E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

MAY 1970 — AN HOA COMBAT BASE

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for May 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 May 1970
Commander	1stLt C. E. Schaffer (1–31 May)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol F. D. Leder); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (68 combat entries)
Base of Operations	An Hoa Combat Base
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

Company E’s entries for May 1970 place it most often at or near An Hoa Combat Base (1 of 1 entries with a named place or grid).

Company E was commanded by 1stLt C. E. Schaffer (1–31 May); the battalion by LtCol F. D. Leder (1–31 May).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 79 entries this month (68 combat, 6 medical, 3 movement, 2 organization).

On 2 May 1970: Echo's E4 received 2 rifle grenades — 3 WIA evac.

On 2 May 1970: Echo's E3B tripped a ChiCom booby trap — 1 USMC WIA non-evac.

On 3 May 1970: Echo with tanks spotted 25-30 VC/NVA and fired small arms.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
An Hoa Combat Base operations	May 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 May 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 May 07:50	Echo's E2B found 1,300 lb of foodstuff [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 15]
1 May 10:30	Echo's E2C found 1 dead VC/NVA [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 15]
1 May 11:20	Echo's E3B spotted 7 VC/NVA and called in a mission [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 15]
1 May 14:30	Echo's E3B spotted 2 VC/NVA and called a mission [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 15]
1 May 15:45	Echo's E3A spotted 10 VC/NVA and called in a mission [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 15]
1 May 16:20	Echo CP received 2 children who turned in an ID [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 15]
1 May 22:10	Echo's E2 received 1 lob bomb [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 17]
2 May 01:40	Echo's E4 received 2 rifle grenades — 3 WIA evac [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 17]
2 May 17:45	Echo's E3B tripped a ChiCom booby trap — 1 USMC WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 17]
3 May 06:00	Echo's E3A detained 1 male aged 12-14 [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 19]
3 May 10:20	Echo with tanks spotted 25-30 VC/NVA and fired small arms [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 19]
3 May 10:20	Follow-up: Echo with tanks killed 4 VC/NVA [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 19]
3 May 11:45	Echo received 1 priority non-battle evac [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 19]
3 May 11:55	Echo with tanks received small arms from 12 VC [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 19]
4 May 14:20	Echo's E3A spotted 3 VC/NVA and killed 1 [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 23]
4 May 14:30	Echo's E2 spotted 8 VC/NVA and killed 2 [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 23]
4 May 19:55	Echo's E3 spotted 4 VC/NVA and called in a mission [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 23]
5 May 10:30	Echo's E2 with tanks spotted 2-30 VC/NVA, killed 5 [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 25]

Date	Activity / Events
5 May 14:30	Echo's E2 with tanks detained 3 VC/NVA and spotted 7 [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 25]
5 May 15:35	Echo's E2 with tanks spotted 2 VC/NVA and fired small arms [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 25]
5 May 15:35	Echo's E2 follow-up: found 1 notebook [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 25]
6 May 13:55	Echo's E2C spotted 5 VC/NVA and called in a mission [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 27]
6 May 16:20	Echo's E2C found and destroyed 2 81mm illumination booby traps [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 27]
7 May 08:00	Echo with tanks killed 1 VC/NVA [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 29]
7 May 09:30	Follow-up: Echo with tanks found radio parts [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 29]
7 May 09:45	Echo's E2 CP tripped an M-26 booby trap — 1 USMC WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 29]
7 May 18:00	Phu Loc (6) received 1 Hoi Chanh [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 29]
7 May 21:55	Echo's E2C received 2 incoming rounds [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 29]
8 May 05:30	Echo's E3 spotted 10 VC/NVA and fired small arms [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 31]
8 May 07:00	Echo's E2 spotted 12 VC/NVA and called in a mission [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 31]
8 May 23:50	Echo CP received 3 incoming rounds (7 May) [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 31]
9 May 07:25	Echo's E3 received small-arms fire — 1 USMC WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 33]
9 May 07:25	Echo's E3 found and destroyed 8 bunkers [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 33]
9 May 09:15	Echo's E2 CP had one casualty from a trip flare (non-battle) [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 33]
9 May 11:10	Echo's E3 called 81mm prep fire — 2 secondary explosions [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 33]
9 May 12:55	Echo's E3 spotted 3 VC/NVA and called in a mission [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 33]
10 May 12:30	Echo's E2 found 4 61mm HE rounds — Blown in place [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 35]
10 May 18:20	Notified Duc Duc of Echo's E1C ambush [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 35]
10 May 20:00	Echo received a 250-lb lob bomb [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 35]
10 May 20:30	Echo's E2 received a lob bomb and white phosphorus [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 35]
11 May 17:45	Echo's E2C received enemy fire and fired small arms [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 37]

