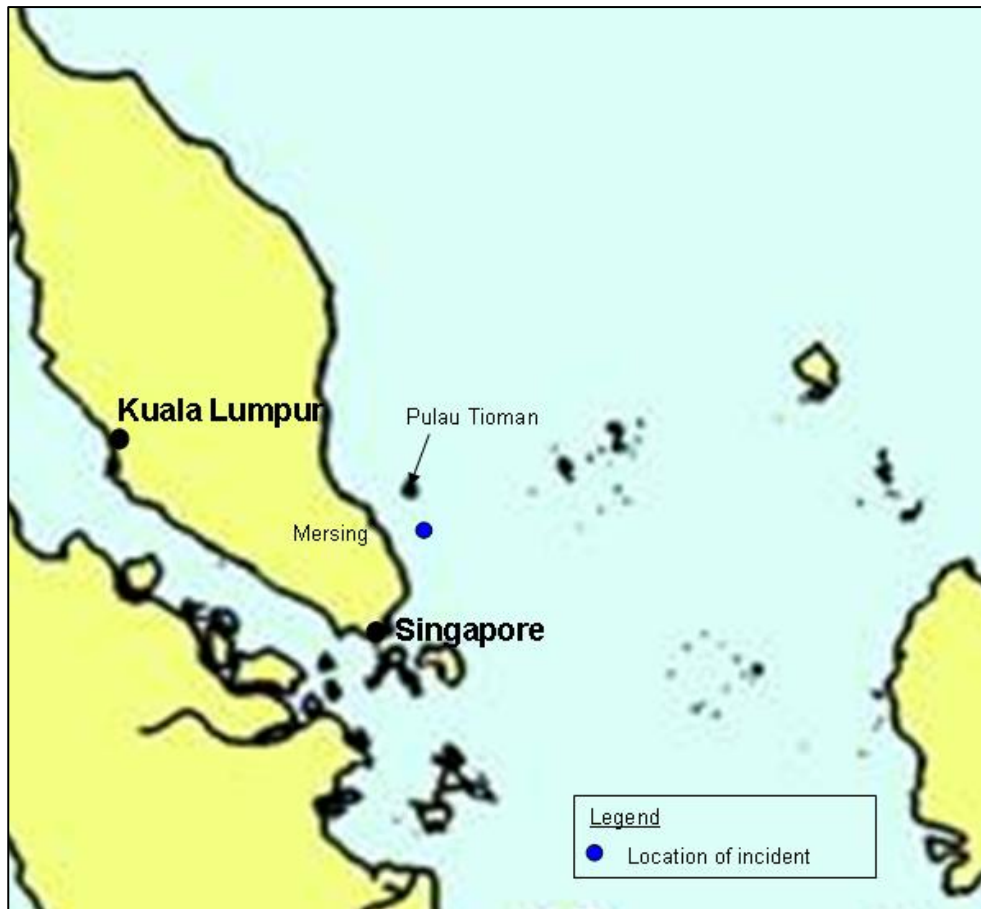


Incident Report :	07/2008
Date/Time of Incident :	30 April 2008 at 2330hrs
Location of incident :	02° 22' N, 104° 24.00' E
Area Description :	South of Pulau Tioman, South China Sea
Name/Type of Ship:	<i>PU 2008</i> / Tug Boat
<p>Details of Incident :</p> <p>The Singapore-registered tug boat, the <i>PU 2008</i> towing barge <i>PU 3306</i> was under way to Singapore from Vietnam on 30 April 2008.</p> <p>At 2330 hrs on 30 April 2008, the tug boat was at 02° 22' N, 104° 24.00' E (south of Pulau Tioman) in the South China Sea when six masked men armed with long knives boarded the tug boat from a dark blue speed boat measuring about 4m long. Please refer to map below on the approximate location.</p> <p>The robbers entered the accommodation area of the crew, took away the laptops, mobile phones and wallets of the crew (total estimated worth USD 3600) before escaping. No crew was injured.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to the coastal state and the flag state. The Singapore Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) initiated a broadcast on SafetyNet warning ships in the vicinity.</p>	
Reported by :	ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)
Comments by ISC :	Ship masters are advised to maintain vigilance at all times and take necessary precautionary measures when operating in the vicinity.

Observations by ISC :	The modus operandi of this incident was that of an opportunistic hit-and run operation where the robbers would come alongside the ship in a speed boat under the cover of darkness. They boarded the ship, stole the crew's cash and personal belongings before escaping in their speed boat. They did not harm the crew or cause damage to the ship.
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Location of Incident