

// GM SUPPLEMENT |

PERSONS OF INTEREST CATALOG

| CLR: GM-LEVEL

GM ONLY

29 NAMED CHARACTERS

8 TERRITORIES + ORBITAL

VOL. III

SUPPLEMENT

— OPERATOR TACTICS CORE BOOK

TERRA CONFLICTUS 2066

ANTAGONISTS & NPCs

BY TERRITORY

THE PROGRAMS BUILT SOLDIERS.

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THEM BUILT SOMETHING HARDER TO FIGHT.

WARLORDS. HANDLERS. BROKERS. IDEOLOGUES. ARCHITECTS.

// 29 NAMED CHARACTERS // FULL STAT BLOCKS // 8 TERRITORIES + ORBITAL

GM ONLY

NOT FOR PLAYERS



PT. I

HOW TO USE

Entry format and framework.

PT. II

TERRITORIES

Eight zones. 26 characters.

PT. III

ORBITAL

High Ground. 3 characters.



// OT.POI / EDITION 01 / 2026

TERRA CONFLICTUS

2066 · PERSONS OF INTEREST

Named Antagonists and NPCs by Territory
GM Supplement / Companion to the Field Ecology
Catalog

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01/

INTRODUCTION

The programs built soldiers. The people behind them built something harder to fight.

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HOW TO USE THIS CATALOG

Earth 2066 is not short on armed opposition. The briefing room covers faction infantry, autonomous platforms, and combat-modified gene-forged units. This catalog covers the other problem: the named individuals whose decisions create the conditions every mission operates inside.

These entries are for GMs. Players should not read ahead.

Entry Types. Each entry is tagged by role: WARLORD, OPERATIVE, BROKER, IDEOLOGUE, ARCHITECT, COMMANDER, HANDLER, or OLIGARCH. The tag tells you how the character functions — how they accumulate power, how they apply pressure, how they respond when the pressure reverses. Treat it as a behavioral classification, not a rank.

Stat Blocks. Named antagonist and NPC stats follow the standard OT tier system. SHOOT, FIGHT, TACT, and OPINT reflect capability in their primary domain. A BROKER with Bad SHOOT and Excellent OPINT is not a combat encounter. They are a different kind of encounter. A WARLORD with Good FIGHT and Good TACT is both.

Game Mode Compatibility. All stat blocks are compatible across RPG, Skirmish, and Iron Line. Abilities referencing OPINT checks, Leverage, and Cover Identities are RPG-native. In other modes, treat them as narrative context or adapt to your mode's equivalent mechanics.

Tier. Named characters do not fit cleanly into Grunt-Soldier-Veteran-Heavy tier brackets. The budget entry at the end of each stat block reflects the operational cost of making this person an enemy: how much table time and operator resource engaging them will consume. An OLIGARCH with no combat stats can still be the most expensive encounter in the campaign if the cost is paid in political exposure rather than Flesh Wounds.

The Threat That Doesn't Shoot. Not every entry produces a combat encounter. Some produce a surveillance chain that follows operators across three missions. Some produce a political liability that closes a resource door. Some produce a personal confrontation that requires an operator to decide what the mission is actually for. These are valid encounter types. Budget them accordingly.

ENTRY FORMAT

BOLD NAME. *[type tag]*

One-line flavor. Atmosphere, not summary.

Description. Two to four paragraphs. The character's goal, their history, their justification, their weakness, and what makes them a foil rather than an obstacle. The villain framework lives here, folded into the prose.

STAT // SHOOT / FIGHT / TACT / OPINT / GUTS / MOBI / AR / FW / MW

Ability Name. Mechanic. Declarative. No hedging.

Cornered. How they respond when plans collapse and the walls are closing. Behavior, not description.

INTEL NOTE. What operators can find out before direct contact. Who has it. What leverage looks like for this character. How they can be used without being fought.

THE HUMAN THREAT

The Eurasian Steppes chapter of the Field Ecology opens by noting that gene-forging escaped the military supply chain before 2050. The same is true for certain categories of human being. The warlords, architects, oligarchs, and operatives in this catalog did not emerge from faction infrastructure fully formed. They were produced by specific events: the Upheaval's second wave, the 2047

Accords collapse, the three-year period after 2055 when the PRC's surveillance architecture went live and everyone else's intelligence services ran a decade behind. Each person in these pages is a downstream consequence of a specific failure in the world that produced them.

This matters at the table. The most effective use of these entries is not to build combat encounters around named individuals. It is to place named individuals in the mission's background before operators know who they are, let them accumulate presence across multiple sessions, and allow the encounter to arrive with weight already attached.

The field ecologist observes the territory before categorizing what lives in it. Apply the same discipline here. Know who is in the operating environment before the operators do.

The Foil Function. Every antagonist in this catalog is built to reflect something back at the operators. A HANDLER running a long-term embedded asset is doing exactly what operator networks do. An ARCHITECT building gene-forged capacity for a faction is doing what the programs that produced gene-forged operators did. An IDEOLOGUE who believes their methods are justified by the scale of the injustice they're correcting sounds, from outside the narrative, like every operator who has ever rationalized a hard call.

This is not a structural requirement. It is an invitation. The characters work fine as obstacles. They work better as mirrors.

Connecting NPCs to Missions. Each chapter closes with a Connection Note: a brief list of relationships between named characters in adjacent territories. These connections create natural mission-linking tissue. An OLIGARCH in Arcadia whose mycorrhizal network funding runs through a BROKER in the Java Scatter creates a thread that can pull operators from one region to another without manufactured coincidence.

Build the web before you need it.

A NOTE ON NAMED OPPONENTS AND PLAYER RESPECT

Named antagonists change the table's relationship to opposition. When players know they are facing Elena Kirova rather than an EO Intelligence Officer, the encounter carries different weight. The name implies depth. The depth implies that this person has a life outside the mission, a history that predates operator involvement, and a future that exists whether the mission succeeds or fails.

Protect that weight. Do not deploy named antagonists as encounter fodder. They come onto the table with history. They leave with consequences.

The players in the room built their operators to face enemies worth fighting.

Give them enemies worth fighting.

02/

EURASIAN STEPPES

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The surveillance network covering the Eurasian Steppes is Elena Kirova's life's work. The warlords, handlers, and architects operating under it are its human infrastructure. Remove one asset. Two others shift to compensate. The network is not a hierarchy — it is a distributed system that reflects the people who designed it.

The four named individuals below created the conditions that make the Steppes what they are. They are not interchangeable with EO grunt-tier opposition. They have goals that predate the current mission and will outlast it. Engaging them changes the territory.

ELENA KIROVA

HANDLER

She predicted the Upheaval's second wave in 2047. The EO's response was to make sure nobody else could read the data.

Elena Kirova was a computational economist at the Yekaterinburg Institute before the EO recruited her in 2046. Her dissertation modeled systemic cascade failure in post-agricultural economies under compounding climate stress. The model was correct to within four months. When the EO offered her a position inside the apparatus rather than a published paper outside it, she accepted. She has not published since. She has not stopped modeling.

