

# POW Pilots Accused By Admiral

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Two fighter pilots have been formally accused of misconduct for actions during their years in North Vietnamese prisoner of war camps. Pentagon sources disclose.

They are the first officers to face such charges, which were brought by Rear Adm. James V. Stockdale of Coronado, Calif. Stockdale, a captain as a POW, was promoted after he returned home.

The two men are Navy Capt. Walter E. Wilber, 43, of Columbia Cross Roads, Pa., and Marine Lt. Col. Edison Wainright Miller, 41, of Tustin, Calif.

## Downed in '68

Wilber was the executive officer of a squadron of Phantom F4 fighter planes when he was shot down over North Vietnam June 16, 1968.

Miller's Marine F4 Phantom went down over North Vietnam Oct. 13, 1967.

The sources said yesterday that Stockdale mailed the formal charges to Navy Secretary John Warner. Details of Stockdale's accusations were not available.

Contacted at his home, Stockdale said, "I am not at liberty at this point to confirm or deny that I have filed those charges, I . . . will not be able to talk about it until I am authorized by the DOD (Department of Defense) to do so . . . You must understand that no comment can be made in these cases until the men charged are advised."

## Enlisted Men

On May 29, eight enlisted men were formally charged by Air Force Col. Theodore Guy of misconduct during their imprisonment.

The eight, all foot soldiers captured in South Vietnam, have denied improper activities.

Under a policy set out by former Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, the Pentagon is making no formal charges against any of the 566 returned POWs. The accusations by Guy and Stockdale are made as individual servicemen charging other individual servicemen under the military code of justice.

There is a good chance many of the charges may be dropped. Each of the military service secretaries must consider the evidence brought by Guy and Stockdale and decide if court-martial will be convened.

## Legal Assistance

Both Guy and Stockdale were provided with military lawyers who helped draw up the legal papers, sources said. Officially, Pentagon spokesmen say they have neither discouraged nor encouraged any serviceman to take action against any former POW.

Wilber has acknowledged making anti-war statements while in captivity.

"I found out when I had time to think about myself, where I was, what we were doing, I found out that my conscience bothered me," he said in a recent interview.

Wilber is married and has three sons and a daughter. Miller is also married and has five sons.