E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

OCTOBER 1969 — HILL 65

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for October 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 October 1969
Commander	1stLt R. F. Conti (1–31 October)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. T. Bowen); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Hill 65, Truong An hamlet
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (13 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Hill 65
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company E’s entries for October 1969 place it most often at or near Hill 65 (5 of 6 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Truong An hamlet.

Company E was commanded by 1stLt R. F. Conti (1–31 October); the battalion by LtCol J. T. Bowen (1–31 October).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 15 entries this month (13 combat, 1 personnel, 1 movement).

On 5 October 1969: A wounded Vietnamese civilian was brought into the Echo CP (grid given as AT 831208); he said a VC/NVA came down from the mountains and asked him for rice, and shot him when he refused — 1 civilian medevac.

On 27 October 1969: Echo in day position (grid typed AT 217553) called a fire mission on VC crossing the river north to south (grid typed AT 216954) — Mission check-fired.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Hill 65 operations	October 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 October 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
October day unstated	Memorial service with Echo attending. [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 5]
5 Oct 16:30	A wounded Vietnamese civilian was brought into the Echo CP (grid given as AT 831208); he said a VC/NVA came down from the mountains and asked him for rice, and shot him when he refused — 1 civilian medevac [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 20]
12 Oct	Echo (rest rotation) moved from Hill 65 (AT 878 576) to "Stack Arms" rest program, Da Nang (means not stated). The October narrative: "During the period 2–4 October, Company G participated in the "Stack Arms" program at Danang. They were followed by Hotel Company on 5–8, Foxtrot 8–11 and Echo 12–14 October" (PDF p. 6). The 1st Marine Division's in-country rest center "Stack Arms" was at China Beach (High Mobility and Standdown, 1969, p. 271). Dates are the stay; each company returned at the end of it. The chronology does not say how they travelled. (From the October 1969 chronology, read 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 6; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · High Mobility and Standdown, 1969, PDF p. 286]
19 Oct 18:20	Echo found a surprise firing device with trip wire at AT 860574 — Blown in place [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 34]
24 Oct 13:30	Echo on a sweep at AT 888554 apprehended 4 male VC suspects — 4 detainees sent to rear [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 40]
24 Oct 18:30	Echo making a river crossing at AT 885554 took 20-30 rounds from AT 878555; answered with small arms, 106s, 81mm and air — Unknown [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 40]
24 Oct 21:45	Echo making the river crossing at AT 885554 took 30-40 rounds from AT 878555; answered with small arms, 106s and air — Unknown [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 40]
26 Oct 15:55	Echo at its position (grid typed AT 217553, probably AT 817553) called 81mm and artillery on 7 VC/NVA at AT 818572 — Unknown [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 42]
26 Oct 17:40	Echo squad on patrol at AT 815572 found and detonated a 500-lb bomb — Destroyed [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 42]

Date	Activity / Events
27 Oct 10:30	Squad patrol at AT 818554 found a 105mm dud — Destroyed [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 43]
27 Oct 11:00	Echo in day position (grid typed AT 217553) called a fire mission on VC crossing the river north to south (grid typed AT 216954) — Mission check-fired [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 42]
27 Oct 18:45	Echo setting a night position (grid typed AT 218552) saw tube flashes at AT 792580 and took 6 incoming rounds; 106s and 81s called — Unknown [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 44]
28 Oct 07:00	Platoon patrol at AT 792582 found 60 lb rice, 2 packs, an NVA helmet and personal gear — Items captured [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 45]
30 Oct 10:50	Echo found 400 lb rice at AT 885548 — Rice captured [2/5 ComdC Oct 1969, PDF p. 47]
30 Oct 14:30	Echo detained a woman at AT 882552 who said her husband was VC — 1 detainee [2/5 ComdC Oct 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 Oct 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048120); 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 October 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 Oct 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048120)

— 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, October 1969