

Pueblo Inquiry Near

SAN DIEGO — (AP) — A U.S. Navy court of inquiry into the capture of the USS Pueblo and behavior of its crew while prisoners apparently will start next week.

The Navy has said the court will convene soon after the debriefing of crewmen by intelligence experts is completed. The last of the 82 freed crewmen to begin debriefing — Cmdr. Lloyd Bucher, the skipper — started his interviews yesterday.

NOT A TRIAL

The court of inquiry is not a trial. On the basis of facts brought out in the inquiry, the Navy will determine whether further proceedings, such as courts-martial or decorations for heroism, are warranted.

Although the court of inquiry is generally open to the public, Navy officials said some matters concerning national security will not be made public.

The Navy said it delayed Bucher's debriefing because of his mental and physical fatigue.

The Pueblo skipper still suffers malnutrition but has gained five pounds since his release. He is on a special diet with some of his crewmen and continues taking medicine for an upper respiratory infection.

He also is getting dental treatment and will need dental surgery, they said. The skipper and crew returned from captivity Christmas Eve.