

A033

zyzyzy

8 MAR 69

Pueblo 310

By RICHARD E. MEYER

Associated Press Writer

CORONADO, Calif. AP - A resistance and escape specialist says his mock prison camp would have taught USS Pueblo crewmen to resist physical and mental torture because it helps men understand "fear and pressure."

Capt. John R. Strane, commander of the Pacific Fleet Airborne Electronics Training unit and its survival evasion, resistance and escape school near San Diego, testified Friday at a Navy court of inquiry into the capture of the Pueblo by North Korea and the conduct of its men in prison.

Strane testified secretly, but the Navy released a summary of his statements after deleting material classified in the interest of national defense.

Strane said the school "prepares a person for the unknown," and its training "would have helped the Pueblo crew," during 11 months of captivity last year, the summary said.

"One disadvantage in training is that the students know when their training sessions will end," the Navy reported Strane as saying. "An undetermined completion date would make training much more realistic."

The school tries to break men down physically and mentally, find their weaknesses and prepare them for a p

ison camp ordeal

like that met by the crew of the Pueblo.

"Only a few injuries have been sustained by students during the past two years of the school's operation and none have been recorded as serious," the Navy said.

The court is in weekend recess as its president, Vice Adm. Harold G. Bowen Jr., confers in Honolulu with Adm John J. Hyland, commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet, who ordered the inquiry.

The Pueblo's skipper, Omdr. Lloyd M. Bucher, takes the stand Monday. He follows Vice Adm. John V. Smith, who helped with negotiations to release Bucher and his crew.

Bucher has testified twice, once to present a narrative of the capture and his tortured captivity, then to answer questions about the capture.

His reappearance signals the final phase of the inquiry, now seven weeks old.

BJSaes March 8