OPERATION UTAH

2ND BATTALION, 5TH MARINES

1st Marine Division | Republic of Vietnam | 4–7 March 1966

FIELD	DETAIL
Operation Name	Operation Utah
Dates of Operation	4–7 March 1966
Mission Purpose / Objective	Search and destroy operation to locate and engage the North Vietnamese 21st Regiment in the Quang Ngai area. Marines and ARVN forces air-assaulted into the area to destroy enemy forces threatening provincial towns. This was the Marines' first major contact with North Vietnamese Army regulars.
Locations / Cities	Northwest of Quang Ngai City; Binh Son District; Quang Ngai Province
TAOR	Quang Ngai Province, I Corps; approximately 25 km northwest of Quang Ngai City
UTM Coordinates	Not recorded.
USMC Units Involved	Marine battalions in Utah were 2/7 (primary assault), 3/1, 2/4 and 1/7 with the ARVN 2d Division.
2/5 Companies Participated	None – no 2/5 company took part in this operation.
Mission Results	Operation as a whole: the North Vietnamese 21st Regiment suffered heavy casualties and withdrew. Company H had no part in the operation.
USMC KIA	Whole operation: 98 (all USMC forces; previously recorded figure).
USMC Wounded	Whole operation: 278 (all USMC forces; previously recorded figure).
Enemy KIA	Whole operation: approximately 600 (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 stated that Company H, 2/5 took part in a supporting role. The 2/5 Command Chronology for 23 February – 5 April 1966 places the battalion at Camp Schwab, Okinawa for the whole period. Hotel Company landed at Chu Lai on 13 April 1966, five weeks after Utah ended. Shulimson's official account of Utah (chapter 7) names 2/7, 3/1, 2/4 and 1/7 and never mentions 2/5. 2/5 COMPANIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART: Company E, Company F, Company G, Company H, H&S Company. 2/5 was still training at Camp Schwab, Okinawa, and did not reach Vietnam until April 1966. It did not reach Vietnam until April 1966.

Primary sources: 2/5 Command Chronology, 23 February – 5 April 1966 (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive item 1201048067); Jack Shulimson, U.S. Marines in Vietnam: An Expanding War, 1966 (HQMC, 1982), ch. 7. Originals: National Archives, RG 127 (National Archives II, College Park MD 20740; Marine Corps History Division, Quantico VA 22134).