

Health Tests For Mystery Prisoner

March AFB,
Riverside county

Bobby Joe Keese, a Texas soldier of fortune who mysteriously turned up as a North Vietnamese prisoner of war, visited with his family yesterday and maintained his silence about how he came to be captured.

The 39-year-old former resident of Amarillo is undergoing medical tests at the hospital here.

He is quartered with the military POW returnees and is being afforded every privilege given to them, officials said.

However, a State Department spokesman said Keese, who once described himself as a CIA agent, was not an employee or an agent of the U.S. government.

James Patrick Murphy, who accompanied Keese home from the Philippines, said Keese was a "free agent" and could come and go as he pleased. He said there were no charges against him.

Murphy indicated that the government now knows essentially what Keese was doing in Southeast Asia but that it would be "inappropriate at this time" to discuss it.

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