This is the bridge of Saint Sunniva, a Hargrave class frigate. It is never this empty when the ship is in service. While it is, let's go over what everything here is for.

This is the captain's chair. From here the captain can supervise everything on the ship and its tactical space. In normal circumstances, only the Captain or her XO acting as captain will sit here.

The XO's chair. Right next to the captain's, and has the same functionality. In normal circumstances, only used by the XO or officers of the ship when acting as second in command. Under CODE AMBER or higher, the XO monitors the running of the ship where the captain concerns herself with the tactical situation.

This is the Bridge Officer's post, with commo to the left and sensors to the right. When neither the Captain nor the XO are present, the bridge is run from here. In this case the soldier manning this post is responsible for the bridge and, by extension, the entire ship. This post can only be vacant if the Captain's chair is occupied. If both the captain and the bridge officer are present, the bridge officer oversees commo and sensor operators.

The Weapons Officer's post, overseeing a tactical gunnery station. Under CODE AMBER or higher the actual gunners are stationed in turrets above the bridge. If a boarding team is on mission, they typically report here.

The helm, for Navigation Officer and two pilots. Navigation Officer is usually not present under CODE AMBER or higher, although there are exceptions.

The ship systems console. Reporting straight to the XO, mostly relaying information to and from the ship operations team based on the operations deck.

So, which of these posts are manned when?

IN FRIENDLY ORBIT:

Only the Bridge Officer needs to be present. Overseeing communications and reacting to requests, there's not a lot to do. Private Astridsdottir is obviously relaxed about his duties.

IN DEEP SPACE:

A four-person team mans the bridge. Petty Officer Iglesias has taken over as Bridge Officer, overseeing commo, sensors and weapons. In flight, messaging from squadron or fleet HQ is constant, as is maintaining up-to-date sensor data flow. And on a warship in flight the weapons are never unmanned.

CHANGING COURSE:

The helmsmaster, Master Chief Petty Officer Vandergraf, and his pilot have come to the bridge for a course adjustment. When the maneuvering engines are fired, a crewman from ship operations is also manning her post to react to system failure reports.

PEACEFUL CONTACT:

When rendezvousing with another ship for a routine customs check or some other non-hostile scenario, the captain or XO typically take over. In this case XO Lieutenant Qassim has the conn, and she's assisted by Ensign Guanchana. The Bridge Officer's chair is vacant, the acting captain runs everything directly.

UNCERTAIN CONTACT - CODE AMBER:

On a contact that cannot be guaranteed non-hostile the Captain typically takes over herself, as Captain Halkenhvad has done here. The XO has moved to second chair, and Ensign Guanchana has taken over as bridge officer. The tactical gunnery station on the bridge is vacant, but out of frame two gunnery crewmen are manning the weapons turret above the bridge.

ACTION STATIONS - CODE RED:

When there's an imminent risk of actual combat, the bridge is heavily manned. The bridge officer, weapons officer and XO all report to the captain and pass her orders to their subordinates. The chain of command is short: with all hands on deck, Saint Sunniva runs like a well-oiled machine.

THANK YOU

Captain Fri∂a Halkenhvad

Lieutenant Vijke Qassim

Lieutenant Arguelia Jaramillo

Ensign Minerva Guanchana

Master Chief Petty Officer Stieg Vandergraf

Petty Officer Paloma Iglesias

Private Ishaq Alghani

Private Kjell Astridsdottir

Private Elvina Balderas

Private Gerta Berg

Private Carmela Binselah

Private Sephina Rapp

Private Paolo Sepulveda