General:

International spy group (bad) a la Spectre: METTLE, led by nefarious boss DRAGON

Operatives in numerous countries, communications intercepted but encoded

Player also get messages and feedback from Commanding Officer

Story (revealed through intercepts):

METTLE, feared league of chaos and evil, is hatching their most insidious plot yet! They plan to kidnap six heads of state at once from countries across the globe! They have operatives infiltrating their target countries now. We’ve intercepted their transmissions but they’re encoded and we can’t locate their sources. We’ll need YOU to crack their codes so we can locate and arrest the whole group! Then maybe we can even take down the infamous head of Mettle, DRAGON!

METTLE:

Operatives. They become revealed over the course of the decodings:

Dragon: head of Mettle, mysterious, rarely seen. Operatives fear to mention him.

Veronica: daughter of Dragon, 2nd in command. Insecure in her position, ruthless to enemies.

Iceman: Dirty work operative. Responsible for thefts, intimidation. Cold and professional. Terse.

Radio: Communications & logistics officer. Intelligent, has unrequited love for Veronica

Faceman: Iceman’s brother. Charismatic, outgoing, responsible for media manipulation and blackmail operations. Sleeping with Veronica

Ivy League: Newest recruit, eager to cause mayhem but careless. Head of her class, looks up to Veronica but scared of her. Proud of her intelligence, lectures others.

Lady Mace: Aristocrat gone bad. Imperious, expects special treatment. The others tolerate her because she bankrolls Mettle. Thinks Dragon and herself have a special connection. Condescending to Veronica. May be Veronica’s mother.

STEEL: (Good guys)

General Thornton:

Your boss. Generous with praise and criticism

Messages:

1. From: Dragon to all operatives (tutorial). Outlines plot.
2. Veronica to unknown: love note
3. Ivy League to all; response to directive (sycophantic)
4. Lady Mace to Iceman: supportive, affectionate