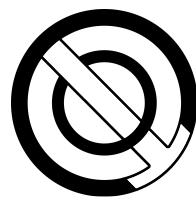


Anomalous Entity Report

"Fear is Only Skin Deep"



Subject - 0087¹

¹Department for Classification of Non-typical Phenomena

2449 Words

Document ID:610107711710

Memorandum: Do not stare



Containment Class: Daemon



Recontainment Class: Extensive



Ethical Class: Papaver



Market Class: Aporia



1 Specification

S-0087 is a hostile anomalous entity, which changes its perceived appearance to other organisms. S-0087 is thought to be a sentient being, with a spherical shape, but attempts to measure it have given inconclusive results. Regardless of the perceived appearance of S-0087, its physical dimensions never change. Attached to S-0087 are fleshy barbed tendrils, that it can grow on demand. These tendrils are situated on random sides of S-0087 with a uniform distribution.

2 Containment Procedures

S-0087 is to be kept in a locked 3 metre x 3 metre containment cell. The containment cell should not be visible from the outside due to S-0087's anomalous properties. S-0087 should be placed under heavy surveillance at all times. Surveillance should not show any photographic or video feed of the containment cell. Instead, a containment cell should be equipped with automatic thermal sensors that are capable of detecting the presence of S-0087. Face-blocking headgear is recommended for all those assigned with S-0087's containment.

3 Behaviour

From the behavioural assessments taken, S-0087 demonstrates the ability to alter its appearance based on the observer. Each observer witnesses a different appearance, coinciding with psychological markers that instil fear into the victim. These psychological markers are maximal and create intense fear responses in those subjected to S-0087's apparent Cognito hazard. S-0087 uses this capability as a predatory tool. By using tendril-like appendages, it captures its victims, dragging them behind whilst locomoting. The tendrils are presumed to pump digestive fluids into the prey, and this is noted to be the only form of digestive action available to it. S-0087 mouth, when observed, remains completely non-functional. Thus it is gathered that S-0087 appearance is completely separate from its internal biology. Most interestingly, S-0087's effects can be completely negated if one does not look at its face. Although due to the nature of the shape-shifting abilities of S-0087, it is not clear what constitutes a face. Behaviour assessment 1 was designed to resolve this ambiguity, but more assessments are recommended to fully map out the anomalous properties of S-0087.

Behavioural Assessment 1 S-0087 was autonomously photographed by the research team from various angles, 9 of which images were shown to a selection of Category-C via a remote-controlled display. Each Category-C reacted in violent fear when presented with the images, often trying to escape the testing room. When restrained, 67% of the individuals managed to break out of their restraints in their state of fear. The rest showed symptoms of paralysis, induced after considerable efforts to break out of their restraints. All subjects showed irrational decision-making during and a substantial time after exposure to images of S-0087. Even when falsely told they will be terminated if they attempt to leave the testing room, they would not respond and would remain in a completely focused state of fear. Perhaps most notably, when C-0678 was tested and broke out of the testing room, he ignored all armed deterrents and was subsequently shot with a non-lethal round in the lower back. For days after, C-0678 still showed signs of a fear response, increasing during the night. C-0678 was unable to sleep for 5 nights, with intense sweating and heart palpitations for prolonged periods. C-0678 was eventually sedated, and 10 days after exposure to images of S-0087, his fear response ceased. It is believed that C-0678 was affected significantly due to extremely high

Cognitive Awareness Level (CAL). The Cognito-Hazard Department has advised that all future behavioural assessments involving Category C be approved by the Ethics Committee before they are carried out. We hope to run a future test to determine whether S-0087's mouth, when apparent, is functional. [FURTHER TESTING APPROVED]

Behavioural Assessment 2 S-0087 was autonomously fed food via a robotic implement. The implement was guided by a C-0476, who was recorded to have a CAL score of 8.9. A live video feed of the containment cell was displayed to C-0476 during the duration of the assessment. Although fear-stricken, he was still able to maintain rational thinking and manoeuvre the implement in a somewhat controlled manner. The implement appeared to disappear through S-0087's spherical surface although S-0087 is completely invisible to the naked eye. This spherical bubble is presumed to exist only when S-0087 is actively manifesting its Psycho-Selective form. The implement was retracted from S-0087 without any visible alterations, and post-assessment analysis showed no significant change in its chemistry or physical structure. C-0476 was sent for psychoanalysis post-assessment as required by the Ethics Committee but did not show long-lasting effects after the assessment. An assessment further exploring S-0087's bubble is recommended. [FURTHER TESTING APPROVED]

