

USS SARGO REACHES NORTH POLE

The nuclear powered submarine USS SARGO (SSN-583) reached the geographic North Pole at 9:34 a.m. Honolulu time Tuesday morning, February 9th, after cruising 2,744 miles under the Arctic ice pack in 14 days and 21 hours.

The SARGO left Pearl Harbor for the Arctic on January 18. She was joined in the Bering Sea January 26 by the ice breaker USS STATEN ISLAND which had sailed from Seattle.

The ships parted company on January 27 with the ice breaker remaining about 61 degrees 14 minutes North latitude (Northern part of Bering Sea) while the submarine steamed North under the ice.

The purpose of the SARGO's cruise is to continue the exploration of the Arctic Basin which was begun in 1958 by the USS NAUTILUS and continued last year by the USS SKATE. The three ships have collected oceanographic data in an effort to learn more about the physical structure of the ocean bottom and about sea

and ice conditions in the relatively unknown area.

Lieutenant Commander John H. Nicholson, commanding officer of the SARGO, brought his ship up through the ice seven times while enroute to the Pole. In most of the surfacing, the entire ship was able to break through. On her last two attempts only her high "sail" could penetrate ice at least three feet thick.

Nicholson planted the flag of the State of Hawaii at the Pole and radioed Governor William F. Quinn of Hawaii stating, "The aloha spirit has now been felt at both ends of the globe."

On October 26, 1959, the Hawaiian flag was hoisted at the Naval Air Facility, McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. It had been brought to Antarctica by Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood, Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet, who presented it to Rear Admiral David M. Tyree, Commander of Naval Support Forces in Antarctica.

The SARGO is now continuing her exploration of the Arctic Basin.