

## **Season 1 - Episode 5: "Blind Fire"**

### **Novelization by Crist**

#### **Cast**

Captain Daniel Crist – Captain U.S.S. McKenzie, Played by Crist  
Lt Cmdr Zeez Teancum – First Officer, Played by Teancum  
Lt. LukeAbraxius – Tactical/Security Officer, Played by LukeAbraxius  
Doctor Darum Bains – Medical Officer, Played by Darum Bains  
Ensign Sydona V'Krull – Engineering Officer, Played by Talon  
Lt. JG James Hughes – Helmsmen, NPC  
Lt. Mira Belar – Science Officer, NPC

The McKenzie, was currently docked at Starbase 10. The crew prepared, and waited for their next mission. Captain Crist was in his quarters having some breakfast. Suddenly a voice came over the comm.

It was Hughes, "Sir, were getting a Priority 1 message from Starfleet."

Crist made a grown, and tapped his comm. badge, "Hughes, what are you doing on duty." He smiled.

Hughes laughed, "Well I wanted to mess around on the helm console."

Crist laughed, "Ok, well, send that message to my Ready Room, I'll take it in there."

Hughes, "Aye sir."

Captain Crist, finished his breakfast, recycled the plate, and made a quick walk into his Ready Room. He walked around his desk and sat down in his chair. He tapped the computer, and put in his authorization code "Crist Alpha-Tango-228."

\*The screen lit up and the message appeared.\*

Priority 1 Starfleet Command Message to Captain USS McKenzie

Roughly 2 hours ago, one of our top secret Listening Posts near the neutral area between the

Federation/Klingon/Romulan Border detected a brief spike in the energy spectrum associated with tri-quantum waves for roughly 0.2 seconds. Starfleet Command wants to know what the source of this emission was. The USS McKenzie is not a science ship as such, but it's the only available ship. Get underway as soon as possible and make best speed for the Kor'vmar Nebula. Starfleet Command Out.

\*The screen then showed a UFP emblem, and then went dark.\*

The captain was in deep thought, and then looked up. He tapped his computer once again and said,

“Computer, open a channel to Starbase 10.” A moment past by, then a voice came though.

“This is Starbase 10, what can I do for you captain?”

Crist, “The McKenzie will be departing in 30 minutes, please make the arrangements.”

Starbase crewman, “Yes sir.”

The comm. channel closed and the Captain stared at his computer, as he accessed the computer database. He pulled up any and all information about the secret Listening post, the Kor'vmar Nebula, as well as what tri-quantum waves were. He stayed in his Ready Room to study the information.

20 minutes passed, and the Captain tapped his comm. badge,

“All senior Officers, report to the Bridge.”

He then got up and made his way to the bridge, feeling a little better with the little information he just learned. He walked onto the bridge and the only officer he saw was Lt. JG Hughes. He gave him a nod and sat in the Captains chair, studying his PADD in hand.

### **=Mess Hall=**

Lt Cmdr Zeez Teancum stowed his gear after the socializing in the mess hall wound down. He decided to put up decorations later and catch a little sleep.

It seemed like he had just dozed off when Captain Crist called senior officers to the bridge. He had slept over 6 hours, so he would be well rested for whatever was up. He dressed quickly and went to the bridge, finding only Ensign Hughes and Captain Crist.

"Hello Captain Crist, Lt. JG Hughes."

Teancum settled in at tactical station 2 to await the rest of the senior staff as Captain Crist and Lt. JG Hughes responded.

The Captain looked up from his PADD, and nodded to his XO.

### **=Torpedo Room 1=**

Luke was running through a torpedo diagnostic as the Captains voice came across the comms. “All senior Officers, report to the Bridge.”

Luke handed over to one of his Tactical staff and quickly made his way to the bridge the excitement building. Scheduled embarkment wasn't for a while yet and there was no other reason for all senior officers to go the bridge unless something important was about to happen.

Teancum and Hughes were already on the bridge. "Commander, Lieutenant." he said nodding to the two officers. He took his seat at tactical and began running through all weapon and shield systems for the second time that day. Never hurt to be cautious. He didn't expect trouble but his father had always thought him to be thorough. There was always an element of danger on those trading trips his family undertook but they always managed to avoid trouble. For the most part, he thought darkly.

"Weapons and shields look good commander." He said turning to Teancum.

"That's good to hear Mr. Abraxius." Crist spoke.

### **=Crew Quarters=**

"All senior Officers, report to the Bridge."

Darum Bains quickly finished brushing his teeth, grabbed a pad and rushed for the turbolift. The doctor arrived on the bridge and was met by four fellow officers.

"Doctor Bains reporting Captain." He said.

"Good to have you Doctor." Crist said.

### **=Main Engineering=**

Sydona walked the deck in Engineering, checking the status of the warp core, EPS conduit relays and other vital propulsion systems. The general vibe from the Engineering team was a good one.

Sydona walked by one of the Engineering officers working at his station. Without being prompted, he gave a status report. "All systems are online and functioning at optimum levels."

"Good. I want Kenzie ready to bust out of the gate at any moment. You never know when we'll be called back out." Sydona responded as she traced a few loose wavy strands of hair behind her ear. The change of hairstyle was a bit new for her, bringing more attention to her and her forehead ridges. The officer watched the Klingon-Human hybrid play with her hair as she watched the displays before her. After a few moments of silence, Sydona finally snapped her fingers to get the crewman's attention.

"Engineering to Reeves, you still with us?" A slight smirk crept up on Sydona's face.

The officer tried his best to recover, but failed. "Ah...umm...yeah...sorry ma'am."

Sydona shook her head and patted him on the shoulder before she walked over to her partner in crime and roommate, Ensign Jenny Summers. The bubbly, slender, fair skinned blonde was humming a tune as she bounce from console to console, checking and rechecking systems. Other officers smiled and slightly chuckled as she seemed to be in her own world. Finally she leaned down to one of the consoles and whispered to it.

"Alright Kenzie, Auntie Jenny gives you a clean bill of health. Momma Syd and I will try our best not to fry any systems this time. Okay?"

“Auntie Jenny huh? I thought giving the ship a name and talking to it was weird.” Sydona asked as pressed a few markings of the console.

“Well...let’s just say I understand why you do it now.” Smiling, Jenny continued on with her final checklist rundown. At that very moment, a call for all senior officers to report to the bridge was made. All eyes in the room fixed on the “Amazonian Klingon Engineer” as she’s been called by some. Giving a quick glance over the room, Sydona finally spoke.

“Alright. You know the drill. More than likely, we’re moving out. As soon as I know something...and the Captain allows me to speak about it, you all will be the first to know. We have some of the best officers in Starfleet on this ship. Officers that can handle the worst space has to offer. And remember: We are the Engineering team. If we fail at our job...everyone suffers. And that’s not going to happen. Not on any watch. Understood?”

