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Surinam Airway Jetliner Crashes, Killing 174

by John Neagle

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On June 7, a Surinam Airway DC-8 crashed near Paramaribo, killing 174 of those aboard. On Wednesday evening, the official Surinamese News Agency listed 13 survivors. The plane was completing an all-night flight from Amsterdam to the capital. Suriname is a former Dutch colony. Airline spokesperson Robbi Lachmising told reporters in Amsterdam that the Surinamese airport has no radar. Listed as missing and presumed dead were Surinam's army chief of staff, Maj. Raymond Lieuw Yen Tai; air force commander Maj. Eddy Djoe, and army chief of operations Capt. Armand Salomons. On June 8, the Surinamese News Agency reported that 14 people had survived the crash. The plane, said SNA, carrying 178 passengers and a crew of 10, crashed during a third attempt to land in foggy conditions at Zanderij airport. The plane was reportedly six hours late on approaching the airport. Surinam has declared one week's state mourning for the victims of the crash. Eyewitnesses said the plane had hit a tree in an uninhabited area three kilometers from the runway, flipped over, broke into pieces and burst into flames. (Basic data from AP, 06/07/89; DPA, 06/08/89)

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