

Admiral's Son Tells Of Torture

Jacksonville, Fla.

Former prisoner of war John S. McCain III said yesterday his North Vietnamese captors both saved his life and tortured him after they learned his father was an admiral destined to become commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific.

"My leg was broken and I had other injuries when I was shot down," McCain, a Navy lieutenant commander who was captured in October, 1967, told a news conference. "After four days with no medical treatment whatever . . . I realized I was dying.

"One of my 'dear friends' we called 'the bug' came in and brought a doctor. I asked, 'Are you going to take me to the hospital?' And they said 'too late, too late.'"

After he was taken to a hospital, McCain said his treatment was good for a while but deteriorated again when the North Vietnamese tried to take advantage of his father's position.

"In mid-1968 a man in charge of all the camps tried to get me to accept release," McCain said. "I didn't know at the time that it coincided with my father's appointment as commander in the Pacific. When I refused to take release ahead of Commander (Everett) Alvarez and the others who'd been there longer, the treatment became very bad."

He said his leg was rebroken, his teeth smashed, one arm broken and various other injuries inflicted in a series of torture sessions.

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