The officers answered in unison. “Yes Ma’am!”

Sydona smiled hearing the response from the officers. Jenny smiled back her and motioned for her friend to head on to the bridge.

“Jen, hold the fort till I get back.” Sydona asked over her shoulder as she was halfway out the door.

“Sure thing Syd!” Jenny yelled back as she doors closed.

## **=Deck 1=**

The Turbolift doors opened up and Sydona stepped out. She walked the corridors of deck 1 until she walked onto the bridge. She nodded to Lieutenant Commander Zeez Teancum, Medical officer Bains, Captain Crist and Lieutenant JG Hughes before taking her Engineering station on the bridge. With a few quick taps on her Console, the station came to life. Doing a final check of the displays before her, she finally addressed the Captain.

“Impulse Engines online, Warp Core online, Structural Integrity Fields online, Inertial Dampening Fields online. Kenzie...I mean McKenzie is ready to go Sir.”

“Excellent work, Lt.” Crist said with a smile, hearing his ship was green to go.

A minute later, the Science officer entered, she was a Young Trill Woman, and her name was Lt. Mira Belar.

“Sorry I’m late Sir,” she said.

Crist, “Good, now that we’re all here, let’s have our Briefing.”

The Captain got up and walked to the back of the Bridge. He took a seat at the briefing table and the senior officers huddled around the table.

Crist, “I’ve been contacted by Starfleet, that one of our Listening Posts, near the neutral area between the Federation/Klingon/Romulan Border, detected a brief spike in the energy spectrum associated with tri-quantum waves.”

The Science officer spoke up, “Sir, Tri-Quantum waves are associated with Transwarp Conduits.”

Crist, "Yes they are, and Starfleet has ordered us to investigate. They believe that it occurred in the Kor'vmar Nebula. The Kor'vmar Nebula is a Class 11 Nebula. It consists of primarily oxygen and argon with trace amounts of theta-xenon, fluorine, and sirillium. You can think of it as the Little Brother of the Azure Nebula. Although it's a little meaner than its bigger brother, the Kor'vmar Nebula interferes with sensors and warp travel within the Nebula is impossible. Also the shields will be down 1/2 within the nebula." He took a breath.

"Now, as Lt. Belar, mention, Tri-Quantum waves are associated with Transwarp Conduits, so we should be on our guard. I doubt we'll encounter the Borg, since the USS Voyager, encountered a few species that had Transwarp capability, in the Delta Quadrant. And there could be a few races here that we haven't encountered yet with Transwarp capability. With that said none the less, we should expect the worse. Mr. Abraxius, I want the weapons and defenses to be in perfect working order, and make sure, your security teams are ready in case we're boarded. Mr. Bains, be ready if we get in a battle, and keep your fingers cross that we don't. Lt. V'Krull, we won't be taxing the engines too much, but we will be engaging warp 6 once we leave so be ready. Lt. Belar, keep an eye on the sensors, I want to be aware of anything unusual, and I don't want to be ambushed out there. Any questions or thoughts?"

With the officers nodding in understanding. The Captain spoke up,

"Good, then let's get to the mission, Dismissed."

The officers left to man there stations and the Captain made his way to his seat, where he sat down. He tapped the right panel next to his chair, and spoke,

"McKenzie to Starbase 10, we're ready to depart."

Starbase 10, "Understood McKenzie, your clear to leave though space door 4, God speed."

The channel closed and the Captain looked to the helm, "Mr. Hughes, please undock and head out, max thrusters."

Hughes, "Aye sir."

The ship shook as it undocked from the Starbase. Hughes tapped the helm console and brought the ship to full thrusters. The ship maneuvered though the Starbase's interior, and exited though the Starbase's doors.

The McKenzie was now in open space, and Hughes took a look back to receive his next orders.

Crist, "Mr. Hughes, engage warp engines, warp 6."

The McKenzie jumped to warp, and it would take them 4 hours to get to their destination. The crew would use that time to prepare for whatever awaited them.

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The McKenzie had been at warp for 4 hours. The crew prepared for what they may encounter.

Lt. Hughes's panel beeped and he looked to see what it was. He then turned his head slightly and said, "Sir, we've reached out designation."

Crist, "Good Mr. Hughes, Drop us out of warp, and go to 1/2 impulse, take us to the nebula. Miss Belar, Scan the area and the nebula itself."

Hughes and Belar said in unison, "Yes Sir."

The McKenzie dropped out of warp and approached the Kor'vmar Nebula.

Crist, "Mr. Hughes, bring the ship to a full stop within 5000 km of the Nebula.

Hughes, "Aye Sir."

Once the ship was in range, the ship came to a stop. The McKenzie continued to run scans until they were done.

Belar, "Sir, there are no ship outside the nebula and I'm not detecting the Tri-Quantum waves either, as for the nebula, my scans are having trouble within the nebula, I suggest we enter the nebula to attempt to get better scans."

Crist thought for a moment and said, "Ok, Mr. Abraxius, go to yellow alert, raise shields, Mr. Hughes, lay in a search grid within the Nebula, 1/3 impulse, Engage."

The ship started to move again and entered the nebula. She began its search for the phantom Tri-Quantum wave.

### **=Sickbay=**

After the meeting on the bridge, the doctor returned to Sick Bay. The next few hours went by uneventfully while he read a novel. The doctor felt the ship drop out of warp and he got an idea.

"Computer, activate the Emergency Medical Hologram." Stated the doctor.

A balding man appeared in front of the doctor.

"Please state the nature of the medical emergency." Said the figure.

A Mark I EMH thought the doctor. It would need some work, but it could be useful in an emergency.

"Computer, change the EMH's physical perimeters to my speculations and replicate all of Dr. Zimmerman's latest work on the EMH, as well as some holographic design instructions." Said the doctor.

The computer beeped in acknowledgment and the doctor set to work.

### **=Inside the Kor'vmar Nebula =**

It had been here for some time. It had made the Nebula its base of operations. Many had fallen to its new tactics and strategies, from many races. Much had been added to the collective.

It had not been surprised that the Federation had detected its base, after all that was what they had detected. They had learnt that bold and aggressive action was not always an efficient tactic, so they had adapted and began to use new technologies in different ways.

Even as the vessel entered the nebula, they had detected it and armed the ring of cloaked gravimetric mines that protected its base. They could have destroyed it then and there, and they would have years ago. But they had adapted and knew the explosion would be noticed.

It wouldn't in the Nebula however.

With a single will it moved towards the Starfleet Vessel, arming weapons as it did. It didn't attempt to communicate its intentions as it would have done in the past. It had a different mission.

