OPERATION INCINERATOR

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 1 June 1966

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Incinerator
Dates of Operation	1 June 1966; the 2/5 chronology records the operation ending at 1720 (011720H).
Mission Purpose / Objective	Cordon and search: 2/5 established blocking positions on three sides of the hamlets of Khuong Nhon (1) and (2) while a Regional Forces company swept through them.
Locations / Cities	Khuong Nhon (1) and (2) and Tien Xuan (1) hamlets, along the Song Trau, Chu Lai TAOR.
TAOR	Chu Lai TAOR, south-western part (2/5's area from Hill 69 west to the Song Trau).
UTM Coordinates	Golf platoon blocking position BT 422093; enemy fire from BT 416092; Sparrow Hawk landing zone BT 412089; Echo landing zone BT 421099.
USMC Units Involved	2nd Battalion (-), 5th Marines (LtCol Walter Moore) with its command group, still under the operational control of the 1st Marines until 3 June 1966; Regional Forces Company 744 swept the hamlets. Supported by tanks, artillery, mortars, flame tanks, an Ontos and UH-1E gunships.
2/5 Companies Participated	Company E (Capt J. L. Cooper) and Company G (1stLt L. Boone III) blocked; a reinforced platoon of Company F (1stLt G. S. Burgett) was heli-lifted in as the Sparrow Hawk reaction force. The record does not name Company H or H&S Company.
Mission Results	The Regional Forces company swept the hamlets without contact. A Golf platoon moving to its blocking position took about 50 rounds of automatic-weapons fire from the north bank of the Song Trau; later a Golf element took heavy fire from the west, gunships were called in and a Sparrow Hawk platoon of Company F was lifted near Tien Xuan (1), where a patrol fired on six uniformed VC. Three VC were killed by an air strike on the high ground at BT 416093; Company E wounded two more (possible) and detained a man and a woman who had warned the VC. The operation swept north-east along both sides of the Song Trau and ended at 1720.
USMC KIA	1 died of wounds (the Company G Marine wounded at 0730, as recorded in the 2/5 history events for 1 June 1966).
USMC Wounded	1 recorded (the Marine above).
Enemy KIA	3 VC killed by air.
Enemy Wounded	2 possible.

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

COMPILED 20 NOVEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. This file exists because the 2/5 history text names Operation Incinerator and the operations list had no file for it. Incinerator was a one-day battalion cordon and search in the Chu Lai TAOR, two days before 2/5 came under the 5th Marines. The chronology's entries for the day are partly hard to read; figures are as legible on the page.

Primary source: 2/5 Command Chronology, June 1966, Part I, chronological sequence of events, 1 June 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048070, PDF pp. 10–11). Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).