Behavioural Assessment 3 An implement similar to the one in Behavioural Assessment 2 was installed again. This time, for the purpose of investigating the true form of S-0087 which may reside beneath its "bubble". The implement was equipped with a LIDAR scanner to reconstruct the topology of any observed surfaces inside S-0087's "bubble". The implement was guided by remote control and did not require any visual contact with S-0087. The implement was stopped 500 cm into the S-0087's "bubble", wherein the LIDAR scanner was activated and began to record topological data. The results can be seen in ?. The research teams suggest it may be possible to create a headgear device to block S-0087's Cognito-hazardous effects by blocking out its face with AI. [FURTHER TESTING APPROVED]

Behavioural Assessment 4 The R&D team created a prototype of the face-blocking headgear. The prototype was worn by C-0476 due to his consistently high CAL score. C-0476 was instructed to walk into S-0087's containment cell. Initially, the headset appeared to work perfectly, then after 10 seconds of exposure to S-0087, C-0476 collapsed to the floor and began to convulse rapidly, salivating in copious amounts. C-0476 was dragged out by blinded researchers and the assessment was terminated. However, the resulting chaos caused Incident 0087-a on which S-0087 escaped its containment cell and began a murder spree around Facility 9. The resulting breach indirectly invented the "Thermight" headgear after the efforts of a heroic Category-C. From this assessment, however, it is believed S-0087 Cognito-aura increases in strength the closer a victim is to it, which is why C-0476 high CAL score did not seem to make him immune; but rather tolerant to S-0087 effects.

4 Origination



Fig. 1. S-0087's current residence in Facility 9.

The Antarctic research team Delta-Rifters originally discovered S-0087 after the well-known zero-point anomaly rift of 2067. Whilst researching the effects of radiation on organisms in the designated anomalous area zone (AAZ) of [REDACTED], their expedition got caught in thick ice, stranding them. They began to navigate to the nearest research station which was located roughly 15 miles from their position. On this journey, the group of researchers found a strange, spherical being that seemed to be able to change its appearance at will. It was initially believed to be a new species of animal, but as the scientists began to study it more closely from a distance, they realized that it was something far more anomalous. Once the research team got closer to S-0087, they removed thick layers of snow coating S-0087, presumably revealing its apparent face. The team was paralysed with a strong fear response as S-0087 began to move towards the researchers, and many were unable to escape.

However, the expedition team leader, Dr. Kanes, was able to escape S-0087 and after many days stranded in harsh polar climates, he was able to reach the research station and contact the Corporation. S-0087 was kept under observation in the AAZ until the end of the Cyber Wars, where S-0087 was taken into custody by the Corporation soon after by the now legal experimental ETG team of sythoids, ETG Omicron-tau 'Fake Skin'. It is believed that

S-0087 is from another dimension and that it has been trapped in our world after a zero-point anomaly rift. Connections to S-0074 [See [S-0074](#)] are still inconclusive.

5 Postscript

5.1 Addendum 1: Incident 0087-a



Fig. 2. Sketch of S-0087 after successful recontainment following Incident 0087-a.

What follows is an interview given by Dr. Kanes to C-0784 concerning Incident 0087-a.

[START OF TRANSCRIPT]

[23/07, 17:32] Dr. Kanes: Hello C-0784, lets begin. Please give us an account of where you were at the time of the breach.

[23/07, 17:32] C-0784: I was in my cell, reading a book and relaxing. Then I heard firing and gunshots in the distance. Not entirely normal, but not too misplaced for a goddamned place like this. But when the firing stopped, I knew something was up. That silence, like needles in the air; only broken by the deafening alarms that started to ring.

[23/07, 17:32] Dr. Kanes: So how did you manage to leave your cell. You are completely safe inside your cells. Did you leave voluntarily?

[23/07, 17:32] C-0784: That... thing, it started to come towards our block. I heard it. Not its footsteps, but I heard the screams and the bloodshed.

[23/07, 17:32] Dr. Kanes: But how exactly did you manage to leave your cell?

[23/07, 17:32] C-0784: I was petrified. I tried to stay calm and reassure myself, but that thing, the loud bangs of its tendrils against the walls. I thought my fate was sealed- but then a scientist opened my door and dragged me out. He covered my eyes with a blindfold and gave me a handgun and told me to run. He was letting everyone out.

[23/07, 17:32] Dr. Kanes: So you voluntarily left?

[23/07, 17:32] C-0784: More like I had to. That thing was right down the hallway by the time he had opened all the cell doors in that wing. It was pure chaos.

[23/07, 17:33] Dr. Kanes: So how did you end up in the infirmary?

[23/07, 17:33] C-0784: Me and a group of others, mostly other Cs like myself, began to look for the armoury. The scientist suggested heading to the Deep-storage unit, apparently, they have a store of anomalous weapons there.

