searched — negative [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 27]
7 Aug 16:00	platoon at AT 998397 found 20 NVA utility shirts, 11 trousers, 8 ponchos, 7 first aid kits, 8 mosquito nets, 5 grenades, 150 rds AK, 5 entrenching tools, 2 medical packs, a pack, documents and an AK-47 — captured [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 27]
8 Aug 12:10	squad at AT 988397 found an SKS lying on a trail — captured [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 30]
9 Aug 10:00	platoon found a booby-trapped M-26 with trip wire at the entrance to a cave at AT 988398 — destroyed [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 33]
15 Aug 21:55	a squad ambush at AT 890561 saw 40 NVA carrying packs and weapons crossing a stream at AT 890557; 99 rounds of artillery called, causing secondary explosions; search not possible — unknown [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 41]
17 Aug 06:35	a VC rallied to Echo at AT 847564; he said he had crossed the river at AT 834550 on 16 Aug at 1800; he was a 19-year-old corpsman for the 1st Battalion, 3rd VC Company, operating from AT 820540 to AT 860558; his unit had been in heavy contact with Marines a couple of days before, and he surrendered because they were out of food and many were dying — 1 VC Chieu Hoi [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 44]
19 Aug 09:00	a sniper with an Echo squad at AT 858564 fired two rounds at two armed VC on a trail at AT 859557 — 1 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 46]
19 Aug 14:33	acting on information from ARVNs, an Echo platoon apprehended a woman VC carrying two bags of rice at AT 852575 — sent for interrogation [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 46]
20 Aug 08:15	an Echo squad at AT 851557 fired four rounds of 106mm at two enemy at AT 851551 — 2 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 47]
21 Aug 07:45	an Echo platoon received fire at AT 843545 from AT 846544; returned fire and searched — 1 USMC WIA evac, 1 VC WIA POW [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 48]
21 Aug 10:15	an Echo platoon OP at AT 844545 received fire from two VC at AT 842542; returned fire — 1 WIA evac, 1 non-evac [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 48]
21 Aug 10:30	an Echo platoon sweep at AT 843545 apprehended four men about 30 — 4 detainees [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 48]
21 Aug 12:00	a sniper with an Echo squad OP at AT 842546 killed a VC at AT 834543 — 1 VC KIA [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 48]

Date	Activity / Events
21 Aug 13:00	an Echo platoon sweep at AT 853546 took small arms, machine-gun and B-40 fire from about 10 VC/NVA; returned fire; AO called fixed wing; enemy fled NE; swept — 2 WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 48]
21 Aug 17:30	an Echo platoon patrol at AT 835543 took small arms fire from about 10 m; returned fire and assaulted — 1 USMC KIA, 1 WIA evac, 1 non-evac, 1 VC KIA, 1 male detainee WIA, another male detainee [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 48]
21 Aug 20:30	Echo received small arms, machine-gun and B-40 fire at AT 845545 from about 25 VC/NVA at AT 848546; returned fire with small arms, 81mm, artillery (about 140 rounds) and Spooky — 3 WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 48]
23 Aug 07:00	an Echo sweep at AT 858551 apprehended a 59-year-old woman with information on VC in the area — 1 detainee [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 51]
23 Aug 08:15	Echo set off an M-26 with trip wire on sweep at AT 864544 (grenade 3 ft above ground between two bamboo poles) — 3 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 51]
23 Aug 09:20	an Echo platoon found a booby-trapped M-26 in open brush with a vine as trip wire at AT 865543 — destroyed [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 51]
23 Aug 09:30	an Echo platoon set off an M-26 trip-wired with a vine at AT 864543 — 1 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 51]
23 Aug 11:10	an Echo platoon patrol found a trip-wired M-26 at AT 864543 — destroyed [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 51]
23 Aug 14:30	a platoon providing security for Echo during a river crossing received about 700 rounds of small arms and machine-gun fire at AT 855556 from AT 856556 and AT 854555 - 2 USMC KIA, 3 WIA non-evac; small arms, 48 81mm, 30 artillery rounds and air strikes called — unknown [2/5 ComdC Aug 1969, PDF p. 51]

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 Aug 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048118).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for August 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 Aug 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048118)

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, August 1969