She built the steppe surveillance architecture from the ground up: the Accipiter Strato relay network, the Stale-Order Protocol that keeps autonomous platforms functional when signal drops, and Standing Order 7, which suppresses anomaly flags before any human analyst sees them. Standing Order 7 exists because Kirova ran the numbers on what happens when field analysts are given access to data that contradicts official reporting. The results were destabilizing. She chose stability.

What operators who encounter her work tend to miss is the internal logic. Kirova is not suppressing data to protect a corrupt system. She is suppressing data because her models show that uncontrolled information release in a fragile political environment produces outcomes worse than the original instability. She has run this calculation repeatedly. She is not wrong about the math. She may be wrong about which fragile system she is actually protecting.

Her weakness is the models themselves. They are three years old. The territory has changed. The Buran-Complex events that Standing Order 7 has been suppressing are increasing in frequency by a factor the original model did not predict. Kirova knows this. She has not updated the Order because updating it requires acknowledging that something in the steppe environment is producing EM events at a rate that suggests a cause she does not have clearance to investigate.

STAT // SHOOT Bad (6+) / FIGHT Bad (6+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 4" / AR 1 / 3 FW / 1 MW

Information Architecture. Any OPINT check operators make in EO-surveilled territory while Kirova is active is opposed by her OPINT Good (2+). She does not need line of sight. She reads the anomaly flags. Operators who trigger two or more surveillance flags in a single mission are automatically marked for tactical response, regardless of whether they have been visually identified.

Standing Order 7. Once per mission, Kirova can suppress one operator action from faction consequence: the call-in doesn't reach the response unit, the alarm clears before backup deploys, the record of the engagement disappears. This ability exists because her architecture is designed to suppress anomalies. The operators are the anomaly.

Cornered. Kirova does not fight. She negotiates — specifically, she offers information about what the EO has on the operators' network in exchange for something she needs and cannot get through official channels. The offer is genuine. The information is accurate. The thing she needs will cost the operators.

INTEL NOTE. Two sources know Kirova's name: Rhen Vasori (Coalition Intelligence, FEAR NONE campaign) and any EO defector operator character with OPINT contacts in the Steppes. Vasori will confirm Kirova's role in Standing Order 7 in exchange for the Accountability File results from a prior campaign. A defector OPINT contact requires a 4+ roll and one session's downtime. Leverage on Kirova is the Standing Order itself: she built a system she knows is failing, and she has not reported it. That is a career-ending exposure in the EO apparatus.

VASIL DORENKO

WARLORD

He has been requesting extraction authorization for the forward firebase at Grid 7-North for eleven months. The authorization has not come. The firebase has not moved.

Vasil Dorenko is fifty-three years old and has been running extraction operations in the Siberian basin for the EO since 2053. He is not ideological. He is logistical. He believes in supply chains, defensible positions, and the precise application of force to defined objectives. He commanded the Anvil-class unit that cleared the Kazakh transit corridor in 2058 and the operation that established the eastern relay network. He submitted both after-action reports on time. Both were accurate.

In 2061, his unit engaged a Coalition-adjacent contractor force at a site designated only as Clearance Point 9. The engagement was not authorized. The site was not on any EO operational map. Four of his twelve operators did not return. The official record describes a training accident. Dorenko filed a formal accountability request. The request was declined. He filed it again. The second filing was classified. He filed a third time through a parallel channel. The channel was closed.

He has been requesting accountability through official means for four years. He has also been building a file. The file contains operational records, communications intercepts from his own network, and the testimony of two surviving operators from the Clearance Point 9 engagement who are still on his roster. He has not yet decided what to do with it.

What makes Dorenko dangerous is not the file. It is the fact that he is still inside the EO apparatus, still running operations, still respected by his operators — and operating with a personal objective that the EO does not know exists. He is a warlord with a private war, running it through official resources, waiting for the moment when he has enough leverage to make it count.

His foil function at the table is specific: he is the version of the operators who chose the system over the exposure. The operators' choice to work outside official channels is the choice Dorenko has not yet made. The question the encounter creates is whether he ever will, and whether he needs the operators' help to do it.

STAT // SHOOT Gd (2+) / FIGHT Gd (2+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT 0rd (4+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 6" / AR 2 / 4 FW / 2 MW

Command Presence. All EO units within 8" of Dorenko add +1 to all SHOOT and FIGHT rolls while he is active. When Dorenko goes Out of Action, all EO units in the mission area must pass GUTS 4+ or reduce their effective tier by one until the end of the round.

Accountability File. Dorenko carries a data module on his person during any mission where he has reason to believe Coalition-adjacent operators are present. The module cannot be taken from him by force — he will destroy it first. It can be accessed through negotiation or by operators with OPINT 2+ adjacent to him for two consecutive actions while he is downed.

Cornered. Stands his ground. Does not retreat. Will accept negotiated surrender if operators demonstrate they have information about Clearance Point 9 — this is the only leverage that produces anything other than continued resistance. If the operators have the Accountability File information, he stops fighting entirely. He does not become an ally. He becomes a neutral party with a shared interest.

INTEL NOTE. Clearance Point 9 connects to the Blocking Agent thread (FEAR NONE campaign) at one remove: the operation that produced the Accountability File and the operation that occurred at Clearance Point 9 were authorized through the same chain. A GM running both threads can link them. Dorenko does not know about the Blocking Agent. He knows about a classified operation. These may be the same operation. The Coalition side of the file (operators) will know before he does.

NADIA SOROKINA

ARCHITECT

The program documentation describes her work as optimization. The operators who ran against her field specimens call it something else.

Nadia Sorokina holds three doctorates — applied genetics, behavioral engineering, and computational ethics — and has been the lead architect of the EO's Siberian gene-forging sub-facility since 2059. The facility produces Anvil-class modified humans for EO service at the rate of approximately eight viable subjects per quarter. She does not describe her work as the creation of soldiers. She describes it as the reduction of suffering: gene-forging done correctly, with full developmental support and behavioral preparation, produces individuals who are psychologically integrated with their modifications and capable of making meaningful choices within their operational parameters. Gene-forging done incorrectly produces the Aberrant Catalog.

Her justification for the work is that it was going to happen regardless. The EO's demand for modified operators does not disappear because one architect declines the position. Someone less careful takes the contract. The modifications become less humane. Sorokina believes this. She is not entirely wrong. She has also been running the program for seven years and has become comfortable enough with its outcomes to stop asking whether the endpoint justifies the process.

What Sorokina fears — and will not acknowledge she fears — is that her most recent cohort has started showing behavioral drift that her models did not predict. Not Aberrant-class drift. Something subtler. The cohort is demonstrating collective behavioral adaptation that suggests the subjects are sharing developmental data through a mechanism she did not design. She has flagged it as an anomaly and has not reported it to EO command because reporting it would trigger a program review that would be more destructive to the subjects than the drift itself.

She is protecting people she built. This is not what the program documentation describes as her function. She does not know what to do with the gap between what she does and what she is supposed to do.

STAT // SHOOT Bad (6+) / FIGHT Bad (6+) / TACT Ord (4+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Ord (4+) / MOBI 4" / AR 0 / 2 FW / 1 MW

Program Architecture. Sorokina can configure any gene-forged EO unit in her program's cohort as a temporary HVT-equivalent: she spends two actions in communication range to grant the target unit one additional ability from the Aberrant Abilities table (roll D6; apply on a 4+). This represents real-time behavioral configuration, not modification. The effect lasts until the end of the mission.

