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Peru: Plane Crashes In Jungle Area; Recent Crashes Attributed To Poor Maintenance

by John Neagle

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On June 21, a plane carrying 35 people crashed into a mountain near the village of Uyubamba, 100 miles northeast of Lima. Police chief in the city of Huancayo, Gen. Edgar Sullca Flores, told reporters June 22 that the air force plane converted for passenger service left the jungle town of San Ramon at 5:30 p.m. June 21 bound for Lima. Later Thursday, local radio reports said there were no survivors. The cause of the crash was not immediately known. The aircraft was a US-made, twin-engine Buffalo cargo plane. The Peruvian air force provides passenger service to remote towns in the country's eastern Amazon jungle since the routes are not profitable for civilian airlines. On the same day, an Aeroperu DC-8 made an emergency landing at Lima's international airport on a flight from Cuzco. Airport officials said the landing gear on the plane would not come down. After circling the airport for over an hour to consume its remaining fuel, the aircraft was able to land. There were no injuries. In the last two years, there have been six crashes of domestic civilian and military passenger planes in Peru. According to critics, most of the crashes can be attributed to poor maintenance due to lack of spare parts. (Basic data from AP, DPA, 06/22/89)

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