Details of Incident

On 18 Apr 11 at or about 0512 hrs, a Singapore-registered barge *PAC Kalimantan* towed by an Indonesian-registered tug boat *Siak Selamat* was underway in the eastbound TSS south of Changi (01° 15.2' N, 104° 03.2' E) when the Singapore’s Police Coast Guard (PCG) sighted a sampan (small wooden boat) alongside the barge. On approaching the vessels, the PCG sighted four to five men leaving the barge onto two sampans which were moving away toward the southerly direction. The PCG informed the Indonesian authorities and Singapore’s Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) about the incident immediately.

The master and crew on checking the barge discovered that two mooring ropes and some lashing material were missing. They also discovered that four containers onboard the barge were broken into and some items such as the audio speakers and drinks were also missing.

The master and crew were not aware when and where the robbers boarded the barge until they were alerted by POCC. The Singapore’s POCC which is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) informed the Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) of the Republic of Singapore Navy about the incident, and promulgated broadcast to warn all vessels to maintain good anti-piracy watch when passing the area.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

Comments by ReCAAP ISC

This is the third incident reported in the area since January 2011. The previous two incidents involved tug boat *Lucky Star* on 25 Jan 11 and tugboat *SRO III* on 27 Mar 11. In the incident involving *Lucky Star*, nine robbers armed with knives in a high-powered wooden boat boarded the vessel and tied up the crew. Upon receiving report about the
incident, the Indonesian Navy patrol boat which was in the vicinity rushed to the location of the incident and apprehended the nine robbers. In the incident involving tug boat SRO III, three robbers boarded the tugboat, and took away the gangway ladder, ropes and Swiss lock from the barge. The crew was not injured in both incidents.

Please refer to map on the approximate location of the incidents.

Ship masters and crew are advised to exercise enhanced vigilance with all around lookout, and take necessary precautionary measures when operating in the area especially during hours of darkness. Masters of vessels towing unmanned barges are to exercise extra lookout for any suspicious approach to the barges. Ship masters are encouraged to report all actual and attempted incidents to the coastal State and flag State immediately.

Approximate Location of the Incidents since January 2011