

Leaky Hose Blamed

Crew Exonerated In Sargo Explosion

All submariners involved in the June 14 explosion aboard the nuclear powered submarine Sargo at Pearl Harbor have been exonerated and received a pat on the back, Rear Admiral Roy S. Benson's Submarine Force Pacific headquarters said today.

Headquarters spokesmen said the men were commended for confining the damage in the blast. One person died in the accident.

It was learned from a reliable source that the explosion, which occurred while the Sargo was being refueled with liquid oxygen, came as the result of a leaking hose.

"Luckily enough of the hose was found to prove where the fault lay," the source added.

He said use of that type hose would be abandoned

until further tests and improvements are made.

He said that the type of hose which caused the blast has been in use for some time, both in commercial and military use.

The Sargo was not damaged as extensively as had first been feared.

But it still will be October before the Sargo is out of drydock and into operation, the source said.

He also disclosed that Vice Admiral Hymen G. Rickover, father of the nuclear submarine, paid a brief visit to submarine headquarters here last month prior to the Sargo explosion.

He said the admiral's visit wasn't made public because Rickover abhors publicity and that press conferences keep him from working