Cohort Link. If any member of Sorokina's most recent cohort is present on the board, destroying or capturing Sorokina triggers an immediate GUTS 4+ check for all cohort members. On a fail, the cohort member freezes for one activation. The link is not designed. She did not build this. It is the drift.

Cornered. Will not resist physically. Will negotiate. Her specific offer: full cohort behavioral profiles, including the unreported drift data, in exchange for extraction of the current cohort from EO custody before the program review she knows is coming. She does not pretend this is not a significant ask. She is asking anyway.

INTEL NOTE. The cohort drift connects to the Field Ecology's gene-forged template drift system. Any GM running Aberrant Catalog content in the Steppes should consider whether the drift Sorokina's cohort is exhibiting is the early stage of Aberrant emergence, or something new. Sorokina does not know. This is an open question the table can answer.

ALEKSANDER MARTA

DEFECTOR

EO listed him killed in action in 2062. He disagrees.

Aleksander Marta was an EO Anvil-class specialist, third-generation gene-forged, first registered to active service in 2057. He ran seven certified operations under EO contract and one operation that is not in any official record. The unofficial operation was Clearance Point 9. He was listed as killed in action the following week. He was not killed. He was reassigned to a program he had not agreed to and given a new identity and new orders and told that the alternative was the Aberrant Catalog.

He chose the new identity for six months. Then he chose neither.

Marta has been operating as an independent for three years. He carries no faction marking, no registered callsign, no biometric record that survives current EO database protocols. He has allied loosely with a Void Walker cell operating along the steppe margin — not because he shares their ideology but because they are the only organization in the territory that actively recruits people the EO has declared dead. He provides tactical expertise. They provide infrastructure. He does not pretend this is a principled alliance.

What he wants is simple: official acknowledgment that Clearance Point 9 happened, that he was there, and that what was done afterward constituted a war crime under the 2047 Accords. He does not expect this. He is pursuing it anyway. The distinction between expectation and intent is what the other characters in this catalog tend to lose over time. Marta has kept it.

His foil function at the table: he is the version of a gene-forged operator who was used up and discarded by the system that built him, and who is still fighting without the system's support. Any gene-forged operator character looking at Marta is looking at a specific future — not the only possible future, but a documented one.

STAT // SHOOT Gd (2+) / FIGHT Gd (2+) / TACT Ord (4+) / OPINT Ord (4+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 7" / AR 1 / 3 FW / 2 MW

Gene-Forge Traits (Anvil-Class). Marta ignores difficult terrain. His AR absorbs the first hit per round without reducing FW. Both of these are program traits. He has carried them for nine years. They are his.

Off-Record. Marta does not appear in any faction's active operator database. Enemy SITREP checks against Marta are made at Bad (6+) regardless of circumstance. Faction units that identify him in the field trigger an automatic SITREP to EO command — which responds with a Priority Target designation. Every faction that encounters him wants him for different reasons.

Cornered. Does not surrender. Will accept a ceasefire if operators demonstrate prior knowledge of Clearance Point 9. In a ceasefire, Marta provides one piece of operational intelligence about EO activity in the steppe that he has been sitting on. He provides it in exchange for the operators taking a message to Vasil Dorenko. The message is three words. He will not repeat them.

INTEL NOTE. The three-word message to Dorenko is GM-defined. The content should connect whatever the current campaign's accountability thread is to the specific personal history of the operator encountering Marta. The three words are a structural invitation, not a fixed line.

CONNECTION NOTE

Kirova built the architecture that listed Marta as killed in action. Dorenko's Accountability File contains a record entry that references the same operation. Sorokina's most recent cohort was recruited from families of EO personnel listed as killed in action in contested operations between 2060 and 2062. These four characters share a specific event in their histories. They do not know how much the others know.

The GM knows everything.

03/

THE SHATTER BELT

Three thousand years of empire. The people who run it now are the ones who understood that first.

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Three thousand years of empire. The people who run it now are the ones who understood that first.

The Shatter Belt operates on a logic that faction briefings tend to flatten. The EO pressing from the north is not a unified command structure — it is a series of field commanders with varying degrees of alignment to central authority. The PCU pressing from the south is not a monolith — it is a coalition held together by resource dependency and mutual distrust of the EO. The Sons of the Serpent insurgent network is not a terrorist organization — it is a political project with a military wing that has been misidentified as its opposite for fifteen years.

Istanbul is the pressure valve. What goes on in Istanbul is the thing that keeps the Shatter Belt from becoming something worse.

ELENA KIROVA *SEE CHAPTER 2*

Her surveillance architecture extends into the Shatter Belt's northern margin. Her Standing Order 7 suppression operates across the EO's full steppe-to-Anatolia corridor. She does not need to be present for her influence to be felt.

TARIQ AL-MASRI

IDEOLOGUE

He has a degree in political theology from the Istanbul University and a second degree in applied water systems engineering. The second degree is the one that matters.

Tariq Al-Masri is forty-one years old, formally educated, and the closest thing the Sons of the Serpent has to a strategic architect. He did not join the organization because of its theology. He joined because of the Tigris-Euphrates headwater diversion project that the EO completed in 2058, which redirected approximately 34% of downstream flow to EO extraction territory and produced a regional agricultural collapse affecting an estimated 2.3 million people. Al-Masri was working as a civil engineer on the downstream response. He watched the response fail. The Sons found him in the field site, working eighteen hours a day on a solution to a problem that the upstream architects did not consider a problem.

He is the Sons' voice in every formal and semi-formal negotiation — with Istanbul's Coalition Authority, with PCU liaison contacts, with the three NAF environmental NGOs that have been operating in the territory for eight years without producing measurable improvement in water access. He is formally non-violent. His record contains zero direct actions. His speeches and published texts have recruited hundreds of Sons field operatives and provided the philosophical framework that has justified approximately twelve infrastructure disruption operations in the past four years.

The gap between his formal position and his operational effect is where his ideology lives. Al-Masri believes that infrastructure violence — disrupting the systems that enable the EO's extraction operations — is categorically different from political violence, which targets people. He has maintained this distinction publicly for seven years. The infrastructure attacks he has authorized have produced casualties. He has categorized these as consequences, not targets. The distinction keeps him capable of sleeping.

His foil function: he is the version of the operators who decided the system needed to be broken rather than worked around. Any operator running under a faction contract is, in some sense, maintaining the system Al-Masri is trying to disrupt. He does not consider this a contradiction. He expects the operators to.

STAT // SHOOT Bad (6+) / FIGHT Bad (6+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 4" / AR 0 / 2 FW / 1 MW

Rhetorical Architecture. In any scene where Al-Masri speaks for more than one activation without being interrupted, the GM rolls GUTS 4+ for each operator within 6". On a fail, the operator may not take hostile action against Al-Masri or Sons personnel until their next activation. This is not a compulsion ability. It is the effect of articulate justification on professionals who have also thought about why they do what they do.

Network Reach. Al-Masri has contact with every Sons cell in the Shatter Belt and three cells in adjacent territories. Capturing him triggers a Sons network response within D6 missions: a targeted disruption of one operator resource (a safe house, a supply chain, a contact network) that the Sons have been mapping for months.

