

ASHEN STARS

ACCRETION DISK

HOT CONTRACTS

Palamon Extraction	2	Project Cylus Decommissioning	18
Sonjana Hate Crime Investigation	3	Surveillance Of Prophet	19
Ai Termination	4	Locate Possible Survivors	20
Tzk-Vk Impending Kidnapping	5	Map Translight Network	21
Investigate Signal (Potential First Contact)	6	Identify Amnesiac Kch-Thk	22
Capture Escaped Fugitive	7	Investigate Vioware Theft	23
Investigate Stellar Catastrophe	8	Demolish Alien Derelict	24
Investigate Traffic Violation	9	Evaluate Propoganda Movie	25
Philosophical Uplift	10	Repossession Order	26
Investigate Divine Intervention	11	Resolve Civil Dispute	27
Investigate Pathogen	12	Administer Refugee Camp	28
Investigate Atemporal Distress Signal	13	Exonerate Shining Stars Laser Team	29
Resolve Territorial Dispute	14	Resolve Potential Berserker Threat	30
Recover Stolen Artwork	15	Investigate War Crimes Allegations	31
Apprehend Klengar Syndicate	16	Recover Tavak Artifacts	32
Bona Dea Election Fraud	17	Easy Riders	33



PALAMON EXTRACTION

SITE

Planet **PALAMON** in the **CERBERUS** outzone

Colony founded by the Combine in 2432 as a prison planet for the incorrigibly criminal.

Prison personnel evacuated in 2453 after reports of Mohilar activity. For reasons unknown, inmates remained on planet. Last recorded contact 2454.

Geography consists of two large continental landmasses, one each in the extreme northern and southern hemispheres. Planet's tropical oceans bereft of significant landmasses and therefore presumed uninhabited. Prison complexes were located on southern continent.

KÖPPEN CLIMATE ZONES: tundra and ice cap. Class-M planet, breathable atmosphere. Genetic re-immunization recommended before ground-pounding. Xenoeology supports extensive predatory megafauna (quasi-mammalian).

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Successful bidder will be provided with full genetic panel for Boro Cisco and documentation packet proving the nature of the inheritance.

BIDS CLOSING SOON
on extraction mission.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** determine whether the inmate Boro Cisco (b. 2409) has any living heir or heirs.
- 02** If so, extract this person or persons from their present situation to the planet Bartolus for receipt of a considerable inheritance, including ownership of Space Station Bethlehem.

CLIENT

Legal firm of Loren, Bloxham,
Buswell & Krx-Xprk

BROKER/CONTACT

Arcoro Effectuations



SONJANA HATE CRIME INVESTIGATION

LAST KNOWN LOCATION

TALOC IV in CERES

Locate balla sociologist **TANI SONJANA**, formerly of the University of Eos in the Proper. Dismissed for her controversial research into the so-called Bogey Conundrum, Sonjana traveled to the Bleed to continue her work. She announced that she had discovered “proof” that one of the Seven Peoples was actually the Mohilar, and that the entire extant history of the Combine is a deception.

After making this announcement, Sonjana vanished. Routine monitoring of subversive elements suggests that xenophobic factions intend to use Sonjana’s “research” to incite racial prejudices against one of the Seven. While Sonjana’s work is clearly pseudoscience without any validity, it must be thoroughly discredited before it can be used as a weapon against the Combine.

MEDICAL NOTE

Sonjana’s mohr sohn was found abandoned in Taloc IV’s spaceport. It is therefore likely that Sonjana is suffering from emotional distress. Any bidding crews must include at least one member trained in psychotherapy.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Locate Tani Sonjana and convince her to repudiate her research.
- 02** Locate all extant copies of Sonjana’s work.
- 03** Identify the criminal factions targeting Sonjana.

CLIENT

Combine Council automated subsystems

BROKER/CONTACT

Vago Dash, Combine Consul on Taloc IV



AI TERMINATION

SITE

GALEN HOSPITAL STATION ONE, orbiting **HYNA**

Galen Station One came online one week ago, as part of the Combine's ongoing efforts to provide relief and medical care to victims of the Mohilar War. Hyna was targeted by durugh viroweapons during the conflict, and is under quarantine.

The first patients arrived by automated shuttle from the surface five days ago, and were scheduled to undergo experimental virotherapy aimed at reversing the effects of the durugh weapons.

As Class-K weapons were deployed on Hyna, Galen Station One is entirely automated for the safety of the medical personnel. Its counterpart, Galen Two, houses researchers and medical staff who interface remotely with systems on Galen One.

Three days ago, the Artificial Intelligence on board Galen One locked the station down and refuses to respond.

TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Galen One is a high-security installation, with both anti-ship and anti-personnel systems designed to ensure that the Class-K viroweapons could not be recovered and reused. While the station AI is not programmed to use these defenses, Galen Two has detected energy signatures consistent with weapons activation.

Sixty-four patients were part of the initial virotherapy test group. If they are still alive, their safety must be ensured. Damage to the station must be kept to a minimum—excessive collateral damage will result in penalties to the offending Laser crew.

OBJECTIVES

01 Board Galen One.

02 Deactivate the AI.

CLIENT

Hyna Charitable Trust

BROKER/CONTACT

Dr. Ludmilla Kromberg



TZK-VK IMPENDING KIDNAPPING

LOCAL POLICE REPORT

A private yacht owned by noted entertainer and celebrity **TZK-VK** was attacked by an unidentified vessel. The yacht was disabled, but Tzk-Vk's cybe bodyguard **TAC-TEC** managed to launch his client in an escape pod before the ship was captured by the attackers.

Tzk-Vk's larva tank (grk-k'ka chamber) was on the stolen yacht. Since the theft, Tzk-Vk received an anonymous ransom note, demanding that he place a sizable sum of credits in an untraceable account or the inactive larvae would be destroyed.

MEDICAL NOTE

While the tank is out of range, Tzk-Vk is unable to transfer his consciousness should the need arise. Tzk-Vk's current body is young and healthy, so he does not expect to require a transfer in the near future.

