

Tigers shoot down Air Force plane at Palaly. (1995, November 19).  
*The Island.*

Co-pilot and two others rescued, three still missing

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An air force cargo plane with six crew members on board was shot down by the LTTE yesterday morning while it was approaching the Palaly military base in Jaffna for landing.

A defence ministry spokesman said that small arms fire from two boats hit the Chinese-built YH8 aircraft which was transporting barbed wire and concertina wire, around 8 a.m. nearly 3 kilometres north of Palaly resulting in the aircraft

crashing into the sea.

The co-pilot and two other personnel on board have been rescued by the navy while search operations for the other crew members were continuing at the time this edition went to press.

A defence ministry communique said that no others were on board apart from the crew members.

The ill-fated cargo plane the largest in the armed forces fleet — left the Ratmalana airbase at 7 p.m.

The Tigers had approached the flight path of the aircraft in two boats.

Military analysts said that the loss of the cargo plane was a blow to the security forces since it was the airforce that mainly transported supplies to the troops.

In April the Tigers shot down two Avro transport planes at Palaly killing 90 security forces personnel.

The air force commander was not available for comment at the time of going to press.