

Incident Alert

Incident Report: 01/2012

Name and Type of Ship: *Crest Gold 1* / Tug boat
Crest 282 / Barge

Date/Time of Incident: 26 Feb 12 at 0130hrs
(local time)

Location of incident: 1° 16.1' N, 104° 17.6' E



Photograph courtesy of shipping company

Area Description: Underway in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore

Details of Incident

On 26 Feb 12 at or about 0130 hrs (local time), a Singapore-registered tug boat, *Crest Gold 1* towing barge *Crest 282* was underway in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore when four robbers armed with guns boarded the tug boat at approximately 5.34 nm north of Tanjung Tondang, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia (1° 16.1' N, 104° 17.6' E). The robbers took away a laptop and some valuables from the crew before leaving the tug boat. All crew was reported to be safe, and the tug boat continued its passage to Kuantan.

The master reported the incident to Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC), Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG), the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Jakarta (Indonesia), and MRCC Putra Jaya (Malaysia). The Singapore's POCC who is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) promulgated navigational broadcast to inform all ships about the incident and to maintain vigilance when passing the area.

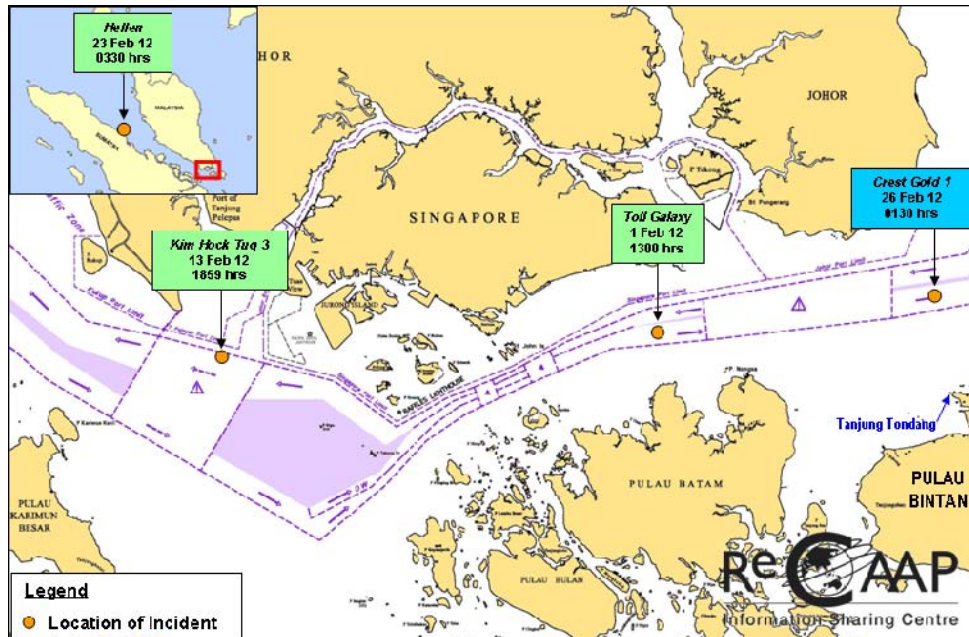
Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)
Shipping company

Comments by ReCAAP ISC

This is the fourth incident reported in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore since January 2012. Of these, three incidents involved tug boat towing barges (*Kim Hock Tug 3*, *Toll Galaxy* and *Crest Gold 1*) and one was an incident of armed robbery onboard chemical tanker, *Hellen*. Please refer to the map on the approximate location of the incidents. The ReCAAP ISC advises ship masters of tug boats to adopt precautionary measures and heighten vigilance when transiting the area.





Approximate location of incidents

There has been a surge of the number of incidents involving tug boats towing barges in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore with a total of 18 incidents reported in 2011. Together with the Information Fusion Centre (IFC), the ReCAAP ISC has launched a poster on 'Guidelines for Tug Boats and Barges against Piracy and Sea Robbery' during the Nautical Forum on 12 Jan 12. The ReCAAP ISC strongly urges ship masters to report all incidents of piracy and sea robbery to the nearest coastal State immediately; and ship owners and operators to report the incident to the ReCAAP Focal Point. A list of contact numbers is available on the poster (see below).

Guidelines for Tug Boats and Barges Against Piracy and Sea Robbery

Pre-Sailing Checklist

- Ensure physical security of tug/barge in place
- Verify information on contact points and test emergency communication devices
- Brief crew on transit areas and risk assessment
- Update on knowledge on recent piracy and robbery areas, and reporting procedure

Advice for Master and Crew During Sailing

- T** Total vigilance and situation awareness
- U** Undertake evasive manoeuvres
- G** Gather all crew and inform about the situation
- S** Ship's security plan to be briefed and tested
- B** Block all possible access and entry points
- A** Activate alarm to notify owner/authorities/ships in vicinity
- R** Remains in continuous communication with owner/authorities
- G** Go to safe muster point; offer no resistance
- E** Endeavour to provide physical description of pirates/robbers
- S** Share information and experience with investigators/seafarers

Country	Agency in Charge
Brunei	National Maritime Coordination Centre (NMCC) ☎ +67-2223-3351 ☎ +67-3717-6322
Cambodia	Maritime Marine Department ☎ +85-5-2386-4119
Philippines	Philippine Coast Guard PCG Action Centre - MRCC (Manila) ☎ +63-2-527-1877
Singapore	Maritime and Port Authority Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) ☎ +65-6206-5539 ☎ +65-6325-3493
Thailand	Royal Thai Navy ☎ +66-2475-3246
Vietnam	Vietnam Marine Police ☎ +84-4-3355-4378
Malaysia	Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Authority (MMEA) ☎ +607-2199418 ☎ +607-2199407
Indonesia	Indonesian Authorities ☎ +65-83430663 ☎ +65-95260965
IFC	Information Fusion Centre, Singapore ☎ +65-6594-5720 ☎ +65-9526-8965

Poster on 'Guidelines for Tug Boats and Barges against Piracy and Sea Robbery'

