

Unwanted guest

Sir, while on a routine patrol, one of our warships encountered an unknown alien vessel. Shrouded in a thick cloud of debris, the unwanted guest dropped out of hyperspace and without triggering our sensor network. According to our fleet engineering registry, this vessel is classified as a heavy cruiser. From the looks of it, this craft had traveled for a long time, and its design resembles nothing we've ever seen before.

Initial scans show the alien vessel suffered heavy damage, possibly during multiple engagements. Though our sensors are unable to penetrate its inner hull, our Sysops has compiled a preliminary analysis of the hyperspace trash, which still drifts around it.

Some of the bits are hundreds, if not thousands of years old!

So far the alien craft floats in the void, its ominous shape dark, yet nonthreatening. Since this could be a potential first contact situation, our warship's captain asks for your directions!

(A) Should we trust in diplomacy? The captain could attempt to establish a comm link with whomever is still in control of the alien vessel. I wouldn't hurt to talk first and our main computer has a huge language database. This craft still looks rather imposing, despite the heavy damage it suffered...

(B) We could always send in the marines, Sir. The ravaged hull of that vessel would offer little to no resistance for our heavily armed, clad in thick armor soldiers. The elite of the elite, they will breach quickly and take control of main engineering, the bridge, conquer all areas of interest. Capturing the starship might yield important tactical and scientific data!

(C) Sir, our Sysops advises caution. Perhaps it is much safer to thoroughly scan the alien spacecraft from a distance? Instead of throwing precious lives and expensive equipment into what could essentially be a trap, we will send in the drones.

Instance A

Sir, it has been a full hour since our Comms officer first attempted to establish a link with the alien vessel. We assumed that either their communication systems were inoperable or we couldn't match their data transfer protocols. It was not the case, for something or someone from inside the spacecraft was actively jamming us!

Being unable to pierce through the jamming, our Comms officer activated the ship's backup wireless transceiver and it was then, when we actually achieved results. Transmitted on a low bandwidth and coded, we received a wireless from the alien vessel. The signal was being repeated every thirty seconds and with a surprising strength too.

At first, our mainframe had issues translating it, but after a thorough search of the language database and with the Comms officer's aid, we heard this:

*“Stay away! Do not land, do not even try to establish Netlink, for our craft is plague ridden! The ****unintelligible**** slipped under our defenses and conquered the ship. Then the ****unintelligible**** took the bodies of our soldiers, the crew, every single one without exception. Thus controlled, our craft committed mass-extinction on a vast scale... billions beyond count... for our race's eternal shame. Many had fought this vessel, attempted to board and capture what is now our tomb. They are all part of his ****unintelligible**** host, part of the ship. Please, I beg you, end us, end our shame! Destroy the ****unintelligible**** if you can... and if you cannot, stay out of its way, save yourselves.”*

Sir?! This is disconcerting, to say the least. How... how should we proceed?

(D) Our race hasn't survived and thrived for so long, because we chased after the ancient terrors of the Void. No, we will stay of this thing's way! We will also make sure that nobody else stumbles into this star system. Place warning buoys and arrange for one of our most powerful spacecraft to stay on guard.

(E) Fleet Command will immediately send all of our warships, which are in close proximity. We will then unleash everything in their arsenal and hope it is enough to best this disease carrying craft. Once the vessel is destroyed, we will continue firing until every piece of debris, every speck has been turned into atomic dust!

(B) We could always send in the marines, Sir. The ravaged hull of that vessel would offer little to no resistance for our heavily armed, clad in thick armor soldiers. The elite of the elite, they will breach quickly and take control of main engineering, the bridge, conquer all areas of interest. Capturing the starship might yield important tactical and scientific data!

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Instance B

Sir, as per your order, our warship's entire complement of marines is currently en route, their main objective to take control of the alien vessel. Whoever is still there, they could not stand before our cyber-enhanced, clad in high-tech armor, soldiers.

Ferried by their dropships and large breaching pods, the elite marine battalion soon, and effortlessly, made hull landing. Without facing any resistance, they speedily invaded the vessel and were soon close to its bridge. It was then, when they were ambushed by a host of armed aliens, who did not appear on their sensors!

These attackers were not of a single race, but many and unknown alien species. Yet, they all had one thing in common; these were cyber-enhanced cadavers, all moving with a single, murderous purpose. Despite their best efforts, our elite troops began losing ground and men. What was worse – whoever fell, they soon rose and joined the aliens, their cybergear mutating, modifying flesh, bone, and muscle.

However, all is not lost!

A huge number of these aliens were seen simply laying motionless, as if deactivated. They and everything our marines shot to pieces remained *permanently* dead. Therefore, the Captain is contemplating joining in with the rest of his armed to the teeth crew. Together, they might be able to capture the alien vessel!

Sir, what are your orders?

(F) Leave only a skeleton crew to man our warship. Everyone who can use a rifle, enter your spacesuit and board the shuttles! Hopefully, with the crew reinforcing them, our marines can capture this mysterious alien spacecraft. We will cherish the technological secrets gained with the blood of our kin.

(D) Order the marines to withdraw, immediately! Our race hasn't survived and thrived for so long, because we chased after the ancient terrors of the Void. No, we will stay of this thing's way! We will also make sure that nobody else stumbles into this star system. Place warning buoys and arrange for one of our most powerful spacecraft to stay on guard.

