

Pueblo Lead

By RICHARD E. MEYER

Associated Press Writer

CORONADO, Calif. AP - The skipper of the USS Pueblo, Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, will be recalled before a court of inquiry to clear up questions about the capture of the ship by North Koreans, the Navy said today.

A SPOKESMAN SAID Bucher and at least three of his crew would testify during an open session beginning at 4:30 p.m. (EST). The session was scheduled to last no more than two hours, the Navy said.

They (the five admirals on the court) are trying to get certain questions . . . cleared up," the spokesman told a news conference. He didn't specify what the questions were.

But the Navy has said the court is still concentrating on the capture of the Pueblo last year—and has not yet shifted focus onto the imprisonment of its crew.

To be called to the stand when Bucher finishes were Signalman 1.C. Wendell Leach of Houston, Tex.; Communications Tech. 2.C. Peter Langenberg of Clayton, Mo., and Marine Sgt. Robert J. Hammond of Cornish, N.H.

Bucher spent the first week of the inquiry giving a lengthy, sometimes anguished account of his entire ordeal from capture through the 11 months he and his men spent in prison.

The skipper has said he will appear at the very end of the inquiry, expected to last at least another week, to make final statements.

One member of the Pueblo's intelligence detail has testified he saw no one supervising destruction of secret material before North Koreans came on board.

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CORONADO, Calif. AP - A member of the USS Pueblo's intelligence detail says he saw no one supervising destruction of secret material before North Koreans took over the ship.

Communications Technician 1.C. David L. Ritter, of Menlo Park, Calif., was quoted by the Navy Wednesday as saying he saw the intelligence unit's commander, Lt. Stephen Harris, in the intelligence center at the time "but no one was 'really supervising' destruction."

Another member of the detachment, Communications Technician 1.C. James D. Layton of Binghamton, N.Y., testified that he saw Harris walk into the center shortly after North Koreans began firing but that Harris "had no orders, no messages to be released and . . . he never saw Lt. Harris participate in the destruction of material," the Navy said.

Layton's and Ritter's testimony was in an official Navy summary of closed sessions Tuesday before a court of inquiry.

The five-admiral court heard no witnesses Wednesday, spending the day reviewing the 1,700 pages of testimony so far.

The court planned the same schedule today, although there was a possibility some witnesses might be called late in the day, the Navy said.

The admirals want to be sure all questions about the capture are answered before taking testimony on the "months the Pueblo crew spent in prison," the Navy added.

Of the 83 aboard the Pueblo, 29 were communications technicians assigned to Harris' secret intelligence detachment.

So far, fewer than half the technicians have testified.

In previous testimony in open court, Harris has said he told his men to destroy the papers and equipment they were working with when the destruct order came from the skipper, Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher.

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