FLASH CONTRACT

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Locate the stolen yacht and recover the larva tank.
- 02** Locate and recover Tac-Tec.
- 03** Identify and arrest the kidnapers.

CLIENT

Smash Holo Entertainment Corporation

BROKER/CONTACT

Tactical Discretion, Inc.



INVESTIGATE SIGNAL (POTENTIAL FIRST CONTACT)

SITE

Unexplored Planet **BCO-77X** (**KRAKEN** outzone)

Automated probe surveys (2401, 2450) reported the planet to be an unremarkable Class-C planet with a toxic, sulfur-rich atmosphere and surface temperatures in excess of 500 K. No life signs were ever detected, and the planet was never explored or colonized.

The long-range communications relay at Capella detected a repeating signal emanating from BCO-77X. This signal is clearly artificial, but does not correspond to any known Combine code.

Another planet in the same system, **BCO-75E** (provisionally re-designated Sanctuary), was recently colonized by the anti-tech nufaiith Congregation of the Long Day. A Laser team is therefore required to ascertain the source of the signal and ensure that the Long Day colony is not in danger.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Full archives of the 2450 automated survey.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Note that due to the outbreak of war in 2451, much of the data recorded by the probe has yet to be correlated. Analyzing this data and surveying any anomalies or sites of interest may earn bonus bigcreds.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Trace the source of the signal.
- 02** Protect the Long Day colony.

CLIENT

Church of the Long Day (Embassy to the Demons)

BROKER/CONTACT

NQA Effectuations



CAPTURE ESCAPED FUGITIVE

TARGET

Cybe **uGAMEL**, convicted of multiple counts of murder, terrorism, and conspiracy to cause explosion on autonomous planet **CYGNUS 5**, escaped from a transport ship en route to the termination facility on **MEDUSA PRIME**. She stole a shuttle and fled; the shuttle is not capable of translight travel, so she is believed to still be in the Cygnus system.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

uGamel's military history and psychological profile. Notably, she was decorated for valor seventeen times during the Mohilar War, and was part of the elite 1st Cyber Rangers. She must be considered extremely dangerous, armed or not.

NOTE

Cygnus 5 is an autonomous planet—a former Combine world that has now seceded, but maintains diplomatic relations with the polity. Under the Treaty of Cygnus, Laser operations are permitted in the Cygnus system, but this permit may be revoked in specific cases at the discretion of the Cygnus Ministry of Security.

OBJECTIVES

Bring uGamel to Medusa Prime, dead or alive.

CLIENT

Cygnus Ministry of Security

BROKER/CONTACT

NQA Effectuations



INVESTIGATE STELLAR CATASTROPHE

SITE

Star **HYDRA ALMEDES** undergoing internal stresses of unknown type and origin, possibly related to **"ASHEN STARS"** phenomenon. Meson shrapnel from this instability has also disrupted translight corridors, making travel in the system uncertain and hazardous.

Projections estimate 82% chance of gamma-ray bursts or coronal mass ejections within the next 168 hours that will render all life in the Hydra Almedes system extinct.

Hydra Almedes 4 has a population of 406 million. Evacuating the planet before a catastrophic event is infeasible; efforts are underway to provide all possible aid. Pre-apocalyptic social stress focused on the kch-thk minority (who can evacuate en masse as larvae) and the wealthy with access to spacecraft, but has now degenerated into widespread panic and despair.

Hydra Almedes no longer has a functional government or society.

Little hope remains of saving Hydra Almedes 4 from this cataclysm. All that remains is to gather as much data as possible.

TRAVEL ADVISORY

There are 34,548 outstanding requests for effectuated evacuation from citizens stranded on Hydra Almedes 4. While the winning crew may, of course, accept as many of these side jobs as is feasible, be aware that other ships that have landed on Hydra Almedes 4 have been overrun by desperate refugees.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Land on Hydra Almedes 4 and access records from the Almedian Institute of Knowledge, the Jakanto Observatory, and any other scientific sources.
- 02** Investigate any phenomena or information relating to the impending stellar collapse, including rumors of strange space vessels.
- 03** Leave the system before the star explodes.

CLIENT

Baged, Tavak Stellar Engineer

BROKER/CONTACT

Arcoro Effectuations



INVESTIGATE TRAFFIC VIOLATION

SITE

CERBERUS Translight Corridor **CO664-DELTA**

CO664-Delta Translight Corridor, also known as the Snake, is an unusually convoluted and hazardous translight corridor, and is closed to all unauthorized traffic. The Snake is the only viable route to FAINED colony, established just prior to the Mohilar War. Other corridors leading to this region suffered damage during the war, and are no longer passable. Most low-priority traffic to Fained goes via CO667-Epsilon, which necessitates a long journey (six months, on average) at sub-light speeds to reach the isolated planet. High-priority traffic and emergency traffic is permitted to take the Snake, but only with prior authorization from Fained flight control. Excessive traffic through the Snake may collapse the vital corridor entirely.

In the last six weeks, ships of unknown origin have been sighted in the Snake on four separate occasions by patrols and automated traffic buoys. The destination of these ships is equally mysterious—they may have exited in the outer reaches of the Fained system, or continued into an uncharted section of the Cerberus Outzone.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

An authorization permit good for four (4) transits of the Snake. Note that unauthorized transits of the Snake are a Class 5 offence.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Cargo and cabin space on ships permitted to use the Snake is highly valuable. Lasers willing to carry cargo via the Snake should apply to TransGalactic Deliveries for lucrative opportunities.

**Naval combat
experience a must!**

OBJECTIVES

Identify these interlopers and ensure they cease their illegal use of the Snake Translight Corridor.