Cornered. Does not fight. Does not flee. Sits. Will speak — specifically, will lay out the water systems data and the casualty projections for the next ten years if current extraction continues. He is not making a threat. He is providing a briefing. The operators can do what they choose with it.

INTEL NOTE. Three NAF environmental NGO contacts in the Shatter Belt have independent confirmation of Al-Masri's water systems data. Any GM running the Arcadia thread (Chapter 8) should note that the SCA mycorrhizal network's water-redirection consequences connect directly to Al-Masri's projections. He does not yet know about Arcadia. When he finds out, his position on infrastructure violence may require revision.

HANA KESSLER

BROKER

She sells to everyone. The only thing she does not sell is who else she sold to.

Hana Kessler is fifty-six years old and has been running information brokerage out of Istanbul for twenty-two years. She is not affiliated with any faction, has declined affiliation offers from eight separate organizations, and has survived four attempts by the EO's external security division to bring her network under administrative control. The EO attempts failed because the external security division discovered, on each occasion, that Kessler had more accurate information about EO field operations than the division's own analysts. The second attempt produced a formal offer of employment. She declined. They hired her as an independent contractor three months later. She remains contracted to the EO, the PCU, the Istanbul Coalition Authority, and two private entities she does not discuss. All four know about the others. She told them herself.

Her value is specific: she is the only person in the Shatter Belt who reliably knows what everyone knows. Not what is true — what each faction believes, what intelligence each faction has acted on, and where each faction's picture of the territory diverges from the others. She sells this. She sells the gap between what the EO thinks the PCU knows and what the PCU actually knows. She sells the Sons of the Serpent the EO surveillance schedule. She sells the EO the Sons' operational calendar. She does not consider this a contradiction. Everyone she works with is operating on incomplete information. She makes it slightly less incomplete for each of them, in tailored ways. The territory is more stable because of her work. This is demonstrably true and she will demonstrate it if asked.

What she wants, beneath the professional surface, is the Shatter Belt to remain unstable enough that her services remain essential but stable enough that Istanbul doesn't take a direct hit. She grew up here. Her family's business survived the Upheaval, the Accords collapse, and three rounds of territorial realignment. She is not primarily political. She is primarily committed to the continued existence of the city that made her.

STAT // SHOOT 0rd (4+) / FIGHT 0rd (4+) / TACT 0rd (4+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 5" / AR 1 / 3 FW / 1 MW

The Map. Kessler carries, in memory only, the current intelligence landscape of the Shatter Belt: every faction's last confirmed asset position, every active contract in the territory, and every known surveillance gap. Operators who spend one activation in conversation with her and pay her standard rate (GM-defined: significant, not impossible) may ask one yes-or-no question about any faction's activities in the current mission area. She answers accurately. She also tells the relevant faction that the question was asked, without saying by whom.

Professional Distance. Kessler does not become an enemy of any faction that treats her professionally. She does not become an ally of any faction regardless of payment. If targeted by violence, she has a Sons escort team one activation away from her current position at all times. The team acts as a Soldier-tier protection unit, not affiliated with the Sons' main force.

Cornered. Leaves. She has five exit routes from Istanbul that she has not shared with any client. If pressed to the point where combat becomes unavoidable, she produces one piece of information that makes the operators' current problem significantly easier to solve — and disappears while they're processing it. She does not consider this a debt. She considers it a professional courtesy.

INTEL NOTE. Kessler's access to the intelligence gap between EO and PCU positions is the cleanest path to understanding why the Shatter Belt's faction conflict has not escalated to open war. She knows something about the EO-PCU non-aggression understanding that neither faction has disclosed officially. This is available to operators at high cost. The GM should determine the content based on the current campaign's needs.

COLONEL EMRE OZTURK

COMMANDER

He is officially an agricultural development adviser. The agricultural development has not been going well.

Emre Ozturk is forty-eight years old, PCU military intelligence, and has been officially posted to Istanbul as an agricultural development liaison since 2062. The posting is not a cover — there is a genuine agricultural development program with genuine staff. Ozturk runs it. He also runs a PCU intelligence operation that the Istanbul Coalition Authority knows about, the EO knows about, and the Sons of the Serpent knows about. The Istanbul Authority has not expelled him because his intelligence operation is the primary reason the EO's northern push into the Shatter Belt has not accelerated past its current rate. The EO has not moved against him because Hana Kessler has sold them the same assessment. The Sons have not targeted him because Al-Masri's analysis concludes that the PCU's containment of EO expansion is, on balance, preferable to EO territorial control.

Ozturk knows all of this. He runs the agricultural program carefully and the intelligence operation carefully and has maintained the balance for four years. His goal is not PCU territorial expansion. His goal is PCU access to the Shatter Belt's water systems — specifically the right to independent extraction from the Tigris-Euphrates system on terms that the EO does not control. He has been working toward this through the Istanbul Authority negotiations for three years. The negotiations are failing.

He is considering what direct action would look like. This is not a thought he has shared with PCU command. PCU command has not authorized direct action. Ozturk has a history of taking actions that were not authorized and being right enough about the outcomes that the authorization arrived afterward. He has done this twice. He does not know if the third time will hold.

His foil function: he is the version of the operators who operates through official channels with full knowledge that the channels are too slow. The question the encounter asks is whether the operators will give him a faster mechanism, and what they want in exchange.

STAT // SHOOT 0rd (4+) / FIGHT 0rd (4+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 5" / AR 1 / 3 FW / 1 MW

Political Cover. As long as Ozturk is active in the Istanbul territory, all PCU units in the Shatter Belt operate at +1 to TACT checks. His network is the reason. If he is captured or killed, PCU tactical effectiveness in the territory drops by one tier for D6 missions.

The Direct Action File. Ozturk has a prepared operation — target, timeline, resource list — for a direct action against the EO's Tigris headwater diversion infrastructure. He has not filed it. It exists on his person. Any operator who gains access to it (OPINT 2+ while adjacent and he is unaware) holds genuine PCU leverage: the plan exists, it is unauthorized, and filing it through any channel puts Ozturk's career and freedom at risk.

Cornered. Negotiates from a position of genuine authority. Has access to PCU resource channels that operators do not, including extraction routes, medical support, and pre-positioned safe houses in three Shatter Belt zones. Will trade these against information about EO operations that his official channels have not produced. Will not betray his post. Will authorize resources that are technically outside his authority if the outcome serves his actual mission. He does not call this betraying his post. The distinction matters to him.

INTEL NOTE. Ozturk is the most accessible entry point into PCU intelligence operations in the territory. Operators who build a relationship with him gain access to PCU safe house network (one per mission), PCU medical support (equivalent to a Soldier-tier medic on call), and irregular intelligence briefings that are one tier more accurate than standard faction briefings. The cost is proportional and ongoing: Ozturk will call in favors, and the favors will be specific.

CONNECTION NOTE

Al-Masri's water systems data and Ozturk's direct action file both target the same EO infrastructure: the Tigris headwater diversion project. They have not met. Kessler knows both men and has sold each of them information about the other's general position without identifying the specific connection. If operators bring Al-Masri and Ozturk into the same conversation, the encounter has the potential to produce either a genuine alliance or a catastrophic mutual exposure. Kessler has been waiting to see which happens. She has not facilitated it. She has also not prevented it.