It yawned its ponderous bulk out of a particularly dense cloud of gas and appeared in front of the Starfleet Vessel. Before they could react its Disruptors blazed hammering the warp engines of the small ship.

Its readings indicated they were rendered inoperable. Seconds later its cutting beam flashed, cutting a slice through the communications array, they didn't need sensors to see that had been rendered offline.

They would take their time with this one. Even as the thought occurred as a tractor beam locked on and began pulling the stricken ship deeper into the Nebula, where their destruction would be witnessed by none.

### **=Research Lab=**

Bains was in the research lab when he felt the blow.

"Bains to the captain, what's going on?"

Crist's voice could be heard, "Stand by doc."

### **=Bridge=**

The disruptor blast rocked the ship, sending many of the ships occupants tumbling about. Sydona gripped her console station tightly to prevent be flung to the floor.

Crist looked up at the view screen to see what it was. It was difficult to see but when it cleared up it was very clear what it was, a Borg Cube. The ship rocked as it fired upon the McKenzie. The Borg then grabbed the McKenzie with a holding beam.

Zeez responded quickly to the Borg Cube on his tactical display and the destruction of the communications array, "Can we launch a comm probe to alert starfleet? Can we access their sleep node and shut them down? Should we arm ourselves and beam over and fight the crew?"

The tension of the bridge crew spiked as the assault continued from the Borg cube, battering the hull of the McKenzie. Anger began to wash over the Klingon-Human hybrid as her mind began to race...thinking of what to do next.

Amidst the noise and confusion, a comm transmission cut through to the Chief Engineer.

"Summers to V'Krull. What the Frell is going on up there?!?!"

"You know...I think you would look dead sexy with an ocular implant. I hear it's all the rage this year." Sydona responded. Her words were laced with enough sarcasm to clog a plasma manifold.

The young Ensign could not hide the fear in her voice. "B-Borg?! You're joking right? Please tell me you're joking!!!!"

Sydonia's memories began to race back to her...to the last time she seen her brother Darius. Through the use of his assimilation tubules, he was able to share some of his experiences of assimilation...as well as his own assimilation. As another blast rocked the military federation vessel, Sydonia was brought back to reality. She can hear the officers around her give status and damage reports. Another blast struck the ship, causing the internal light to flicker. A low growl rumbled out of Sydonia as she furiously tapped away at her console.

Crist, "Red alert, tactical, get a weapons lock on that tractor emitter, and fire a torpedo."

The McKenzie managed to fire a torpedo, destroying the emitter, and the McKenzie was freed.

Crist, "Helm, GET US OUT OF HERE," He yelled.

The ship made a 180 turn and ran, the Cube follow, but slower than the speed the McKenzie was at.

Crist spoke, "Report."

Hughes turned around and said, "Sir, Warp drive is offline it was the first thing that they hit, also our communications array is gone. Wish the Shields was stronger in this nebula, and then this wouldn't have happened."

Crist, "That's enough Hughes, there's no point in complaining about something, which is out of our control. Helm, get us out of this nebula so we can make it to the nearest ship or starbase. I wonder why they aren't trying to overtake us."

Suddenly Belar spoke up, "Helm, Hard to Port, 120 degrees. NOW."

Hughes, "What? That takes us back into the nebula." Hughes then looked back at the Captain, and Crist gives a nod.

The ship turned once more avoiding the edge of the nebula.

Crist, "Ok Belar, what's up?"

Belar, "Sir, I just detected multiple cloaked gravimetric mines, on the outer edge of the nebula. We couldn't detect them because they were cloaked and unarmed, but the Borg must have armed them recently, and I barely managed to detect them."

Crist, "Hmm, that changes things a bit, Hughes, lay in a parabolic course to go deeper into the nebula, make sure you avoid that cube. Hopefully we can use the nebula to hide while we fix the warp drive and figure out how to disable those mines." Crist tapped his comm badge, "Doc, sorry for putting you on hold, we ran into a Borg cube, we've seemed to evaded it for now. Do we have any injured?"

**=Research Lab=**

The doctor was still in the research lab when the lights lining the hall went red, symbolizing red alert. The doctor quickly stored the files and sprinted to Sick Bay. When he arrived, a message beeped over the comm.

“Doc. Sorry for putting you on hold, we ran into a Borg cube, we’ve seemed to evaded it for now. Do we have any injured?”

Bains tapped his comm. “Reports coming in now sir. He said, heading over to the terminal. “Six injured, one KIA sir. Were going to try to move him to Sick Bay and try to revive him. Ensign Leopold has already tried a neural defibrillator, but it’s not working. Bains out.”

An anxious nurse rushed into Sick Bay with some other crewmen. The doctor explained the situation and they set to work.

Bains had done a lot of research about the Borg back at the academy. What would it be doing here? That must be why we detected something associated with transwarp technology, he thought. The doctor turned as a as stretcher was carried in.

### **=Bridge=**

With the Doctor's report, Crist took a deep breath and gave out his orders.

"Cmdr, Mr. Abraxius, I want you two to figure out a way to disable those mines." He tapped his comm badge, "Crist to V'Krull, I need you to get the warp drive back online, as well as the comms array, but the warp drive is top priority. Hughes, keep dodging that cube. Let's get to work people."

The ship began to go deeper and deeper into the nebula, so that it could hide from the Borg, as long as possible, giving the crew the needed time, to get there work done so they could leave.

Luke was shocked at the turn of events. Seeing a Borg cune for the first time scared him half to death and it took the authoratative voice of the Captain to snap him into action. They had to disable those mines if they had any chance of escaping.

“Jen...stay with me here. Focus girl!! We need to tackle this step by step and fast or we are all frelled.” Sydona said, her voice full of authoritative tone. There was a pause of silence before Ensign Summers finally spoke.

“Talk to me V'Krull. What do you want us to do?” Jenny responded, finally locking down her fear.

Taken a deep breath after hearing the Captain's orders, Sydona's fingers skipped about quickly over the console. Quickly setting up part of her display to manage the McKenzie's shields, the Klingon-Human hybrid started adjusting the shields harmonics and frequency. A wry smile was on her face has she made the necessary changes. “If...no...when we get out of this Lil' brother...I own you one. There...that should keep the cube from cutting into Kenzie as well as limit some of the disruptor damage. What's the status of the impulse engines? Any ill effects from the nebula?”

With an upbeat tone back in her voice, Jenny responded. “No. Seems some of the things we learned when we helped the Solstice is working to our benefit here. Our size should help mask us from detection. But just in case... I'm suppressing the ships ion signature.”