CLIENT

Fained Traffic Control

BROKER/CONTACT

NQA Effectuations



PHILOSOPHICAL UPLIFT

SITE

DUNGEONWORLD

Dungeonworld began as a breakaway synthculture colony, dedicated to replicating a quasi-medieval fantasy setting. Genetically engineered “monsters” and automated dungeons were seeded throughout the planet. The synthculture was managed and overseen by an order of “wizards”—engineers based on the orbital DMStation. Dungeonworld closed to outside traffic in 2485.

At some point in the intervening eighty-three years, the order of wizards was overthrown by **DETHLAR**, a self-proclaimed “Dark Lord.” Knowledge of the colony’s true nature—always limited due to the designers’ desire for immersion—was suppressed. The majority of the population of Dungeonworld no longer know they are living in an artificial environment.

As per legislation applying to all such synthcultures, individuals may consent to be subject to the rules and conditions, however perilous, of that world. However, this consent must be given voluntarily.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Character sheets and other cultural artifacts will be provided to the winning Laser team.

OBJECTIVES

Inform the population of the true nature of their culture (and, especially, their legal right to depart) without damaging the synthculture as a whole or provoking retribution from Dethlar the Dark.

CLIENT

Interstellar Cultural Bench

BROKER/CONTACT

Ministry of Settlement



INVESTIGATE DIVINE INTERVENTION

SITE

AMPHELION III

In 2305, the survey ship Marid discovered the planet Amphelion III, then a garden paradise. The planet was inhabited by a low-tech species, the amphils, who were restricted to the planet's eastern continent. They consented to the establishment of Elysia City, a Combine colony on the western continent. Settlement of this colony began in 2319. Over the next century, trade and cultural exchange continued between the two groups.

In 2440, an energy being calling itself Zarus manifested over Elysia City. It claimed to be the god of the amphils (amphil myths support this assertion) and accused the Combine colonists of corrupting them. It subjected the planetary governor, Eugene Pallas, and several members of his government to a series of cryptic tests to "prove their worth." It then declared that they had failed. The amphils vanished, and the planet was "cursed" with a drought that has lasted to the present day.

ZARUS DA VINCI, a *vas mal*, was arrested under suspicion of being the energy being that attacked the colony. The Amphelion government intend to try da Vinci on charges of terrorism, environmental damage, and hostile acts of god. In common with other *vas mal*, da Vinci's memory is fragmentary, but he claims that he is not legally responsible for the actions of his higher self. Due to the unprecedented nature of the case, both parties have agreed to defer to Laser arbitration.

LEGAL ADVISORY

While Elysia City is a Combine colony, it was established with the consent of the non-Combine amphils, and the planet was their property and subject to their laws. No amphil has been encountered since Zarus's intercession.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Ascertain whether or not Zarus da Vinci is the entity that attacked the colony in 2440.
- 02** If so, determine whether or not these tests were legal, and determine to what degree da Vinci is culpable for any damage inflicted on the colony.

CLIENT

Zarus da Vinci

BROKER/CONTACT

Arcoro Effectuations



INVESTIGATE PATHOGEN

SITE

Passenger liner **ULTANIA**

En route to Sylph City, the passenger liner Ultania reported the outbreak of an unknown pathogen among the crew. According to distress transmissions, the pathogen turned some of the passengers and crew, including the captain and bridge officers, into "some sort of crazy monsters." The ship's chief steward sealed the doors leading to the lower passenger decks, isolating an unknown number of passengers and crew from the afflicted. At the time of the last distress transmission, these survivors were uninfected, but were under siege by afflicted crew and could not reach the ship's bridge, engines, or escape pods.

Out of control, the Ultania has drifted into space controlled by the xenophobic hurki. The hurki government threatens to destroy the Ultania to eliminate the pathogen before the ship breaches the atmosphere of their homeworld.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Passenger and crew manifest of the Ultania

TRAVEL ADVISORY

The hurki are designated a Class-J ("ultrahostile") species. Exercise extreme caution.

TIME-SENSITIVE MISSION —IMMEDIATE BIDS ONLY

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Stop the Ultania from infecting the hurki homeworld.
- 02** Rescue any uninfected survivors.
- 03** Identify the pathogen.
- 04** Cure or contain any infected crew.
- 05** Recover the Ultania.
- 06** Identify the source of the pathogen.

CLIENT

Sylphan Tours

BROKER/CONTACT

Tactical Discretion, Inc.



INVESTIGATE ATEMPORAL DISTRESS SIGNAL

SITE

ATHENA RESEARCH STATION

Athena Station established in 2440 to investigate unusual temporal manifold in local subspace. Researchers made several key advances in reconciling time/translight equations before outbreak of Mohilar War. Durugh forces under General Thelkamis captured the station, and all communication was lost until the end of the conflict. Surviving staff were found to be suffering from unusually extreme "Bogey Conundrum" effect and were wholly unable to remember any events since the capture of the station. Despite this, all staff remained on Athena Station to continue their research.

Yesterday, the Communications Relay at Thermopylae Gate received a fragmented subspace distress on Priority Alpha channels that appeared to originate from Athena Station. The distress call was sent by **DR. WINDSONG**, who has been administrator of Athena Station since 2447. In the recoverable portion of the message, Windsong reported the station was "under attack" and "they've made a terrible mistake." He spoke of a danger to the entire sector, possibly the entire Bleed.

When contacted, Dr. Windsong declared he had never sent any such message. Nonetheless, protocol dictates that any use of Priority Alpha channels be investigated.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Copy of distress message. The message is severely degraded, possibly due to meson shrapnel or hostile countermeasures. Less than 30% of the data could be recovered. Headers, including timestamp and point of origin, are missing.

OBJECTIVES

Determine source of distress call and take appropriate action.

CLIENT

Combine Scientific Council

BROKER/CONTACT

Dr. Io Wingsong



RESOLVE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE

SITE

WORLDWOOD COLONY

Worldwood Colony, established six years ago. Titanic plants analogous to trees cover all land surfaces on the planet. The colony's primary economic activities all involve exploitation and cultivation of this natural resource. Worldwood Colony has a population of 21,604, with a notably high cybe population (44%).