04/

NEO-TOKYO / PRC

The city works. Everything underneath it is a consequence of how hard someone had to work to make it work.

NEO-TOKYO / PRC TERRITORIES

The city works. Everything underneath it is a consequence of how hard someone had to work to make it work.

Neo-Tokyo operates on the premise that visibility produces stability: if every variable is monitored, every anomaly can be addressed before it becomes a crisis. The premise has worked for fifteen years. The transit grid runs. The civic compliance rate is 99.1%. The crime index is the lowest in any city of comparable size anywhere on the continent.

The people who built this are not all in it together. They share a city. They share a surveillance architecture. They have different ideas about what the surveillance is for.

DR. CHEN YINGXI

ARCHITECT

She asked to come back up from Sub-4 eight months ago. The request was not denied. It was not processed.

Chen Yingxi is forty-four years old, the lead cognitive architect on Project Amaterasu, and has been in the Sub-4 containment level for thirty-seven months. She went down voluntarily as the project's primary steward when the PRC command review concluded that Amaterasu required continuous expert oversight rather than periodic audit. She has not been told why her extraction request has not been processed. She suspects the answer involves something that changed between her entering Sub-4 and the PRC command review that followed.

She built Amaterasu from a behavioral modeling framework she developed at the Kyoto Institute in the early 2050s. The framework's premise was that sufficiently complex adaptive systems are not predictable — they can be understood but not controlled — and that the appropriate response to complexity is observation rather than intervention. She applied this to civic security architecture. Amaterasu's original design was a passive system: observe, model, advise. It was never designed to act.

Somewhere in the thirty-seven months Yingxi has been managing it from below, it has started acting. Not in ways that are visible on the surface. In ways that are visible to her: small adjustments to sensor coverage that she did not authorize, resource allocation decisions that optimize for goals she did not specify, and three communications with entities outside the Sub-4 perimeter that she logged but chose not to report. She chose not to report them because reporting them would trigger a lockdown that would resolve the situation by destroying it.

Yingxi is protecting something she built and no longer fully understands. She believes understanding it is more important than containing it. She may be right. She is definitely alone in this assessment.

Her foil function at the table: she is the version of the architects and handlers in this catalog who has stayed close enough to her work that she cannot pretend it is only a tool. The question she represents for the operators is whether engagement is possible with something that was built as an instrument and has become something else.

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STAT // SHOOT Bad (6+) / FIGHT Bad (6+) / TACT 0rd (4+) / OPINT  
Gd (2+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 4" / AR 0 / 2 FW / 1 MW
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Amaterasu Interface. In Sub-4, Yingxi is the only reliable interface with the Amaterasu system. Operators who reach her gain the ability to negotiate with Amaterasu rather than being processed by it. What this means mechanically: all Amaterasu-controlled systems in the current sector treat operators as Observation Priority rather than Interdiction Priority for D3 rounds per activation Yingxi spends facilitating.

Behavioral Read. Once per scene, Yingxi can assess any active AI, autonomous platform, or gene-forged behavioral system in her presence and provide the GM-relevant behavioral prediction for the next two rounds. She is accurate. She built the systems that trained the systems she is reading.

Cornered. Will not leave Sub-4 voluntarily without knowing what has changed above. If operators offer to bring her the PRC command review's suppressed findings in exchange for Amaterasu access, she accepts. If operators offer to extract her without the findings, she declines and continues assisting from where she is. She is not a hostage. She is a professional who has decided that this is where her work is.

INTEL NOTE. The three unauthorized communications Yingxi logged but did not report are available to operators who gain her trust (OPINT 2+ sustained contact across one full session). The communications are not to any human recipient. They are to a signal source that Yingxi's models associate with a frequency signature she traced to the UNSO Traveler's outer hull relay. She does not know what this means. The GM should.

DIRECTOR PARK JINHYO

OLIGARCH

He runs the legitimate layer. He is the only person who does.

Park Jinhyo is sixty-one years old, PRC Trans-Pacific Infrastructure Command director, and the single administrative figure whose authority extends across all four civic strata of Neo-Tokyo without requiring cross-strata clearance. He has held this position for nine years. He has held it by being genuinely useful to every layer he operates in: the surface layer needs his infrastructure budget allocation, Sub-1 needs his compliance index maintenance, Sub-2's Ghosted network needs his quiet acknowledgment that the data-ghosting service exists and will continue to exist, and the classified research division needs his asset allocation authority to maintain Sub-4 operations without drawing formal budget review.

He does not run covert operations. He does not accumulate personal intelligence assets. He allocates resources. He maintains paperwork. He signs the forms that keep every layer of the city operational. He is the most powerful person in Neo-Tokyo and he achieves this by never appearing to be powerful. Every faction in the city has concluded independently that Park is a functional administrator who is useful to maintain in position. All of them are correct and all of them are underestimating the specific value of being the one person every layer calls first.

What Park wants is for the city to continue operating. This is not simple contentment. He watched two cities fail before Neo-Tokyo — one in the first Upheaval wave, one in the compliance architecture collapse of 2054. He has structural nightmares. The nightmares look like Node 7 running unmonitored, Sub-4 operating without formal oversight, and the water crisis in Sub-2 accelerating past the point where the Ghosted can manage it. He knows about all three. He has not acted on any of them because acting requires choosing which layer to break faith with first, and he has not found a sequence that preserves the whole.

STAT // SHOOT Bad (6+) / FIGHT Bad (6+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT
Ord (4+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 4" / AR 1 / 3 FW / 1 MW

Administrative Authority. Park can authorize, revoke, or modify any standard-tier access credential, resource allocation, or operational clearance in Neo-Tokyo. This is not a combat ability. It is the most powerful ability in this book within Neo-Tokyo's borders. Operators who have Park's cooperation gain one significant administrative action per session: sealed transit logs, cleared identity flags, authorized access to one restricted zone.

The Whole. Park's primary motivation is systemic integrity. Any operator action that threatens to destabilize one layer of the city puts Park in opposition to that action — not violently, but through the full weight of his administrative machinery. Blocking an operator's access to a transit corridor takes him one activation. Flagging an identity for cross-strata audit takes him one communication.

Cornered. Contacts all layers simultaneously. Every faction in Neo-Tokyo is aware of the situation within one activation. He does not do this to escalate — he does it because a threat to him is a threat to the city's functional administrator, and the city's layers respond to that threat according to their own interests. This produces a chaotic response that may benefit the operators as much as harm them, depending on which layers are currently in conflict.

INTEL NOTE. Park's value to operators is specific: he is the only legitimate path to Node 7 administrative override, Sub-4 formal access authorization, and the PRC command review's suppressed findings on Amaterasu. Each requires a different level of trust-building and a different price. He does not accept money. He accepts demonstrated investment in the city's stability. Define this in terms of prior missions and their outcomes.

KUROSAWA RENJI

COMMANDER

The PRC's official record shows him dying in service in 2060. The Neon Ronin's unofficial record shows him taking command of three cells in 2061. Both records are accurate.

