E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

NOVEMBER 1969 — HILL 52

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for November 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 November 1969
Commander	1stLt R. F. Conti (1–24 November); 1stLt J. H. Stiehl (25–30 November)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. T. Bowen); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Hill 52, 2/5 field command post in the Arizona, Duc Duc District headquarters, Phu Da (1) and (2)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (38 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Hill 52
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company E’s entries for November 1969 place it most often at or near Hill 52 (10 of 24 entries with a named place or grid), and also at 2/5 field command post in the Arizona, Duc Duc District headquarters, Phu Da (1) and (2).

Company E was commanded by 1stLt R. F. Conti (1–24 November); 1stLt J. H. Stiehl (25–30 November); the battalion by LtCol J. T. Bowen (1–30 November).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 42 entries this month (38 combat, 3 organization, 1 personnel).

On 5 November 1969: Echo in night positions from AT 818552 (typed 218552) to AT 808568 took 10-12 60mm rounds; fired 81s and 106s — Search negative.

On 7 November 1969: Platoon on patrol at AT 799585 saw 5 NVA eating (2 in green utilities, 3 in black); fired small arms and M-79 — 2 NVA KIA; 3 ran up the mountain; a U.S.

On 7 November 1969: Platoon on patrol at AT 799585 took a ChiCom grenade from about 7 NVA; returned fire and trapped 2 NVA in a cave; the cave was fragged — 2 NVA KIA; an NVA pack with canned fish captured.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Hill 52 operations	November 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 November 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
November days unstated	Three memorial services in the field: two for Echo, one for Hotel. [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 5]
3 Nov 10:00	(Late entry) Echo on a sweep at AT 804553 found a 500-lb bomb — Destroyed in place [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 21]
3 Nov 14:30	Setting day positions from AT 818552 (typed 218552) to AT 811541, Echo's S-2 scout learned from villagers where 2 dead NVA lay; villagers took the detail across the river in sampans. The 2 bodies in green utilities had many shrapnel wounds and had been dead about 7 days — 2 weapons (blown apart), a pack and 2 ChiCom grenades found [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 21]
5 Nov 02:00	Echo in night positions from AT 818552 (typed 218552) to AT 808568 took 10-12 60mm rounds; fired 81s and 106s — Search negative [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 26]
5 Nov 10:05	Echo patrol at AT 795583 found an NVA helmet and a pack in caves, with food, candy and personal gear — Turned in to S-2 [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 26]
7 Nov 08:00	Platoon on patrol at AT 799585 saw 5 NVA eating (2 in green utilities, 3 in black); fired small arms and M-79 — 2 NVA KIA; 3 ran up the mountain; a U.S. carbine, 2 NVA packs, ChiCom grenades and an NVA helmet captured [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 29]
7 Nov 09:50	Platoon on patrol at AT 799585 took a ChiCom grenade from about 7 NVA; returned fire and trapped 2 NVA in a cave; the cave was fragged — 2 NVA KIA; an NVA pack with canned fish captured [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 29]
9 Nov 08:30	Squad patrol at AT 816570 found a dud 155mm round — Blown in place [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 33]