The xalic, an independent alien race, has colonies on two other planets in the Worldwood system. The xalic have peaceful relations with the Combine, and gave permission for the establishment of a colony so close to their settlements. They declared they had no interest in developing Worldwood.

One month ago, xalic ships arrived in orbit of Worldwood and began bombing the forests with chemical weapons. When contacted, they declared that the Combine colony "would not be targeted" and that their weapons would not affect human tissue. They refuse to explain their actions in exterminating the forest or to negotiate a cease-fire. Unless stopped immediately, Worldwood will suffer complete ecological and economic collapse.

TACTICAL ADVISORY

Cybe war veterans on Worldwood have established an illegal militia to defend their home. They have declared their intention to fight back against the xalic if the Combine does not immediately resolve the situation.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY

One of the militia members was arrested in possession of a military-grade surface-to-space punchbeam. This may indicate the militia has purchased more illegal black-market weapons. Investigate and trace these weapons back to their source.

OBJECTIVES

- 01 Make contact with the xalic.
- 02 Bring about a cessation of their chemical weapon attacks.

CLIENT

Worldwood Colony

BROKER/CONTACTS

NQA Effectuations



RECOVER STOLEN ARTWORK

SITE

VALUSIA MINORUM

During the Mohiliar War, the contents of the **TESSERACT COLLECTION** of Art and Antiquities on Pola IV was looted. The stolen items were never found. After a phase vision, Marshal Kedash—commander of the occupying durugh forces on Pola IV during the war—admitted that his troops looted the collection. He claims that one of his subordinates, **LADEK**, took custody of the stolen artworks.

Ladek is a resident of the autonomous world of Valusia Minorum. In the past, the Valusian government has refused Combine requests for extradition.

MEDICAL ADVISORY

Marshal Kedash suffers from Kvult's disease, a rare genetic condition that results in terminal permanent phasing. He is delusional and his testimony is unlikely to be admissible in court.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

List of artworks taken during the war.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Locate Ladek and interrogate him to discover the location of the Tesseract Collection.
- 02** Recover as much of the collection as is feasible.

CLIENT

Sk-Irt of the Tesseract Collection

BROKER/CONTACT

NQA Effectuations

APPREHEND KLENGAR SYNDICATE

SITE

ATHOS outzone

KLENGAR SYNDICATE comprises at least thirty members, led by **ARTOR KLENGAR**.

Warrants issued by governments of McKay, Ballentine, Numitor, and Tarehon. Charges include: piracy, murder, arms smuggling, conspiracy, fraud, and grand theft starship.

A member of the Syndicate, known only as **X**, has signaled willingness to turn Bench's Witness and assist in the arrest of the rest of the Syndicate, in exchange for immunity from prosecution.

Reports from Witness X confirm that the Syndicate has a secret base hidden in the Athos Outzone. Successful bidder will be given the approximate location of this base and a coded frequency to contact X within the Syndicate.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Location of the Klengar base, obtained from an anonymous dissident within the syndicate.

TRAVEL ADVISORY

The base is located in a Class VI hazard zone, specifically in close orbit of a protostar cluster.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Locate the hidden base in the Athos Outzone.
- 02** Arrest Artor Klengar.
- 03** Rescue X.
- 04** Arrest or neutralize remaining members of the Syndicate.

CLIENT

Broga Morsh,
Tarehon Legate's Office

BROKER/CONTACT

Erskine, Lynch and
Voga Contracts, Inc.



BONA DEA ELECTION FRAUD

SITE

BONA DEA in the **VIMINAL** cluster

Bona Dea, founded 2410. Class-M, population 47 million (94% human). Declared autonomy 2462 following disagreements with Combine council over refugee resettlement.

The former Practitioner of Bona Dea, **SARIS PLEMEDES**, was removed in a special recall election. Her opponent, the previously obscure **LADEK KARS**, rallied disparate factions and parties against Plemedes, accusing her of corruption. Kars was subsequently elected as Plemedes's replacement in a landslide (87%) victory. Since his election, Kars has made overtures to the Combine that may result in Bona Dea reassuming Affiliated status.

Plemedes believes Kars used illegal means to discredit her and win the resulting election. Her speculations range from election fraud to computer tampering to mass pheromone manipulation or even psychic abilities. The Bona Dea Ministry of Justice dismissed her claims.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Plemedes has provided a dossier on Ladek Kars, but she has been unable to find any trace of her opponent older than two years. Kars claims to be a refugee from off-world who became a Bona Dea citizen after the Mohilar War, and has dismissed Plemedes's accusations that he is deliberately concealing his past as "absurd conspiracy theories from a failed and bitter politician."

LEGAL ADVISORY

This contract has been automatically rated as "**LITIGOUSLY HAZARDOUS.**" Successful bidder should retain legal counsel to minimize any damage to reputation. Ms. Plemedes has placed the fee for the contract in escrow, and it will be released by the broker on successful completion of objective **01**.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Investigate Ladek Kars.
- 02** If sufficient evidence is found, petition Bona Dea council for a second recall election.

CLIENT

Saris Plemedes

BROKER/CONTACT

Arcoro Effectuations



PROJECT CYLUS DECOMMISSIONING

SITE

Former Combine Naval Base orbiting **GORGO** in the **QUIRINAL** cluster

The precise nature of **PROJECT CYLUS** is classified. Successful bidder will be granted clearance and limited access to Cylus specifications in order to proceed with decommissioning.

Project Cylus, originally initiated 2379 by Naval Special Strategies Group. Deactivated 2390 due to insurmountable technical issues.

Reactivated 2453 and moved to Gorgo Naval Base. Cylus Prototype constructed 2455.

Tested against Mohilar fleet in Battle of Gorgo, 2556. No known survivors. Deemed a failure.

Canceled 2556 when the naval base was abandoned.

For classified reasons, elements of Project Cylus can only be decommissioned in the Combine Proper. Successful bidder will be responsible for transporting these elements to Ossa One for transfer to Combine vessel **HIRALEE**.