Date	Activity / Events
12 May 12:15	Echo's E1 found and destroyed 2 booby traps [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 39]
13 May 06:05	Echo's E3 detained 1 male with no ID card [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 41]
13 May 06:20	Echo's E2 spotted 2 VC/NVA and fired small arms [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 41]
14 May 09:30	Echo had one man bitten by a snake [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 43]
14 May 16:55	Echo's E3C spotted 1 Vietnamese male running — Detained [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 43]
14 May 23:15	Phu Loc (6) received 3 incoming lob bombs [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 43]
15 May 18:05	Echo's E3A killed 1 VC/NVA [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 45]
16 May 06:00	Echo's E3 killed 1 VC/NVA [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 47]
17 May 07:00	Late entry: Echo killed 1 VC/NVA [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 49]
17 May 20:20	Echo killed 1 VC/NVA with documents [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 49]
17 May 22:10	Echo CP received small-arms fire and returned fire [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 49]
17 May	On 17 May 1970 2/5 (-), with the battalion command post, Hotel and Echo companies and a Popular Force platoon from Duc Duc, made a heliborne cordon and search of Le Nam (2), acting on intelligence from prisoners taken on 13 May. Minutes after the landing the cordon was closed and surprise achieved; a methodical search routed the enemy from spider holes and tunnel complexes. Results: 6 VC/NVA killed, 8 prisoners and 21 detainees; captured were 3 AK-47s, SKS rifles, an M-16, 2 B-40 rocket sites, 2 ChiCom grenades, a ChiCom K-63 radio, documents and medical gear. There were no Marine casualties despite intense enemy fire during the landings. (Narrative summary, May 1970 chronology, PDF p. 7.) [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 7]
18 May 15:00	Echo found and destroyed 7 booby traps [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 53]
19 May 12:25	Echo and Golf with tanks captured 5 POWs and an AK-47 [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 55]
19 May 14:00	Follow-up: Echo and Golf captured 3 POWs [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 55]
20 May 08:30	Echo's E1B spotted 1 VC/NVA and fired small arms [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 57]
20 May 11:15	Echo's E1B CP killed 2 VC/NVA [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 57]
20 May 11:15	Follow-up: Echo's E1B detained 1 with gear and documents [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 57]

Date	Activity / Events
21 May 09:30	Echo CP tripped a booby trap but was not hurt [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 59]
21 May 10:05	Echo's E1 and E2 detained 3, of which 1 was medevaced [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 59]
21 May 20:15	Echo CP heard an unknown explosion [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 59]
22 May 07:35	Echo move: found and destroyed a booby trap and a mine [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 61]
22 May 09:25	First element of Echo to ITT [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 61]
22 May 17:20	Echo's E2C killed 4 VC/NVA by artillery [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 61]
23 May 07:40	Echo's E3 tripped a booby trap — 2 WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 63]
23 May 11:30	Echo found an SKS rifle [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 63]
24 May 16:50	Echo back in An Hoa [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 63]
26 May 13:20	Scuba divers checked, negative results [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 69]
27 May 10:30	Echo's E2B found and destroyed an 81mm illumination booby trap [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 71]
28 May 08:15	Echo's E3 tripped an M-26 booby trap — 1 WIA evac, 1 WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 73]
28 May 09:50	Echo's E1 found and destroyed a 105mm booby trap [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 73]
29 May 08:30	Echo's E1 received sniper fire [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 75]
30 May – 31 May	30–31 May May: Echo began reconnaissance in force near Football Island and Hotel moved to Go Noi Island. (From the monthly “by Company” summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 6]
31 May 09:55	Echo's E1 tripped an M-26 booby trap — 2 WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 79]
31 May 12:50	Echo's E1 had 1 non-battle from heat exhaustion [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 79]
31 May 15:06	Echo's E1 set off a 60mm booby trap — 1 WIA non-evac [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 79]
31 May 16:25	Echo's E1 destroyed a trip wire with a secondary explosion of a 60mm booby trap [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 79]
31 May 16:30	Echo's E1 received 3 sniper rounds and returned fire [2/5 ComdC May 1970, PDF p. 79]

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 May 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048127).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for May 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 May 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048127)

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

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, May 1970