

Tiger attempt to blast Navy vessel foiled. (1994, November 23). *The Island*.

Tiger attempt to blast Navy vessel foiled

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A Sea Tiger attempt to blast a Navy patrol vessel was aborted by the recovery of a powerful sea mine off the army-held Kayts Island west of the Jaffna peninsula on Friday (18). "The mine weighing about 50 kgs was detected and recovered by a patrol vessel on Friday," a Navy spokesman said yesterday.

He said that a plastic barrel had been filled

with explosives to blow up a vessel operating in the area. He did not rule out the possibility of the Sea Tigers planning to infiltrate the defences of the Karainagar naval base to blast a vessel, but abandoning the 'mission' halfway and leaving the mine between the Kayts and Karaitivu islands.

Karainagar base which is considered to be the Navy's northern headquarters is situated on Karaitivu Is-

land, west of the Jaffna peninsula.

Military officials said that Sea Tigers are likely to launch a series of attempts to cripple naval operations in the north.

They said that the idea is to force the Navy to limit its patrolling of the northern seas and destroy vessels that could take part in the amphibious operations.

Meanwhile, defence ministry spokesman Brigadier Gemunu

Kulatunga said that there had been no serious incidents on Sunday.

Asked whether the security forces have noticed any significant LTTE build-up, Brigadier Kulatunga said that there had been a build-up in the Mullaitivu-Elephant Pass region before the LTTE declared a ceasefire.

The seven-day LTTE ceasefire was called off by them on Friday, a day ahead of its scheduled lapsing.