TACTICAL ADVISORY

Rumors about Project Cylus circulate in the criminal underground. Expect attempted datascraping or even piracy.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Collect remains of Project Cylus.
- 02** Bring cargo to Ossa One, ensuring that Cylus data and prototypes remain secure and inactive at all times.

CLIENT

Blint Darlogie, Gorgo Reconstruction Council

BROKER/CONTACT

Arcoro Effectuations



SURVEILLANCE OF PROPHET

SITE

ERIPHYLE in the **CAELIAN** Cluster

Eriphyle, settled 2340. Population 2.5 million (69% human / 27% balla / 4% other). Political status: Affiliated, but Bleedist politicians are in the ascendant, and a referendum on secession from the Combine is expected within two years. Eriphyle is a synthculture that eschews modern technology, including viroware.

Target of investigation is **HALE HARADAS**, the "Prophet of the Most Precious Blood."

The Most Precious Blood nufaiith believes that there is a genetic code linking certain individuals across species. These are termed "nephilim" and can expect to enter a blissful afterlife. Those without this code are not permitted to join the nufaiith.

Authorities on Eriphyle suspect that the cult's religious practices include the use of illicit viroware; further, they suspect Haradas deliberately targeted their low-tech culture for assimilation as part of a criminal scheme.

LEGAL ADVISORY

Due to political and cultural sensitivities in the present climate, all surveillance of Hale Haradas must remain covert. Should the Laser team be discovered by Haradas, the Board of Trustees will deny all association with the Lasers and the payment bond will be forfeited.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Should evidence of Haradas's criminal intent be discovered, the Board of Trustees intend to open a new contract to arrest Haradas and neutralize the church. The winning bidder of the surveillance contract will be offered first refusal on any such neutralization.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Investigate and observe Hale Haradas.
- 02** Compile a report for use by the Eriphyle Board of Trustees.

CLIENT

Eriphyle Board of Trustees.

BROKER/CONTACT

NQA Effectuations



LOCATE POSSIBLE SURVIVORS

SITE

MINOTAUR Outzone

DAEDAL LEGION was composed of 1,000 front-line cybe combat units; activated 2458. Mission profile: penetrate enemy space and disrupt lines of supply and communication. Daedal warships and units were rated for up to twenty years operation with minimal resupply. The commander of the Daedal Legion was Unit 65-Gamma-529, a.k.a. "Hardlight."

The last transmission from the Daedal Legion was received by Combine long-range listening posts in 2459, reporting the presence of a massive Mohilar force massing deep in the Minotaur Outzone. The lack of further communication from the Daedal implied that all combat units had been destroyed in battle with the enemy.

Recently released files from the Durugh Royal Bureau of Military Affairs confirm that Daedal cybes were actively engaged in combat operations as recently as 2466, five years after the cessation of hostilities. Incidents of civilian ships vanishing near the Minotaur Outzone, previously attributed to criminal elements or hostile alien entities, may also be related to ongoing Daedal operations.

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Doctor Milena Sevarka was the primary augmentation specialist assigned to the conversion of prospective Daedal recruits. After the war, she retired to Cyncus in the Palatine Cluster. Dr. Sevarka's knowledge of Daedal capabilities and psychology may be invaluable in dealing with any Daedal survivors.

TACTICAL ADVISORY

Daedal Legion units were equipped with "scorched space" tactical weaponry, designed for use in sectors that were deemed hopelessly lost to the enemy. Successful bidder will exercise extreme caution. Unsuccessful bidders will be added to a waiting list should the contract become open again.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Brother Piston of the Fibrous Sacrament has attached an alert rider to this contract; the successful bidder should contact him on acceptance of the mission. This additional opportunity has not been vetted or approved by Arcoro Effectuations.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Search the Minotaur Outzone for survivors from the Daedal Legion.
- 02** Determine if these survivors are responsible for attacks on durugh and other civilian traffic.
- 03** Return any survivors to Ossa One or another suitable Combine planet for reintegration into civilian life.

CLIENT

Combine Ministry of the Navy

BROKER/CONTACT

Arcoro Effectuations



MAP TRANSLIGHT NETWORK

SITE

VIRGIL STATION in **ATHOS** outzone

Recent subspace shifts in the Athos Outzone opened a new cluster of translight corridors connected to previously unexplored space. Successful bidder will be responsible for traversing and mapping these corridors.

TRAVEL ADVISORY

Several long-range colony ships, the so-called Phoenix Fleet, vanished near the Athos Outzone in 2379. At the time, these ships were believed to have been destroyed by the durugh. However, declassified documents shared by the durugh since the end of the Mohilar War make no mention of any engagement with the Phoenix ships. The newly opened translight corridors may connect to colonies descended from the Combine culture. If any such worlds are discovered, the successful bidder is authorized to recontact these colonies and open preliminary diplomatic relations. Any alien-inhabited worlds discovered fall under standard first contact protocols.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY

As Laser ships are not equipped with superluminal cartographic generators, such equipment will be provided on a rental basis by the Virgil Corporation. Technicians from the corporation will accompany the winning bidder; the winning bidder will ensure the safety of these technicians.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Several corporations, including resource extraction specialists and trading consortiums, offer additional opportunities related to this mission. A full list of potential bounties will be provided to the successful bidder.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Map the translight corridor cluster.
- 02** Evaluate any inhabited worlds discovered.

CLIENT

Combine Cartographic Authority

BROKER/CONTACT

Erskine, Lynch and
Voga Contracts, Inc.



IDENTIFY AMNESIAC KCH-THK

SITE

LAODICE STATION

Client is a newly incarnated kch-thk who hatched from a grk-k'ka chamber some twelve hours prior to the datestamp of this message. Client is amnesiac and without identifying marks. Client wishes to ascertain his own identity and the circumstances under which his previous body was destroyed.

