

Hanoi to Release Son of Admiral

Saigon

A Navy pilot who will be freed from the Hanoi Hilton this week is the son and namesake of the admiral who directed some of the heaviest bombing raids over North Vietnam.

Lieutenant Commander John S. McCain III, 36, was shot down in his A-4 Skyhawk jet by an antiaircraft missile over North Vietnam on Oct. 26, 1967, eight months before his father, Admiral John S. McCain Jr., took over in Honolulu as commander of the U.S. forces in the Pacific.

Commander McCain parachuted into Truc Ban Lake northwest of Hanoi while his stricken jet plunged into a factory compound. He was captured by women and teen-agers of "the people's security service."

The complete bombing halt of the North ordered by the late President Johnson was in effect when Admiral McCain took over as boss in the Pacific. So for almost two years he never had to make a decision that might affect the safety of his son. Commander McCain wasn't even known to be alive until his name turned up among 59 prisoners listed for an

anti-war group visiting Hanoi in November, 1969.

Throughout his tour in Honolulu, the admiral refused to discuss his son's capture publicly. His silence was most noticeable on Thanksgiving Day, 1970, when Joe McCain, another son who had served on the Enterprise off Vietnam, ate pig fat, mashed pumpkin and dried rice in a bamboo cage in Los Angeles' Pershing Square with the relatives of 100 other captured pilots.

Commander McCain will be returning to his wife Carol and their three sons — Doug, 13, Andy, 10, and Sidney, 6. They were last reported living in Orange Park, Fla. *Associated Press*