E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

JANUARY 1971 — BALDY COMBAT BASE (LZ BALDY)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for January 1971

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 1971
Commander	Capt D. O. Ford (1–10 January); 1stLt D. P. Russell (10–31 January)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy), Hill 510, Phu Thanh village
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (10 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 January 1971 place it most often at or near Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) (4 of 9 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Hill 510, Phu Thanh village.

Company E was commanded by Capt D. O. Ford (1–10 January); 1stLt D. P. Russell (10–31 January); the battalion by LtCol T. M. Hamlin (1–31 January).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 20 entries this month (10 combat, 9 movement, 1 logistics).

On 8 January 1971: Echo's 3rd Platoon inserted as QRF on a Golf CUPP sighting of 10 VC/NVA at BT 092450; a stay-behind ambush — 2 VC/NVA KIA, documents and equipment captured.

On 8 January 1971: Echo's 2nd Platoon inserted as QRF near AT 044418 for a recon team in contact; aircraft took fire but were not hit; 300 lb rice destroyed.

On 13 January 1971: Echo's 2nd Platoon (-) extracted; a stay-behind ambush — Negative.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Operation Imperial Lake	1 Sep 1970 – 7 May 1971	Echo inserted into the western Que Sons at AT 956384 and AT 945386 to continue Imperial Lake

4. Chronology of Company E Activities

Compiled from the checked transcriptions of the 2/5 command chronology for January 1971 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
2 Jan	Echo discovered one dead body at AT 958373 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 16]
3 Jan	Echo relieved in place by Foxtrot and returned to Baldy Combat Base for rehabilitation and the Quick Reaction Force mission [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 16]
6 Jan 15:30	Echo's 2nd Platoon inserted as Quick Reaction Force on Golf CUPP intelligence of 8-10 VCI at BT 108413 — Negative [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 16]
8 Jan 09:25	Echo's 3rd Platoon inserted as QRF on a Golf CUPP sighting of 10 VC/NVA at BT 092450; a stay-behind ambush — 2 VC/NVA KIA, documents and equipment captured [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 17]
8 Jan 12:45	Echo's 2nd Platoon inserted as QRF near AT 044418 for a recon team in contact; aircraft took fire but were not hit; 300 lb rice destroyed [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 17]
10 Jan 08:00	Echo's 1st Platoon inserted near BT 080475 to block for a Golf CUPP unit [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 17]
11 Jan	Echo's 1st Platoon extracted to Baldy Combat Base [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 18]
12 Jan 13:05	Echo's 2nd Platoon left Baldy for Category II operations in Area I [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 18]
13 Jan 09:45	Echo's 1st Platoon inserted as QRF on an intelligence target at AT 044415 — Negative [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 18]
13 Jan 14:25	Echo's 3rd Platoon inserted as QRF on a recon sighting near AT 922435; found an AK-47 and ordnance [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 18]
13 Jan 17:20	Echo's 2nd Platoon (-) extracted; a stay-behind ambush — Negative [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 18]
14 Jan	Echo's 1st Platoon as QRF near BT 100451 captured 300 lb of rice [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 18]
15 Jan 14:30	Echo inserted into the western Que Sons at AT 956384 and AT 945386 to continue Imperial Lake [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 19]

Date	Activity / Events
15 Jan 14:30	Echo moved from Last reported position (BT 100 451) to Reported position (AT 945 386) by helicopter. Echo inserted into the western Que Sons at AT 956384 and AT 945386 to continue Imperial Lake. Starting point is Echo's last reported position (14 Jan ----), not stated in this entry. [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 19]
16 Jan	Echo's 2nd Platoon found a dead body at AT 952385 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 19]
22 Jan	Echo's 3rd Platoon found an SKS, an operating table and 50 lb salt at AT 965382 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 20]
23 Jan	Echo's 3rd Platoon fired on 2 VC/NVA with AK-47s at AT 965378; blood trails led to a base camp at AT 965374 with an operating table, rice, salt and a body [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 20]
26 Jan	Echo's 2nd Platoon found an AK-47, an SKS and medical equipment in a base camp at AT 966388 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 21]
30 Jan	Echo's 3rd Platoon extracted from the Que Sons to Baldy [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 22]
31 Jan 11:00	Echo's 3rd Platoon reinserted for Imperial Lake near AT 933402 [2/5 ComdC Jan 1971, PDF p. 22]

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 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049005).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for January 1971 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 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049005)

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, January 1971