Under normal circumstances, a grk-k'ka chamber is keyed only to a specific individual or to members of a particular kch-thk clan. The chamber in question belongs to **KZD-RHK**, a noted local property developer. Kzd-Rhk does not recognize the client, and confirms that the client is not a member of his clan. Kzd-Rhk is unable to account for how client was able to transfer his consciousness into one of Kzd-Rhk's larvae.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Recent experimentation with consciousness transfer suggests that two kch-thk who incarnate in the same tank at the same time can sometimes share members during the rebirthing process.

FLASH CONTRACT

OBJECTIVES

Determine the identity of the client.

CLIENT

See above.

BROKER/CONTACT

Kzd-Rhk Real Estate



INVESTIGATE VIOWARE THEFT

SITE

Uldin City, **IDAS**

Polygene Research Associates specializes in vioware developments, primarily social and cosmetic augmentations. An unreleased product, "Harmony," has gone viral and is spreading through the general population of Uldin City. The vioware used a standard genomic-insertion sequence; for Harmony to be contagious required deliberate alternation of the vioware design.

ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES

Polygene Research Associates' legal counsel believes that all those infected by the Harmony virus are in receipt of stolen property. Successful bidder will be compensated if they identify all those infected and compel them to purchase a user license for Harmony.

MEDICAL ADVISORY

The Harmony vioware package synchronizes the endocrine systems of its users, putting them "in harmony" with each other. During tests, groups of Harmony users became more efficient when working together, trusted each other more, and had a greater understanding of each other's emotional needs.

FLASH CONTRACT

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Halt the spread of the Harmony virus.
- 02** Identify and arrest those responsible for altering the vioware to make it contagious.

CLIENT

Polygene Research Associates

BROKER/CONTACT

Dr. Janol



DEMOLISH ALIEN DERELICT

Long-range scanners on **THETIS** detected **ANOMALY ONE** two months ago. Initial scouting missions discovered the Anomaly to be a massive and ancient alien derelict of unknown origin. The ship appears deserted, but certain systems are still functional, including automated defenses and the main stardrive. The ship is on a collision course with Thetis. Simulations indicate that such a collision will result in an extinction-level event.

Attempts to tractor the derelict or alter its trajectory from outside have failed. Thetis military forces are prepared to destroy the derelict if the winning bidder is unable to alter the derelict's course from within.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Several xenoarchaeological groups offer bounties for information or artefacts recovered from the derelict. The ship does not match the design patterns of any known species, although preliminary scans suggest that the onboard ergonomics are relatively similar to Combine standard patterns.

SALVAGE RIGHTS

The Thetis government intends to salvage the derelict if it enters their space. However, if the derelict is brought to a halt before that, or diverted onto a course that does not intersect with Thetis space, then it falls under common deep-space salvage law.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Dock with the derelict.
- 02** Shut down the derelict's engines or otherwise alter its course. If this proves impossible, then
- 03** deactivate any defensive screens or systems that might impede the destruction of the derelict.

CLIENT

Thetis Minister for Pressing Matters

BROKER/CONTACT

NQA Effectuations



EVALUATE PROPOGANDA MOVIE

Portions of a new holo, **THE WOUNDED STARS**, a “documentary” on the Flowering and the Utopian Era, the Mohilar War, and events up to the present day, concentrating on several illustrative incidents that support the thesis that the Bleed has been consistently exploited by the Proper.

The winning bidder will investigate the makers of this documentary, as well as the leaked portions, and identify any falsified evidence or incorrect factual data presented in The Wounded Stars. The client wishes to make it clear that this contract is purely concerned with verifiable historical facts, and does not assume or require any political or philosophical beliefs on the part of the winning bidder.

The client has assembled a list of events discussed in the leaked portion that warrant close examination. These include:

- The colonization of Tahalo Bay
- First contact with the durugh
- The first Ossan Conclave
- The development and trade of yam-root extract
- The Mohilar War, especially the decisions to create cybes and to remove population restrictions on the kch-thk.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Less than 20% of the full holo was leaked onto the public nets. If the full holo is obtained, Client will extend objectives **01** and **02** to cover the entire documentary, with a commensurate increase in remuneration.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Investigate the incidents depicted in the leaked portion of the holo for falsified evidence or incorrect claims.
- 02** Prepare a dossier for distribution to all media discrediting the historical accuracy of the Wounded Stars holo.
- 03** Discover who created The Wounded Stars and investigate them for connection to Bleedist groups.

CLIENT

Committee for Universal Reconstruction

BROKER/CONTACT

Erskine, Lynch and Voga Contracts, Inc.



REPOSSESSION ORDER

Autonomous planet **KRK'ITH'K** purchased a *Huscarl*-class warship from Mondine Armaments PLC in 2464 under standard contract terms. As payments have not been received for the past four quarters, and official letters of notice to the Krk'ith'k hive-queen council have gone without response, Mondine Armaments requests tenders from Licensed Autonomous Zone Effectuator crews to carry out a repossession order on the *Huscarl*-class vessel designated **EGGGOBBLER**.

TRAVEL ADVISORY

Krk'ith'k is a "throwback" colony inhabited solely by kch-thk. Allegations that the Krk'ith'k hives experimented with genetic engineering to reverse the kch-thk biochemical prohibition on consuming sentient life were never proven. Laser teams are advised to avoid landing on Krk'ith'k itself due to the ongoing inter-hive conflicts.

TACTICAL ADVISORY

The *Egggobbler* is in orbit of Krk'ith'k Prime. Mondine Armaments will provide the winning bidder with full technical schematics for the ship, including security override codes.

BIDS CLOSING SOON!

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Board the Egggobbler.
- 02** Remove any Krk'ith'k crew.
- 03** Deliver the Egggobbler to Mondine's repair yards at Baker's Moon for larva decontamination and refit.