“Nice. That's what I'm taking about. Now...problem of the hour: Warp Drive. Looks like the Matter-Anti Matter injectors...” Sydona was about to finish her sentence when Jenny cut in.

“...are offline. Thankfully this ship is armored well or we'd really be in trouble. All engineering shifts are in here

working on it. Well also have a few blown relays that need to be replaced.” Jenny responded as she continued to work. The sound of chirps and bleeps from com stations, back ground conversations and the occasional grunts as Jenny was pulling off panels as well as climbing over people poured through the comm. The young Ensign reigned herself in and was all business...but the camaraderie was every present. A few hoots and hollers from the male and female engineering officers was heard through the com briefly.

“Uh oh! There it goes, people!!! Her hair is up!!! It's game time now!!” One of the officers yelled.

“Y'all cut it out!! We got work to do!” Jenny chuckled briefly as she continued to work on the severely damaged relay. “This damage is bad. I'm going to work as fast as I can...but it will take some time Chief.”

“Roger that Sunshine. I'll keep working on the Matter-Anti Matter injectors from the bridge. At least that way I can monitor the shields as well as the Shield Generators. Once the Warp Drive is back up...we need to work on the deflector. Captain's orders.”

“Roger that Syd. I'm on it.” Jenny ended her communication, leaving Sydona with her current tasks.

Teancum turned to Ensign Abraxius, " OK, ensign, let's see what we can come up with. I assume we want to disable a wide swat so we can fly through. We could fire probes or torpedoes to set them off. But we want to not draw attention to us if we can. What about modifying the deflector dish to emit a gravimetric beam to disable or block the mines?" Suggested the Commander as he stood next to Luke at tactical 1.

Ensign Abraxius responded, "Something like that would probably work. Let me see what I can do. Quickly."

"If you need any personnel or equipment, let me know what you need, we will get it." Teancum added.

"How about if we modulate the shields to create an anti graviton field, if im right it would create a repelling effect on the mines. We could gently push our way out, once on the other side we could fire our aft torpedoes and detonate a few mines. We have a good chance of setting enough of them off to put distance between us and that cube." Luke said to Teancum, his eyebrows scrunched in thought. It would take a little time and a little extra power but with some help from Sydona they could make it work.

Zeez responded, "Excellent. Get right on it. Call in what help you need." tapping comm badge, "Teancum to V'Krull, Ensign Abraxius is working on modulating the shields to deflect gravitometric mines holding us in the nebula, help him as much as possible."

While the crew worked on a way to get out of this mess, the Captain and the helm officer focused on keeping everyone alive. The Borg was continually searching for them.

Hughes, "Sir." He said with fear.

The Borg cube appeared out of a cloud of dust.

Crist, "Helm, hard starboard, evasive maneuver Charlie 2"

The McKenzie jukes right and makes a dive downward. The McKenzie ducked inside a dust cloud and loses the Borg.

Crist, "Well that was close, should buy us a little more time."

## **=Main Engineering=**

Down in Engineering, the pace was frantic as the crew in that section of the McKenzie worked tirelessly to keep vital systems working. Seeing the need to oversee some of the repairs, Sydona returned to Engineering to assist the team. She left the shields on an auto out of cycle phase shield rotation...just in case the Borg cube caught up with the ship and she was unable to get to a console to remodulate the shields herself.

With a satisfactory smile on her face, Ensign Jenny Summers finished up repairing the second to last relay. "Oooh yeah. Not bad if I do say so myself. One more to go." Leaning over the edge of the upper deck...to the point of half her body dangling over the edge, Jenny yelled out to the Chief Engineer. "Hey Syd, Hydro Spanner!!"

The ship shuddered as it was put through an emergency evasive maneuver. Swinging into engineering he scanned the room for V'Krull his eyes adjusting to the flickering lights of the warp core.

"Sydonia!" He shouted across the room. He raced towards her reply and the two of them hastily began work on diverting enough power to the shields. Luke ran numbers through his head as fear crept into his thoughts. This would take time, maybe 10 minutes max. Time though, was the one thing they didn't have.

Sydona was engrossed in the task brought to her by Luke. However, she instinctively reached to her immediate left, gripped the item tightly and haphazardly tossed it to Jenny. The young Ensign caught the Spanner, giving Luke a wry smirk before pulling her slender form back up to the upper platform to continue her work.

Sydona sighed heavily, turning her attention to Luke. "Alright Luke, here's the deal. Due to the deflector dish being out we won't be able to keep the remodulating shields up and run the shield frequencies needs to work the gravimetric bubble needed to play keep away with the mines." The Klingon-Human hybrid walked Luke over to another console display. "When I had setup up the current rotating shield sequence we have going now...I did it with just the current setup and still having the immediate power to warp the hell out of here when it goes back online. In short...someone is going to have to switch shield setups manually. We'll have the needed power to do this in..."

Before Sydona could finish her sentence, the surrounding room lights powered back up. Leaning over the upper platform again with her blonde locks falling to one side of her face, Jenny addressed her superior officer. "All relays have been repaired. We have some additional power...but not a lot."

The engineer in Luke was momentarily stunned by the speed Syd had rerouted the power. He reminded himself to ask her for a few tips after this was all over.

Giving her nod of approval, Sydona addressed the Ensign. "The calculations are in, so you are all good to go. Remember, the shields will need to be handled manually...but other than that...it should work fine. Now...back to getting the Warp Drive back online." Sydona went back to working on the Warp Core...leaving Luke standing where he was before finally turning around. "You might want to get back to the bridge in order to work those shields Luke." Sydona said, smiling before returning back to the task at hand.

"Aye sir." Luke replied with a lopsided smile. 'Hell of a first mission.'

He focused on what needed to be done and ran through it all step by step in his mind. He was so distracted he almost knocked Ensign Beren off his feet.

"Sorry Dan," He said quickly, slapping the mans shoulder in apology before jogging off.

"No problem Luke, hey I heard you might want a pair of engineering eyes on the bridge." He replied as he matched Luke's pace.

"Could definitely use the help." He said gratefully. The two made their way to the bridge and were greeted with the organized chaos of an escape attempt. Luke's eyes locked on the Captain who sat calm and immovable in the storm.

"Captain graviton shield is ready to go. Were going to need to shake the Borg off us before we can modulate the shields. Its gonna leave us with only our hull for protection so I reckon well need a few kilometers and some more of that fine piloting to give us time." He sat down with Beren and the two men sorted out the manual switching of the shields while the Captain replied with his orders.

Crist spoke, "Understood, and good work Mr. Abraxius. I think we'll stay in here a little longer so get ready to activate it on a moment's notice. I much rather stay in the nebula where we have a chance to hide rather than in open space without warp drive."

