

Gloomy Rtf

RA Angel is worried about the performance of his ship. There are a lot of new pilots and officials, and only few of them have any experience in a training like that. The Chalcid Expanse doesn't help either. That nebula radiation has made all before training almost useless. This time pilots must rely on their skills.

Moreover, a bigger problem for the Emperor's Fleet is that concentrating almost all those ships near the Nebula, has left some sectors with low or no protection. If something happens in the training time, the Fleet has very few time to reorganize and send help maybe to the other side of the Galaxy.

COL Domi is thinking in that too. Maybe other Wing Commanders are doing the same. Orders are orders. Meanwhile his CMDRs review their own rosters and rouse their pilots to do their best. All but one, LC Zósité Kónstite Styles. That CMDR is celebrating his promotion to LC and he isn't alone. His two FL, LCM Arkillos and LCM Vitaru are there, in the Cantina Chalquilla, drinking, screaming and fighting with other members in the Cyclone Squadron Roster. LCM Vitaru start playing the guitar and Arkillos start singing. Then the whole Cantina gets quiet. That Arkillos song is inspiring, and all those Cyclone pilots, a minute before nothing but drunks and rowdy, got themselves in the better squadron in the Fleet. They are the TCCOM's own squadron, and this time, they'll fight to get that privilege too.

COL Domi assigns Cyclone Squadron the first mission. That is defend a great asteroid at 30 clicks from the ISD. The attacking squadron will be Praetorian Squadron. COL Frodo March is his CMDR and they have been working hard to get the position of TCCOM's own squadron. This time, they are ready to make the things difficult to Cyclonites. For this mission, Tie Fighters were modified to be disabled when a special laser beam hit them. In that way no ship will be damaged. LC Zósité lead his pilots to the hangar and say these wise words:

<LC Zosite> You bastard scum!!! It's better you win those Prae. If it doesn't, you better take those TF and go directly into the nearest star because my revenge will be terrible. You can trust me!!!

Then LCM Arkillos whisper to LT Ashkar:

<LCM Arkillos> Nothing to do with that. He's talking seriously about that. I heard last year a poor LT like you happened to fail in a hit the mine competition, and later dared to appear near Zós. You can't imagine... poor Kael Dalor... since then, he did it well, but never ever speak again and he was AWOLed last week.

Every member goes to his ship and gets ready to launch.

<LC Zósité> We'll meet near the asteroid. In 30 minutes the Prae will be there. That asteroid cannot be destroyed. Understood!!!

All Cyclonites launch and go directly to the asteroid. All the three Flights have precise orders on what they must do. All is ready for the battle.

Cyclonites are outnumbered 7 to 6. But it doesn't matter. Chalquilla brewed can make every Cyclonite the worth of two pilots. Flight I command by LC Zósité in person will wait to engaged the enemy directly. Flight II will patrol the surroundings of the asteroid and Flight III will be hidden in a near asteroid with engines down to get the back to the enemy and support other Flights.

The time goes by and nothing is showed in radar. And suddenly, a group of 6 points appear. 6 Tie Prae making a star-formation with his CMDR in the centre. But where is the 7th Tie Prae? That was a frontal attack. Nothing too special. LC Zósite order to keep the positions. His tactic will be a complete success if Flight III can get the back to that formation. He don't send orders to Flight III to maintain its position unknown. Everything is going to be OK – Zós thinks – but what are they going to do with the other Tie Prae? and who pilot the last Tie Prae?

At two clicks, Praetorian Squadron close the formation and concentrate a rain of lasers against LC Zósite and COL Obi. They do what they can but they are unable to avoid such a terrible attack. Both are disabled.

Then, LCM Vitaru and LT Siriah Tan appears at the back of the Praetorian formation. LCM Vitaru disable COL Dirty Vader and COL Frodo March. LT Siriah Tan disable COL Zystem Fryar and COL Deimos, but in then GN Abel Malik took the chance and disable LCM Vitaru and LT Siriah.

In that moment, LC Zósite realise who is the missing pilot. He is MAJ Prinz von Hoffman, an ace pilot. He begins to desperate because he can do nothing to tell it to his pilots. LCM Arkillos disable GN Abel Malik and COL Drak while LT Ashkar distract them from his Flight Leader.

LCM Arkillos and LT Ashkar down the guard because the don't know there is a pilot remaining. In their winner euphoria, LCM Arkillos hit the asteroid, and a piece of his right solar panel. The piece go directly to the Tie Fighter of LC Zósite and destroy the full ship. In that moment, MAJ Prinz von Hoffman appears. With a quick movement, he disable LT Ashkar and turn to face the almost break LCM Arkillos ship. LCM Arkillos transfer energy from the lasers to the engines just in time to face a hit MAJ Prinz von Hoffman's Tie Prae.

At last, Cyclone Squadron is the winner of the mission. The first of many of them, but the price was too high. Their beloved CMDR has become in the first letal victim of this kind of event.

TCCOM La'an suspend the training competition and prepare a great funeral for LC Zósite Kónstite Styles. The full Command Staff feel the pain of such a high lost. A great CMDR and a pretty great pilot. In his honour, the ISD Challenge will be called ISD Challenge 'The Nuts' from now on.

FL/LCM Vitaru/Cyclone 3-1/Wing X/ISD Challenge