OPERATION NEW CASTLE

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 22–25 March 1967

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation New Castle
Dates of Operation	220630H – 25 March 1967 (2/5 Command Chronology; previously listed as 21–25 March). Preceded by a deception raid on 20 March.
Mission Purpose / Objective	Search and destroy operation across the Song Thu Bon into the Hanh Tay area. A Company F amphibious raid into Hanh Tay (2) on 20 March was mounted beforehand to mislead the enemy about 2/5's plans.
Locations / Cities	Hanh Tay (1) and (2), west bank of the Song Thu Bon; Duc Duc District; Quang Nam Province
TAOR	West bank of the Song Thu Bon; 2/5 An Hoa TAOR; Quang Nam Province
UTM Coordinates	Hanh Tay (1): AT 848482. River crossing for the 20 March raid: AT 861493. Phu Loc (6), Company H outpost: AT 928527. (Sheet 6640 IV.).
USMC Units Involved	2/5 with Companies E and F in the field (Companies E, F and H are named in the narrative); LVTP-5s and LVTE-1s; 1st Marine Division air support; Battery E, 2/11 at An Hoa; UH-1E gunships.
2/5 Companies Participated	Company E; Company F. Companies E and F were in the field.
Mission Results	Units on New Castle fought NVA/VC troops at close quarters from 23 to 25 March 1967. Five flights of fixed-wing aircraft and UH-1E gunships gave close support, and airborne observers controlled strikes as 2/5 crossed back over the Song Thu Bon. The operation was recorded at 79 enemy KIA confirmed. An official photograph dated 26 March 1967 shows Company F crossing the river by LVT.
USMC KIA	Not stated separately in the chronology scan. Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
USMC Wounded	Not stated separately in the chronology scan. Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
Enemy KIA	79 KIA confirmed (chronology statistics for New Castle)
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. H COMPANY ROLE UNCERTAIN. The March 1967 chronology's narrative says "Companies E, F and H continued Operation New Castle until its termination." However, its day-by-day activity list for 24 March shows Company H's patrols around its Phu Loc (6) outpost while "E and F continue with Operation Newcastle." Company H held Phu Loc (6) from 16 to 30 March. The likeliest reading is that Company H supported the operation from Phu Loc (6) rather than crossing with the assault companies. Other Company H actions that month: 11 March, a raid with tanks, Ontos and amtracs on La Thap (1) (AT 945517); 14 March, an amphibious raid on Giang Hoa (2) (AT 890520); 17 March, a platoon contact near La Thap (2) in which about 30 VC were hit by artillery. The record does not say whether Company G, Company H, H&S Company took part. The narrative also names Company H, whose role is uncertain.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronology, March 1967 (TTU Vietnam Archive item 1201048081); USMC official photograph, 26 March 1967. Originals: NARA RG 127 (College Park MD 20740) and Marine Corps History Division (Quantico VA 22134).