Incident Report: 18/2010

Date/Time of Incident: 4 Aug 10 at or about 0347hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 1° 21.71' N, 104° 20.44' E

Area Description: Approximately 2.5 nm east of Pulau Mungging, Malaysia

Name and Type of Ship: Hiryu, crude/oil product tanker

Details of Incident

On 4 Aug 10 at or about 0347 hrs (local time), a Saint Kitts & Nevis-registered tanker, Hiryu was anchored at about 2.5 nm east of Pulau Mungging, Malaysia when three robbers (suspected to be armed with guns) boarded the tanker. The crew raised the alarm and searched for the robbers who later escaped in a boat. The crew was not injured and nothing was stolen.

The master of Hiryu reported the incident to Singapore’s Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS). The Singapore’s Port Operation Control Centre (POCC) initiated a broadcast to alert mariners and informed MRCC Putra Jaya (Malaysia), BASARNAS (Indonesia), the Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) about the incident.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

Comments by ReCAAP ISC

There has been an increase in the number of incidents occurred in the vicinity off Pulau Mungging and Horsburgh Lighthouse during the period between 18 Jul 10 and 4 Aug 10. During this period, a total of four incidents were reported, and these involved Martha on 18 Jul 10, Cape Cosmos on 22 Jul 10, Pioneer Sky on 31 Jul 10 and Hiryu on 4 Aug 10. Notably, all four incidents occurred during the time window of between 0330 hrs and 0400 hrs.

Prior to this, most of the incidents occurred in the vicinity off Tanjung Ayam and Tanjung Ramunia. Between 13 Feb 10 and 8 Jul 10, a total of seven incidents were reported. It appears that there has been a shift in the robbery incidents from south of Tanjung Ayam to east of Pulau Mungging. Please see map below.
Ship masters operating in the vicinity are advised to maintain vigilance and take necessary precautionary measures. The ReCAAP ISC advises ship masters to report all actual incidents and attempted incidents to the nearest coastal State immediately.