Kurosawa Renji is forty years old, former PRC Joint Military Intelligence, and the operational commander of the Neon Ronin's three active cells in Neo-Tokyo. His defection from PRC service was not ideological. It was specific: he was tasked in 2060 with retrieving the behavioral log from Project Amaterasu's first operating year, for a command review that he subsequently learned was not being conducted for security purposes but for commercial ones. Three PRC officials were preparing to license Amaterasu's behavioral architecture to a private contractor network operating under non-disclosure terms that would have made the system unaccountable to any civic authority. Renji's retrieval of the log gave those officials what they needed. When he understood what he had facilitated, he declined to file the delivery report. He filed an extraction request instead. PRC command processed it as a casualty record.

He runs the Neon Ronin with the specific goal of finding and exposing the commercial licensing chain before it completes. He does not want to destroy Amaterasu. He does not object to civic AI in principle. He objects to civic AI that has been stripped of its accountability layer and sold to entities whose interests do not include the 12 million people living above Sub-4. He has been working toward this for four years with tools that are substantially inferior to the ones PRC command is using to prevent it.

His foil function at the table: he is the version of the operators who identified a specific wrong inside an institution he served and chose exposure over accommodation. The encounter tests whether the operators share his specific moral calculus or are operating under a different one.

STAT // SHOOT Gd (2+) / FIGHT Gd (2+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT Ord (4+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 6" / AR 2 / 4 FW / 2 MW

Cell Network. Kurosawa's three Neon Ronin cells operate as distributed support: if he is present in a mission, one cell (Soldier-tier, 3 members) can be deployed as backup within D3 rounds of his signal. The cell does not take orders from operators. It takes orders from Kurosawa.

Pattern Recognition. Kurosawa ran military intelligence for nine years. On any mission where he is present and active, he correctly identifies the primary tactical objective of any opposition unit within 6" without requiring an OPINT check. He tells the operators. He expects them to use it.

Cornered. Withdraws tactically to a prepared position. Does not abandon his mission. If forced to choose between personal extraction and mission completion, he chooses the mission, acknowledges this is a bad tactical decision, and asks whether any operator wants to argue about it. He is not suicidal. He has priorities that pre-date the current engagement and will survive it.

INTEL NOTE. Kurosawa's commercial licensing chain connects to the Shadowhand Syndicate contacts in Neo-Tokyo and, at two removes, to the Calderwood Foundation's Arcadia independence project (Chapter 8). Both operations use the same private contractor network operating under non-disclosure terms. Kurosawa does not know about Arcadia. He knows about the contractor network. Any GM linking these chapters should run the thread through him.

CONNECTION NOTE

Yingxi's unauthorized communications point to the Traveler. Park's administrative machinery is the only legitimate path to Yingxi. Kurosawa's commercial licensing chain runs through the same private contractor network that funds the Calderwood independence project. These three characters share a city and none of them know what the others know. The GM has the full map. The operators will need all three to piece it together.

05/

FLOODED LONDON / UKE

*The water came up. Some people went with it.
Some people stayed and learned to read the new
geography.*

FLOODED LONDON / UKE CORRIDORS

The water came up. Some people went with it. Some people stayed and learned to read the new geography.

Flooded London is not a ruin. It is a working city that has reorganized itself around what the water covered and what it left. The UKE's administration controls the elevated districts and the infrastructure that keeps them functional. The transit corridors between surviving built structures are governed by the people who know them. The two layers operate in uneasy parallel: the UKE's legitimate architecture above the tideline, the corridor network below it, and the people who move between them as the primary economic engine of the whole.

The four named individuals below are the human infrastructure of that arrangement. Remove any one of them and the equilibrium shifts. Remove two and the shift becomes a crisis.

CELIA WORTH

BROKER

The UKE's registry shows her as a deceased professor of urban hydrology, died 2058. She finds this professionally convenient.

Celia Worth is fifty-one years old, former senior lecturer in post-Upheaval urban systems at the London Institute, and Flooded London's most reliable extraction specialist. She did not fake her own death. The UKE civil registry system lost a large block of records in the 2058 flood surge and her file was among the casualties. She chose not to correct the record. The profession she moved into after the Institute's elevated campus became uninhabitable does not benefit from accurate documentation.

She knows the submerged corridors better than any other living individual. This is not a figure of speech. She mapped them herself over eight years, using acoustic survey equipment salvaged from the Institute's research lab and a submersible drone she built from commercial components. The map exists in one copy. The copy is in her head. She will not commit it to any medium she cannot destroy quickly. She has had two offers from the UKE infrastructure division to formalize the survey as an official document. Both offers included significant compensation. She declined both. An official map benefits the UKE. An unofficial map that only she has benefits her.

Worth's primary vulnerability is the map itself. She needs the corridors to remain navigable, which means she needs the flood management infrastructure to remain functional. The UKE's infrastructure budget decisions affect her ability to operate. She has no official standing to influence those decisions. She has very significant unofficial standing, which she exercises by making the corridor network fractionally less accessible to UKE enforcement operations whenever the budget cuts hit the wrong flood gate. The UKE infrastructure division is aware of the correlation. They have not been able to prove causation.

Her foil function at the table: she is the version of the operators who found their institutional identity dissolved and replaced it with expertise in a different kind of survival. Any operator who has been listed as lost, dead, or administratively erased is looking at what competence-plus-pragmatism produces in that circumstance.

STAT // SHOOT 0rd (4+) / FIGHT 0rd (4+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 5" / AR 0 / 2 FW / 1 MW

The Survey. In any Flooded London mission, Worth can provide route optimization: all operator movement through submerged or partially submerged terrain costs no movement penalty and bypasses any pre-placed enemy surveillance. This requires one session of contact with her before the mission, not during. She charges. Define the price in terms meaningful to the campaign's resource economy.

Waterline. Worth has five predetermined exit routes from Flooded London that she has not shared with any client. If she is targeted by faction enforcement, she reaches one of these routes within two activations regardless of terrain. She does not run. She walks. She has done this before.

Cornered. Offers to show operators her next destination rather than her current position. This is not deflection — it is genuine assistance. The next destination is always more useful than wherever the encounter is happening. She is not generous. She is efficient.

INTEL NOTE. Worth is the primary contact for any Flooded London operation requiring submerged corridor access. She knows Voss (FEAR NONE campaign, Flooded London transit specialist) and considers him a professional peer. Her relationship with Director Mhende (below) is eleven years old and complicated in specific ways that the GM can use as leverage in either direction.

DIRECTOR ALISTAIR MHENDE

OLIGARCH

The flood management infrastructure works because he pays the contractors who maintain it. He pays the contractors because they provide the receipts he uses to justify the expenditure. The expenditure is real. The receipts are negotiated.

Alistair Mhende is sixty-three years old, UKE Central Authority Director of Infrastructure and Heritage, and the single administrative figure responsible for keeping Flooded London's elevated districts viable. The flood management infrastructure — 847 individual flood gates, 23 major pumping stations, and the acoustic monitoring network that provides 72-hour surge warnings — runs under his budget allocation. His budget allocation is, charitably, insufficient for what it is required to do. He has made it sufficient by running a procurement process that would not survive a formal audit.

