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Pueblo with Panmunjom

SAN DIEGO AP - The 62 surviving crewmen of the USS Pueblo, freed Sunday after 11 months in North Korean captivity, will be flown to San Diego for their first reunion with their families, the Navy announced.

Their arrival is set tentatively for 3 p.m. Monday, Rep. Bob Wilson, R-Calif., said by telephone from Washington, D.C.

A Navy spokesman said wives and children of the freed men were being put on commercial airliners throughout the nation Sunday night. They will stay in a downtown San Diego motel while the men are given debriefings at the San Diego Naval Hospital.

Chief Petty Officer Walter Beerle, chief master of arms for the Navy Corpsmen's School said 250 students were ordered out of their barracks in the four-story building. The two-tiered military bunks were converted to single beds.

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Beerle said "every effort to make the rooms as comfortable as possible" was being made.

A nearby building on the hospital grounds was being converted from a staff lounge to a reception area for the returning prisoners and their families.

The "best diagnostic and treatment facilities available to the Navy" is located at the San Diego hospital, the spokesman said. It is the largest such installation in the United States and will also serve as press headquarters for the prisoners' return.

As many as 170 wives and children of the returning men are expected by Monday. The Navy spokesman said "we don't expect any flight problems" despite the Christmas rush.