OPERATION HASTINGS (LAM SON 289)

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 15 July – 3 August 1966

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Hastings (Lam Son 289)
Dates of Operation	15 July – 3 August 1966
Mission Purpose / Objective	Counter the North Vietnamese 324B Division's crossing of the DMZ into northern Quang Tri Province. Task Force Delta (BGen Lowell E. English) was formed to find and destroy the division.
Locations / Cities	Quang Tri Province, south of the DMZ; Ngan River valley; Rockpile area; Dong Ha vicinity
TAOR	Northern I Corps, Quang Tri Province
UTM Coordinates	Not recorded.
USMC Units Involved	Task Force Delta battalions: 2/4, 2/1, 3/4, 3/5 (after Deckhouse II), 2/9, 1/3 and 1/1, with the ARVN 1st Division and airborne task force.
2/5 Companies Participated	None – no 2/5 company took part in this operation.
Mission Results	The North Vietnamese 324B Division was badly hurt and pushed back across the DMZ. The operation confirmed large-scale North Vietnamese infiltration and was followed by Operation Prairie.
USMC KIA	Whole operation: 126 (all USMC forces; previously recorded figure).
USMC Wounded	Whole operation: 448 (all USMC forces; previously recorded figure).
Enemy KIA	Approximately 700+ (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 listed "elements of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines in supporting roles" and said H/2/5 "supported in operational area." Both are wrong. Shulimson's official account of Hastings names 2/4, 2/1, 3/4, 3/5, 2/9, 1/3 and 1/1, and never 2/5; 3/5 was the only 5th Marines battalion engaged. The 2/5 Command Chronology for July 1966 places Hotel Company on Hill 35 (BT 435079) in the Chu Lai TAOR, 250 miles south, for the whole month. 2/5's only DMZ service was in Operation Prairie, from 30 September 1966. 2/5 COMPANIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART: Company E, Company F, Company G, Company H, H&S Company. 2/5 is not among the Task Force Delta battalions. 2/5 is not among them.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronology, July 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048071); Jack Shulimson, U.S. Marines in Vietnam: An Expanding War, 1966 (HQMC, 1982). Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).