

Pitsenbarger Pulls One Out



This minefield was on the perimeter of Bien Hoa AB, South Vietnam. On March 7, 1966, a South Vietnamese soldier entered it on a fire-fighting mission. He tripped a mine, which blew off his foot. Minutes later, an HH-43 "Husky" helicopter appeared and lowered a pararescue jumper to the injured soldier. The PJ who lifted the man out of the minefield was A1C William H. Pitsenbarger—the same PJ whose heroic actions

east of Saigon on April 11, 1966, saved many lives and led to his being awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor. (See: "Pitsenbarger, Medal of Honor," February 2001, p. 26.) These photographs were taken by Ray Schmid, an air policeman with the 3rd Air Police Squadron.

Photos by Ray Schmid