

Former POWs recount captivity

By JANE E. ALLEN
Associated Press Writer

BETHESDA, Md. — Navy Lt. Jeffrey Zaun said yesterday he worried he might die for most of the time he was a prisoner of war in Iraq.

"About 90 percent of the time you felt you were in danger of losing your life," Zaun, of Cherry Hill, N.J., said in his first public remarks since returning to the United States and undergoing military debriefing.

"I thought about my family. I thought about God. Little mental games helped me get through, too," he told reporters at the National Naval Medical Center here.

During a news conference with six other former POWs, the 1984 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy smiled frequently and provided some of the most detailed answers to reporters' questions. Although Zaun has been suffering from a fever, he could be released this weekend, said Lt. Cmdr. S.R. Pietropaoli, a Navy spokesman.

Early in his captivity, Zaun's bruised and swollen face became familiar to television viewers worldwide through an Iraqi television broadcast in which he was forced to read statements criticizing the war.

"They told me what the five questions were they were going to ask. Then they

told me what my answers were going to be," Zaun recalled.

He said he did his best to try to "screw it up a little bit" when giving the answers, but figured the Iraqis didn't really care what he said because "they were translating it into Arabic as they wanted to anyway."

In the Iraqi TV broadcast, Zaun spoke in a slow monotone and said: "I think our leaders and our people have wrongly attacked the peaceful people of Iraq."

He told reporters he was "a little worried" at the time that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein might use the videos to convince his people that they were winning the war. But he did not worry about the reaction of Americans.

"I had enough faith in the Americans to know anyone who saw us would say, 'that's ridiculous,'" Zaun said.

Reports that his facial bruises were self-inflicted were only partially accurate, Zaun said.

"I did bang on my nose at one point to see if I could get it to swell up or something so that they wouldn't put me on TV," he confirmed. However, "most of it was popping out of an airplane at 500 miles per hour," he said.

Some of the injuries also stemmed from rough handling by his captors.

Zaun, 28, was navigator-bombardier on a Navy A-6 Intruder jet that was shot down during a four-plane night strike over Iraq on Jan. 17, in the first 36 hours



Navy Lt. Jeffrey Zaun of Cherry Hill, N.J., appears bruised and battered, left, on Iraqi television in January. At right, Zaun appears at a news conference yesterday at Bethesda Naval Medical Center.



AP LaserPhoto

of the Gulf War. He was captured along with the pilot, Lt. Robert Wetzel, who grew up in Metuchen, N.J.

Wetzel, 30, did not appear at the news conference because he is undergoing surgery, Pietropaoli said. Wetzel sustained two broken arms and a broken collarbone after ejecting from his aircraft and returned home with his right arm in a sling.

Wetzel's parents, William and Kathleen Wetzel of Vero Beach, Fla., joined Marjorie and Calvin Zaun of Cherry Hill in watching the news conference from a balcony where reporters could not reach them.

Zaun said that from the time he and Wetzel landed near their Iraqi bombing target, "I didn't want to separate from Bobby."

Senate OKs benefits for Gulf War veterans

By DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Senate yesterday approved a \$500 million package of benefits for veterans of the Persian Gulf War that includes an increase in danger pay and a hike in education money for reservists.

The vote was 97-1 with Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., voting against the bill and Sens. Bob Graham, D-Fla., and James Jeffords, R-Vt., not voting.

The legislation, which also authorizes funds to cover the cost of the war, improves benefits covering small business and home loans, education programs and health insurance for veterans of the conflict.

"We have pledged to remember their service, not just in the first days of victory, but later, when the parades are over and they take up their daily lives again," said Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine.

Representatives of the Senate and the House will resolve differences between their two bills. The House on Wednesday approved a \$1.1 billion package of benefits that covers

veterans of earlier wars as well as the Gulf conflict.

Among the provisions of the Senate measure are:

- A temporary increase in the imminent danger pay from \$110 per month to \$150 per month, retroactive to Aug. 1, 1990, the day before Iraq invaded Kuwait.

