E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JANUARY 1970 — AN TAM (2)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for January 1970

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 January 1970
Commander	1stLt J. H. Stiehl (1–22 January); 2ndLt J. D. Pereira(?) (23–31 January)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol J. T. Bowen; LtCol F. D. Leder); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	An Tam (2), Phu Nhuan (4), Liberty Bridge, Phu Loc (6) refugee hamlet
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (34 combat entries)
Base of Operations	An Tam (2)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company E’s entries for January 1970 place it most often at or near An Tam (2) (6 of 16 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Phu Nhuan (4), Liberty Bridge, Phu Loc (6) refugee hamlet.

Company E was commanded by 1stLt J. H. Stiehl (1–22 January); 2ndLt J. D. Pereira(?) (23–31 January); the battalion by LtCol J. T. Bowen (1–14 January); LtCol F. D. Leder (15–31 January).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 38 entries this month (34 combat, 2 organization, 1 movement, 1 medical).

On 1 January 1970: Squad on a road sweep at AT 910506 found a booby trap: a 105mm round with a pressure device on the side of the road, not concealed — Destroyed in place.

On 1 January 1970: Platoon going to check an ambush site at AT 910518 took 40 rounds of AK fire from about 20 males seen in a treeline; fired small arms, M-79 and M-60 and searched — 1 Vietnamese male with a small-arms wound found, questioned by S-2 and released.

On 6 January 1970: Checking a bunker at AT 966515, an Echo Marine tripped an M-26 booby trap with a trip wire hidden in brush near the entrance — 1 USMC WIA, medevac completed.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
An Tam (2) operations	January 1970	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 January 1970 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 Jan 08:30	Squad on a road sweep at AT 910506 found a booby trap: a 105mm round with a pressure device on the side of the road, not concealed — Destroyed in place [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 16]
1 Jan 15:45	Platoon going to check an ambush site at AT 910518 took 40 rounds of AK fire from about 20 males seen in a treeline; fired small arms, M-79 and M-60 and searched — 1 Vietnamese male with a small-arms wound found, questioned by S-2 and released [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 14]
4 Jan – 9 Jan	"From 4–9 January the Battalion (-), consisting of Echo and Fox Companies, conducted a Reconnaissance in Force on Go Noi Island"; afterwards "A company was maintained on the Island for the remainder of the month" (PDF p. 6). Mode not stated. (From the January 1970 chronology, read 18 Nov 2026.) [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 6]
6 Jan 12:45	Checking a bunker at AT 966515, an Echo Marine tripped an M-26 booby trap with a trip wire hidden in brush near the entrance — 1 USMC WIA, medevac completed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 26]
8 Jan 09:30	Echo squad on search and destroy at AT 966526 saw 4 VC/NVA traveling northwest; fired small arms — 2 VC/NVA KIA, 1 POW; .45 pistol, cartridge belt, NVA money (12 dollars), South Vietnamese money, assorted clothing captured; follow-up search found more NVA money and MPC [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 30]
8 Jan 10:30	Checking the area at AT 966526, Echo saw 2 VC/NVA in water near a bank; fired small arms — 1 VC/NVA KIA, 1 POW [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 30]
10 Jan 16:00	Echo in night positions at AT 966556 took small-arms fire from about 20-30 AK rifles; returned fire — 1 USMC WIA, medevac completed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 34]
11 Jan 16:35	Echo company position at AT 966556 took about 20 rounds of AK fire from the south; returned small arms and 60mm HE; one 60mm round fell short — 3 USMC non-battle casualties, medevac completed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 36]

