OPERATION MONTEREY II

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 30 September – 2 October 1966 (as listed; not confirmed)

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Monterey II
Dates of Operation	Listed on Wikipedia as 30 September – 2 October 1966. No record of the operation being carried out was found in the 5th Marines, 1/5, 2/5 or 3/5 chronologies for October 1966.
Mission Purpose / Objective	Described on Wikipedia as a 1/5 and 2/5 security operation in Quang Tin Province. The only contemporary use of the name found is a recommendation: on 2 October 1966 the 1/5 commander, LtCol E.R. Watson, closed his Monterey after action report by recommending "that Operation Monterey II be conducted in the near future." His reasoning was that contact with local and main force enemy units would have come had Monterey not been cut short.
Locations / Cities	Presumably the same objective area as Monterey: Tam Ky – Tien Phuoc road and the Suoi Cau Chau / Suoi Giang / Song Ba Ky valleys, Quang Tin Province (not confirmed)
TAOR	5th Marines area west of Tam Ky; Quang Tin Province (not confirmed)
UTM Coordinates	Not recorded.
USMC Units Involved	On 30 September 1966 2/5 (-) with Companies F, G and H flew from Chu Lai to Dong Ha, arriving at 2330, and on 1 October came under Task Force Delta in Operation Prairie. 1/5's own October 1966 chronology places the battalion on Hill 54 controlling its TAOR, with its only named operation that month being Dover (19–30 October, with the 6th ARVN Regiment).
2/5 Companies Participated	None – no 2/5 company took part in this operation.
Mission Results	No results recorded. The 5th Marines, 1/5 and 3/5 chronologies for October 1966 do not mention a Monterey II. If it took place, it was a small unrecorded action; otherwise the Wikipedia entry reflects a planned or recommended operation that was never carried out.
USMC KIA	Not recorded.
USMC Wounded	Not recorded.
Enemy KIA	None recorded
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. H COMPANY AND 2/5 DID NOT PARTICIPATE; EXECUTION NOT CONFIRMED. This is a new file. Monterey II appears in Wikipedia's list of operations, which gives 30 September – 2 October 1966 and names 1/5 and 2/5. The primary records don't support it. (1) 2/5 was flying to Dong Ha on 30 September and was in Operation Prairie from 1 October; its October 1966 chronology does not mention Monterey II. (2) The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines only recommended a Monterey II, in its 2 October 1966 after action report. Its October 1966 chronology, which lists its activities including Operation Dover, does not record one. (3) Neither the 5th Marines chronology for October 1966 nor the

3/5 chronology for October 1966 mentions it. 2/5 COMPANIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART: Company E, Company F, Company G, Company H, H&S Company. Company E stayed at Hill 69 and came under 3/5 control on 9 October. Company H, 2/5 did NOT take part. Neither did 2/5.

WHY THE NAME EXISTS. Operation Monterey (29–30 September 1966) was cut short when 2/5 was ordered north, and 1/5 wanted to return to the valleys west of Tam Ky. The Wikipedia dates line up with the day after Monterey ended. This suggests the entry was compiled from a planning reference or a mistaken reading rather than from an after action report. If the unit diary or 5th Marines message files for 30 September – 2 October 1966 are consulted, they would settle whether any part of the operation went ahead.

Primary sources: 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronologies, September 1966 (Monterey after action report, 2 October 1966) and October 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive items 1201048007 and 1201048008); 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology, October 1966 (item 1201049014); 5th Marines Command Chronology, October 1966 (item 1201046140); 2/5 Command Chronology, October 1966 (item 1201048074). Secondary: Wikipedia, list of allied operations of the Vietnam War (1966). Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).