

Incident Report:	01/2014
Name and Type of Ship:	(1) <i>Sea Voyager</i> / oil tanker (2) <i>Orpheas</i> / tanker (3) <i>Cape Veni</i> / bulk carrier
Date/Time of Incident:	(1) 6 Mar 14 at 0515 hrs (local time) (2) 6 Mar 14 at 0540 hrs (local time) (3) 10 Mar 14 at 0150 hrs (local time)
Location of incident:	(1) 1° 11' N, 103° 26.4' E (2) 1° 08.37' N, 103° 30.55' E (3) 1° 07.45' N, 103° 31.10' E
Area Description:	(1) Approximately 3 nm off Pulau Karimun Kecil (2) Approximately 3 nm off Pulau Karimun Kecil (3) Approximately south-west of Pulau Nipa in Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) east bound

Details of Incident

1. Three incidents of armed robbery onboard ships were reported in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore on 6 Mar 14 and 10 Mar 14. Of these, two incidents occurred on 6 Mar 14 within an hour interval; and the third incident occurred early this morning, 10 Mar 14. The three incidents were reported to the Singapore Port and Operation Command Centre (POCC) which is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) who promulgated the safety navigational broadcast to warn all vessels in the vicinity to maintain good anti-piracy watch. The Focal Point had also informed the MRCC Basarnas, Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) and the relevant authorities. The incidents are described as follows:

a. *Sea Voyager* on 6 Mar 14. At or about 0515 hrs, a Marshall Islands-registered oil tanker was underway off Pulau Karimun Kecil when four robbers dressed in short pants and t-shirts approached the tanker at the stern area on the starboard quarter side. Armed with knives, the robbers boarded the tanker from a fishing boat. Upon noticing the robbers, the crew sounded the alarm and proceeded to the protected area of the vessel. The robbers fled in their boat on hearing the alarm. Nothing was stolen from the tanker and the crew was not injured.

b. *Orpheas* on 6 Mar 14. On the same day at or about 0540 hrs, a Liberia-registered tanker was underway off Pulau Karimun Kecil when five robbers armed with knives boarded the tanker and stole some engine spares. The crew was not injured.



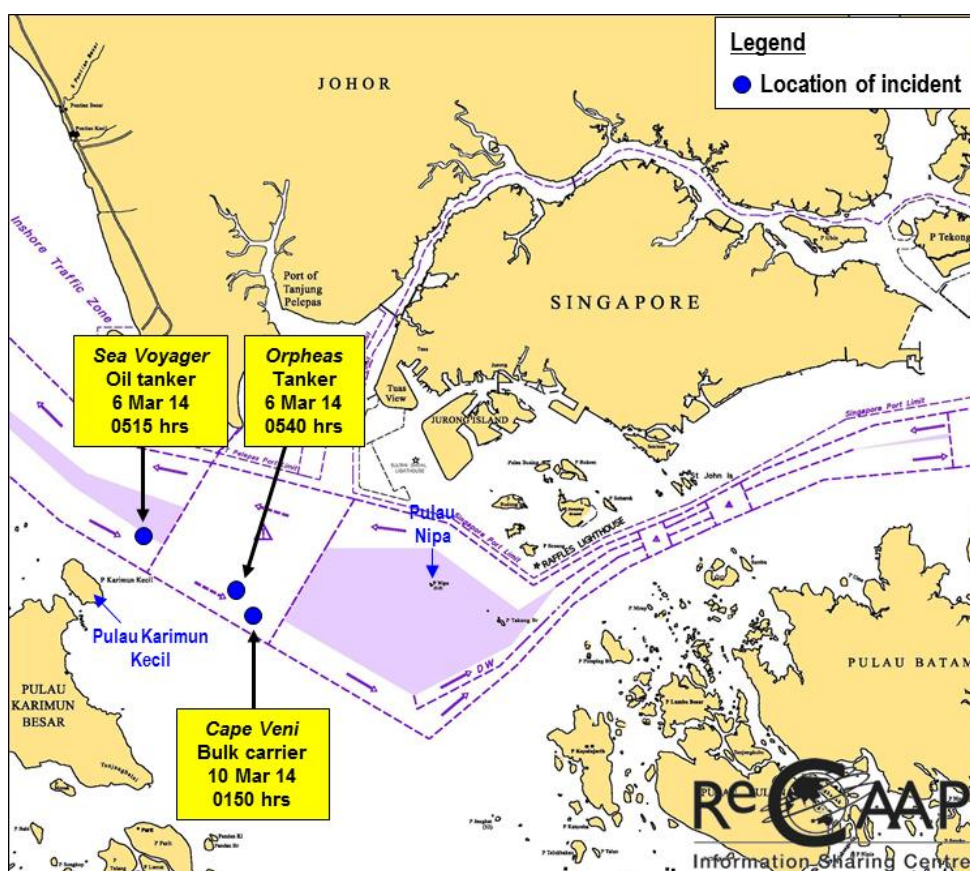
c. Cape Veni on 10 Mar 14. On 10 Mar 14 at or about 0150 hrs, a Cyprus-registered bulk carrier was underway south-west of Pulau Nipa in the TSS east bound when four robbers armed with knives boarded the bulk carrier from a small boat. On hearing the general alarm raised by the crew, the robbers fled without stealing anything. The crew was not injured.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore), IFC

Comments by ReCAAP ISC

2. The three incidents involved group of 4-5 men armed with knives and boarded the vessels while underway during hours of darkness. Without detailed reporting by the masters about the robbers' boarding and modus operandi, it is assessed that the same group of robbers or robbers from some syndicate could be involved; taking into consideration that the incidents occurred in close proximity to each other, particularly the incidents involving *Sea Voyager* and *Orpheas* which occurred within an interval of less than an hour on the same day. With no success in stealing anything from one vessel, it is assessed that the robbers could have had targeted another vessel that came along.



Location of Incidents



3. The ReCAAP ISC notes that two out of the three incidents did not result in loss of items and this was attributed to the vigilance by the crew who sounded the alarm and that could have intimidated the robbers who fled without stealing any items.

4. The ReCAAP ISC urges all vessels transiting the area to enhance vigilance and report all incidents to the nearest coastal State immediately; and the relevant authorities to maintain presence, ensure surveillance and issue navigational broadcasts to warn mariners in the region.