[23/07, 17:33] Dr. Kanes: Is this why some Category C were found outside facility grounds?

[23/07, 17:33] C-0784: Yeah. We managed to get to the entrance zone hallway, but it had found us. Half of us were killed within seconds. All I knew was not to take off my blindfold and not too look back. I heard others escape through the entrance into the snowy wasteland trying to make some sort of escape. Though I doubt they made it through the storm.

[23/07, 17:34] Dr. Kanes: But how did you get from the entrance zone to the infirmary?

[23/07, 17:34] C-0784: Well, after some of us managed to get out of there we took the lift down to the deep storage unit. From there we picked up the first thing we found.

[23/07, 17:34] Dr. Kanes: S-0107? [See [S-0107](#)]

[23/07, 17:34] C-0784: Yeah that rusty gun thing. It was a sweet-ass gun. That thing was smart enough to follow us down the lift but we managed to blow some holes it in with Old Sam. Though looking back, we really only slowed that f*cker.

[23/07, 17:34] Dr. Kanes: Was this when Dr Kanes died?

[23/07, 17:35] C-0784: That man saved us all, he told us to take the lift back up and stalled us for some time. Shame I never got to see his face clearly. Regardless of whether you got your eyes closed or not, that thing will rip you apart if you threaten it...

[23/07, 17:35] Dr. Kanes: But-

[23/07, 17:35] C-0784: Yeah, yeah, I'll get to it. One of us was injured pretty badly, so we tried to make a break for the infirmary. I think we pissed off that thing really bad because we could hear it almost running for us. Regardless we made our way to the infirmary and tried to patch ourselves up.

[23/07, 17:35] Dr. Kanes: And this is where you made the discovery?

[23/07, 17:35] C-0784: Well, I saw a thermal sensor on the table, and I figured, maybe that thing's whatever doesn't work through thermal sensors.

[23/07, 17:36] Dr. Kanes: Why did you think this?

[23/07, 17:36] C-0784: Well, the scientist dude, Dr...

[23/07, 17:36] Dr. Kanes: Kanes.

[23/07, 17:36] C-0784: Yeah... he kept going on about how the containment cell uses thermal sensors to track its movements inside and such. Sound like he was bragging about his work, but it just came back to my mind once I saw that thermal sensor.

[23/07, 17:36] Dr. Kanes: How exactly did you use the thermal sensor to counteract S-0087's effects?

[23/07, 17:37] C-0784: I just got a blanket off one of the infirmary beds and wrapped it around my face and the sensor, and used the little screen to look around.

[23/07, 17:37] Dr. Kanes: And this is how you managed to lead S-0087 back to the heavy containment zone?

[23/07, 17:37] C-0784: That thing, I kid you not, was scared of me! Maybe because I was holding Old Sam or something, or perhaps because it knew it couldn't scare me. By the time the SRRT Team was on me, it was practically in the cell. I think I am a goddamn hero!

[23/07, 17:38] Dr. Kanes: Well...hero is a strong word. Expect upgraded amenities for a few months though. It's the most Dr. Kanes can do around here.

[23/07, 17:38] C-0784: Wait, Kanes? You're alive?

[23/07, 17:38] Dr. Kanes: Researchers are stronger than you think. We can put up a fight. That will be all. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]

5.2 Addendum 2: Face-Blocking Gear

On the 27th February 2073, Facility 16's Research and Development Team designed and prototyped a type of face-blocking gear, nicknamed "Thermight". Using a mixture of thermal imaging, real-time, deep learning facial tracking and reinforcement learning, the gear shows a heads-up display of a predicted image that the user would be able to see, with particular features removed and image inpainted. After successful training and testing of the deep learning model on days of video footage of S-0087, Thermight was able to remove the S-0087 with a 97.2% degree of accuracy. A lucrative secret contract was agreed with [REDACTED] to manufacture the face-blocking gear for the Corporation.

The gear is powered using 4 rechargeable batteries, which can last up to 3 days on a single charge as of writing. Along with batteries, there are resizable straps. Both of these are constructed with built-in redundancies in case of damage in field operations. Around the HUD is memory foam cushioning for a user's face, that blocks any peripheral vision from outside of the display. When worn, the device powers on automatically providing a hands-free experience for an individual. Weighing in at 0.230kg, and made predominantly from graphene, it is designed to be as unobtrusive to a wearer as possible.

A Designations

A.1 S-0087

"Fear is Only Skin Deep"

A.2 Thermight

Face-blocking gear developed by Facility 16

A.3 AAZ

Anomalous Area Zone

A.4 S-0074

"Earth 2"

A.5 S-0107

"Old Sam"

A.6 CAL

Cognitive Awareness Level

CONFIDENTIAL