OPERATION MUSKOGEE MEADOW

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 7–20 April 1969

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Muskogee Meadow
Dates of Operation	7–20 April 1969 (2/5 Command Chronology; previously listed as 6–20 April)
Mission Purpose / Objective	Rice denial, and security for Vietnamese workers and the harvested rice, in the Arizona Territory.
Locations / Cities	Arizona Territory; Duc Duc District; Quang Nam Province
TAOR	Northern Arizona Territory; Duc Duc District; Quang Nam Province
UTM Coordinates	Rice collection area: vicinity AT 844. Company H booby trap on a sweep, 7 Apr: AT 821291 (scan). Company H platoon patrol contact, 10 Apr: AT 822492. Company H booby trap at an op screen, 12 Apr: AT 87x515. Reported 31st NVA Regiment: AT 845535. Attack on Company H's night position, 26 Apr: AT 822472.
USMC Units Involved	5th Marines. 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol James H. Higgins): Company E (1stLt R.H. Henry; under 5th Marines control 17–28 Apr), Company F (Capt R.N. Kingrey; under 5th Marines control 5–16 Apr), Company G, Company H (Capt W.C. Fite, 1–25 Apr); 106mm recoilless rifle platoon.
2/5 Companies Participated	Company E; Company F; Company G; Company H. Companies E, F, G and H under LtCol James H. Higgins.
Mission Results	The battalion moved into the northern Arizona on 7 April. Contact was light from 7 to 11 April and heavy from 12 April, when 2/5 swept north. 5,000 lb of rice was collected. Company H: on 7 April a Marine set off a booby-trapped M-26 grenade (2 WIA evacuated); on 10 April an Company H platoon took AK-47 and M-79 fire at AT 822492; on 12 April an Company H Marine set off a booby trap. After the operation, on 26 April, about 40 NVA attacked Company H's night position at AT 822472. 284 refugees from the Arizona were resettled during April.
USMC KIA	2/5 for all of April 1969: 9 KIA (chronology). Previously recorded operation figure: 16. Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
USMC Wounded	2/5 for April 1969: 69 WIA evacuated, 53 not evacuated (chronology). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
Enemy KIA	Previously recorded figure: 162 (not re-verified; the April 1969 statistics table is illegible)
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CONFIRMED H COMPANY PARTICIPATION. The 2/5 Command Chronology for April 1969 states that "The Battalion participated in Operation MUSKOGEE MEADOW from 7 to 20 April," with a mission of rice denial and security for Vietnamese workers. Its S-3 journal is headed "Operation Muskogee Meadow" and records Company H actions. CORRECTION: Capt Ronald J. Drez did not command Company H in this operation. The March 1969 roster shows he left the company on 7 March

1969, and the April roster lists Capt W.C. Fite (1–25 April). The Lima Company, 3/5 action previously cited was in May 1969 (L/3/5 under 2/5 control 9–13 May), after Muskogee Meadow. The record does not say whether H&S Company took part.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronologies, March and April 1969, including the Operation Muskogee Meadow S-3 journal (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive items 1201048113 and 1201048114). Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).