# OPERATION INDEPENDENCE

## 2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 1–9 February 1967

| FIELD | DETAIL |
|---|---|
| **Operation Name** | Operation Independence |
| **Dates of Operation** | 010000H – 090900H February 1967 |
| **Mission Purpose / Objective** | 9th Marines-controlled search and destroy operation to seal off and destroy enemy forces in the part of the 2/5 TAOR north of the Song Thu Bon. |
| **Locations / Cities** | Duc Duc and Dai Loc districts, Quang Nam Province. The area was bounded north by the Song Vu Gia, east by the Song Thu Bon, and west by the 1st Marine Division TAOR boundary. Map sheets 6540 I and 6640 III–IV. |
| **TAOR** | 2/5 TAOR north of the Song Thu Bon; Quang Nam Province |
| **UTM Coordinates** | 2/5 night position, 1 Feb: AT 820482. Company H blocking position under fire, 6 Feb: AT 905525. Company H 3d Platoon contact, 8 Feb: AT 800509. |
| **USMC Units Involved** | Controlling HQ: 9th Marines. 2nd Battalion (-)(Rein), 5th Marines (LtCol M.C. Jackson Jr.): Company E (Rein), Company F (-), Company H (-), Company A (Rein) 1/1, Company B (Rein) 1/1. 2/4 landed to the north and 1/5 blocked on the east bank. |
| **2/5 Companies Participated** | Company E; Company F; Company H. Company E (Rein), Company F (-) and Company H (-) under LtCol M.C. Jackson Jr. |
| **Mission Results** | 2/5 was inserted by helicopter south of the 2/4 landing zone and drove the enemy north into other Marine units, while CIDG blocked the west and 1/5 and the river blocked the east. Company H was not originally scheduled to take part. It was given the mission of blocking along the east bank of the Song Thu Bon with Company F (-), and from 2 February held that line with a platoon of Company F attached. At 2150H on 6 February, Company H's position at AT 905525 took heavy small-arms fire and rifle grenades. On 8 February its 3d Platoon was in contact with 7 VC at AT 800509. |
| **USMC KIA** | Not legible in the after action report scan (low). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded. |
| **USMC Wounded** | Not legible in the after action report scan. Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded. |
| **Enemy KIA** | Figures partly illegible; the after action report cites a high kill ratio |
| **Enemy Wounded** | 21 WIA confirmed, 11 WIA probable; 52 detainees; 293 refugees |

## NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CONFIRMED H COMPANY PARTICIPATION. This file previously gave no detail. The Combat Operations After Action Report (2/5 Command Chronology, February 1967) lists Company H (-) in the task organization. It adds: "Although not initially scheduled to participate, Co H was later given the mission to block along the east bank of the Song Thu Bon in conjunction with Co F (-)." Independence was controlled by the 9th Marines. The 2/5 Command Chronology for February 1967 lists Capt R. W. Layer as Company H commander for 1–28 February 1967; Capt James A. Graham, later awarded the

Medal of Honor, is listed that month as commander of Company F (corrected 21 September 2026; an earlier version of this note misread the list). The record does not say whether Company G, H&S Company took part.

*Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronology, February 1967, including the Combat Operations After Action Report for Independence dated February 1967 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048079). Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).*