### **=Engineering=**

Meanwhile in Engineering, the team frantically worked hard to get the Warp Core online. Sydona moved from console to console, setting and resetting parameters to kick-start the proverbial engine.

"Okay. Try it again. Give me a .02 micron variance." Sydona said, fully engrossed in her displays. The sound of the Warp Core powering up filled the room, followed by it powering down. "Damn it."

Sighing heavily, Ensign Jenny Summers recalibrated the ignition sequence. "We almost had it that time. We're so close!"

Running her hands through her hair, Sydona looked at Jenny from across the room...making eye contact. "Are you thinking what I'm thinking Jenny?"

A sly smile crept up on the Ensign's face. "Inverse start up sequence to jump-start the Core..."

Sydona quickly chimed in. "Followed by a revert shift to realign the Core." The Klingon-Human Hybrid looked around the room and without any further explanation, the Engineering Crew went to work. Within a few moments, the room was bathed in the familiar blue light. Sydona smiled as she heard that all so familiar hum coming from the Core.

"V'Krull to the Captain. The Warp Core is back online."

### **=Bridge=**

The McKenzie spent about 40 minutes within the Nebula, and were thankfully avoiding the Borg. Suddenly the Science officer detected something.

"Sir I'm detecting a disturbance to our starboard bow." Said Belar.

Without any hesitation Crist ordered.

“Helm hard to port.” Said the Captain.

The ship turned and there was no incident.

Crist, “Well, we dodged another bullet.”

A minute later a voice came over the comms.

“V’Krull to the Captain. The Warp Core is back online.” Said V’Krull.

A smile appeared on the Captains face and he tapped his comm badge.

Crist, “Good work, Lt., now I need you to work on that transmitter, damage reports tell its extremely damaged, I just need something to warn everyone about the borg, it doesn’t matter if it’s a onetime use thing.”

He turns to the front of the bridge,

“Mr. Abraxius, get that shield ready, Mr. Hughes, plot a course out of the nebula and once were clear, engage the warp drive, best possible speed to Starbase 10.”

The ship turned once more and headed for the edge of the nebula, where the crew could enact there plan.

The McKenzie moved closer and closer to the edge of the nebula. She dropped her shields in preparation to enact there plan. Suddenly the Borg appeared.

Crist, “Helm evasive maneuver Sigma 4”

The McKenzie broke away back into the nebula.

The XO suggested, "Sir, these Borg seem to be thinking in 2 dimensions. Perhaps dropping on our Z-axis several kilometers will help us keep out of their path until we are ready to move out of the nebula."

Crist, “Good idea, Hughes make it so.”

After saying that, the intruder alarm went off. The Borg used the opportunity, while the McKenzie’s shields were down, to beam over a boarding party. Crist turned to his XO.

“Commander, you take charge of the security teams, and take out those Borg, Mr. Abraxius, you go with him.”

Crist thought that they couldn’t risk leaving with a Borg boarding party onboard, and with any luck they can take out the Borg without them damaging the ship further.

In the meantime, the McKenzie was at a negative Z axis, as an effort to evade the Borg.

"Let's go ensign," Teancum said as he taps com badge, walking to the weapons storage locker, "Security Teams, Borg have beamed aboard, locate, use type 3 phasers also, set to kill, with auto adjust frequencies. Work as teams."

Luke handed over the shield control to Beren he placed one hand on his shoulder.

"Beren make sure that shield is ready to go, well sort these Borg out." Luke said as he stepped alongside the commander. They moved quickly but with caution, covering each other as they moved from corridor to corridor.

Teancum and Abraxius arm themselves with hand phasers and phaser rifles. Teancum ducks into his quarters and brings out a Romulan disruptor pistol, inserting the charge as he walks.

"Computer, location of Borg intruders and number?"

The Computer responded, "Intruders are in 4 groups, located in Main Engineering, outside Sickbay, Impulse Reactor Maintenance, and the Torpedo Storage on Deck 4. The total number of intruders is 16."

### **=Sickbay=**

"Warning, intruder alert!!!" Bleeped the computer.

Bains had equipped most of his officers with some kind of weapon. He knew they would be aimed to assimilate, not to kill.

"Ok everyone, stick together in groups. If anything odd happens, report back to me. Most importantly, keep changing the frequency of your weapon. If you're grabbed, use a laser scalpel on anything that looks important. Got it? Our job is to get all emergency equipment to a safe location. We are moving a patient as well, so we will all be moving to engineering. Force fields won't slow them for long, but activate them if needed. Is everybody ready?" Said the doctor.

All six medical crewmen nodded nervously.

"Good, lets go." Said the doctor.

All of the medical crew left quickly was ambushed as they walked out the door. The Borg were using disruptors, not stun weapons. A bulkhead was hit just behind the doctor.

"Run!" Yelled Bains.

### **=Deck 2 Corridor=**

"Teancum to all hands, Engineering, prepare for Borg, Red Team to engineering, Blue Team to Impulse Reactor Maintenance, Green team to Torpedo Storage on Deck 4. 4 intruders each location. Ensign we are going to see the doctor." Teancum was already rushing towards sick bay, Abraxius right with him.

"Ensign, take the left side of the corridor and work left to right on the targets that present." Teancum slid to the right side as he hurried on.

In minutes they met the medics. Teancum waved his head at them to go, "Hold here ensign, prepare to fire when ours are clear." Teancum juggled the phaser rifle and disruptor together and began firing them in tandem, sweeping right to left, as fast as he could fire.

They fired with precision and the Borg were blown to pieces before they could adapt. "Targets down." Luke shouted

over the hissing and sparking of the now damaged hallway. And the two man team moved on.

"Well done, Luke. Let's make sure they are all out of commission, then let's head for the torpedo storage area. Green team is the smallest and has had the least amount of sleep."

They quickly confirmed no life signs among the Borg, and Teancum tapped his com badge, "Teancum to transporter chief, point to point transport of Teancum and Abraxius from near sick bay to near the Borg in the torpedo storage on deck 4." Teancum looks at Luke, "We'll try the same maneuver, but do it from a kneeling position if the opportunity presents."

"Understood sir." Luke replied as he nervously eyed the shadowed crevices of the ship, where any number of Borg could be hiding. Flicking on his tactical light he scanned the area while Teancum spoke over the comms.

Teancum taps his com badge, "Security teams report."

"Beren can you see green team on the sensors?" He asked.

"Sensors show them in..... torpedo storage, deck 4." Came the gruff reply.

Luke said nothing but his expression spoke louder than words.

Green team were down.

Teancum looked at Luke, "I have a couple of ideas. We could see whether the transporter chief could lock onto the Borg and give them an EVA at wide dispersion. We could set up a force field at the entry and evac the air, or inject something unbreathable, or both. Is it possible to turn off the gravity in an individual room or area? If we could turn the gravity on and off in conjunction with atmosphere variations, we could get them off balance enough to take them. There are only 4, remember. Just like here."

