

Incident Report: 07/2009

Date/Time of Incident: 27 June 2009 at 0040 hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 02° 47.1' N, 105° 07.6' E

Area Description: South China Sea, off Pulau Damar (Indonesia)

Name and Type of Ship: Sigloo Discovery /LPG tanker

Details of Incident

At about 0040 hrs (local time) on 27 June 2009, a Singapore-registered LPG tanker, the *Sigloo Discovery* was underway at position 02° 47.1' N, 105° 07.6' E (South China Sea, off Pulau Damar, Indonesia) when six men armed with crowbars, batons and a butcher knife boarded the *Sigloo Discovery* and entered the bridge of the ship. The bridge then was manned by the ship master, 2nd officer and a duty AB. The armed men tied the ship master, 2nd officer and the duty AB with raffia strings and took from the crew a laptop, two mobile phones, a wrist watch and cash. They fled in their wooden boat thereafter. The entire episode took approximately 20 minutes from the time they boarded the ship.

The men was suspected to have had climbed onto *Sigloo Discovery* via a rope they tied between the stern of *Sigloo Discovery* and their wooden boat. The wooden boat used by the armed men was approximately 8 metres in length and shaped like a long canoe. The men were described to be lean with tanned/dark complexion, no tattoos observed and they were about 1.63 metres tall except for two of them who were slightly taller. They dressed mostly in football jerseys, shorts and track pants. Only one of the men wore a mask. The language used by them was suspected to be Bahasa, with minimal English used.

The 28 crew comprising seven Filipinos, four Indonesians, 16 Indian nationals and one Singaporean did not suffer any injury. After the men had left the ship, the ship master activated the ship's security alert system (SSAS) and the general alarm. All crew was mustered and accounted for. A broadcast was made via *Sigloo Discovery's* automatic identification system (AIS) to alert all vessels in the vicinity.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)



Comments by ReCAAP ISC

Ship masters and crew are advised to maintain vigilance at all times and take necessary precautionary measures when operating in the vicinity. It was noted that the attacker's boat, in this incident had approached from the stern. The ReCAAP ISC commended the ship master for his follow-up actions in activating the SSAS and broadcasting the incident via the AIS to alert all vessels in the vicinity.

The reporting of the incident by the ship company to the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) was highly commendable as this enabled the ReCAAP ISC to raise this Incident Alert to warn mariners about the incident so that they can be on a look-out for suspicious boat and men operating in the vicinity. Multi-channel reporting to Coastal State and neighbouring MRCCs has also enable quick dissemination of information. More details of the incident will be published in the ReCAAP ISC's half yearly report.

Approximate location of the Incident