CLIENT

Hurgo, Mondine Armaments
Customer Resolution Manager

BROKER/CONTACT

NQA Effectuations



RESOLVE CIVIL DISPUTE

The **ESTATE OF PROFESSOR HY-ZACARI** requests Laser mediation of a dispute over inheritance. Professor Hy-Zacari was a citizen of autonomous planet **ESCHELE**. Laws on Eschele are derived solely from the Sacred Book of All-Wisdom, and do not cover the present dilemma. All claimants have agreed to abide by the decision of the mediators.

The Professor's will stated that his estate was to be divided among his children. The Professor had two biological children, **AZA** and **LURN**. However, the Professor also invented an artificial intelligence, **LIGHT**, which claims both sentience and direct descent from Hy-Zacari. In support of this relationship with the Professor, Light has submitted numerous personal log entries and recordings that describe the Professor's paternal attitude toward the AI.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

> **ERROR CORRUPT DATA FILE.**

> **HOSTILE CODE DETECTED**

> **COUNTERING EXECUTION...**

> **ERROR. SYSTEM REBOOTING.**

> **All Systems working normally. Please press a key to continue.**

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Review the Professor's will and other related legal documents.
- 02** Interview all heirs and claimants.
- 03** Advise client on the fair and proper division of the Professor's assets, including the hardware on which the Light AI operates.

CLIENT

Executor Charles Vlint

BROKER

Erskine, Lynch and
Voga Contracts, Inc.



ADMINISTER REFUGEE CAMP

SITE

AGAMEDES Colony

Agamedes is a Class-G (marginal) world. Average surface temperature 250 K; 60% of planetary surface permanently icebound.

Colony founded 2405. Population 480,200: 50% Human, 40% Tavak, 10% other species. Settlements bored under the northern glacial wall to shelter from harsh surface conditions. Extraction of "cold fire" hyper-crystals began 2411.

Contact lost in 2453 due to Mohilar War. Contact re-established 2465 by scout ship *New Jerusalem*. Scout ship destroyed by surface-to-air missiles shortly after recontact.

Subsequent investigations discovered that interracial civil war started on the colony in 2454 between tavak and human colonists. Conflict continues to present day. Neither side has proved open to mediation or cease-fire.

With limited resources to spare, the Combine dispatched humanitarian relief vessel Gilead to bring supplies, shelter, and medical care to refugees displaced by ongoing hostilities. Gilead landed under a neutral flag and established a refugee camp at Icefall Point.

Emergency distress call received from nurse **OSSI SEACHARM**, reporting that Gilead command and security staff had been killed by a missile attack. Without immediate reinforcement and strong administration, the refugee camp and humanitarian relief effort will collapse. The winning bidder will be responsible for operating and protecting the Gilead camp until a second relief vessel arrives to assist. ETA of relief ship Idun is 90 days.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

According to last transmission from Gilead, the refugee camp contained:

- 2,703 refugees (1,660 Human, 870 Tavak, 173 other)
- 184 medical staff
- Supplies and shelter for 3,000

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The **CRONSTEDT MINING CONSORTIUM** operated the cold fire crystal mine on the planet prior to the war. The mines were semi-automated, and the Consortium believes there may be a stockpile of crystals on the planet that are still their property. The Consortium will pay a generous bonus for any recovered crystals, and another bonus if the mines are reactivated and secured.

TACTICAL ADVISORY

Both warring factions are hostile to the Combine. The winning bidder should be prepared to defend themselves and the camp against attack.

OBJECTIVES

- 01 Secure Gilead camp.
- 02 Ensure the safe and secure operation of the camp until the relief ship Idun arrives.
- 03 Ensure the Idun lands safely.
- 04 Assist Idun crew in handing over operations.
- 05 Give whatever aid possible to the victims of the Agamedian civil war.

CLIENT

Combine High Ministry for Reconstruction

BROKER/CONTACT

Arcoro Effectuations



EXONERATE SHINING STARS LASER TEAM

SITE

Plomark City, **JUTURNA**

Licensed Autonomous Zone Effectuator team **SHINING STARS** was hired by Plomark City Police to arrest the off-world criminal gang **LOCHA VAS FAMILY** (see Contract C-54392). This contract was canceled and the payment bond forfeited. Plomark City Police claim that the Shining Stars caused excessive collateral damage and destroyed evidence in their failed pursuit of the Locha Vas. The Lasers were banned from Juturna Colony and are legally enjoined never to return there.

The damage to the Shining Stars reputation has resulted in near-total loss of income for the Laser team. The Shining Stars maintain that they acted in accordance with standard Laser protocols and that evidence of their failure was manufactured by elements within the Plomark City Police, whom they suspect of being in league with the Locha Vas. Due to the injunction banning the team from Juturna, the Shining Stars are unable to build a case against their accusers and clear their reputation.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Contract to investigate Locha Vas is still open.

TACTICAL ADVISORY

WONKA ARCHIMEDES (vas mal), former member of the Shining Stars team, is still at large in Plomark City, having refused to comply with the order to leave. Archimedes's erratic behavior due to excessive use of consciousness simulation was a matter of concern for his colleagues; during their investigation, he simulated the minds of six victims of Locha Vas assassins and may be suffering personality fragmentation.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Acquire copy of confidential Plomark City Police files on Shining Stars.
- 02** Prove that the evidence in those files that incriminates the Shining Stars was falsified.
- 03** If possible, identify the members of the police force responsible for the forgery.

CLIENT

Jani Quirin, Shining Stars
Operations Officer

BROKER

Erskine, Lynch and
Voga Contracts, Inc.

RESOLVE POTENTIAL BERSERKER THREAT

CLIENT INFORMATION

Alien probe of unknown origin entered Combine space at Arion. Analysis of accumulated interstellar dust on probe surface suggested a launch date approximately 10,000 years before present. Probe scanned Arion communications systems, interfaced with their computer grid, analyzed Combine social, cultural and linguistic norms, and posted the following contract offer.

SITE

HOMEWORLD OF MY PEOPLE *in* CHARYBDIS OUTZONE

Peaceful were we. Kind were we. Great our works, long our labors, and in the fields of Mind we toiled in secret. Many lesser species we raised to Mind.