**=Bridge=**

Crist listened to the reports of the Security crews. The Security team sent to Torpedo Storage, had been killed.

"Red team here, were in Engineering and penned down, it looks like the Borg are trying to breach the core, we'll enlist the engineering teams to help."

"This is Blue team, the Borg have barricaded access to Impulse Reactor Maintenance, were trying to cut through as we speak."

**=Main Engineering=**

After meeting the security team, the medics pressed on. When they arrived at Engineering, the doctor unlocked the door and moved in. Most of the crew looked like they were down and the Borg were getting closer to the core. As they ran in the doctor saw Ensign Busby get hit in the neck by disruptor fire.

"Leave the patient, if they get to the core we're done for!" Said the doctor.

The doctor and the rest of the medical crew joined engineering in the firefight.

In Engineering...the Borg begin to press their attack. Over half of the Engineering team have been slain due to the assault. Before further casualties mounted, Red Team of Security/Tactical joined the fight. Finding cover behind a console, Chief Engineer Sydona V'Krull and Ensign Jenny Summers fire their own phaser salvo back at the Borg.

Suppressing her panic, Jenny fires a few phaser shots in the Borg's general direction. "They so did NOT cover this at the academy. They are just slaughtering us here!!"

Sydona quickly ducked behind cover. "They aren't here to assimilate. They are here to wipe us the Frell out."

The two female officers peaked out from behind the console...only to see two Borg assault soldiers point their arm disruptor cannons at the Warp Core. Fear and a sense of urgency gripped them both. The two women looked at each other and nodded...communicating in a non verbal fashion. Jenny handed her phaser to Sydona and broke her cover...running toward the nearest undamaged console. As the Borg started to open fire on the Ensign, Sydona popped up from behind the console and opened fire on the invaders.

Barely dodging the last blast, Jenny dove over the console she was running to, slamming into the wall hard. Quickly getting to her feet, she quickly started tapping on the console before her...not wanting to see if vocal commands were still working. Within a few moments, a level 4 force field was erected around the core.

"Nice work Summers!" Sydona yelled across the room, tossing her phaser back to her. Jenny caught the phaser, juggling it a little bit before firmly getting a hold on it...rejoining the fight.

One of the Borg in the invading party however, started to slowly make his way to a console...

#### **=Deck 4 Corridor=**

"Teancum to Gold Team, head to Engineering to assist there, but assign 2 members to assist us in torpedo storage.

Luke and Teancum moved as fast as they dared through the darkened hallways of the McKenzie. The torpedo room was close and the two men sprinted the rest of the way meeting up with the remainder of gold team.

"Cover me." Luke said crouching low and aiming down the sight of his phaser.

Teancum responded, pointing at a security team member, then another "Go in to the left, sweep left to right, taking targets as they present, I'll go in to the right and sweep right to left, you come in the middle and take out center targets, keep low."

The maneuver worked like a charm. Fortunately the Borg drones were a little slow to respond. The Borg were caught in the crossfire set up by the four Star Fleet attackers, and quickly succumbed to the overwhelming firepower.

"Check to make sure they are all totally out of it," Teancum said, as he checked on one of the security detail who was slightly singed.

"That was amazing," the crewman said with a big smile, then winced.

Teancum grinned back, "Just like the shoot out at the OK corral. From an old earth Western movie. You should look it up, you might like it," Teancum added when the crewman looked a little unsure of the reference.

The other men reported that the Borg were all eliminated.

"Let's head for the impulse engine repair station and see how blue team is doing. You can hang back and offer covering fire if you are able, otherwise stay back until we move on to Engineering, where the medical team went," Teancum addressed the group, and the mildly injured crewman in particular.

Tapping his com badge, "Teancum to Crist. Borg eliminated from sick bay area and torpedo storage. Reinforcements sent to Engineering, we are going to impulse repair. out. Lets move."

### **=Bridge=**

Meanwhile on the Bridge,

The Captain was monitoring what was going on throughout the ship. He was glad that the Borg had been eliminated at Sickbay and Torpedo storage. So far with their course, they had avoided the Borg quite well. Crist tapped the panel to his right and said,

"Engineering, do whatever is necessary to take out the Borg there."

The Captain thought, 'With any luck, V'Krull and the security down there can take care of the Borg. Plus Cmdr Teancum, should be taking out the ones in the impulse room soon. Then we can get out of this soup.'

### **=Main Engineering=**

The Borg quickened their pace toward an available working console. The remaining Borg invaders had taken up defensive positions within Engineering...continuing the fight...and actually providing cover fire for their comrade. The firefight was intense and the level four force field held. Sydona and Jenny both managed to take cover behind a console, dodging blast and returning fire when they both noticed the Borg heading for a console.

A flash of panic came over Sydona. "Oh No. They are going to..."

"Tap the system directly to start a breach!!" Jenny yelled as both her and Sydona charged out from their protective covering, breaking out into a full on run toward the cybernetic invader. The security teams wasted no time in open fire to give the female officers the cover fire they required to reach their objective. Despite the quickness the officers displayed...the were unable to stop the Borg drone as his assimilation tubules tapped into the console...causing the shield to drop and a build up cycle in the core.

The two female officers rushed the drone. Ensign Jenny leaped toward the Borg Drone while Chief Engineer Sydona tackled the invader, bringing him to the ground. The Ensign pushed her phaser hard against his chest and fired...thus ended that drone. The backup security teams finally reached engineering, swiftly brought down the remaining Borg threat.

The surviving Engineering team quickly went to work...trying to stop the Warp Core breach. Sydona just stood in the middle of all the chaos...deep in thought. Other officers in the room called out to her...but she didn't respond. Ensign Jenny Summers finally screamed out her superior officer's name. As a light switch being turned on... Sydona marched over to one of the few working consoles and entered a series of commands. Finally a welcome female computerized voice was heard.

"Warp Core is now operating at normal levels."

As perplexed looks adorn the face of the Engineering crew, Sydona tapped her Com Badge.

“V’Krull to the Captain. Engineering is secure, Warp Core and weapon systems are online. Shields are operational and we’ll have a modulating shield up shortly. We will also have the deflector dish working in about twenty minutes.”

Now that the Borg had been cleared out, the medical team began to help with injuries. The 4 remaining of the medical crew had a lot of work ahead of them. Bains walked up to the Chief Engineering Officer.

"Lieutenant, where can me and my team set up until we get the all clear from the captain?" He asked.

### **=Deck 3 Corridor=**

As Teancum's team hurried on their way he tapped his com badge, "Blue Team report.

