OPERATION PRAIRIE IV

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 20 April – 17 May 1967

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Prairie IV
Dates of Operation	20 April – 17 May 1967
Mission Purpose / Objective	Two-regiment search and destroy operation to clear PAVN forces from Leatherneck Square; reinforce Con Thien; counter growing enemy threat to Marine strong points along the DMZ.
Locations / Cities	Prairie IV: Leatherneck Square; Con Thien region; Gio Linh; Quang Tri Province; DMZ vicinity. Company H, 2/5 at the same time: Nong Son outpost and An Hoa area, Quang Nam Province.
TAOR	Prairie IV: Leatherneck Square, northern Quang Tri Province; Con Thien strongpoint; DMZ area. Company H, 2/5: 2/5 An Hoa TAOR (Nong Son outpost), Quang Nam Province.
UTM Coordinates	Company H search and destroy operation, 21–22 April 1967: AT 792352 (Nong Son area, Quang Nam Province). No Company H positions fall inside the Prairie IV area.
USMC Units Involved	Prairie IV was a 3d Marine Division operation in Quang Tri Province. The 5th Marines was not part of it; in this period it was committed to Operation Union in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces.
2/5 Companies Participated	None – no 2/5 company took part in this operation.
Mission Results	Company H was at the Nong Son outpost in the 2/5 An Hoa TAOR, not in this operation. On 21–22 April 1967 it conducted a two-day search and destroy operation through a fortified VC village at AT 792352; later in April it found and sealed caves in the Nong Son area. It remained at Nong Son during Operation Union in May. Operation as a whole (3d Marine Division): 505 PAVN killed, 9 captured. Heavy USMC casualties in intense fighting. Operation highlighted growing enemy capability to mass forces and employ heavy weapons against Marine positions. Con Thien remained a contested position.
USMC KIA	Whole operation: 164 (all USMC forces).
USMC Wounded	Whole operation: 1,240 (all USMC forces).
Enemy KIA	Whole operation: 505
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

CORRECTION: H COMPANY DID NOT PARTICIPATE. This file previously stated that “H/2/5 Marines participated in this two-regiment operation” and listed the 5th Marines among its units. Both are wrong. The April and May 1967 command chronologies record 2/5 at An Hoa for both months. 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. 2/5 remained at An Hoa under 1st Marine Division control.

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.