OPERATION PICKENS FOREST

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 16 July – 24 August 1970

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Pickens Forest
Dates of Operation	16 July – 24 August 1970
Mission Purpose / Objective	7th Marines operation (the 1st Marine Division's first of 1970 outside its regular TAOR) into the southeastern part of Base Area 112, part of the allied summer offensive against Base Areas 112 and 127.
Locations / Cities	Southeastern Base Area 112, straddling the Thu Bon River about nine miles southwest of An Hoa; Quang Nam Province
TAOR	Base Area 112, southwest of An Hoa; Quang Nam Province
UTM Coordinates	Not recorded.
USMC Units Involved	7th Marines (Col Edmund G. Derning): 1/7 and 2/7, with Quang Da Special Zone ARVN forces working farther west. The 5th Marines' named operations that summer were Barren Green and Lyon Valley.
2/5 Companies Participated	None – no 2/5 company took part in this operation.
Mission Results	Previously recorded results: 99 enemy killed; supply caches and fortifications destroyed. During these dates Company H was in the An Hoa Basin and then in Operation Lyon Valley (16–24 August).
USMC KIA	Whole operation: 4 (previously recorded figure).
USMC Wounded	Not recorded.
Enemy KIA	99 (previously recorded figure)
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CORRECTION: H COMPANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE. This file previously said H/2/5 took part in a supporting role. Cosmas and Murray's official history describes Pickens Forest as a 7th Marines operation with 1/7 and 2/7. The 2/5 Command Chronologies for July and August 1970 do not mention Pickens Forest. They record 2/5 on Liberty Road and An Hoa Basin security, in Barren Green (Companies F and G) and in Lyon Valley (Companies F and H). 2/5 COMPANIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART: Company E, Company F, Company G, Company H, H&S Company.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronologies, July and August 1970 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive items 1201048129 and 1201048130); Graham A. Cosmas and Terrence P. Murray, U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970-1971 (HQMC, 1986), pp. 69–77. Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).