Incident Report: 04 /2010

Date/Time of Incident: 11 March 2010 at 0330hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 1° 17.8’ N, 104° 10.7’ E

Area Description: Approximately 2.6 nm southwest of Tanjung Ayam, Malaysia

Name and Type of Ship: SP Athens/ Chemical tanker

Details of Incident:

On 11 March 2010 at 0330hrs (local time), an unknown number of robbers armed with knives, boarded the chemical tanker while at anchor at approximately 2.6 nm southwest of Tanjung Ayam, Malaysia. The robbers boarded the tanker via the aft and entered the store of the engine room. They threatened the watchman with knives, tied him up in the engine room, and stole some engine spare parts before leaving the ship at about 0350 hrs (local time). The watchman was discovered in the engine room at about 0400 hrs (local time) during the handing over of watch. The bridge was notified, and a search of the ship was conducted to locate any robbers onboard. No suspicious personnel was found, and the crew was not harmed.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

Comments by ReCAAP ISC

This is the second incident reported by the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) to have occurred in the vicinity of Tanjung Ayam, Malaysia since January 2010. The first incident occurred on 13 February 2010 involving a container ship, Theodor Storm while at anchor at 01° 18.4’ N 104° 12.48’ E (south of Tanjung Ayam, Malaysia). The Duty Oiler at the engine control room reported to the Duty Officer on bridge that five robbers armed with knives boarded the ship, threatened him and searched for ship stores. The Duty Officer activated the general alarm and mustered all crew. The Chief Engineer and crew entered the engine room to investigate. A search was conducted but no suspicious personnel was found. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not harmed.
Ship master and crew are advised to maintain vigilance and adopt precautionary measures when anchored in the area. Early detection of boarding by suspicious personnel is the best deterrent as demonstrated in the incident involving Theodor Storm.

Approximate location of incidents