

## Two POWs May Fly to U.S. Early

Clark AFB,  
Philippines

The first returned prisoners of war may leave the Philippines for the U.S. as early as today to be at the bedside of critically ill relatives, an Air Force spokesman said.

Doctors speeded medical processing of two POWs whose families in the U.S. have illness.

The two are Navy Commander Brian D. Woods, 40, of San Diego, who was added to the released list at the last minute so he could be at his mother's bedside, and Air Force Major Glendon W. Perkins, 38, of Orlando, Fla. Officials did not give details of the illness in Perkins' family.

### TIME

An Air Force spokesman said the two men could leave for the U.S. as early as 6 p.m. (2 a.m. PST), but he emphasized the departure schedule was tentative.

Woods and Perkins thus may be the first of the 143 men from POW camps in Indochina to return to the U.S.

Colonel Alfred Lynn, who traveled to Hanoi to help secure release of prisoners there, said some of the other former captives are in good health and may complete their medical checkups at Clark Air Base hospital sooner than the three days originally scheduled.

### HEALTHY

Roger Shields, a Pentagon aide closely involved in planning the men's return to American life, said he was encouraged by the mental health of those he had met.

"I am not aware of any problems," Shields said. "I think they are going to adjust very well.

"The organization and discipline were very, very good," Shields said. "At Hanoi airport, they marched off their buses in military order. There are men with a lot of pride. We knew they did their best to maintain themselves in good condition."

Associated Press



UPI Telephoto  
THE PRISONER'S FATHER, R. W. D. WOODS  
He showed pictures of his wife and son

FEB 13 1973

## SFChronicle She's in the Hospital

# Mother Doesn't Know Son Is Free

### Coronado

The critically ill mother of Navy Commander Brian B. Woods was unaware yesterday that her son had been freed as a prisoner of war on an urgent appeal from his father and was on his way home from Hanoi to see her.

"I hope he can pull her through," said the father, R. W. D. Woods, 70, a retired Navy admiral. "I plan to have a doctor present when I tell her because it could be too much of a shock. I'm hoping for a positive reaction, not a negative one — but we must be prepared."

The younger Woods was shot down over North Vietnam on Sept. 18, 1968, and had not been on the original list of POWs to be released first, but his name was added by the North Vietnamese on Sunday, apparently because of his family's appeal.

"They did it on the basis of humanitarianism," said his father, after Woods stepped off the last plane from Hanoi.

Woods' mother is in a Coronado hospital intensive care unit with heart and kidney ailments.

Pentagon authorities said because of the "emergency

situation," special arrangements might be made to fly Woods home before the normal minimum three-day stay at Clark Air Force Base, which would make him the first American POW to return home.

In Lemoore, Woods' wife, Paula, said she only found out Sunday night that her husband was being released. "We want to a late Mass and then to the store and it wasn't until I got home that I got a call from Washington that he was on the list," she said.

After she and their three children learned he was being released with the first group of POWs. "I scrubbed the floor and cleaned the bird cage, kept myself calmed down," she said.

United Press