E COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

FEBRUARY 1971 — BALDY COMBAT BASE (LZ BALDY)

Compiled from the 2/5 Command Chronology for February 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	1–28 February 1971
Commander	1stLt D. P. Russell (1–12 February); 1stLt J. W. Wilbur (13–28 February)
Higher HQ	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol T. M. Hamlin); 5th Marines; 1st Marine Division
Area of Operations	Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy), Ba Ren Bridge, Hill 510
Combat Posture	Combat operations, patrols and security (8 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 February 1971 place it most often at or near Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) (2 of 4 entries with a named place or grid), and also at Ba Ren Bridge, Hill 510.

Company E was commanded by 1stLt D. P. Russell (1–12 February); 1stLt J. W. Wilbur (13–28 February); the battalion by LtCol T. M. Hamlin (1–28 February).

The battalion’s command chronology names Company E in 11 entries this month (8 combat, 2 movement, 1 organization).

On 1 February 1971: Echo's 2nd Platoon leaving its ambush site at BT 098508 fired on movement — 1 VC/NVA KIA.

On 21 February 1971: Echo as QRF at AT 895361 — 1 VC/NVA KIA, 1 POW, 2,050 lb rice and 315 lb potatoes.

On 22 February 1971: Echo's 1st Platoon as Green Anvil at BT 134387 — 1 VC/NVA nurse KIA, 1 POW.

3. Operations Overview

Operation / Activity	Dates	Description
Baldy Combat Base (LZ Baldy) operations	February 1971	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 February 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
1 Feb	Echo's 2nd Platoon leaving its ambush site at BT 098508 fired on movement — 1 VC/NVA KIA [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 15]
2 Feb	Echo's 3rd Platoon blew in place a 500-lb bomb at AT 964376 [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 15]
13 Feb	Echo's 2nd Platoon blew in place a 500-lb bomb at AT 949375 [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 12]
16 Feb	Echo's 1st Platoon extracted to Baldy for the QRF mission; as QRF at BT 065405 — Negative [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 18]
18 Feb	Echo (-) extracted to Baldy for rehabilitation [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 18]
19 Feb	Echo's 1st and 2nd Platoons as QRF at BT 084448 — Negative [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 18]
21 Feb	Echo as QRF at AT 895361 — 1 VC/NVA KIA, 1 POW, 2,050 lb rice and 315 lb potatoes [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 18]
22 Feb 09:40	Echo's 2nd Platoon relieved the H&S security platoon on Hill 510 and went to the 11th Marines [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 19]
22 Feb	Echo's 1st Platoon as Green Anvil at BT 134387 — 1 VC/NVA nurse KIA, 1 POW [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 19]
24 Feb	Echo's 1st Platoon as Green Anvil at BT 133507 — 8 VC/NVA KBA, 7 KIA, 2 POWs, an AK-47, a K-54 and 10 lb of documents (the month's most significant contact) [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 19]
25 Feb	Echo's 1st and 3rd Platoons as QRF at BT 133507 — ordnance, equipment and documents [2/5 ComdC Feb-Dec 1971, PDF p. 19]

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 Feb-Dec 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049006).

2. HOW IT WAS COMPILED. Every entry in the research database whose units name Company E (Echo) for February 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 Feb-Dec 1971 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201049006)

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, February 1971