

Incident Report:	14/2009
Date/Time of Incidents:	14 Sep 2009 at 0240 hrs (<i>Pacific Harmony</i>) 14 Sep 2009 at 0445 hrs (<i>MMM Kingston</i>)
Location of incidents:	01° 18.5' N, 104° 13.8' E (<i>Pacific Harmony</i>) 01° 18.3' N, 104° 12.56' E (<i>MMM Kingston</i>)
Area Description:	South of Tanjung Ayam, Malaysia
Name and Type of Ship:	<i>Pacific Harmony</i> /Tanker <i>MMM Kingston</i> /Chemical tanker

Details of Incidents

Two attempted incidents with similar modus operandi occurred within two hours and in close proximity south of Tanjung Ayam, Malaysia on 14 September 2009. The incidents are described below:

Attempted incident involving *Pacific Harmony* at 0240 hrs on 14 September 2009

Five men attempted to board a Panama-registered tanker, *Pacific Harmony* from a boat at 0240 hrs on 14 September 2009. The tanker was anchored at position 01° 18.5' N, 104° 13.8' E (approximately 2.4 nm southeast of Tanjung Ayam) when the attempted boarding took place. The duty crew raised the alarm when he sighted two men using a stick with hook attempting to board the tanker from the poop deck. The duty crew alerted all crew through the public address system. On hearing the alarm, the men aborted the boarding, jumped into the water and fled in their boat. The crew was not injured.

The ship master reported the incident to the Singapore's Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) and the Port Operation Control Centre (POCC) via VHF. The Singapore's POCC who is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) initiated a broadcast about the incident on the NAVTEX to warn ships in the vicinity, reported the incident to the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), the Singapore's Police Coast Guard (PCG), the MRCC Putra Jaya, Malaysia and Baden SAR Nasional (BASARNAS), Indonesia.



Attempted incident involving *MMM Kingston* at 0445 hrs on 14 September 2009

Approximately about two hours later at 0445 hrs, six men armed with long knives attempted to board a Malaysia-registered chemical tanker from a speed boat. The tanker was anchored at position 01° 18.3' N, 104° 12.56' E (approximately 2 nm south of Tanjung Ayam) when the attempted boarding took place. Two men attempted to board the tanker from the port quarter using hook while the other four men waited in the speed boat. The duty crew sighted the men, ran into the accommodation and informed the duty officer. The duty officer raised the alarm, sounded the fog horn and mustered all crew. Noting that the crew was alerted, the men aborted the boarding, jumped overboard and fled in their speed boat. The crew was not injured.

The ship master reported the incident to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) who relayed the information to the Singapore's POCC. The Singapore's POCC who is the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) initiated a broadcast about the incident on the NAVTEX to warn ships in the vicinity and reported the incident to the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC).

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

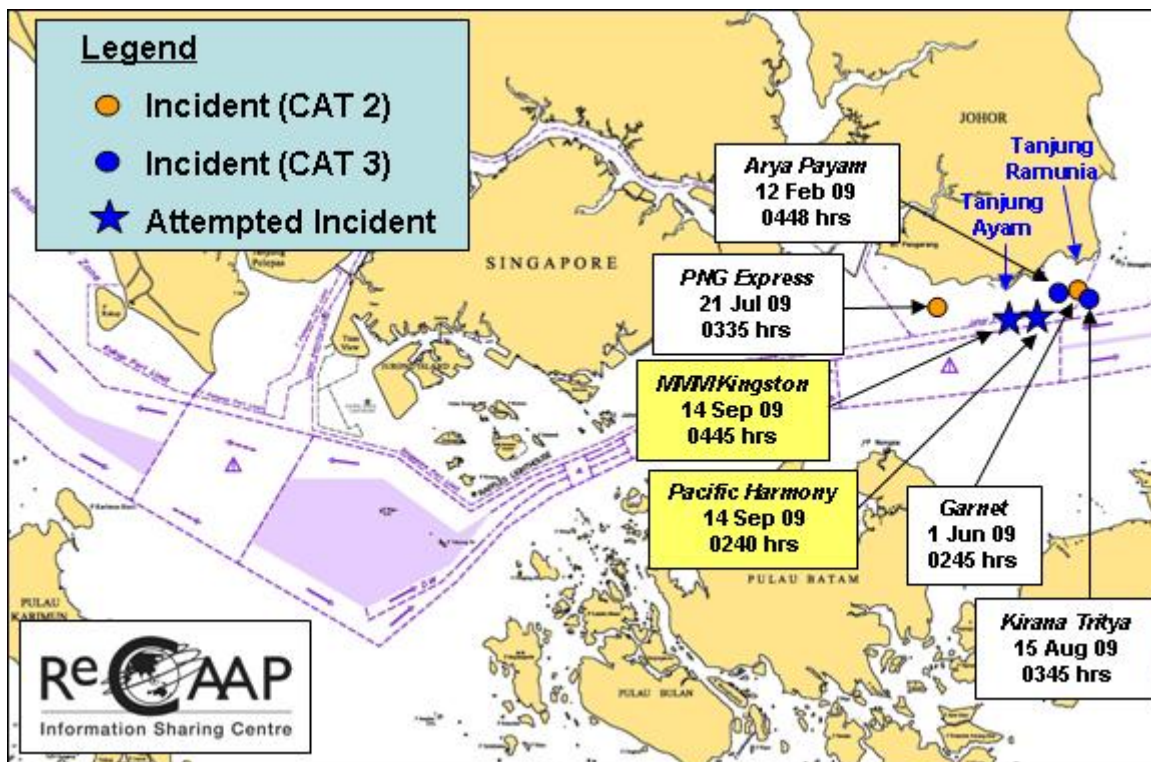
Comments by ReCAAP ISC

The ReCAAP ISC notes some similarities in the modus operandi of the robbers in the two incidents. Although there is no conclusive evidence as yet, it appears that the same group of robbers was probably involved.

The ReCAAP ISC encourages ship masters to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) of the coastal States immediately; and ship owner and ship operator to report the incidents to the ReCAAP Focal Points where applicable.

Ship masters and crew are advised to maintain vigilance and adopt precautionary measures as these are the fifth and sixth incidents that occurred in the vicinity since January 2009. Refer to map on the location of the incidents. The ReCAAP ISC notes that all the incidents occurred during hours of darkness while the ships were anchored. Early detection of a possible boarding by suspicious personnel is the best deterrent and reduces risk to the crew, as demonstrated in the incidents involving *Pacific Harmony* and *MMM Kingston*.





Approximate location of incidents