Treachery, loathsome and perfidious caught us. Nameless, faceless, our attacker, striking in secret. Genocide unmade us. Life left us.

Parricide we suspect.

Created we this cenotaph, this vengeance. Sought it another civilization that would arise from our dust, one that knew justice as we did.

Bids we seek. Closing fast this offer is. Now, you act.

TACTICAL ADVISORY

Scans of the alien probe confirm the presence of omegonic weapons on board. Analysts suggest that if the probe's contract is not completed promptly, it will use these weapons on Arion to compel the Combine to act. A direct attack on the probe is contraindicated for similar reasons.

PSYCHIC ADVISORY

Myles Jehovah, vas mal scientific advisor to the Arion colony, reported that the probe "looked sort of familiar; I don't know." He suggested that the probe's creators had contact with the vas kra and possibly even with some of the other Combine species in the distant past.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The Di Bazza Archaeological Institute offers compensation for any data or artifacts recovered from the alien homeworld.

OBJECTIVES

- 01 Locate the alien origin world of the probe.
- 02 Identify the cause of the extinction of the probe's creators.
- 03 If there is evidence of deliberate genocide, identify the perpetrating species and take appropriate action.
- 04 Present proof of said appropriate action to the probe orbiting Arion.

CLIENT

The Mysterious Alien Probe
Orbiting Arion Colony

BROKER/CONTACT

None

INVESTIGATE WAR CRIMES ALLEGATIONS

SITE

THETO in the **CAPITALINE** Cluster

During the Mohilar War, former Combine Navy Captain **ERIL CHAMBERS** defected to the enemy. He was given authority over several occupied systems in the Bleed and is held responsible for numerous atrocities and war crimes. Chambers vanished in 2461.

ALAN VECK, agronomics specialist on Theto colony, may be a cover identity for the missing Chambers. **DEE ORATES**, a veteran of the Mohilar War, encountered Veck by chance at a country fair and recognized him as Chambers. Subsequent DNA testing confirms that Veck and Chambers are genetically identical, although viral manipulation cannot be ruled out without more stringent testing unavailable on Theto.

TACTICAL ADVISORY

Since Orates's initial accusation, other survivors have attempted to punish Veck for Chambers's crimes. Veck was taken into protective custody after an attempt on his life, and many more threats have been logged. Successful bidder should expect further attacks, both ground- and warpside.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Transfer custody of Veck from local authorities to Laser team.
- 02** Determine if Veck is Eril Chambers.
- 03** If there is reasonable suspicion that the suspect is war criminal Eril Chambers, bring Chambers to Ossa One for interrogation and trial.

CLIENT

Theto Sheriff's Department

BROKER/CONTACT

Arcoro Effectuations



RECOVER TAVAK ARTIFACTS

SITE

MONASTERY OF THE SILENT on **GARDENER** in the **CAPITALINE** Cluster

Monastery of the Silent established 2463 to help tavak veterans of the Mohilar War in the Bleed re-establish emotional balance. Artworks, plants, and other items transported from tavak homeworld augment the natural tranquility of the Monastery.

Monastery expanded in 2467 to cope with rising number of war-wounded tavak pilgrims. Further relics transported from homeworld.

Cargo ship **SEABREEZE** contracted to carry shipment of tavak holy relics to Gardener. On arrival, one relic was found to be missing: the remains of Master Pavik (d. 2014).

Pavik was a grand master of the tark harung form of meditation practiced in the monastery. According to tavak tradition, when a grand master approaches end of life, he or she enters a trance hibernation and becomes an "echoing shell." These echoing shells are calcified husks according to all bioscans, but many tavak believe the masters are only hibernating and will one day awaken. Certain tavak sects venerate echoing shells.

Captain **VERILITH** of the Seabreeze rejects accusations that she sold or destroyed the Pavik echoing shell en route to Gardener. She suggests that the item was stolen when the ship was docked at the Cybelline Transit Hub.

OBJECTIVES

- 01** Locate and retrieve the Pavik Echoing Shell relic and return it to the Monastery of the Silent.
- 02** Determine the culpability of Captain Verilith in the loss of the shell.

CLIENT

Atlas Shipping

BROKER/CONTACT

Erskine, Lynch and
Voga Contracts, Inc.



EASY RIDERS

VIOWARE FIELD TEST

Laser Teams sought to field-test experimental new vioware package, codenamed HINDBRAIN. The therapy alters brainwave patterns to render the recipient immune to pheromone manipulation and brainwave alteration.

Rider covers initial therapy and upkeep for the duration of the tests. If the testers wish to continue with HINDBRAIN after its commercial release, client offers a 50% discount on user licences for testers.

DISTRIBUTE RELIGIOUS MATERIAL

Agents sought to distribute the true texts of the most sacred MONDAT. These texts may not be transmitted by electronic means, for evil spirits would corrupt them. Successful bidders will undergo purification rites before being entrusted with the true texts. Eschew the false followers of MR1!

EMBEDDED MEDIA TEAM

SMASH HOLO is developing a new holo-show under the working title LASERS LIVE. Successful applicants will be fitted with media-grade headset recorders and holosnails to record their exploits.

EMOTIONAL PARASITE

Alien psychic entity seeks suitable temporal host for vicarious experiences. Likes wide range of biological secretions and emotions. Seeks to understand this thing you call love. Also, these things you call pain, hunger, lust, sneezing, spicy, burning, falling, dancing, snoozing, and explosively decompressing.

REQUIREMENTS: Mission involves hostile vioware users.

CLIENT: Polygene

REQUIREMENTS: Visit to high-population planet.

CLIENT: Church of the Verified Mondat

REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must be telegenic and possessed of a dry cool wit befitting an action hero; main contract must offer suitably dramatic subject matter for vidcast.

CLIENT: Smash Holo

REQUIREMENTS: Mission must offer wide range of social situations.

CLIENT: Zordan of Dimension U