E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

DECEMBER 1970 — BALDY COMBAT BASE (LZ BALDY)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for December 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 December 1970
Commander	Capt D. O. Ford (1–31 December)
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 (31 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 December 1970 place it most often at or near Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) (4 of 4 entries with a named place or grid).

Company E was commanded by Capt D. O. Ford (1–31 December); the battalion by LtCol T. M. Hamlin (1–31 December).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 38 entries this month (31 combat, 4 movement, 2 organization, 1 medical).

On 11 December 1970: Echo's E-2 lifted off as Sparrowhawk; on landing at grid 986352 the aircraft received small-arms fire — 1 USMC minor WIA.

On 11 December 1970: Echo's E-2 killed one VC/NVA.

On 16 December 1970: One USMC of Echo's E1B tripped a booby trap, losing one foot.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) operations	December 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 December 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 Dec 14:00	Echo's E2A at grid 987390 found one 155mm round, blown in place [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 20]
1 Dec 15:00	Echo's E3B at grid 019407 located two hootches with assorted 782 gear and documents [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 20]
2 Dec 12:00	Echo's E1B at grid 980380 located a small cave — Negative [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 20]
3 Dec 13:00	Echo's E2B at grid 975387 located a tunnel complex — Negative [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 21]
4 Dec 10:00	Echo's E2A at grid 978389 located one cave — Negative [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 21]
4 Dec 11:00	Echo's E3C at grid 980399 located a large cave — Negative [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 21]
6 Dec 09:30	3/5 chopped OPCON of Echo to 2/5; Echo returned to Baldy Combat Base [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 22]
11 Dec 11:03	Echo's E-2 lifted off as Sparrowhawk; on landing at grid 986352 the aircraft received small-arms fire — 1 USMC minor WIA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 25]
11 Dec 12:00	Echo's E-2 killed one VC/NVA [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 25]
11 Dec 14:00	Echo's E-2 apprehended four female VC/NVA suspects [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 25]
11 Dec 16:45	Echo Company returned to Baldy Combat Base [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 25]
12 Dec 13:00	At grid 020413 Echo lifted from Baldy at 1300 and inserted at grid 963402 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 25]
12 Dec 13:00	Echo moved from Last reported position (AT 986 352) to Reported position (BT 020 413) by helicopter. At grid 020413 Echo lifted from Baldy at 1300 and inserted at grid 963402. Starting point is Echo's last reported position (11 Dec 1103), not stated in this

Date	Activity / Events
	entry. [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 25; U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1, PDF p. 461]
12 Dec 16:10	Echo chopped OPCON to 1/5 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 25]
13 Dec 14:00	Echo's E-1 located a large ordnance cache: ammo, ordnance, eight weapons, 782 gear, food and medical supplies [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 26]
14 Dec 13:00	Echo's E2 located a base camp with numerous amounts of ammo and ordnance at grid 967398 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 26]
14 Dec 14:00	Echo's E1B located a base camp of 6 bamboo huts [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 26]
15 Dec 11:00	Echo's E-3 located 7 caves and 3 bunkers containing 2 M-16s, 782 gear, clothing and ordnance at grid 968397 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 27]
16 Dec 12:00	One USMC of Echo's E1B tripped a booby trap, losing one foot [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 27]
18 Dec 12:00	Echo's E1B found a can of .50-cal ammo [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 28]
19 Dec 13:00	Echo's E3A located a cave containing 782 gear and ordnance, 300 AK rounds and a 9mm submachine gun [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 29]
19 Dec 14:00	Echo found one VC/NVA KIA in a stream at grid 964403 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 29]
20 Dec 10:00	Echo's E-3 found one ChiCom and a 105 round at grid 961400 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 29]
21 Dec 10:00	Echo's E1B found one booby trap made of a C-ration can at grid 966394, destroyed in place [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 30]
21 Dec 14:00	Echo's E1D found one 81mm mortar booby trap, destroyed in place [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 30]
21 Dec 15:00	Echo's E3 located a bunker with assorted ammo and ordnance at grid 963400 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 30]
21 Dec 17:00	Echo's E4 found a base camp at grid 971404 with two bodies and a small amount of 782 gear and ordnance [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 30]
23 Dec 11:00	Echo's E2A found one 81mm round at grid 962409, not a booby trap [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 31]
24 Dec 10:40	Echo's E3C at grid 967398 located seven toe poppers on a trail and blew them in place [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 32]
24 Dec 10:45	Echo's E2B at grid 967405 located a small cave tunnel complex, seeded and blown with 1.5 lb of CS and C-4 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 32]
24 Dec 12:45	Echo's E4 at grid 969404 located a base camp with one- and two-story rooms 12x10 feet and a tunnel 10x3x3 feet; it could house 30 people; two AK magazines, five ChiCom grenades, one Russian-made submachine gun and two NVA E-tools [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 32]
26 Dec 12:15	Echo's E4 at grid 969408 located a bunker complex containing a dead VC/NVA and one AK-47 with a loaded magazine [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 33]

Date	Activity / Events
26 Dec 12:50	Echo's E2 at grid 964406 located a speed trail and followed it — Negative [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 33]
26 Dec 16:40	Echo's E3D had one priority medevac at grid 963400 with a cut right hand [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 33]
27 Dec 11:45	Echo's E3C at grid 960400 located six caves — Negative [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 33]
28 Dec 13:00	Echo's E4 found a metal box with three 82mm rounds and one 82mm fuse [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 34]
29 Dec 13:00	Echo's E3 found one toe-popper booby trap and destroyed it [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 35]
29 Dec 14:00	Echo's E3 found one M-1 carbine at grid 965396 [2/5 ComdC Dec 1970, PDF p. 35]

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 Dec 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049004); U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970–1971.

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for December 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 Dec 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049004)
- U.S. Marines in Vietnam · Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970–1971

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, December 1970