Date	Activity / Events
13 Jan 13:00	Echo at AT 966556 found about 60 lb of unhusked rice in large cement containers buried in the ground near the company position — Rice to be sent to An Hoa [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 42]
14 Jan 09:00	Echo platoon on patrol at AT 967558 found 2 well-camouflaged bunkers and 270 rounds of M-16, 80 rounds of AK-47 and 8 rounds of M-60 — Bunkers and rounds destroyed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 44]
15 Jan 06:45	An Echo squad returning from an ambush site at AT 970558 found a bunker reinforced with bamboo — Bunker destroyed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 46]
16 Jan 10:00	An Echo platoon in day positions at AT 936543 found an M-26 booby trap with a trip wire along the side of a trail — Destroyed in place [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 48]
19 Jan 15:20	An Echo squad returning from a day patrol at AT 924545 found a 105mm booby trap with a trip wire across a trail — Blown in place [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 54]
21 Jan 08:10	Setting up a blocking position at AT 899493, two platoons of Echo were moving through high grass when a Marine set off an M-26 grenade with a trip wire in a C-ration can — 2 USMC WIA evac, medevac completed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 60]
21 Jan 14:00	In a blocking position at AT 895492, Echo worked in liaison with Duc Duc District forces and called several 81mm missions and medevacs in their support [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 60]
23 Jan 11:30	Moving at AT 900492, Echo prepped a treeline and saw 10-15 suspected enemy fleeing west; called 81s — Negative [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 68]
23 Jan 15:00	An Echo platoon on patrol at AT 886496 saw 20-25 enemy running northwest; called 81s — Negative [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 68]
23 Jan 16:30	An Echo squad on patrol at AT 904505 was pinned down in a paddy by small arms and automatic weapons fire from what appeared to be 5 VC/NVA with AKs and a machine gun; called an aerial observer and 81s — Negative results [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 68]
24 Jan 08:45	An Echo platoon on patrol at AT 934537 came across a minefield marked by 2 signs 10x15 in, 15 m apart, written "D-DAY-CO-MIN-NUGY-HIEN" — Area checked; patrol continued [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 72]
24 Jan 09:25	On a company move at AT 906504, Echo tripped a 105mm booby trap on the right side of the road — 1 USMC WIA, emergency evac [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 72]
24 Jan 10:10	Follow-up: Echo found 3 wooden stakes 12 in long and 10 ft apart on a trail pointing toward a booby trap [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 72]
24 Jan 11:30	An Echo platoon on patrol at AT 904514 found a 60mm round with a yellow smoke canister overhead, with a trip wire tied to it [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 72]
24 Jan 11:30	(cont.) the 60mm booby trap was hidden in a small bush in high grass — Destroyed in place [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 74]
24 Jan 13:45	On a company move at AT 909574, an Echo platoon saw 4-5 VC/NVA running north; opened fire with small arms — Negative [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 74]
24 Jan 17:50	On a company move at AT 911517, Echo saw a Vietnamese man running east toward a treeline; pursued — Detained for questioning [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 74]
26 Jan 14:40	An Echo squad on patrol at AT 990524 took 20 rounds of AK fire from about 300 m — Area checked, negative [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 80]

Date	Activity / Events
26 Jan 18:50	Moving into an ambush site at AT 992526, an Echo squad took 10 rounds of AK-47 fire; called artillery — Negative results [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 82]
27 Jan 11:05	An Echo platoon at AT 964523 checking a bunker found a Vietnamese man about 35 without an ID card — Sent to the rear for questioning [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 84]
27 Jan 12:40	An Echo platoon on patrol at AT 958532 saw a VC/NVA running northeast; he was warned to stop but kept running; opened fire — 1 VC/NVA KIA; pack, poncho, sunglasses, blue trousers, shorts, T-shirt, towel and toothpaste captured [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 84]
28 Jan 10:45	An Echo squad on patrol at AT 959543 heard movement about 25 m away; the point saw a VC/NVA in gray and opened fire — 1 VC/NVA KIA; pack, poncho, poncho liner, field glasses, 2 AK-47 magazines with 50 rounds, NVA uniform, U.S. cartridge belt, wallet and papers captured [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 88]
28 Jan 14:10	An Echo platoon on patrol at AT 957545 saw a VC/NVA in a blue uniform hiding behind trees in an OP position; fired small arms and pursued — VC/NVA left an SKS, 9 SKS rounds, a U.S. canteen, pliers and food [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 88]
29 Jan 06:15	In a night ambush at AT 970550, an Echo squad saw 3 VC/NVA in green uniforms 15 m away; opened fire with small arms — 2 VC/NVA KIA; a heavy blood trail nearby; an AK-47, a writing tablet, a can of salve, a hammock, an AK-47 magazine with rounds, rags and a grain bag captured [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 92]
30 Jan 08:00	An Echo squad on patrol at AT 953534 saw 6 VC/NVA in green utilities and 12 Vietnamese running west; opened fire on the 6, hitting at least one, who was carried off — Area checked, negative [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 96]
30 Jan 10:30	An Echo squad on patrol at AT 969542 found an M-26 booby trap with a trip wire and fuse on a trail leading to a bunker; checking the bunker, they found a 50-lb bag of rice — Rice brought back to the CP [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 96]
30 Jan 21:30	In an ambush site at AT 972518, an Echo platoon had 3 VC/NVA approach from the north over a bridge; at 10 m the unit fired small arms and threw grenades, knocking 1 into the water, 1 into high grass, and 1 fled to the south — Area to be checked at first light [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 100]
31 Jan 10:30	Follow-up to the 30 Jan 2130 report: at first light Echo checked the area of last contact and found 1 confirmed VC/NVA KIA, the body in the water; also a 9mm pistol with clip and rounds, a U.S. cartridge belt with holster, and a green tarp [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 102]
31 Jan 17:00	Spot report: Echo captured 1 POW [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 102]
31 Jan 20:20	Late entry for 30 Jan: 2 Echo Marines on a Recon OP security squad went on an ambush with the Recon unit; in an ambush at AT 979503 the unit saw 2 VC/NVA in black walking down a trail; opened fire with small arms — 1 VC/NVA KIA; a 7.62 Russian pistol captured [2/5 ComdC Jan 1970, PDF p. 102]

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 Jan 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048123).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for January 1970 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 Jan 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048123)

SECONDARY SOURCES

— Cosmas, Graham A. and Terrence P. Murray. U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970–1971. History and Museums Division, HQMC, 1986.

— “Echo Company.” Hotel 2/5 Combat Marines. https://hotel25vv.com