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(C) Sir, our Sysops advises caution. Perhaps it is much safer to thoroughly scan the alien spacecraft from a distance? Instead of throwing precious lives and expensive equipment into what could essentially be a trap, we will recall our marines and send in the drones instead.

Instance C

Sir, while our Sys ops officer is continuing with her scans, a number of scout drones are now on course to explore the alien vessel.

We are receiving telemetry from their holo-imaging devices and can witness the utter devastation wrought upon the spacecraft's outer hull. While part of the damage can certainly be attributed to recent weapon fire, some of the impact craters look... ancient.

The closer our drones fly to the alien craft, the harder it is for our operators to control them. Even with cybergear directly connecting their minds to the drones, there is some kind of a lag, which lessens their reaction. After losing one machine to the debris cloud which floats around the vessel, an order was issued to proceed even slower.

One of the drone operators began acting suspiciously – she attempted to hack the mainframe from her station.

When blocked and confronted by the Sys op, she used her sidearm and shot at her!

Bridge security engaged in a prolonged firefight with the compromised drone operator. Who not only defied the enhanced marines, but was somehow able to kill one of them, despite the fact that they are all clad in high-tech armored suits. As she rampaged across the bridge, the operator screeched words in an unknown language, and her cybertech began to... change.

Thankfully, before she could kill or transfer what had infected her to someone else, the operator was killed.

The wounded Sys op immediately shut all Netlink traffic between all drone operators and their machines. After sanitizing the deck, and running more scans, it was concluded that the affected operator was somehow hacked. Despite all military grade firewalls and other means of protection, something latched on to the drone feed and entered her mind.

Only the fact that drone command was immediately switched off saved our warship.

The Comms officer, aided by the language database managed to translate what that unfortunate drone operator screeched.

*“You are to become of Me, the ****unintelligible****! Your ship, your flesh, your very souls are to be Mine!”*

The captain, after consulting his officers, ordered the entire bridge section detached from the warship. He could not risk something as dangerous as this to spread and take over his entire crew. Before the command section was turned into dust by a well aimed torpedo, one of the bridge marines displayed clear signs of being infected...

The main engineer is our high ranking officer and has taken command from the engineering section. At least, we are now in possession of more and detailed scans of the alien vessel. Which include its strange armaments, the exposed internal bulkheads, and its advanced hull plating.

Sir, we await your orders!

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Instance D

Sir, our blockade is in place!

One of the largest and best outfitted warships in our Navy will stand guard here. This star system is now off limits to anyone, even our own ships. We hope to successfully contain the horror that drifts within. Make sure whatever this ****unintelligible**** thing is, it never spreads throughout the Galaxy. Yet, for how longer are our crew and officers to perform this solemn duty?

Certainly, we cannot do stand guard until the stars dim...

Note:

This course of action can result in acquiring widespread recognition by other Galactic empires – fame, honor, diplomatic pull or else. For example, others may wish to send warships, help contain the ****unintelligible****, that or pay some sort of maintenance fee etc, etc.

It would also be possible to continue the story in late game stages? You tell me :D

Instance E

Fleet Command dispatched all warships in the vicinity of this system and they have arrived. The flotilla, put under the command of our best captain, is ready to unleash hell. Every single armament in their arsenal is locked at the plagued starship, and our sensors are detecting some reaction coming from it.

Whatever operational armaments this craft still has are aiming at our ships!

Beams of unparalleled destructive power made the intruder's hull aglow; their light visible only on our sensors. Starship killing torpedoes and multi-warhead missiles streaked towards the alien craft in their thousands.

Unbelievably, instead of being destroyed, the starcraft sustained only minor damage, and in its turn, opened fire. First, the alien vessel unleashed some type of never before witnessed particle weaponry. Barely detected by our scanners, these energy bolts disabled our shields with only a few hits!

Then, swarms of individual breaching pods, tens of thousands of them, streaked towards our warships. Each pod containing one cybernetically enhanced corpse; these intended to board, and infect our vessels.

Our point defenses managed to shoot down most, but some managed to breach the defenses of one vessel. Immediately, our marines engaged the cyber-enhanced monstrosities. However, no matter their valor, they fell and one by one, became infected through their cybernetics. Facing the capture of his vessel our captain set the self destruct protocols and moved his ship closer to the enemy.

His crew fought nobly; they slowed down both the intruders and what were once their own brethren. Their sacrifice inflicted considerable damage to the alien craft, when our warship's main reactor and its entire complement of torpedoes detonated on top of it.

After being repeatedly hit by the concentrated firepower of our remaining warships, the plagued starship's engines flickered. In an instance, the riddled with craters hull vanished from our sensors, hopefully never to be seen ever again...

Note:

This course of action could result in some sort of Galaxy wide recognition.

Plus, the alien vessel might reappear somewhere again, though significantly more damaged.

Instance F

Sir, soon after the boarding party joined forces with the marines, we've lost all contact with our warship. The nearest vessel reached and then searched the star system, an hour later. After a thorough scan, they not only found no signs of ours, but also the alien vessel. It would appear that, whatever or whomever was in control, conquered our people.

Now, there are two vessels instead of one, prowling hyperspace in search of prey...