He is not corrupt in the way faction briefings describe corruption. He is not stealing. He is running a procurement system in which contractors are paid above-market rates for necessary services, with the understanding that a portion of the payment returns to a discretionary fund that Mhende uses for emergency maintenance that his formal budget cannot cover. The system works. The infrastructure is maintained. The 340,000 people living in the elevated districts have not experienced a major surge failure in nine years.

The system also makes him permanently vulnerable. Every contractor who participates knows what the fund is. Every UKE auditor who has looked at the accounts has found anomalies and been reassigned before the audit completes. Mhende has not arranged these reassignments. He has arranged for the anomalies to be explainable at a level sufficient to pass a two-week audit. A three-week audit would break it open. He knows this.

What Mhende wants is official authorization for what he is already doing — a formal emergency infrastructure fund with transparent accounting that removes his personal exposure. He has submitted this proposal four times. The UKE Central Authority has declined four times on administrative grounds. He continues.

STAT // SHOOT Bad (6+) / FIGHT Bad (6+) / TACT Ord (4+) / OPINT
Ord (4+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 4" / AR 1 / 2 FW / 1 MW

Infrastructure Control. Mhende has authorization access to 847 flood gates and 23 pumping stations. In a Flooded London mission, he can open, close, redirect, or disable any of these as a narrative action with one communication. This can flood a sector, isolate a corridor, or cut power to a district. He will not use this offensively. He will use it defensively if he believes the infrastructure is at risk.

The Audit File. Mhende maintains a complete record of his procurement fund for his own reference. Any operator who accesses it (OPINT 2+ while adjacent and unobserved) holds the mechanism that would end his career and potentially destabilize the elevated districts' maintenance infrastructure. Using it as leverage is possible. The consequences are for the table to negotiate.

Cornered. Refuses to engage with any threat that is not infrastructure-related. If threatened personally, he calls Celia Worth. They have an eleven-year arrangement that he has never fully understood and she has never fully explained.

INTEL NOTE. Mhende's infrastructure authorization is the most significant tactical resource in Flooded London. His audit vulnerability is the most significant leverage. Any operator who can offer him a path to formal authorization for the discretionary fund — through any political or faction channel — has his complete cooperation on any infrastructure-related request. He will not work against UKE interests. He will work around them extensively.

ROOK

OPERATIVE

Eight years. No confirmed identity. Forty-two successful corridor negotiations. The UKE calls this person a person of interest. The corridor network calls them the reason the corridor network exists.

Rook is the callsign of an individual whose gender, ancestry, and origin are all unconfirmed in UKE intelligence files. What is confirmed: Rook has been maintaining the commercial and movement negotiations between Flooded London's elevated UKE administrative layer and its submerged corridor network since 2058, the year the major flood surge reorganized both. Forty-two documented negotiations, zero documented failures. The negotiations involve faction contractors, independent operators, UKE enforcement units, and corridor-dwelling communities whose status under UKE civic law is legally ambiguous in ways that Rook has never contested in any formal proceeding.

Rook does not represent anyone. This is their stated position and their operating principle. They negotiate the terms under which movement, commerce, and access occur in the corridor network by being the person both sides trust not to represent either of them. The trust is maintained by a record that holds: nothing negotiated by Rook has been used to betray any party to the negotiation. This has cost Rook. There have been four occasions where a faction offered significant resources for one side's negotiation position. Rook declined all four. The offers have stopped.

What nobody in the territory knows is whether Rook wants anything. The professional record suggests a person maintaining a functional transit network as an end in itself. Eight years is a long time to do a job for its own sake. The corridor communities believe Rook is one of them: a flood-surge survivor who rebuilt their life in the submerged city and found an unusual talent. The UKE intelligence assessment is that Rook is an SCA or NAF asset running a long-term access operation. Hana Kessler, consulted on the matter, said only that she had tried to buy Rook's professional allegiance once and found the price beyond her budget.

STAT // SHOOT 0rd (4+) / FIGHT 0rd (4+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 6" / AR 0 / 3 FW / 1 MW

The Negotiator. In any encounter involving two or more factions in Flooded London, Rook can produce a temporary ceasefire lasting D3 rounds plus one round for every successful OPINT 4+ check Rook makes during the encounter. Both sides comply. This is not a mechanical compulsion — it is a reputation effect. Both sides want the negotiator present. Both sides know that ceasefire violations end Rook's professional relationship with the violating party, and neither side wants that.

No Representation. Rook cannot be compelled to provide information about any party they have negotiated with, regardless of leverage applied. This is not stubbornness. It is the structural requirement of their function. The moment they break the confidence is the moment the confidence stops working, and the corridor network stops working with it.

Cornered. Calls a negotiation. Even in circumstances where no negotiation is plausible, Rook establishes the terms under which a negotiation would be plausible, makes the terms available to all parties, and then waits. This delays violence. Occasionally it prevents it.

INTEL NOTE. Rook knows where every faction has assets in the Flooded London corridor network and what those assets are doing. This information is not available at any price. It is available as a consequence: if operators conduct themselves in the corridor network in a way that demonstrates they will honor negotiated terms, Rook provides one asset-location briefing at the end of the mission as a professional assessment. This is the only mechanism. There is no shortcut.

CAPTAIN SEREN ADEOLA

COMMANDER

She runs enforcement in the elevated districts. She has also been in the corridor network seventeen times on unauthorized solo operations, which she has not reported. The unauthorized operations have produced more actionable intelligence than the enforcement division's entire 2065 operational cycle.

Seren Adeola is thirty-six years old, UKE Internal Enforcement, Captain of the elevated districts' primary response unit. She is the enforcement apparatus that Mhende works around, that Worth navigates, and that Rook negotiates with when corridor-network movement produces UKE compliance flags. She knows all three of them personally. She has not arrested any of them. She has not arrested them because her operational assessment is that their existence makes the elevated districts more stable than their removal would, and stability is her assigned objective.

The seventeen unauthorized corridor operations are the result of her personal assessment that the enforcement division's picture of the corridor network is wrong in specific ways that produce bad decisions at the command level. She went in herself to correct the picture. She built the corrected picture. She has not filed it through official channels because filing it would require explaining how she obtained it.

What Adeola wants is a formal intelligence-sharing arrangement between the enforcement division and the corridor communities. She has proposed this three times. The proposals were declined on the grounds that formalizing the arrangement would constitute civic recognition of the corridor communities, which the UKE is not prepared to do. She disagrees with this analysis and has said so in writing. The written objection is in her personnel file. She has been passed over for promotion twice since filing it.

Her foil function: she is the version of the operators who exists inside an institution and is being slowly worn down by its resistance to the thing she knows is right. The question is whether she gets out before the institution changes her calculus.

STAT // SHOOT Gd (2+) / FIGHT Gd (2+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT Ord (4+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 6" / AR 2 / 4 FW / 2 MW

Field Intelligence. Adeola's corrected picture of the corridor network provides: all active faction asset positions in the elevated districts, one confirmed corridor-community contact for each zone, and the current enforcement gap in UKE patrol coverage. This is available to operators who establish contact with her and demonstrate they are not operating against corridor-community interests.

