

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 Wil-



liam 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.