After a few moments, "Blue Team reporting, impulse maintenance secure, 4 Borg eliminated, Captain Crist was informed."

"Well done, hold there for instructions. Red Team report."

"Red Team reporting, engineering secure, 4 Borg destroyed, Captain crist was informed, Gold Team assisted."

"Well done, Red Team, and Gold Team. Red Team to torpedo storage for clean up. Teancum to security teams, ship secure, set phasers to stun, get wounded to sickbay, and clean up. Teancum to Crist, all secure, Luke and i are on our way to the bridge."

Teancum sent the security team members to sickbay and then the uninjured to rejoin his team. "Let's go, Luke."

Soon they arrived on the bridge, ready for the next phase.

### **=Bridge=**

With word coming in, that the Borg had been eliminated, Crist turned to Hughes.

“Mr. Hughes, set a course for the edge of the Nebula, Maximum impulse speed.” He tapped his panel and spoke, “All hands, the Borg has been eliminated, all Security teams, make additional sweeps throughout the ship to confirm no other intruders are on board.”

A minute later Luke and Teancum strode onto the bridge battered and bruised but very much alive. Luke clapped his superior officer on the shoulder and relief was clear in his voice.

"Hell of a first day sir, but lets not do that again." Teancum gave him a wry grin before taking his seat. Crist turned to acknowledge the two officers as they made their way back to their stations.

Hughes then responded. “Sir, the Borg must have damaged the impulse engines, I can only get up to 2/3.”

Crist said, “Very well, engage. Mr. Abraxius, get ready with the shields.”

15 minute later the Ship made it to the Edge of the nebula.

“Mr. Abraxius, activate the shield modulation.” Said the Captain.

"My pleasure sir." Came the reply from the smiling tactical officer. Finally they would get out of this mess. That was if the mine field didn't blow them back to earth in a million different pieces. He and Dan shared a look as they changed places, and began the shield sequence.

"Field coming up to power in 3, 2...1." Luke counted as the ship hummed with the building energy. As it hit 1 the ship gave a slight jolt, registering the power diverting to shields.

"Shield is up....and holding." Said the elated Daniel Beren. "Im registering polar movement from the mines in front of us."

"Readying aft torpedoes Captain. If they attempt to follow us well be ready to blow the whole damn minefield." Luke said sitting on the edge of his seat in anticipation, waiting for the order to finish the borg in one spectacular firework display.

“Understood, Mr. Abraxius.” The Captain said. “Mr. Hughes, get us out of here.”

The McKenzie moved past the minefield, and moments later the ship left the nebula. As the ship headed away at 2/3 impulse, the bridge crew stared at the view screen, which had an aft view. Suddenly the Borg cube came into view, as they had detected the McKenzie exiting the nebula.

“Mr. Abraxius, looks like your idea is going to come into play, Fire.”

The torpedo fired, its target, one of the mines around the nebula. The torpedo hit, and a large explosion ensued. Joy came to the Bridge, as many smiles came on the faces of the bridge officers, while the crewmen there cheered. A moment later Belar, the Science officer spoke.

“Sir, I’m still reading the Borg cube, it wasn’t destroyed.”

As the explosion began to disappear, they saw the Borg cube still in tacked, and just sitting there.

“Sir, I’m reading partial damage to them sir, looks like they’re repairing their damaged systems before they destroy us.” Belar said.

The Captain sat back in his chair and thought on what to do. A minute later, he stood up and walked up behind the helm station,

“Mr. Hughes, get us out of here.” The Captain turned to the tactical station, “Mr. Abraxius, restore the shield to normal.”

"Aye sir." Luke replied as his good mood evaporated.

The ship processed to jump to warp 7. The Captain thought to himself, ‘With any luck the Borg won’t pursue them, and they could return with an entire fleet to deal with them.’ The Captain, turned to Cmdr. Teancum and said, “Cmdr, take the bridge, I’ll be in my ready room, if you need me. O and contact me once the communications are back online.”

"Aye, Sir, "Lt. Cmdr. Teancum acknowledged Capt. Crist's orders.

With that said the Captain left the bridge and made his way into his Ready Room. He sat at his desk and tapped his computer, to see what damage they had taken and who the casualties were.

### **=Bridge=**

After the captain left the bridge, Teancum gave orders to prepare a subspace message summarizing the events, and also preparing a communications probe, in case the Borg decided to pursue. The message was forwarded to Capt Crist for his approval and possible action.

At warp 7 the cube would have no problems catching them up once their repairs were finished and knowing the borg it wouldn't take long. This battle had affected him more than he liked to admit, he had found it hard to keep it together when he faced their pale faces. Luke remembered the death of his family, and his lucky survival.

The borg had attacked his families trading vessel when he was young, he had survived in a cargo container for days until starfleet found him. Until John Dawes found him, his hero, father figure and mentor. The reason he joined starfleet was thanks to that man and he would always be grateful.

Sometimes he would have nightmares that he had been taken by the borg and infected with some terrible nano virus. Sometimes the memories of those days spent in the cargo container seemed like a dream and that in reality he had been abducted all along.

"You alright Luke?" Dan asked bringing the tactical officer to the present.

"Im fine Dan, just daydreaming." Luke replied with a quick smile.

"Not really the best of times my friend. Shall we?" Dan said pointing the the shield controls.

"By all means boss." Luke joked as Dan gave him a cold stare before swithing the shields to normal.

### **=Main Engineering=**

"These relays are fried Syd. We need another bypass." Jenny said as she looked over the damaged components. The remaining engineering team was doubling their efforts to make sure that the needed systems remained operational.

Sydona with engineering tools in hand was rerouting power past damaged conduits when she heard the Ensign's request. "Try that and see if that works."

A member of the Engineering team looked over to Jenny and nodded. Sydona looks down from the upper deck to see Jenny giving her the thumbs up.

"V'Krull to the Captain. Captain...we have communications back online. Long range communications from what I'm see here is working in normal parameters. Feel free to drop a line to Starfleet."

### **=Captain's Ready Room=**

The Captain looked up from his computer and tapped his comm badge. "Understood Lt. Good work."

The Captain then tapped his computer to contact Starbase 10. A moment later a man appeared on the screen.

Fleet Capt. Kotari opened up with, "Greetings Captain, what's the word about the energy signals."

Crist, "Sir, we were unable to determine where exactly the signals originated, mostly because of our recent run in with the Borg.

And I must say that these Borg were different, I'm sending you a report on them now."

Kotari, "The Borg huh, that complicates things a bit. Are they after you now?"

Crist, "No sir, we were able to damage them a bit and they are still at the nebula repairing, but sir I suggest we return with a fleet to destroy it. We can't let it stay..."

