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THREE FREED U.S. PILOTS RELAX AND SWAP STORIES AFTER BREAKFAST

From left, they are Maj. Norris Overly, Lt. (j.g.) David Matheny, and Capt. Jon D. Black. They dined on steak and eggs during a refueling stop at Alaskan base.

3 Freed U.S. Fliers Headed for Reunions

By DARRELL GARWOOD

WASHINGTON—(UPI)—The three American pilots freed by North Vietnam flew home Saturday for a reunion with their families.

The pilots, Air Force Maj. Norris M. Overly and Capt. Jon D. Black and Navy Lt. (j.g.) David P. Matheny, were expected to arrive at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., outside Washington about midnight EST.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base at Dayton, Ohio. Black, whose wife Carol lives in Laredo, Tex., will go to Lackland Air Force base at San Antonio.

Matheny will enter Bethesda Naval Hospital in suburban Maryland. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Matheny of Bakersfield, Calif., will fly to Washington Sunday for a reunion with their son.

The fliers left Clark Field in the Philippines Friday night aboard an Air Force C-141 jet transport plane, which stopped for refueling at Eielson on the way to Washington.

Overly said at Manila, after the three had been given haircuts, medical checkups and a lunch of steak and eggs, that they felt fine and were "really happy" to be going home.

A C41 Starlifter jet transport with the three pilots on board landed shortly after noon (PST) in sub-zero weather and biting wind at Eielson Air Force Base, near Fairbanks, Alaska.

Reporters were not allowed to speak with the pilots, who dined on steak and eggs at the base Officers' Club while the four-engine transport was being refueled.

A military spokesman said the men appeared to be in good physical condition. He said they joked with a waitress during the meal.

The Pentagon said Overly and Black would leave almost immediately for Air Force hospitals closest to their homes, where they will undergo briefings and physical examinations.

Overly, whose wife, Ruth, resides at Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Oscoda, Mich., will fly to