

## B Company, 720th, Patrols Jungle Near Long Binh

# Bushwackers Secure TAOR

While other MPs are standing guardmount in starched fatigues, sporting spit-shined boots and highly polished holsters, MPs of B Company, 720th MP Battalion -- with a three-day stubble on their faces and mud encrusted up to their hips -- are listening to a short morning briefing before going back to their packs for a breakfast of C Rations.

Responsible for combat operations in a Tactical Area of Responsibility south of Long Binh Post, B Company MPs have donned jungle fatigues and, lacing their legs against leeches, have taken to the field.

Though trained at Fort Gordon as MPs, the B Co. "Bushwackers" have traded "white hats" for "bush hats," cashed in nightsticks for baseball grenades and

become the only MP infantrymen in the world.

In a 22-square-kilometer area of rice paddies and heavy brush crossed and recrossed by meandering streams, the MPs set up nightly ambushes for the VC.

The GIs spend six days at a time in the field. They move into ambush positions by night and into ARVN-manned Area Outposts by day to be re-supplied with food and water.

Being forced by circumstance to learn how to live in the field, the MPs have picked up the tricks that make life easier for infantrymen.

The Bushwackers have mastered the art of keeping warm and dry with just a poncho and liner and can even make C Rations edible.

The myriad of streams in their TAOR makes travel by anything but boat difficult. The ambush units move as near their nocturnal positions as possible by Boston whaler and then, like the infantry, they walk.

By night the men peer through starlight scopes, looking for movement against brightly outlined silhouettes of brush and trees. By day they make up for lost sleep or wile away the time with a deck of cards.

After six days in the field, ambushers -- grizzly, dirty, tired -- are relieved to return to Long Binh Post. For three days the men have reprieve from the leeches and the mud. Three days to sleep, read, shoot pool in their day room or catch up on mail.



**SP/4 Robert Marich, front next to Papa'san**

**SP/4 Jerry L. Perry, with  
M60 Machine gun ammo belts**



**SP/4 Delton R. Propes**

(Above left) A squad of B Company, 720th MP Bn., moves out from an ARVN manned outpost for a daytime sweep. (Above right) A rifleman makes his way through a swampy mire in the company's tactical area of responsibility.

(Bottom left) To keep leeches from getting in their pants legs, the M.P.-infantrymen wrap their lower legs with boot laces. (Bottom right) Wrapped cocoon-like in a poncho, his only protection from the elements, a B Co. radio man catches some sleep in the field.

**SP/5 Robert D. Bogison**



**SP/4 John M. Main**





**SP/4 Greg Thompson**

(Above left) Covering terrain that few other MPs, even in Vietnam, see, a rifleman in B Company, 720th MP Bn., makes his way through heavy foliage. (Above right) In an early morning movement, a platoon of Bushwackers head for the ARVN outpost where later in the day they will be resupplied.

**Left to right, front to back:  
SP/4 Greg Thompson  
SP/5 Robert C. Bogison  
SP/4 Stan G. Galonski  
SP/4 Richard C. Bias  
SP/4 John M. Main,  
and  
Others yet to be identified**



(Below left) A pair of MPs work together to ready their gear before dark and move out to their ambush positions. (Below right) Though they sometimes get a hot meal when the re-supply truck comes, typical fare for members of B Co., when in the field, is C rations.



**Above**  
**SP/4 Douglas Bischoff (back)**  
**SP/4 Edward S. Lewin**

**Right**  
**SP/4 Nicknamed "Gomer."**  
**further identification unavailable**

