

POW Misconduct

--2 New Charges

Washington

A former high-ranking prisoner of war, Navy Rear Admiral James V. Stockdale, has filed misconduct charges against two other officers who were with him in North Vietnamese prison camps, Pentagon sources said last night.

The two men, Marine Lieutenant Colonel Edison Wainright Miller of Tustin, Calif., and Navy Captain Walter E. Wilber, of Columbia Cross Roads, Pa., are

the first ex-POW officers to face such charges. Both are pilots.

The sources said Stockdale has mailed the formal charges from his home in Coronada, Calif., to the office of Navy Secretary John Warner. Details of the charges aren't expected to be known until they reach Washington.

On May 29, Air Force Colonel Theodore Guy brought

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AP Wirephoto

ADMIRAL STOCKDALE
He cited two pilots



LT. COL. MILLER



CAPTAIN WILBER

The first officer POWs to be accused

On Miller and Wilber, see this file 18 Dec 73, "2 Ex-POWs Fault U.S. on Sontay Camp Raid."

They say they believe U.S. government knew there were no prisoners in Sontay camp before commando raid there in Nov 1970.

UPI Telephotos

POWs' MISCONDUCT

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similar charges against enlisted men who were held in North Vietnam. Guy accused some of taking special favors and telling the North Vietnamese about the activities of their fellow prisoners.

Some critics of Guy's charges noted then that no officers were named for alleged misconduct.

Under policy laid down by former Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, the Pentagon itself is bringing no charges against any of the 56 returned POWs. Many POWs made anti-war broad-

casts and statements, some of them after enduring torture at the hands of their captors.

But under the American system of military justice, any soldier may file charges against another serviceman. As in the case of the eight enlisted men, Pentagon officials must now decide if there is sufficient evidence to bring the charges before courts martial.

Miller, 41, was shot down over North Vietnam Oct. 13, 1967, while piloting an F-4 Phantom jet. Married and the father of five sons, he has been a marine since 1949.

Wilber, 43, was the executive officer of a squadron of F-4s when he was shot down June 16, 1968. Married, he has three sons and a daughter and has been in the Navy for 25 years.

In a television interview April 1, Wilber acknowledged making anti-war statements at the request of the North Vietnamese.

"I found out when I had time to think about where I was and what we were doing, I found out my conscience bothered me," he said at the time.

He said he was not tortured.

Associated Press