Crist was interrupted by the science officer, Belar.

"Sir, we've detected the Borg cube on an intercept course with us." Belar said with fear in her voice.

Crist, "Well sir I guess they are on their way to us after all."

Kotari took a moment to think and then answered, "Captain, just get to the station, we'll mobilize the fleet and make a stand here, good luck."

\*The screen went to a UFP logo and went dark.\*

The Captain stood up and made his way to the bridge, and once there he ordered the ship to go back into red alert. The Captain thought, 'things are never easy.'

The Captain said, "Helm increase to high warp, we need to get to the starbase as fast as possible, Mr. Abraxius, stand by for a fight, because the next fight will be at Starbase 10.

Belar then turned to speak, "Sir there is an incoming message from Starbase 10, it's a high priority, encrypted frequency."

The Captain motioned to put it on the main screen.

"Captain-Crist, I've just received word from Fleet-Captain-Kotari. Starbase-10 is making preparations. We will make a fight of it." The face on the screen was feral in intensity and origin, predatory even. He was a Kzinti, a felinoid species that had been at war off and on with the Federation since the time of the NX-01.

This one however wore red and the four pips of Captain. "I'd like to organize a meeting between your crew, my crew, and the USS Spectre, which is docked here currently. If you could call all your senior-officers to their stations, we can begin this conference immediately."

The captain listened carefully to the message from the Kzinti captain. Once the message was over, Crist spoke up. "Understood Captain."

He then tapped his right panel and sent a ship wide message.

“All senior staff, report to the Bridge.”

### **=Crew Quarters=**

Teancum awoke refreshed from a good sleep. He knew the Borg were coming, so he was not surprised to be called to the bridge. He was already dressed when the message arrived. He hurried to the bridge.

He greeted Capt Crist as he took his seat at the 2nd tactical console. He had worked with science and engineering to prepare a number of torpedoes for transport into a borg vessel if the opportunity presented itself.

### **=Sickbay=**

The doctor had his work cut out for him. Bains also had not rest because of the recent Borg attack on the USS McKenzie. With few medical crewmen left, they had to go above and beyond the McKenzie's capabilities to assist anyone. A lot of the stasis pods had gone offline in Sick Bay and those that could be assisted in some way could take some time. Bains heard the call to the bridge and headed up. When he arrived, the Captain and the XO were waiting.

As Teancum and Bains walked in, Crist nodded to them. He then turned to Teancum and spoke up.

“Commander Teancum, you might like this, Command has assigned us a new Science officer, just wish it was under better circumstances that he'd transfer here under. He should be beaming over to us, right after we arrive at Starbase 10.”

Belar looked back from her console as she was on the Bridge.

“O no offense Lt.” Crist apologized.

Belar smiled and said, “None taken sir, I don't think I'm ready for this responsibility, yet.”

The Captain turned back to the view screen, which showed the warping starry field. He continued to wait on his other officers.

### **=Crew Quarters=**

Luke was on edge. He had become withdrawn from the crew, responding to orders silently and socializing little. The Borg were following them and it was the only thing on his mind. His sleep was pervaded by terrors, sometimes they felt as real as his waking life.

The call had come from the Captain to meet the threat that they were bringing right to the Federations doorstep, within the next few hours the stage would be set.

He walked onto the bridge and quietly took his place at tactical. He was afraid and he met that fear with ferocious anger. Seething with it he waited for Crist to outline the plan, to give him the order to wipe out the cybernetic zombies. He looked around the room and regarded the crews calm composure with envy. Searching his memory he tried to find some words of reassurance that his father had given him but there was nothing there. The resentment he felt for having his parents taken from him burned. The Borg would pay.

A message flickered on his screen.

"Sydona is on her way." He said through gritted teeth. He needed to calm down, and using some old mental disciplines he was taught by an old friend he breathed deeply and released the anger.

### **=Crew Quarters=**

Sydona popped her neck and shoulders stretching out as she slipped into her uniform, barging out of her quarters she shares with Ensign Jenny Summers. The slender blonde slipped from her bunk and grabbed her friend by the arm, getting her attention.

"Syd, I have a feeling that we're probably going to be up against that cube again. I'm a bit on edge here."

Sydona finished putting her hair up in a ponytail and sighed wearily. "Jen...I'm not sure what is going down right now. Once I find out...you'll be the first to know. If it is Borg...I might need to make some calls. Just keep it together girl." Sydona smiles slightly and heads to the nearest Turbolift and heads to the Bridge.

Sydona steps off the Turbolift, and made her way to the bridge. Upon arrive, she acknowledges everyone and takes her station...awaiting further information as to the situation.

"Good, everyone is now here." Crist said. "Mr. Hughes, please contact Starbase 10 using sigma encryption, I don't want the Borg to know what were planning."

The Captain stood up to address the crew.

"Ladies, gentlemen, were are about to have a conference with the crew of Starbase 10 and the Spectre. The purpose is to come up with ideas to destroy the Borg cube that's tailing us. Please free to speak up if you have an idea or wish to commit on someone else's idea. We must have a plan before we reach Starbase 10."

Hughes looked back and addressed the Captain.

"Sir, Starbase 10 has responded."

The captain sat back down in his chair and ordered,

"Good, on screen."

\*The starry field on the view screen was replaced of a view of a large conference room. There the crew could see officers discussing their future plans.\*

Crist spoke in a firm tone,

"Captain Speaker, sorry for the delay, I hope were not too late."

On the view screen you could see Captain Speaker-of-Names looking away from the worrying drama holographic display table, his golden eyes alighting on the ensign as he came in. "Ah. Ensign-Anthony-Jackson, assigned to the Artemis." His gaze shifted to the crate. "Any ideas you may have are welcome ones."

He looked with some worry towards the viewscreen, and continued. "Especially if they're ideas that can be ready within two hours." The auburn-furred nearly eight foot tall Kzinti folded his large arms behind him, and addressed

his next comment to the crew of the McKenzie. "McKenzie, I have an idea to buy you a bit more breathing-room. There is a patch-of-space near your location that my Flight-Controllers direct starships to avoid." He unfolded his hands and tapped the holographic situation table, his claw-tips producing clacking sounds over the surface of the interface while he sent coordinates over the secure channel.

"It is damage from before the warp-five-restriction of the 2370s. There's a way through it, but larger-vessels cannot use it."

"Understood, give use the coordinates and we'll set a course. It should also give you guys a little more time to put our plan in effect."

The McKenzie changed course, setting it towards the damaged space due to warp travel. Giving the crew of the McKenzie and other crews time to come up with a plan to defeat the Borg.

## **Story Continues in Lotus Fleet RP Fleet Action, Borg Invasion**