

# Pueblo Crew: What Newsmen Saw on Tour

By Richard Halloran  
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Reports from North Korea yesterday indicated for the first time that the entire crew of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo is being held in a camp a short distance east of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

Until now, U.S. officials have said that they did not know the captured crew's location. Intelligence estimates, had assumed that the 82 men had been divided to forestall a rescue by U.S. armed force.

The reports came from Japanese correspondents who took part Thursday in the crew's first meeting with newsmen who were not North Koreans.

North Korea arranged the newsmen's visit to the camp in an apparent new effort to obtain a U.S. admission that the Pueblo intruded into its territorial waters—and to obtain a U.S. apology.

## The Camp

Japanese correspondents reported that they were driven about 40 minutes from the center of Pyongyang to the east, where the Pueblo crew was housed in a three-story building. The camp also contained a two-story building and a playground. It was not surrounded by barbed wire, they said.

The newsmen were first shown charts claiming that Pueblo had intruded 17 times into North Korean waters. The North Koreans previously claimed six intrusions before they seized the ship.

During a four-hour press

conference with ship's captain Lloyd M. Bucher, five other officers, the senior oceanographer, and 13 enlisted men, Bucher is reported to have said that on Jan. 23 he "moved the ship well within the territorial waters" of North Korea and began "electronic intelligence gathering activities."

Bucher was quoted as saying that after 2½ hours, North Korean patrol ships approached, ordered him to heave to, and tried to board. He said he ignored them at first, then started his engines and attempted to make for the open sea.

The news dispatches contain no explanation of why Bucher had his engines stopped or why he allowed the North Koreans to get so close before trying to get away.

Bucher is reported to have said that the North Koreans

"easily overtook" his ship and again ordered him to heave to. "I answered," he was quoted, "by firing my main battery of machine guns at them. In the ensuing gun battle, one of my men was killed and several others wounded."

North Korea has always claimed to have killed the one American seaman but U.S. officials have suggested that he might have died while trying to destroy secret equipment or documents.

Bucher was also quoted as saying he was aware of two other ships with missions similar to his. One was the USS Banner, operating out of Japan along the China and Soviet coasts, the other the USS Palm Beach, operating in the Atlantic.

The newsmen said Bucher repeated his previously reported plea that the U.S. government, which he said had ordered the ship there, should take responsibility and apologize to obtain the crew's release. He said that unless this happens, some crewmen might be sentenced to death.

The death threat was a theme that ran through a series of letters allegedly written by crew members to their families last spring. But this was the first mention of it in several months.

## Dramatic Windup

At the end of the press conference, Bucher is reported to have jumped up on a chair, called the departing newsmen back, and told them in a quivering voice that he would like to see what some American leaders would have done if they were in the same circumstances as he and his crew.

"I cannot bear to see these young men in their twenties have to stay here any longer," he was quoted as saying.

After the news conference, the foreign newsmen were shown through the living quarters of the crew. They reported that each officer has a single room and the enlisted men are bunked four or eight to a room.

They said the barracks had a barber shop, a dispensary, and a recreation room with ping-pong tables.

The Japanese reports said the men appeared to be in good health. All said they were homesick. The dispatches said the crew seemed to be adequately fed, with officers getting slightly better rations than the enlisted men.



# State Dept.: Pueblo Told Not to Intrude

By Warren Unna

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The State Department said yesterday the U.S. Navy intelligence ship Pueblo never had been ordered to sail within North Korea's claimed territorial waters during the time it was on patrol there.

Spokesman Robert J. McCloskey explained that a February, 1966 CINCPAC (Pacific command) document found in the captured ship and broadcast by the North Koreans Thursday was merely part of "general instructions to all ships in the Pacific Fleet conducting such operations." The document authorized patrols well within North Korea's claimed territorial water limit of 12 miles.

But McCloskey said, these instructions were "superseded" as far as the Pueblo was concerned by specific sailing orders given the Pueblo five days before she began her ill-fated intelligence mission last Jan. 10. He said the Pueblo's probing was limited to no closer than 13 miles off the North Korean shore.

McCloskey's comments were made yesterday to correct an account in Thursday's edition of The Washington Post which declared the Pueblo at one time had been "ordered" to intrude into territorial waters claimed by North Korea.

The State Department also disclosed that its official cartographer, in drawing maps for the Government in 1965—one year before the CINCPAC authorization — listed North Korea's territorial water claim at 12 miles offshore.

At issue is North Korea's attempt to justify its seizure of the Pueblo and her 83-man crew last Jan. 23 for trespassing.

The United States has stated that the Pueblo was clearly outside even North Korea's claimed limit when seized. U.S. officials also have stated that they have no reason to believe that the Pueblo trespassed into these waters at any time during her January intelligence mission. Officials also say they have no knowledge of any other U.S. Navy intelligence ships intruding, either.

The United States limits its

own territorial water border to three miles offshore and assumes this limit for other nations, unless they specify otherwise. North Korea, however, has at various times claimed territorial waters as far out as 12 miles.

In the Feb., 1966 top secret CINCPAC instructions which North Korea broadcast, and the State Department later confirmed, the wording reads: "Surface patrols to the three-mile limit off North Korea and Chicom (Communist China) held islands in the Paracels are authorized."

The CINCPAC instructions differentiate North Korea and the Paracels from other Chinese areas, Soviet territory and other nations claiming a 12-mile territorial water limit.