**Minh Thanh Road Historical Research Module**

**Definition**: Action between Viet Cong and 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, in 1966 as part of the 1st Infantry Division’s campaign along Route 13 and connecting roadways.

**NOTE**: The references below provide information relevant to this engagement. Use these references and supplement with your own research. The Minh Thanh Road engagement was one of several engagements involving ¼ Cavalry between April and July 1966. Your focus is upon the action fought on 9 July. When using the files provided with this module, be sure to retain this focus, since several of the reports cover multiple engagements. You will also find that the information available to your re US operations is much more comprehensive than for the Viet Cong. This disparity in available information reflects the nature of the conflict as much as anything else.

**Electronic References listed by file name:**

Battle Experiences JUL-66

* Includes summary of actions in May-August along National Route 13, including that action on 30 June. See PDF pp. 1-6, 13-14.

Battle of the Minh Thanh Road

* Personal experience monograph written by the commander of B Troop, ¼ Cavalry for the Infantry Officer Advanced Course detailing the engagement on 9 JUL 1966.

CAAR-Op El Paso II 7 III JUN-SEP 66

* Combat Operations After Action Report for El Paso II/III 2 June 1966- 3 September 1966. This report details 1st Infantry Division actions in this period. It provides background context, intelligence assessments, summary of significant engagements, overarching mission, nature of execution, actions of supporting forces, a commander’s assessment (PDF pp. 53-54), lessons learned (PDF p. 54-56), and a detailed description of the Minh Thanh Road fight with map and diagram (PDF pp. 87-97).

Fundamentals of Armored Cav Tactics

* Armored cavalry TTPs as developed by ¼ Cavalry during the period 1965-1967

Monograph

* Account written by the commander of B Troop, ¼ Cavalry and provided to the U.S. Army Armor Center commander, charged with compiling a manuscript of armor and cavalry operations in Vietnam. Similar with some variation to the personal experience monograph referenced above.

SOP 1st Squadron 4th US Cavalry OCT 1966

* Unit SOP that reflects experience of unit since its arrival in South Vietnam

The Campaign Along Route 13

* Includes combat after ¼ Cavalry after action report (PDF p. 16+) that includes coverage of Operation El Paso and the related engagements, including the Minh Thanh Road.

The Viet Cong Techniques

* Background information on the Viet Cong

***Recommended Websites:***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bN9V3W--19Q>. This site features a presentation by Vietnamese historian Hai Nguyen, who interviewed Viet Cong veterans who fought against the American 1st Infantry Division (1/4 Cavalry was the division’s cavalry squadron). Should the link fail, search for the presentation under the heading “DWH:9th Viet Cong Division Interviews.”

***Suggested secondary sources:***

Lanning, Michael Lee, *Inside the VC and the NVA: The Real Story of North Vietnam’s*

*Armed Forces* (New York: Fawcett Columbine, 1992). Available in the Donovan Research Library. DS558.5.L36 1992.

Pike, Douglas, *Viet Cong: The Organization and Techniques of the National Liberation*

*Front of South Vietnam* (Cambridge, MT: M.I.T. Press, 1966). Available in the

Donovan Research Library. DS556.34.P63.

Starry, Donn A., *Mounted Combat in Vietnam* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the

Army, 1978). Available in the Donovan Research Library. DS558.9.A75S73 1978. Also available in PDF format from the U.S. Army Center of Military History website. NOTE: this book is a good, readable analysis of armor and cavalry operations in Vietnam.

***Related Search Subjects:***

9th Viet Cong Division

271st, 272nd, and 273rd Viet Cong Regiments

1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry in Vietnam

Minh Thanh Road