

**Incident Report:** 06/2010

**Date/Time of Incident:** 03 April 2010 at 0230hrs (local time)

**Location of incident:** 10° 38.06' N, 106° 46.07' E

**Area Description:** Hiep Phuoc, Vietnam

**Name and Type of Ship:** *Tirta Samudra XVII* / Chemical tanker

## Details of Incident

At about 0230 hrs (local time) on 3 April 2010, three robbers boarded an Indonesian-registered chemical tanker, *Tirta Samudra XVII* while she was berthed at Hiep Phuoc, a palm oil jetty in Vietnam. The robbers armed with knives, came in an engine-driven wooden boat and climbed up the tanker using grapnel and rope. While stealing some stores, they were sighted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer who reported the incident and raised the emergency alarm. Upon realising that they had been detected, the robbers held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer hostage, and took his walkie-talkie. The robbers released the 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer about 5 min later, and then escaped in their boat taking along with them three tins of paint and one walkie-talkie. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer was reportedly injured by one of the robbers who hit the 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer in the mouth. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer was sent to a local hospital for medical treatment, and had been discharged. The ship with all her crew onboard had left Vietnam for Indonesia.

The incident was reported to the Vietnam Marine Police by the Maritime Security Information Center (MSIC), Vietnam. The Vietnam Marine Police who is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Vietnam) reported the incident to the ReCAAP ISC.

## Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Vietnam)

## Comments by ReCAAP ISC

### Past Incidents

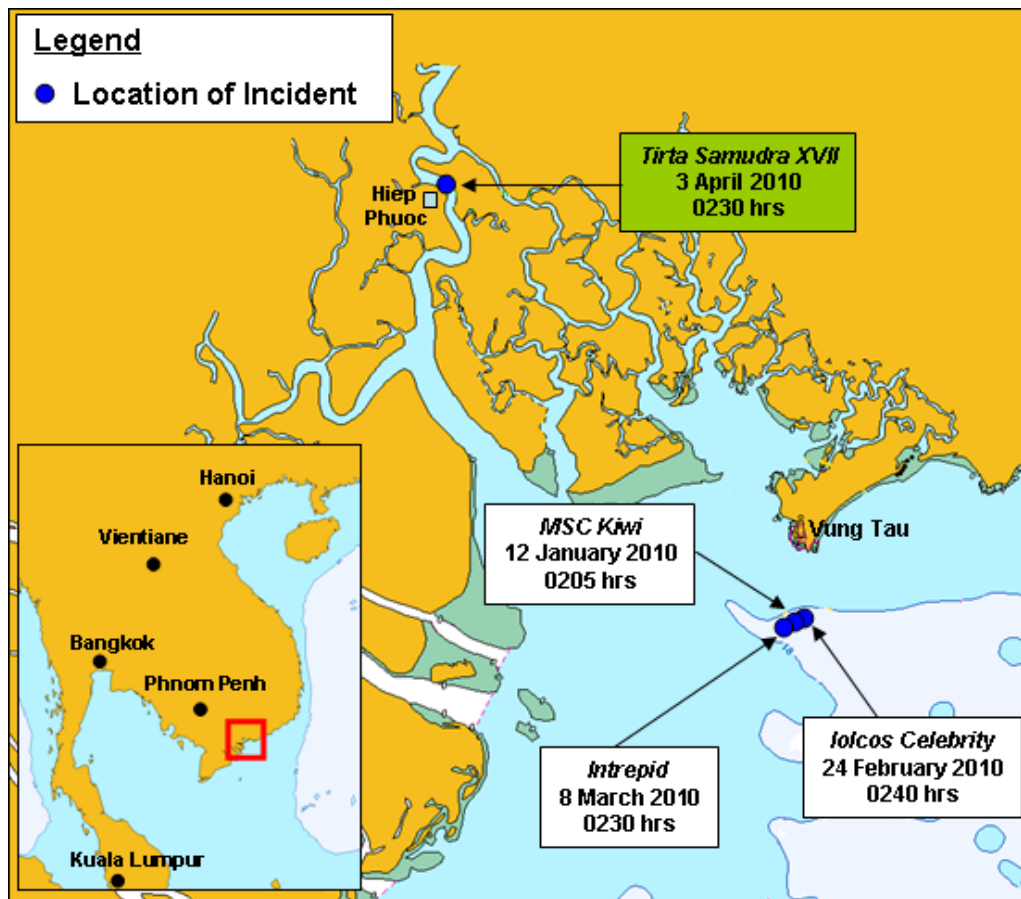
This is the fourth incident involving ships at anchor and berth off Vietnam since January 2010. All were Category 3 (less significant) incidents and occurred between 0205 hrs and 0240 hrs. The previous three incidents occurred at the anchorage area off Vung Tau while the latest incident involving *Tirta Samudra XVII* occurred at a palm oil jetty. Please see map on the location of the incidents.



## Recommendations

Ship masters and crew are advised to maintain vigilance at all times and adopt measures as listed in their counter-boarding plan. Early detection and reporting of an incident is the most effective deterrent and reduces the risk to the crew. The ReCAAP ISC cautions crew against confronting robbers who are armed, as such actions may antagonize the robbers, causing them to inflict harm on the crew.

The ReCAAP ISC strongly advocates that ship master reports all actual and attempted incidents to the port authorities or the nearest coastal State immediately. Immediate reporting may permit the authorities to assist the ship masters, carry out investigation and issue of precautionary warnings to ships operating in the vicinity.



Approximate location of incidents

