

Navy foils LTTE bid to smuggle warlike materials. (2007, December 26). *News hub.*

Navy foils LTTE bid to smuggle warlike materials: 11 LTTE boats destroyed - Delft [Updated]

Eleven LTTE attack boats were destroyed including two suicide craft during a heavy sea battle erupted this morning (December 26) south off Delft, Naval sources say.

According to latest information, Navy fast attack craft triumphed destroying eleven LTTE boats, while unconfirmed sources reveal that several terrorists were killed during the hours long sea confrontation.

Naval task units including fast attack craft engaged decisive strikes at an LTTE boat cluster consisting 16 boats, Naval sources said.

Elite Naval sea units detected a suspicious boat cluster in seas south west off Delft, today at around 7.30a.m. Clashes erupted in a fierce sea battle when Naval task units took initiative to cut off the suspicious boat movement, at 11.30a.m, defence sources say. Naval sources, LTTE elements were engaged in a clandestine sea movement smuggling warlike material towards the non-liberated coast when detected by the Naval patrol units.

Naval fast attack craft responded effectively towards the LTTE cluster with heavy gunfire and evasive battle manoeuvres, forcing them to flee further southwards. According to information received, SLAF MI-24 gunships also engaged aerial strikes at the fleeing LTTE boats.

Meanwhile, defence sources said LTTE communication has gone silent since the break-off of fighting in the waters off Delft. Further said, a dockyard built naval craft was damaged when two suicide LTTE boats exploded in the Naval retaliatory attacks. The damaged craft has been towed towards the Kankesanthurai harbour, by Naval sea units security sources said.

According to latest reports, the slain body of a naval officer was recovered by naval units during search operations conducted. Two others were also rescued during the salvage operations, sources reveal.

Meanwhile, eleven other naval personnel were reported missing following the confrontation, Naval sources said.

Related Link: Sea battle erupts south of Delft