

Incident Report: 06/2009

Date/Time of Incident: 22 June 2009 at 1600 hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 01° 08.0' N, 103° 35.8' E

Area Description: Off Nipa Transit Anchorage, Straits of Malacca and Singapore

Name and Type of Ship: *Salvicero* / Tug boat towing *HDB 1006* / Barge

Details of Incident

On 22 June 2009 at about 1600 hrs (local time), a Singapore-registered tug boat, the *Salvicero*, towing a South Korean-registered barge, the *HDB 1006* was not making way at approximately 01° 08.0' N, 103° 35.8' E (off Nipa Transit Anchorage) when seven robbers approached the portside of the tug boat in a small wooden boat of approximately 8 metres long.

Three of the robbers reportedly armed with automatic rifle and handguns, boarded the tug boat. The crew of *Salvicero* immediately went into the accommodation areas and locked all access points to/from the deck. The crew remained inside the accommodation areas and sounded the alarm. The robbers attempted to enter the accommodation areas but failed after trying for about 10 minutes. Subsequently, the robbers left the tug boat in their wooden boat which was seen heading southwards.

The robbers did not fire their weapons and the tug boat was not damaged during the incident. The 22 crew on board the tug boat was not injured.

The ship master reported the incident to the Singapore VTIS and the local agent. The Baden SAR Nasional (BASARNAS) has also been duly informed.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

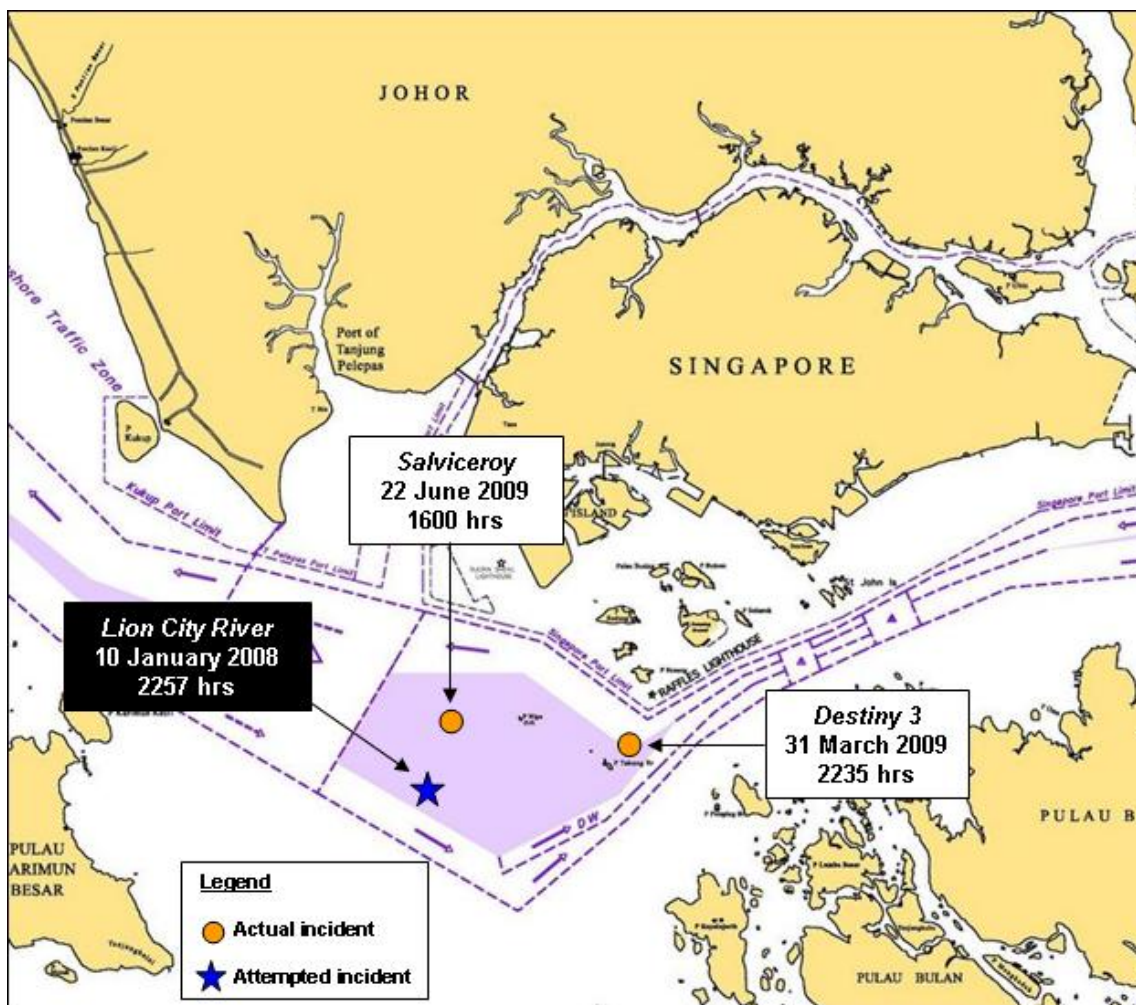


Comments by ReCAAP ISC

Since 2008, a total of two actual incidents and one attempted incident were reported in the vicinity. The incident involving *Salvicero* was the second incident reported in 2009. The first incident occurred on 31 March 2009, also involved a tug boat, *Destiny 3* towing a barge, *Dynaroy No 3*. The *Destiny 3* was boarded by seven robbers armed with knives, shotgun and pistols off Takong Light in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. The robbers stole the ship's certificates and crew's personal belongings. The attempted incident occurred on 10 January 2008 involved an oil tanker, the *Lion City River*. Please see map below on the location of these incidents.

Notably, the most recent incident involving *Salvicero* occurred during daylight hours.

The ship master and crew are commended for successfully deterred the robbers (who had managed to board the tug boat) from entering the accommodation areas.



Approximate location of incidents