- Payment to survivors of military personnel of the unused accrued leave of the family member who died on active duty.

- An increase in the death gratuity pay from \$3,000 to \$6,000.


- A delay in the reduction of mental health benefits from Feb. 15, 1991 to Feb. 15, 1992.

- Approximately \$20 million for child care assistance for military personnel serving on active duty and \$30 million for education and family support services to families of military personnel.


In hopes of expediting the legislation, the Senate leadership put together a package of benefits that encompassed scores of amendments considered by the Finance, Veterans' Affairs, Armed Services and other committees.

Double Dual Gymnastics

TOMORROW NIGHT



Senior Lynn Crane



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Lady Lions vs. Rutgers & Temple
Nittany Lions vs. Michigan State

8:00 p.m.
REC HALL

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Wynton Marsalis



Sunday, March 17
7:00 p.m.
Capitol Theatre, Williamsport

\$50 Benefit Ticket Package includes "best seats in the house" plus meet the artist reception to follow the concert in the Garden and Terrace Rooms of Williamsport's Genetti Hotel. The reception will benefit The Capitol Campaign, a community fundraising drive to support the restoration and renovation of the Capitol Theatre.

Individual Concert Tickets also available

\$20 \$15 \$10


Tickets available at Capitol Theatre Box Office. Call (717) 326-2424

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Attention Musicians: Wynton Marsalis will conduct a clinic for local musicians beginning at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 17, in the Pennsylvania College of Technology Academic Center Auditorium. Admission: \$3.00. Group rates available. Call 326-2424 for more information.

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COMPUTER FAIR—MARCH 15 AND 16, 1991

Who: Penn State
What: Computer Fair
When: Friday, March 15 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, March 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: The Nittany Lion Inn
State College, Pennsylvania


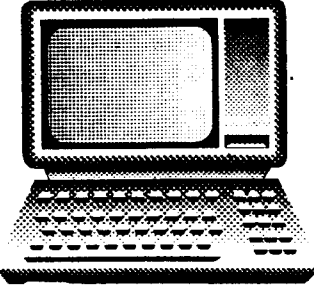
A Computer Fair will be held in conjunction with the Tenth Annual Microcomputer Information Conference March 15 and 16 at the Keller Conference Center on Penn State's University Park Campus.

The fair will be held at The Nittany Lion Inn, adjacent to the Conference Center, the same days as the conference. The fair is **open to the general public**, and there is **no** admission charge for the fair. In order to attend the conference, one must register in the lobby of the Keller Conference Center. To obtain additional information, call (814) 863-1743.

Products from the following companies will be on display:

Apple Computer, Inc.
Artemis Electronic Imaging, Inc.
Arthur B. Williams & Assoc.
FBC Computer Systems, Inc.
General Computer Center
Grid Systems Corp.
Hewlett-Packard Co.
IBM Corp.
Keewaydin Computer
Lynbar Group, Inc.

Master Computer
Mazza Computer Systems, Inc.
Micro Marketing
Radio Shack, Education Division
RBA Professional Data Systems, Inc.
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WEEKENDER

FRIDAY
Beth Williams 5-7 Happies
Rene Campbell 9:00
Rocky Horror Picture Show - Midnight
One the tube: Penn State vs. UCLA 3:00; NHL: Rangers vs. Devils 7:30

SATURDAY
Beth Williams 5-7 Happies
Dan Burien 10:00
On the tube: NHL: Flyers vs. Capitals 7:30

ST. PATTY'S DAY
Tommy Wareham 4:30-7:30
Ken Kruger 7:30-9:30
Beth Williams 10:00-1:00
One the tube: NBA: Sixers vs. Celtics 12:30
NHL: Penguins vs. Rangers 1:30; NHL: Bruins vs. Flyers 7:05
Penn State Basketball
Featuring Busch Pitchers 10:00-12:00

And if you're lucky, we may still have green beer left.

MONDAY: Boxing: Tyson vs. "Razor" Ruddock