OPERATION PIPESTONE CANYON

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 26 May – 7 November 1969

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Pipestone Canyon
Dates of Operation	26 May – 7 November 1969
Mission Purpose / Objective	1st Marines operation to clear and deny Go Noi Island and the Dodge City area.
Locations / Cities	Go Noi Island; Dodge City; Liberty Bridge; Quang Nam Province
TAOR	Go Noi Island and Dodge City; Quang Nam Province
UTM Coordinates	Not recorded.
USMC Units Involved	1st Marines with 1/1, 3/1 and 3/5 (from Liberty Bridge), Korean Marines and ARVN units. From 22 May 1969 it secured Liberty Bridge and the main supply route from Phu Loc (6) to An Hoa.
2/5 Companies Participated	None – no 2/5 company took part in this operation.
Mission Results	Previously recorded results: 852 enemy killed and 58 captured; Go Noi Island defoliated and bulldozed. 2/5's own June 1969 chronology records two companies securing Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road north, with very little enemy contact. In July 2/5 prepared for Operation Durham Peak.
USMC KIA	Whole operation: 71 (previously recorded figure).
USMC Wounded	Not recorded.
Enemy KIA	852 (previously recorded figure)
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CORRECTION: 2/5 AND H COMPANY WERE NOT PIPESTONE CANYON MANEUVER UNITS. This file previously called 2/5's participation "confirmed." Smith's official history does not list 2/5 among the Pipestone Canyon forces. The 2/5 Command Chronologies for May–July 1969 show the battalion on Liberty Bridge and Liberty Road security next to the operation area. PFC Dan Bullock (Company F, 2/5), believed to be the youngest American killed in the war at 15, died on the night of 7 June 1969. The June 1969 chronology records about 15 enemy seen in the wire at Phu Loc (6) that night. He was killed defending that outpost, not in a Pipestone Canyon action. 2/5 COMPANIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART: Company E, Company F, Company G, Company H, H&S Company. 2/5 (LtCol James H. Higgins) was not a participating battalion. 2/5 was not a participating battalion.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronologies, May, June and July 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive items 1201048115–1201048117); Charles R. Smith, U.S. Marines in Vietnam: High Mobility and Standdown, 1969 (HQMC, 1988). Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).