

Pueblo Officer Says 'Career Aborted,' Quits

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (AP)—The former executive officer of the USS Pueblo said today he is resigning from the Navy because "my career has been aborted."

Lt. Edward R. Murphy Jr., said two factors, taken together prompted him to mail his resignation yesterday through channels to John H. Chafee, secretary of the navy.

Murphy, 30, told a news conference at Principia College, his alma mater, the factors were a court of inquiry's finding that he was derelict in his duties aboard the Pueblo and the fact he was not sent to the Navy's postgraduate school at Monterrey, Calif.

Murphy, who denied he was derelict in his duties, said he could have accepted the court of inquiry's finding if he could have believed "it would have no effect on my career."

He said he interpreted the Navy's refusal to send him to postgraduate school as evidence that the court of inquiry's finding was affecting his career.

Murphy said both he and the commanding officer of the Pueblo, Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, have been told they would not be assigned to the school. Murphy said he accepted that decision as navy policy but learned later that Bucher had been assigned to the school.

He said he tried to determine in Washington why Bucher was sent to the school and he was not, but could get no satisfactory answer.

Murphy was assigned to the staff of the fleet Antisubmarine School at San Diego after being told he would not be sent to the Post Graduate School.

In his letter of resignation, he mentioned Bucher's assignment to the Post Graduate School and wrote: "This

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LT. EDWARD MURPHY JR. AND WIFE
At news conference.