E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

NOVEMBER 1970 — BALDY COMBAT BASE (LZ BALDY)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for November 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	1–30 November 1970
Commander	Capt D. O. Ford (1–30 November)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy)
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (22 combat entries)
Base of Operations	Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy)
Corps Area	I Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam

2. Commander's Summary

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

Company E was commanded by Capt D. O. Ford (1–30 November); the battalion by LtCol T. M. Hamlin (1–30 November).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 25 entries this month (22 combat, 2 movement, 1 medical).

On 4 November 1970: Echo's E-1 at grid 979393 made contact with two VC/NVA; contact broken due to darkness.

On 11 November 1970: One USMC from Echo's E2B at grid 973375 stepped on a dud 60mm booby trap.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) operations	November 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 November 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 Nov 16:05	Echo's E2 was inserted at grid 045429; F3 extracted at the same grid [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 20]
2 Nov 14:50	Echo's E-2 at grid 977388 found a large cave complex, searched with negative results [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 21]
2 Nov 16:30	Echo's E-2 at grid 979383 found 2 caves — Negative [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 21]
3 Nov 10:05	Echo's E-3 at grid 979386 found a dud 105 round [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 22]
4 Nov 16:15	Echo's E-1 at grid 979393 made contact with two VC/NVA; contact broken due to darkness [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 23]
6 Nov 12:30	Echo's E3A found a base camp complete with kitchen and 782 gear [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 26]
8 Nov 10:20	Echo's E1A at grid 982380 found one 81mm round [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 28]
11 Nov 16:00	One USMC from Echo's E2B at grid 973375 stepped on a dud 60mm booby trap [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 31]
12 Nov 09:30	Echo's E1B at grid 978378 located a cave — Negative [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 32]
12 Nov 10:45	Echo's E1B at grid 978376 located a cave complex and grass hootch with documents; destroyed [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 32]
12 Nov 12:45	Echo's E2C at grid 977376 located a cave complex destroyed by air strike; clothing, medical gear and 782 gear [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 32]
15 Nov	Echo went to Baldy to rest on 15 November and Hotel on 19 November. (From the monthly "by Company" summary, written from the chronology page images.) [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 12]
20 Nov 10:00	Echo's E1B at grid 983390 located one 8x8 cave — Negative [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 41]
20 Nov 11:00	Echo with a scout dog at grid 977393 located a cave destroyed by artillery [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 41]

Date	Activity / Events
20 Nov 13:00	Echo's E2A at grid 984386 located 7 caves with racks, destroyed [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 41]
22 Nov 13:00	Echo's E2C at grid 986386 located a speed trail ending at two caves — Negative [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 43]
22 Nov 14:00	Echo's E3 at grid 073389 observed about 3 VC/NVA with rifles and green utilities; small arms — Negative [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 43]
23 Nov 13:00	Echo's E1B at grid 983397 observed 4 VC/NVA; 81 mission — Negative [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 45]
23 Nov 13:30	Echo's E2A at grid 986386 and E3A at 976387 located caves — Negative [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 45]
24 Nov 13:00	Echo's E3A at grid 983398 located a camp area and cave with assorted demolitions, 782 gear, personal clothing and 200 lb of rice [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 46]
25 Nov 16:00	Echo's E1 at grid 979389 located a cave complex with 782 gear and an NVA uniform [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 47]
26 Nov 10:00	Echo's E1A at grid 981387 and E3A at 972396 located caves — Negative [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 48]
27 Nov 14:00	One medevac from Echo [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 49]
28 Nov 10:00	Echo's E2C at grid 986397 located CS gas in a 50-gal drum, about 80 lb remaining [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, PDF p. 50]
29 Nov 10:00	Echo's E2 located a cave complex — Negative [2/5 ComdC Nov 1970, 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 Nov 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049003).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for November 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 Nov 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049003)

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, November 1970