

THE RECON DRONE PANNED THE AREA WHERE THEY'D SPOTTED MOVEMENT. "YEAH, GOOD-EYE, FIRETEAM ROLLING IN, MUST BE SOME FRESH BOOTS RUNNING OPS. THEY'VE GOT GOOD MOVEMENT, BUT ONE MORON HAS COMMS LIT. FLASH THEM THE SIGNAL TO MOVE THROUGH, DON'T BE SURPRISE IF THEY FUCK UP THE RESPONSE."

"THIS IS THE CRAZIEST STUNT WE'VE EVER PULLED. USUALLY WALKING AT A BLACK-OPS TACTICAL OUTPOST. GUNNS." WE NEEDED TO LOAN THE LATEST UPDATE OF THEIR COMMS SO WE CAN ACCESS IT. THE LAST THREE WEEKS OF SHIFTING MARKET SHARE LINES IN THE METAPHORICAL SAND HAS BEEN BRUTAL. THEY NEEDED TO CRACK THIS TECH QUICKLY TO STABILIZE THE PEACE. WITH ACCESS TO THE PLANS, WE CAN DISSEMINATE TO PREVENT NASTY SURPRISES. UNITS LIKE THE ONE ON MY ARM BUSTED, NON-COMM, RECOVERED FROM THE TIER ONE KILL SQUAD IN AN ABYSS ON THE EAST SIDE TWO DAYS AGO. DIED WITH THE HOST APPARENTLY. SO THAT MEANS WE NEED SOME KIDS TO CAPTURE THE GRIZZLED WAR WEARY MERC THAT MANS THE SNIPER NEST OVERLOOKING THE BOTTLING PLANT. BURN'S BRIGHT IDEA WAS TO MAKE OUR TACTICAL APPROACH USING THE NEW PATTERNS WE HAD OBSERVED THEIR EMPLOYEE ON-BOARDING GRADUATES EXISTING IN THE FIELD. AND TO USE THE NEW UNIT LIT TO USE OUR LACK OF LIGHT DISCIPLINE TO LOOK LIKE WE ARE RAW

RECRUITS. SEEMED TO BE WORKING SO FAR. WE JUST NEEDED TO BE CLOSE ENOUGH TO WIRELESSLY HACK INTO THE CLOSED NETWORK. FROM THERE A DAEMON WOULD FORCE SLEEP TO ALL CONNECTED. WELL, IT ~~REALLY~~ WAS A PROMPT STRING INSERTED INTO THE RADIO SIGNAL. IT WAS DESTINED FOR A NODE NOT PRESENT SO THE BUS KEPT PASSING IT AROUND, CONTINUALLY SUGGESTING TO THE NODE ONBOARD AT, THAT IT SHOULD RUN A FUNCTION CHECK WHICH TAKES LESS THAN A SECOND, BUT IT CONTINUALLY DOES THIS UNTIL THE SYSTEM DOES A MESSAGE BUS FLUSH. EACH SYSTEM IS CONFIGURED DIFFERENTLY SO ON OUR END, WE CONTINUALLY RUN THE DAEMON UNTIL WE EXIT OUT OF RANGE.

OF COURSE, THAT WOULDN'T WORK AGAINST ANY SIGNIFICANTLY ADVANCED OPERATIVE. THEY AVOID NETWORKS AND RUN STRICTLY AIR GAPPED PERSONALS UNTIL THEY CHOOSE OTHERWISE... USUALLY FOR A SKIRT. WE AREN'T SURE HOW MANY AG ARE INSIDE. HOPEFULLY JUST THE ONE.

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HIT WENT WELL ACTUALLY. BECAUSE AG RUN AIR-GAPPED, HENCE THEIR NICKNAME, THEY CAN BE SURPRISED, IF NOT IN AN OPERATIONAL MINDSET. THE SNIPER WENT DOWN WITH A MILD TUSSLE, BUT SYR MADE CERT, EFFECTIVE WORK ON HIM. HIS SECOND WAS ASLEEP ON A COT IN A CLOSET. HE'S STILL THERE, I THINK.

MR SNIPER WAS AS UNCOOPERATIVE AS HE COULD BE, WITHOUT BEING OUTRIGHT HOSTILE, HE WASN'T ABOUT TO HELP US ONE BIT WITH OUR MISSION, HE WAS WAITING IN HOLDING NOW WHILE THE DATA WAS ANALYZED. WHILE SYSR CHARGED HIM, BURN CRACKED THE COMMS AND MADE A FULL CLONE OF THE SYSTEM. WE'D WALKED INTO THE NIGHT WITH OUR PAYLOAD WITH NONE THE WISER. BY NOW EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE RECOVERED FROM THEIR DIAGNOSTIC HACK. WITH LUCK, THEY WON'T EVEN NOTICE THEY ALL HAD IT. AT THE SAME TIME, AS MOST PEOPLE PLAY IT OFF SOCIALLY LIKE A FACT YOU HERE NO ONE SMELLS.

THEY GOT WHAT THEY NEEDED. WITH A CLONE OF THE UPDATED AI MODEL, IT WOULD BE ONLY A MATTER OF HOURS UNTIL THEY KNEW HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH IT AND MANIPULATE IT.

MR SNIPER WAS ALRIGHT. HE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT OUR CAUSES GOALS AND MOTIVATIONS. HE SEEMS KEEN ON THE IDEA OF SECURITY THROUGH OPEN SOURCE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER. WHEN PRESSED ABOUT HIS ROLE, HE TOLD US IT WAS ABOUT INFORMATION GATHERING. THEY CALL THE BUNKERS SPINEL NEST BECAUSE OF ALL THE EYES LOOKING OUT. THE SNIPER TRAINING WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE THE USE OF LETHAL FORCE WAS LEGALLY REQUIRED TO COME FROM A MECHANICAL OPERATION OF HUMAN DECISION. SOMEONE HAS TO DECIDE TO PRESS THE BUTTON OR PULL THE TRIGGER.

THEY VARY THEIR POSTS TO AVOID GETTING STAGNANT AND GROWING COMPLAINANT IN THEIR OBSERVATIONS. GOOD OBSERVATION COMES FROM A NEED TO UNDERSTAND. IF SOMETHING TACTICALLY SIGNIFICANT OCCURS, HE DISPATCHES RESOURCES TO HANDLE IT. AVAILABLE, AS A SEASONED KILGR, TO ASSIST IF NECESSARY. BUT HE WAS ASSIGNED HERE AS A REWARD FOR A BRUTAL OP GONE WRONG, BUT SUCCESSFUL TO RELAX, RECOVER, REFIT UNTIL HE WANTED BACK IN ON THE ACTION. NEW COMMS WERE PART OF THAT.

BUT HE DOES LIKE BOOKS, SO HE HAS THAT GOING FOR HIM.