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# Son Tay Raiders in Reunion Here

By Dick Alexander

## Chief Says: 'We'd Do It Again'

The Air Force general who ordered the abortive commando raid on the Son Tay prison camp in 1970 said yesterday he would do it again given the same set of circumstances.

Major Gen. Leroy J. Manor, replying to suggestions that the pre-raid intelligence could have been satisfactory, said:

"We were confident they (American POWs) would be there."

Manor, now vice commander of the 13th Air Force

at Clark Air Base, the Philippines, was overall commander of the search and rescue mission of volunteer Army and Air Force men that

dropped into the North Vietnamese prison camp in November, 1970, only to find American POWs gone.

The mission itself was led by Army Col. Arthur "Bull" Simons.

### Earlier Departure

Earlier last week, Navy Cmdr. Bender Crayton, senior POW at Son Tay, said

the last man left the camp on July 15, some four months before the rescue-minded task force arrived.

The general was here along with Crayton and other principals for the Simons Son Tay POW-raider get-together over the weekend. The group spent a quiet day yesterday with brunch, a bull session, a Bay tour and a visit to night spots.

Manor said the raiders were equipped with photographs.

He declined to say whether the aerial reconnaissance was high altitude or low level photography, but pointed

out the flights over the Son Tay compound were "fairly frequent" and some occurred very shortly before the Nov. 20 rescue attempt.

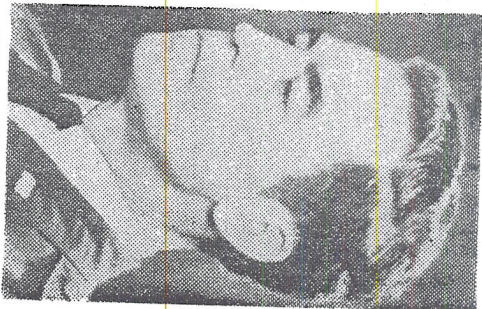
A study of the photographs showed "indications of activity" in the camp, some 30 miles northwest of Hanoi, he added, and "we were confident they (prisoners) would still be there."

### No Losses

The 49 year old general said the intelligence on enemy defenses was "very good" and "enabled us to get in and out and not suffer any loss."

Manor said the primary raiding party was made up of all volunteers — Green Berets and Air Force men — and actual training for the mission started in late August, 1970.

He declined to name the location where he worked from in the mission planning, but said he was operating out of a command post



**GENERAL MANOR**  
Would do it again

where he "had communication with every element of the force."