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Pueblo 2nd NL

By RICHARD E. MEYER

Associated Press Writer

CORONADO, Calif. AP - A top Pentagon official listened Tuesday as Navy intelligence officials testified behind closed doors in the court of inquiry into North Korea's capture of the USS Pueblo.

Richard Fryzklund, deputy assistant to the secretary of defense for public affairs, said later he flew from Washington, D. C., at his own initiative "because this Pueblo project has been my baby all along."

HE SAID HE WASN'T ORDERED TO ATTEND. A Navy spokesman said Adm. Thomas Moorer, chief of naval operations, was being kept informed of the proceedings.

The spokesman said "less than half" of the Pueblo's surviving 83 crewmen and officers would testify before the inquiry winds up.

Two captains testified secretly Tuesday.

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Pueblo NL 2nd

By RICHARD E. MEYER

Associated Press Writer

CORONADO, Calif. AP - Two captains, one assigned to intelligence and the other on the staff of the Pacific Fleet commander, testified secretly Tuesday at a court of inquiry into North Korea's capture of the USS Pueblo.

The Navy said the testimony of Capt. J. W. Pearson, assigned to intelligence in Japan during the Pueblo incident and Capt. E. Z. Gladding, on the fleet commander's staff at the time, was classified.

The court goes into open session again Wednesday, the Navy said, to hear Rear Adm. Frank L. Johnson. He was commander of Navy forces based in Japan when the Pueblo was captured.

Johnson testified more than four hours in secret Monday. The Navy said he would review his testimony in open court, deleting portions classified for reasons of national defense.

Cmdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, 41, skipper of the Pueblo, spoke only briefly to newsmen as he entered and left the court. Bucher is allowed to hear all testimony because he has been named a party to the court.

This legal distinction gives his attorneys the opportunity to question all witnesses in sessions opened and closed, and the Navy has said Bucher's counsel is making ample use of the opportunity.

"I want to get it over with as soon as possible so I can get back to being a commander in the Navy," Bucher said. The Navy has said the court probably will continue another four weeks.

Bucher repeated what his attorney, E. Miles Harvey, told a news conference Monday: that he wants to command another ship when proceedings are finished.

Pearson is presently with a naval security command in Washington, D.C., and Gladding is now retired. Johnson is commandant of the 12th Naval District in Seattle, Wash.

Following Johnson in open session Wednesday, the Navy said, will be Lt. Cmdr. D. L. Heisinger, on the staff of the intelligence section Navy headquarters in Hawaii, and Rear Adm. George L. Cassell, head of the operations department for the commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet during the Pueblo incident, and now commander of naval striking and support forces in Southern Europe.

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At the end of the day, a Navy spokesman said the court would hear "fairly lengthy" testimony in open court from the former commander of the USS Banner, one of the Pueblo's sister intelligence ships.

Lt. Cmdr. Charles R. Clarke sailed the Banner off the North Korean coast to conduct surveillance before the Pueblo was captured in the area by the North Koreans last year.

Then, the spokesman said, the court would hear testimony from two more of the Pueblo's land-based superiors—and finally hear from "less than half" of the Pueblo's crewmen. A Navy legal officer who will represent one of the crewmen before the court has been permitted to sit in on the closed sessions.

The skipper of the Pueblo has testified in open court that he had several conversations with Banner skipper Clarke before the Pueblo set sail on her mission.

The Pueblo had the Banner's report of her mission on board when she was captured—and the reports, which are classified, fell into the hands of the North Koreans.

Capt. Joan L. Marocchi, senior intelligence officer for the fleet commander, and Cmdr. Heisinger testified secretarily Tuesday afternoon. Some of their testimony was narrative, the spokesman said, "but mostly it was by examination by counsel for the court, from the court and from the counsel for the party to the court."

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