OPERATION BEAVER CAGE

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 28 April – 12 May 1967

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Beaver Cage
Dates of Operation	28 April – 12 May 1967
Mission Purpose / Objective	Special Landing Force Alpha's part in Operation Union (Union I) in the Que Son Basin, against North Vietnamese 2d Division units.
Locations / Cities	Que Son Basin; Quang Tin / Quang Nam Provinces
TAOR	Que Son Basin; Quang Tin / Quang Nam Provinces
UTM Coordinates	Not recorded.
USMC Units Involved	SLF Alpha (Col James A. Gallo Jr.): BLT 1/3 (LtCol Peter A. Wickwire) and HMM-263, in coordination with the 5th Marines (1/5 and 3/5). Telfer states that during Union the 2/5 guarded the An Hoa industrial complex under 1st Marine Division control.
2/5 Companies Participated	None – no 2/5 company took part in this operation.
Mission Results	BLT 1/3 fought 16 days of continuous operations; in one day-long action Companies B and C killed 86 enemy. SLF Alpha units re-embarked on 12 May.
USMC KIA	55 (BLT 1/3).
USMC Wounded	151 (BLT 1/3).
Enemy KIA	181 VC (previously recorded figure)
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CORRECTION: H COMPANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE. This file previously said H/2/5 was involved in "coordinated regimental operations." It was not. Telfer's official history states that during Operation Union "the 2d Battalion [5th Marines] guarded the industrial complex at An Hoa." The 2/5 Command Chronologies for April and May 1967 place Hotel Company at the Nong Son outpost for both months. The 55 killed and 151 wounded were BLT 1/3's casualties. 2/5 COMPANIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART: Company E, Company F, Company G, Company H, H&S Company.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronologies, April and May 1967 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive items 1201048083 and 1201048086); Gary L. Telfer, Lane Rogers and V. Keith Fleming Jr., U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese, 1967 (HQMC, 1984), chs. 5 and 11 (Beaver Cage/Union I). Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).