

Chem Section

Fights War

With Jungle

(BEARCAT) – Vietnam’s dense jungles and tangled undergrowth are a sniper’s best friend.

But this is one friend the Viet Cong won’t have in the area immediately surrounding Bearcat thanks to the work of defoliation teams from the 9th Division’s Chemical section.

The section, headed by Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Swan, uses three 400-gallon spray rigs mounted on 2 ½ ton trucks to kill the grass outside Bearcat’s berm.

The trucks, carrying seven man crews from Headquarters Company, Support Command, make frequent forays out into the area around the base camp to spray.

One of three chemical agents is used depending on the vegetation to be defoliated. A water-soluble agent is used for tall weeds while two more potent agents are sprayed on heavier vegetation.

The agents penetrate in about two hours, according to LTC Swan, and kill the vegetation within a week or 10 days.

The trucks can cover an average of 10 acres each day.

A five-man team from the chemical section is assigned to the defoliation operation.

The trucks used for this operation can also be utilized for firefighting, hauling water or as portable showers.

Reprinted from
"Ninth Infantry Division
The Old Reliable"
page 3, column 1; Vol 1 No 8
dated February 25, 1967
an authorized weekly publication
under the supervision of the
Information Office, 9th Infantry Division.