OPERATION BLACKBOARD

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 29 March – September 1970

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Blackboard
Dates of Operation	Put into effect at 2006 on 29 March 1970; practiced on the night of 3 June 1970; mentioned again in September 1970. “Blackboard” was a code word, not a named offensive operation.
Mission Purpose / Objective	Emergency reinforcement of Liberty Bridge, practiced in anticipation of enemy action against the bridge during high-threat periods.
Locations / Cities	Liberty Bridge on the Song Thu Bon, Quang Nam Province.
TAOR	2/5 Liberty Bridge – An Hoa area, Quang Nam Province, I Corps.
UTM Coordinates	Liberty Bridge, AT 922533 (2/5 Command Chronology, January 1970, PDF p. 3); the Blackboard entries give no grid.
USMC Units Involved	2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol F. D. Leder), with artillery and air support.
2/5 Companies Participated	Not named in the entries; the companies holding and reinforcing Liberty Bridge.
Mission Results	On 29 March 1970 the Blackboard operation went into effect at 2006 (292006H). On the night of 3 June, “in anticipation of possible enemy action directed at Liberty Bridge during the early June high threat period, practice emergency reinforcement, code word ‘Blackboard’, was smoothly conducted at Liberty Bridge utilizing artillery and air support”; the journal records it “without incident.”
USMC KIA	None recorded.
USMC Wounded	None recorded.
Enemy KIA	None recorded.
Enemy Wounded	None recorded.

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

COMPILED 20 NOVEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. This file exists because the 2/5 history text names the Blackboard operation and the operations list had no file for it. Blackboard was the code word for the emergency reinforcement of Liberty Bridge rather than an operation against the enemy.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronology, March 1970, S-3 journal, 29 March (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048125, PDF p. 80); June 1970, Part II narrative and S-3 journal, 3 June (item 1201048128, PDF pp. 6, 18); September 1970 summary, 1 September (item 1201049001, PDF p. 24). Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).