

# Adam Air search hones in on seabed

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The Jakarta Post/Makassar

A U.S. navy ship taking part in the search for a missing Adam Air jetliner confirmed Wednesday the presence of large metal objects on the floor of the Mamuju Sea, off the coast of West Sulawesi.

The commander of the Indonesian Navy's Eastern Fleet, Rear Adm. Moekhlas Sidik, said in Makassar, South Sulawesi, that despite the confirmation by the USNS Mary Sears, an oceanographic survey ship, it was still uncertain whether the metal objects were debris from the plane, which went missing nine days ago.

"There is no confirmation yet whether the metal objects are from the missing plane," Moekhlas said after returning from aboard a ship in the area.

"It will take them until 10 p.m. tonight to confirm the exact position and to figure out what kind of object is down there," Moekhlas said as quoted by *Reuters*.

"The USNS Mary Sears has multi-beams to receive noise frequency that will enable them to form a silhouette. We are focusing on the coordinate that has the strongest ping," Moekhlas told a news conference.

The spot being examined is 31 kilometers northwest of Tanjung Rengas at a depth of 1,700 meters, he said.

Commander of the Makas-

sar air base, First Air Marshal Eddy Suyanto, said during a later news conference that authorities had to analyze the data gathered by the USNS Mary Sears, and a final determination might not be available until Thursday morning.

Mark Jarrett, deputy director of operations for the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office, said the U.S. vessel was used to conduct oceanographic surveys and map the seabed, but that it had its limits.

"In shallow water that's not too difficult (to identify metal objects), in less than 500 meters. Any deeper ... and it will be very difficult for our ship to identify any parts, especially if they're small," he told *Reuters* in Washington.

A Canadian Beechcraft King Air 200 twin turboprop plane arrived at Hasanuddin air base in Makassar, South Sulawesi, on Tuesday, *AFP* reported.

It was expected to join in the aerial search for the missing aircraft later Wednesday, said Lanang Bodi, an officer on duty at the air base's Search and Rescue Center.

Suyanto, who is heading the search operation, said the plane was carrying aerial land-mapping equipment, metal-detecting radar and cameras.

The Adam Air Boeing 737-400 with 102 people on board vanished off radar screens on New Year's Day, halfway through a flight from Surabaya, East Java, to Sulawesi island in the northeast.



Super Puma SA-330

# ADAM AIR SAR SQUADS

## INDONESIA

Boeing 737-200.

Nomad N-42.

Three of CASA 212s.

Super Puma SA-330 helicopter.

PZ 2039 helicopter.

Two of BO-105 Bolcow helicopter.

KRI Fatahillah.

KRI Rengat.

KRI Pulau Rapat.

KRI Ajax.

KRI Leuser.

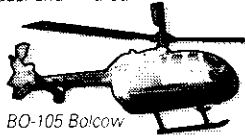
KRI Sulu Pari.

Baruna Jaya research ship with 25 scientists.

Mini-submarine type PAP 104 or MDV, 3,000 personnel from the Indonesian Military

## SINGAPORE

Fokker-50 maritime plane, equipped with radar and infrared.



BO-105 Bolcow

From various sources

CASA 212



## USA

U.S. naval ship Mary Sears T-AGS 65 Oceanographic Survey Ship.

Keyhole satellite.

### U.S. Team:

Robert Benson and Clinton Crok Shank (National Transportation Safety Board).

T.R. Proven (Federal Aviation Administration).

Rickey Howes and Lauri Anglin (Boeing).

Leslie McVey (General Electric).



Fokker 50 maritime

## CANADA

Beechcraft King Air 200 twin turboprop plane.

## RUSSIA

COSPAS satellite.

JP/Darul Aqsha/Dorisy Hariyad