

Kennedy Identifies 5 New POWs

Washington

Senator Edward M. Kennedy said yesterday that he had received from the North Vietnamese the names of five additional United States prisoners of war — but the Pentagon accused him of causing “unnecessary anxiety” to the men’s families.

Defense Department officials said Kennedy was putting out premature and inaccurate information.

The men were identified later by the Pentagon as Navy Lieutenant Commander Dale V. Raebel, Navy Lieutenant (j.g.) David A. Everett; Navy Lieutenant Commander Theodore W. Triebel, Air Force Captain Jerome D. Heeren, and Air Force Lieutenant Colonel James W. O’Neal.

The Pentagon gave no

home towns. The Kennedy list had identified O’Neal as a Navy commander and left the impression Heeren was a Navy captain. Kennedy said he was informed Raebel was from Orange Park, Fla.; Everett from St. Simons Island, Ga.; Triebel from San Diego; Heeren from Brookings, S.D.; and O’Neal from Las Vegas.

Freidheim said Kennedy had caused “unnecessary anxiety to a number of military families by releasing prematurely the names of the men in an inaccurate form prior to the time Department of Defense casualty assistance officers could complete notification of the next-of-kin.”

Associated Press