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CORONADO, Calif. AP - The officer in charge of Pueblo intelligence who the skipper has said was ordered to destroy material that fell into North Korean hands was called to testify secretly Thursday at a court of inquiry.

Lt. Stephen R. Harris, 30, was regarded as a key witness before the court which is investigating the intelligence ship's capture and imprisonment of its crew because of testimony last week by

the Pueblo

The Navy said Harris was provided with Navy legal counsel in case he wanted advice before answering questions. His testimony was secret because it concerned national security.

Harris was in charge of equipment designed to check on North Korean radar and the movement of Soviet ships, Bucher has said.

HARRIS, WHO WILL TESTIFY IN OPEN COURT NEXT WEEK, FOLLOWED AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER FROM Navy headquarters in Japan into the courtroom.

Bucher has told the court he inspected the destruction of classified documents in HARRIS' INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT BEFORE THE Pueblo was boarded a year ago.

"There was a steel door located in the research intelligence space," Bucher said. "This door was provided with a triple locking system and was necessary because of the security of the spaces."

"I knocked on the door and it was opened to me. I came in, and I noticed on the deck . . . at least three large naval mattress covers which apparently were full of documents. They were at least full of something, and I presumed that they were all classified documents . . ."

"I was to say the least quite surprised to see the volume of material that was on the deck in this compartment . . . I spoke to Lt. wharris and I said words to the effect, 'Let's get rid of this material right now.' And he replied that he was getting that the material was being destroyed and being thrown over the side, and further indicated that crypto (code) materials had been destroyed."

After a few moments of sending messages to headquarters in Japan, Bucher said, he returned to Harris' compartment and repeated his destruction order.

When he returned to the bridge, Bucher said, he received a telephone call from Harris asking permission to message headquarters that he was not able to complete destruction of all the publications.

Q. Rear Adm. Edward Grimm: "How much additional time was needed?"

A. Bucher: "Sir, I did not ask that question. At that time . . . I personally thought that all the bag material that I had seen, which were at least three large mattress covers full had been by this time thrown over the side . . . I received nothing to indicate that that material had not gone over the side, and from the way Lt. Harris spoke to me indicated that was just a few pieces of material left which he could not get destroyed properly."

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Later, after North Koreans boarded the Pueblo, Bucher said, he was ordered to tour the ship with his captors and when they arrived in Harris' compartment "I was rather surprised to still see a couple of mattress covers which were apparently full of classified material."

"It did surprise me, because as I had testified before I had seen this material there some 20 to 30 minutes before this and perhaps as much as 40, and I had no prior indication that the material had not been jettisoned or destroyed."

Harris was preceded to the stand by Lt. Edward A. Brookes who was on the intelligence staff at Pueblo headquarters in Japan when she was captured. Brookes is now on the Navy's intelligence command in Washington, D.C.

His superior officer, Rear Adm. Frank L. Johnson, testified Wednesday that Brookes gave the Pueblo's means of destroying classified material an informal inspection before she steamed on her mission.

Bucher has testified that the Pueblo's incinerator for destroying classified publications was inadequate and that the Navy deferred his request for explosives to destroy classified equipment.

Meanwhile in Washington, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird announced he has ordered a high level Pentagon study of the Pueblo case "to see that incidents of this kind do not happen again."

Laird said the case "is being carefully watched" by Deputy Secretary David Packard.

The secretary said it would be unwise for him to comment on whether Bucher was being mishandled by the court of inquiry.

Bucher threatened to the secret testimony Navy spokesman that he appreciates "the thousands of telegrams and letters as received from across the country in his support."

"He would like to answer each personally but at this point he doesn't have time to open all of them," the spokesman said.

THE COURT GOES INTO A THREE-DAY RECESS BEGINNING Friday at the suggestion of a Navy doctor who examined Bucher Wednesday and said he needs some rest and to allow the court to catch up with administrative matters.

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