OPERATION MAUI PEAK

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 6–19 October 1968

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Maui Peak
Dates of Operation	060600H – 191800H October 1968 (2/5 after action report). 2/5 (-) was under 7th Marines control 1–19 October.
Mission Purpose / Objective	Relieve the North Vietnamese pressure on the Thuong Duc Special Forces Camp. 2/5 (-) occupied Fire Support Base Hill 52, then attacked west along Route 4 in a diversionary attack that became a major fight with the 1st Battalion, 141st NVA Regiment.
Locations / Cities	Thuong Duc District, Quang Nam Province; Route 4; Hill 52; Hill 65; Song Vu Gia; LZ Sparrow
TAOR	Thuong Duc corridor along Route 4; Quang Nam Province
UTM Coordinates	Company G hill assault, 6 Oct: ZC 198559. Enemy company at the base of the hill: ZC 190561. Company E objective: ZC 190561, secured 8 Oct. Blocking line: ZC 194561 – ZC 203564. (Sheets 6540 I and 6640 IV.).
USMC Units Involved	7th Marines (Col Herbert L. Beckington). 2nd Battalion (-)(Rein), 5th Marines (LtCol James W. Stemple): H&S Company, Company E 2/5 (Capt J.A. Woggon Jr.), Company G 2/5 (Capt R.J. Poole), Company A 1/5 (Capt R.L. Cody; 1stLt S.A. Nelson from 8 Oct), Company L 3/7 (Capt G. Oberndorfer, from 9 Oct). Also 3/5, BLT 2/7 and 1/1; 3/11, 2/11 and Army 175mm guns; B-52 and tactical air.
2/5 Companies Participated	Company E; Company G; H&S Company. H&S Company, Company E (Capt J.A. Woggon Jr.) and Company G (Capt R.J. Poole).
Mission Results	6 Oct: Company G took a hill at ZC 198559 on its third assault (2 KIA, 16 WIA, 9 NVA KIA). 7 Oct: Company A (1/5) was repulsed from an entrenched hill (12 WIA; 42 NVA reported killed). 8 Oct: Company E, with four tanks, took the hill at ZC 190561 (1 KIA, 9 WIA, 37 NVA dead). 12 Oct, 0400: after about 40 rounds of 82mm fire, an NVA company attacked Company E's night position; Company E held with more than 1,000 rounds of artillery, air strikes and AC-47 gunships, losing 8 killed and 20 wounded against 46 NVA killed and 1 captured. On 14 October a BLT 2/7 company entered the Thuong Duc camp, lifting the siege.
USMC KIA	Whole operation: 28 (previously recorded figure). Company E, 2/5, 12 Oct: 8 KIA.
USMC Wounded	Whole operation: 143 (previously recorded figure). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
Enemy KIA	Whole operation: 202 (previously recorded figure); 46 in the 12 October attack on Company E
Enemy Wounded	Unknown; 1 POW (12 Oct)

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CORRECTION: H COMPANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE, AND CAPT DREZ WAS NOT H COMPANY'S COMMANDER. The 2/5 Combat After Action Report for Maui Peak (25 October 1968) lists H&S Company, Companies E and G of 2/5, Company A 1/5 and Company L 3/7. It does not list Company H. The 12 October 1968 pre-dawn attack (8 Marines killed, 46 NVA killed) was on Company E, not Company H. The 2/5 Command Chronology for October 1968 shows Capt Ronald J. Drez as S-3A (assistant operations officer) from 1 to 29 October. He took command of Company H on 30 October 1968, after the operation. Capt P.A. Vanderberg commanded Company H during Maui Peak, while H stayed in the Mameluke Thrust area near An Hoa. 2/5 COMPANIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART: Company H. The record does not say whether Company F took part. Company H stayed in the Mameluke Thrust area.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronology, October 1968, including the Combat After Action Report for Maui Peak dated 25 October 1968 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048108); Jack Shulimson et al., U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Defining Year, 1968 (HQMC, 1997), pp. 419–423. Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).