OPERATION TAYLOR COMMON

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 7 December 1968 – 8 March 1969

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Taylor Common
Dates of Operation	7 December 1968 – 8 March 1969 (whole operation; previously listed as starting 6 December). 2/5 entered on 13 December 1968.
Mission Purpose / Objective	Task Force Yankee operation to secure the An Hoa Basin and destroy enemy Base Area 112 west of An Hoa, using a chain of fire support bases (Lance, Pike, Spear, Mace) from which battalions patrolled in a cloverleaf pattern.
Locations / Cities	Base Area 112; Arizona Territory; Ong Thu Slope west of An Hoa; Fire Support Base Pike (Hill 214); Phu Loc (6); western Go Noi Island; Quang Nam Province
TAOR	Base Area 112 and the Arizona Territory west of An Hoa; Quang Nam Province
UTM Coordinates	Not recorded.
USMC Units Involved	Task Force Yankee (BGen Ross T. Dwyer). 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines (LtCol James W. Stemple), under 3d Marines control (Col Michael M. Spark) in January 1969, with Companies E, F, G and H (Capt Ronald J. Drez, to 7 March 1969); 1/3, 3/3, 3/5; 1st ARVN Ranger Group; 11th Marines and 4/13 artillery.
2/5 Companies Participated	Company E; Company F; Company G; Company H. 2/5 (LtCol James W. Stemple) with Companies E, F, G and H.
Mission Results	13 Dec 1968: a Company E platoon and engineers rappelled onto Hill 214, and by evening 2/5 had landed and was building FSB Pike, without opposition. January 1969: three companies patrolled the Ong Thu Slope while one secured and improved Pike. Contact came mostly from chance meetings, but the battalion kept uncovering enemy base camps and supply points. 23 Jan: ordered to close FSB Pike. 21 Feb: after three days' rest at An Hoa, 2/5 trucked to Phu Loc (6) and set up blocking positions with the 1st ARVN Ranger Group and Regional Forces for the ARVN sweep of western Go Noi Island.
USMC KIA	Whole operation: 183 (previously recorded figure). 2/5 in January 1969: 7 KIA (chronology). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
USMC Wounded	Whole operation: 1,487 (previously recorded figure). Breakdown by 2/5 company: not recorded.
Enemy KIA	Whole operation: 1,398 (previously recorded figure)
Enemy Wounded	Unknown

NOTES & SOURCE REFERENCES

UPDATED 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM PRIMARY SOURCES. CONFIRMED H COMPANY PARTICIPATION. 2/5 opened Fire Support Base Pike on 13 December 1968 (Shulimson 1968 and Smith 1969). The 2/5 Command Chronologies for January and February 1969 place the battalion in Taylor Common under the 3d Marines, with

Capt Ronald J. Drez commanding Company H until 7 March 1969. CORRECTION: this file previously said a "three-day battle against the PAVN 36th Regiment (7–9 December)" preceded Company H's commitment. That fight was Operation Meade River. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star and Presidential Unit Citation mentioned previously come from hotel25vv.com and were not found in these chronologies. The record does not say whether H&S Company took part.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronologies, December 1968 – March 1969 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive items 1201048110–1201048113); Jack Shulimson et al., U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Defining Year, 1968 (HQMC, 1997); Charles R. Smith, U.S. Marines in Vietnam: High Mobility and Standdown, 1969 (HQMC, 1988); hotel25vv.com. Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).