

Thai Navy Corvette Sinks in Heavy Seas



The HTMS Sukhothai is seen from the deck of HTMS Kraburi (FFG-457) just prior to sinking. ROYAL THAI NAVY ARLINGTON, Va. – The Royal Thai Navy (RTN) corvette HTMS Sukhothai (FS 442) has sunk in the Gulf of Thailand after foundering in heavy seas Dec. 1.

Of the crew of 106 personnel, 75 have been reportedly rescued as the search continues for the remaining 31 crewmembers.

According to Thai Navy statements, the corvette encountering rough seas which caused flooding of the propulsion and electrical spaces. The loss of power prevented the ship from pumping out water to regain stability.

The RTN dispatched ships to assist the Sukhothai, and HTMS Kraburi (FFG 457) arrived just before the ship sank. Other ships and aircraft arrived on the scene to rescue crew members.

The 251-foot, 960-ton Sukhothai was commissioned in 1987.

Other Thai Navy ships are assisting in the search for survivors, including the frigate HTMS Bhumibol Adulyadej (FFG-471) and landing platform dock HTMS Angthong (LPD-791).