OPERATION PRAIRIE III

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 19 March – 19 April 1967

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Prairie III
Dates of Operation	19 March – 19 April 1967 (previously listed as beginning 18 March, which was the last day of Prairie II)
Mission Purpose / Objective	Continue clearance of PAVN forces from the Leatherneck Square area; disrupt enemy operations between Con Thien and the DMZ; maintain Marine forward operating positions despite heavy PAVN artillery and mortar fire.
Locations / Cities	Prairie III: Quang Tri Province; Con Thien vicinity; Leatherneck Square; DMZ area. Company H, 2/5 at the same time: An Hoa and the Nong Son outpost, Quang Nam Province.
TAOR	Prairie III: Leatherneck Square, Quang Tri Province; Con Thien area; DMZ buffer zone. Company H, 2/5: 2/5 An Hoa TAOR (Nong Son outpost), Quang Nam Province.
UTM Coordinates	Not recorded.
USMC Units Involved	Prairie III was a 3d Marine Division operation in Quang Tri Province. The 5th Marines was not part of it. 2/5 was under 1st Marine Division control at An Hoa, Quang Nam Province.
2/5 Companies Participated	None – no 2/5 company took part in this operation.
Mission Results	Company H was at An Hoa, not in this operation. From about 1 April 1967 Company H held the Nong Son outpost in the 2/5 TAOR, while the battalion conducted Operation Dixie (7–10 April 1967). Operation as a whole (3d Marine Division): 252 PAVN killed, 4 captured, 128 weapons seized. Marines held forward positions under intense pressure. Confirmed PAVN determination to sustain operations in northern I Corps regardless of casualties.
USMC KIA	Whole operation: 56 (all USMC forces).
USMC Wounded	Whole operation: 530 (all USMC forces).
Enemy KIA	Whole operation: 252
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

CORRECTION: H COMPANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE. This file previously listed “elements of 5th Marine Regiment including H Company, 2/5 Marines.” That is wrong. The March and April 1967 command chronologies record 2/5 at An Hoa for both months. Dates corrected: Prairie III began 19 March 1967. Sources: 2/5 Command Chronologies, January–May 1967 (Texas Tech Vietnam Archive items 1201048076, 079, 081, 083 and 086), each of which gives the battalion's location as An Hoa, RVN for the whole month; Gary L. Telfer, Lane Rogers and V. Keith Fleming, Jr., U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Fighting the North Vietnamese, 1967 (HQMC, 1984), p. 79; hotel25vv.com. 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, 1967 (Texas Tech Vietnam Archive; originals at National Archives, RG 127); Marine Corps History Division; hotel25vv.com. For full records contact: National Archives II, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park MD 20740 or Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134.