

Nuclear Sub Collision Underwater

HONOLULU (AP) — Two U.S. Navy nuclear-powered submarines collided underwater Wednesday night but both made it back to port six hours later.

The superstructure of one was damaged.

The submarines, Sargo and Barb, each carried about 95 crewmen and a submarine divi-

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sion commander. No injuries were reported.

Apparently the bow of one sub knifed into the other's conning tower in the collision 15 miles west of Oahu Island's Barbers' Point. But the Navy wasn't saying which did what. Nor would it allow photographs of the damage.

A Navy spokesman said sonar equipment was operating on both submarines. They were taking part in submerged training.

The Navy wouldn't say what the sub depths were at the time of the collision.

Navy divers went down early Thursday at Pearl Harbor submarine base for an over-all check.

The Navy assured U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, in Washington there was "no danger of nuclear radiation."

It was the second Navy mishap in the Pacific within a week. Last week, planes off the aircraft carrier Ticonderoga bombed the inhabited island of Niihau, mistaking it for uninhabited Kaula Rock during night bombing exercises.

The Sargo was the first nuclear sub to receive a complete overhaul, including its nuclear reactor, at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

The Barb is a newer model with the same name as the famed World War II submarine which was skippered by Rear Adm. B. E. Fluckey, now Pacific Submarine Force commander.