

**Incident Report:** 09/2010

**Date/Time of Incident:** 19 Apr 2010 at 2328 hrs (local time)

**Location of incident:** 4° 25.51' N, 104° 18.92' E

**Area Description:** 57 nm northeast of Kuantan, Malaysia

**Name and Type of Ship:** *PU 2007*/Tug Boat (IMO no. 9430349)



Photograph courtesy of the ship owner

## Details of Incident

On 19 April 2010 at about 2328 hrs (local time), a Singapore-registered tug boat, *PU 2007* towing barge *PU 3316* activated its SSAS while she was underway at position 4° 25.51' N, 104° 18.92' E (approximately 57 nm northeast of Kuantan, Malaysia). The alert came on every 30 minutes since then. The tug boat with nine crew onboard had departed Kintap port, South Kalimantan, Indonesia and was heading towards the Gulf of Thailand to Sriracha port to discharge its cargo.

Suspected that *PU 2007* had been hijacked, the ship owner reported the incident to Singapore's Port Operation and Control Centre (POCC) which is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore), and the ReCAAP ISC. It is assessed that the tug boat had deviated from its planned course and was heading easterly. The last assessed position of the tug boat is about 91 nm east-northeast of Kuantan, and was heading easterly at about 3.8 knots towards the direction of Philippines/Kalimantan. The company is keeping a close watch over *PU 2007*, and getting their other tug boats in the vicinity to establish contacts with *PU 2007*.

The maritime authorities in the region and all ReCAAP Focal Point were immediately alerted to the missing vessels. In particular, the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), and the authorities of Brunei, Philippines and Indonesia had been alerted to lookout for the missing tug boat and barge.

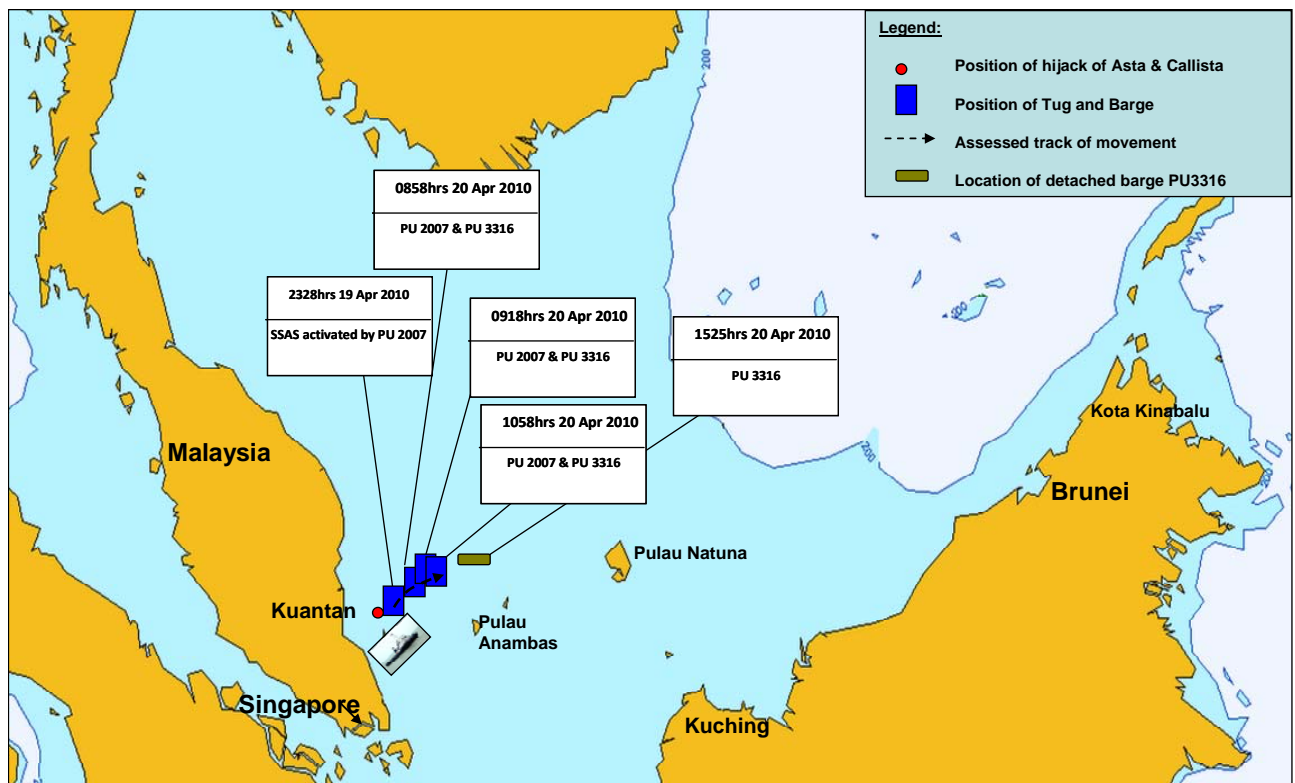




Photographs courtesy of the ship owner

## Sister barge *PU 3315*

The MMEA activated its ship and aircraft to the vicinity to locate the missing vessels. At about 1525 hrs on 20 April 2010, the barge was sighted at position 4° 29.9' N, 104° 56.8' E (approximately 105 nm east-northeast of Kuantan, Malaysia). See map below on the chronology of sightings of *PU 2007* and *PU 3316*.



Chronology of Sightings



## Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)  
Ship owner

## Comments by ReCAAP ISC

This is the second incident of hijacking of a tug boat in the vicinity since January 2010. The first incident involved the hijacking of tug boat *Asta* towing barge *Callista* on 6 February 2010. Similar to the incident involving *PU 2007*, the *Asta* also deviated from its planned course and headed northeasterly towards Philippines.

The ReCAAP ISC requests vessels transiting through the area to keep a sharp lookout for *PU 2007* and *PU 3316* (photographs enclosed for reference) and any sighting be immediately reported to Singapore's POCC and the nearest coastal State.