Date	Activity / Events
9 Nov 10:00	Squad patrol at AT 805565 found a dud 105mm round — Disposed of in place [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 33]
11 Nov 07:30	Squad on patrol at AT 794585 found 2 82mm mortar rounds — Destroyed [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 36]
11 Nov 09:15	Squad patrol at AT 799587 killed 2 VC/NVA in green uniforms — 2 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 36]
11 Nov 17:00	Echo in day position (grid typed AT 218552) received 2 VC ralliers picked up by ARVN at AT 803545 — 2 Chieu Hoi [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 36]
13 Nov 07:15	Platoon patrol at AT 801571 found a cave with 6 beds — Cave blown up [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 38]
13 Nov 10:15	Squad patrol at AT 787583 found a cave complex with 4 packs, a 60mm round, food and clothing — Items found [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 38]
14 Nov 20:00	Squad ambush at AT 794563 heard movement at AT 793563; 60mm and 81mm missions — Negative results [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 39]
15 Nov 15:10	Squad patrol fired small arms and called 81mm on 3 VC/NVA at AT 816573 from AT 814570 — Negative results [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 40]
16 Nov 19:20	Squad on the way to an ambush site at AT 793557 took 4-500 rounds of small arms fire from AT 793557; returned small arms, 60mm and 81mm — Negative results [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 41]
17 Nov 12:15	Squad patrol found food and medical supplies and apprehended a woman who knew of enemy movements at AT 802544 — 1 detainee [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 43]
18 Nov 14:45	Echo platoon OP found 15 lb rice, a shirt and 5 flare canisters at AT 821576 — Captured [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 44]
18 Nov 23:30	Squad ambush at AT 793560 fired on 12 VC/NVA at AT 792560 — Negative results [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 45]
20 Nov 08:30	Platoon patrol at AT 798574 captured 2 VC/NVA in a cave — 2 POWs [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 48]
20 Nov 14:45	Platoon patrol at AT 806586 fired on 4 VC/NVA — 1 captured with a bag of rice and medical gear [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 48]
20 Nov 15:00	Echo on a sweep called an aerial observer on 6 VC/NVA at AT 879510 — 1 killed [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 48]
21 Nov 17:45	Platoon patrol at AT 815583 found 4 dead VC/NVA, an M-26 grenade, 3 AK magazines, a knife, 6 hammocks and 40cc of vitamin A — Items captured [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 50]
24 Nov 06:45	Platoon ambush took about 60 rounds of small arms fire at AT 847476 — 1 USMC WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 53]
24 Nov 14:10	Platoon patrol took 10 rounds of .30-caliber fire at AT 836470; while checking the area a booby trap went off — 1 USMC KIA; 2 USMC WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 53]
25 Nov 17:05	Platoon patrol at AT 833482 took 15 rounds of small arms fire from AT 833472; returned fire and called an 81mm mission — Negative results [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 16]

Date	Activity / Events
26 Nov 13:40	Platoon patrol set off an M-26 booby trap at AT 849471 — 1 USMC WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 54]
26 Nov 15:15	Platoon patrol at AT 844473 took 20-25 rounds of small arms fire and returned it — 2 VC/NVA KIA; 2 NVA packs, a poncho, 31 lb rice, salt and white shorts captured [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 54]
26 Nov 17:10	Platoon patrol at AT 833468 wounded and captured a VC/NVA — 1 POW [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 54]
27 Nov 02:00	A squad ambush at AT 851481 accidentally killed one of its own Marines and wounded another — 1 USMC KIA, 1 USMC WIA [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 55]
27 Nov 07:05	Squad in a night position at AT 833492 fired at 2 VC/NVA — Negative results [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 55]
27 Nov 11:30	Platoon on patrol at AT 819505 killed a VC/NVA with small arms — 1 killed [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 55]
27 Nov 12:45	Platoon patrol at AT 845510 blew up a tunnel complex — Destroyed [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 55]
27 Nov 14:15	A rallier with an Echo platoon at AT 854504 pointed out 2 SKS rifles; a Vietnamese woman was apprehended — 2 SKS captured; 1 detainee [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 55]
27 Nov 17:10	Platoon on patrol apprehended a Vietnamese man at AT 833468 — 1 detainee [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 55]
28 Nov 10:30	Platoon patrol at AT 845510 destroyed 2 82mm mortar rounds — Destroyed [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 57]
28 Nov 19:45	Platoon listening post at AT 842492 heard movement 300-500 m south; fired small arms, 81mm illumination and 60mm HE — Negative results [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 57]
29 Nov 12:00	Squad patrol at AT 837514 destroyed a dud 155mm round — Destroyed [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 58]
30 Nov 08:20	While burning trash and drying clothes in Echo's day position at AT 845495, an M-26 grenade went off — 6 USMC WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 60]
30 Nov 10:45	Squad on the way to an OP site at AT 840493 set off an M-26 booby trap — 1 USMC WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 60]
30 Nov 19:25	Platoon on the way to an ambush site took 10 rounds of small arms fire; returned fire — 1 USMC WIA evac [2/5 ComdC Nov 1969, PDF p. 60]

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 Nov 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048121).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for November 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 Nov 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048121)

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, November 1969