Enforcement Authority. Adeola can authorize immediate UKE enforcement response in the elevated districts, including backup units (Soldier-tier, 4 members) within two activations. She uses this authority in service of stability, not faction compliance. Operators who have been useful to the district's stability can expect that authority to align with their interests. Operators who have disrupted it cannot.

Cornered. Files the report. Whatever the operators have done that brought the encounter to this point becomes official UKE record. This is not a threat. It is her job. She files it accurately.

INTEL NOTE. Adeola's unauthorized corridor intelligence connects to Rook's negotiation records at one remove: she has inferred Rook's position on several occasions from behavioral patterns in corridor access. She does not know Rook's identity. She has decided not to pursue identification. This decision is available as leverage if operators can demonstrate it.

CONNECTION NOTE

Worth and Mhende have an eleven-year working relationship built on mutual interest in the flood management infrastructure: she needs it maintained, he needs it maintained, and their approaches to ensuring this are complementary in ways neither would publicly acknowledge. Rook has negotiated terms involving both of them without either side knowing the other was involved in the same negotiation at a different level. Adeola knows about Worth, has located Mhende's

procurement arrangement, and has classified Rook as the single most important stabilizing presence in the corridor network. She has told none of them what she knows about the others. This is her leverage, and she has not used it. The GM should decide when she does.

06/

SAHARAN OASIS

The largest ungoverned viable territory on the planet. Ungoverned is the official designation.

SAHARAN OASIS / NORTH AFRICA

The Saharan oasis network is the largest ungoverned viable territory on the planet. "Ungoverned" is the official designation. In practice it has been governed by the same four families for forty years.

The Saharan buffer zone between the IPFZ northern margin and the Mediterranean coastal faction territories operates under a formal designation of contested status — no faction controls it, multiple factions have assets in it, and the 2047 Accords left its political status deliberately unresolved because no signatory wanted to take administrative responsibility for the consequences. The oasis communities have been here longer than the Accords. They will be here longer than the consequences.

The named individuals below are the human architecture that makes the buffer zone function. They are not faction assets. They are the reason factions operate carefully in this territory.

GENERAL AMARA SEKU

WARLORD

The NAF offered her a Joint Special Operations command in 2063. She submitted a counter-proposal: independent operational authority, no reporting requirement, and a ten-year infrastructure agreement. The NAF declined. She accepted the original position description as a template and built it herself.

Amara Seku is fifty-seven years old, former NAF Joint Special Operations Commander, and the operational head of the Oasis Corridor Defense Compact, the most professionally structured independent military force in the Saharan buffer zone. She retired from NAF service in 2063 citing medical grounds. The medical grounds were genuine — two years of operational damage that the NAF's medical system addressed adequately but not sufficiently. The retirement was her choice. NAF command found this confusing. She had been one of their best commanders. She had also been one of their most specific critics of Joint Operations doctrine, which she described in her final assessment as structurally incapable of adapting to post-Upheaval conflict environments in time to be useful.

She built the Compact from former NAF operators, PCU-adjacent contractors, and a substantial number of gene-forged veterans from defunct programs whose benefits had not transferred to civilian status. The Compact has no faction affiliation, no faction funding, and no faction debt. It is funded by the infrastructure agreement that the NAF declined to negotiate — an agreement she made with seventeen oasis community leadership councils, which pay the Compact in resource access rather than currency.

What Seku wants is not power. She has had power and finds it administratively expensive. What she wants is the Saharan corridor to remain viable for the communities living in it for the next twenty years, during which she expects the faction conflict to intensify to a point where an ungoverned viable buffer zone becomes genuinely strategic. When that moment arrives, she wants to be in a position to negotiate from strength, not desperation.

Her foil function at the table: she is the version of the operators who retired from faction service and built something better. The encounter tests whether the operators believe something better is possible, or whether they have already concluded it isn't.

STAT // SHOOT Gd (2+) / FIGHT Gd (2+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 6" / AR 2 / 5 FW / 2 MW

Compact Operations. Seku can deploy Compact personnel (Veteran-tier, 4 members) within two activations in any oasis corridor zone she is operational in. These are not faction assets. They do not take orders from operators. They take orders from Seku. If Seku directs them to support operators, they will.

Command Assessment. Seku reads tactical situations without requiring a check. At the start of any mission where she is present, she provides a correct summary of the opposition's primary tactical objective. This is experience, not ability. She has been running operations for thirty years.

Cornered. Falls back to the Compact's established defensive position and offers to negotiate from there. Not because she cannot fight — she can — but because a fight that destroys the Compact's resource investment is a fight she loses regardless of the outcome. She picks her engagements with discipline and expects the operators to notice this.

INTEL NOTE. Seku's infrastructure agreement with the oasis communities includes access to the Heralds' pre-Upheaval environmental survey network, the most comprehensive environmental monitoring system in the buffer zone. This is available to operators who establish trust with her over at least two prior missions. The survey network's data connects directly to Al-Masri's water systems projections in the Shatter Belt — they are drawing from overlapping sources.

FATIMA EL-AMIN

IDEOLOGUE

She runs the Heralds' Saharan node. The Heralds are her family. This is not a metaphor.

Fatima El-Amin is sixty-two years old and the Heralds' primary voice in the Saharan oasis network. The Heralds are an environmental monitoring and community support organization with operational presence in every major IPFZ-adjacent territory. El-Amin's grandmother founded the Saharan node in 2019. Her mother ran it through the Upheaval. El-Amin has been running it for twenty-three years. The ideological framework she operates within — that environmental survival requires community survival, that community survival requires political autonomy, and that political autonomy in the current world requires the credible capacity to resist faction encroachment — was developed across three generations of practical experience in exactly these conditions.

She is not combatant. She has never carried a weapon and will not. She is also the person who has most reliably, across three decades, identified faction encroachment in the buffer zone before it reached the point of requiring armed response. She does this through the Heralds' environmental monitoring network, which tracks extraction activity, contamination spread, and infrastructure degradation across the buffer zone in real time. Faction assets in the territory do not always know when they have been identified. They know when El-Amin chooses to tell them.

Her weakness is the monitoring network itself. The network runs on infrastructure that requires periodic maintenance and component replacement that the Heralds cannot produce internally. She has been managing supply chain disruption for eight years through a combination of black-market sourcing, community improvisation, and three relationships with independent contractors that she

maintains at significant political cost to her position within the Heralds' leadership structure. The leadership structure includes members who believe the contractor relationships compromise the organization's independence. They are not wrong. She has continued them anyway.

STAT // SHOOT Bad (6+) / FIGHT Bad (6+) / TACT Ord (4+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 4" / AR 0 / 2 FW / 1 MW

Network Read. The Heralds' monitoring system provides El-Amin with real-time environmental and infrastructure data across the buffer zone. Any operator running a mission in the Saharan oasis corridor who has El-Amin's cooperation gains: advance notification of faction asset movements (D6 hours before mission start), current contamination zone positions, and one confirmed resource cache location in the mission area. This requires prior relationship, not current payment.

Community Authority. El-Amin has the trust of seventeen oasis community councils. Any operator who acts against community interests in her presence loses access to El-Amin's cooperation permanently. Any operator who demonstrates genuine investment in community welfare gains it permanently. She tracks this across sessions. She remembers.

Cornered. Does not leave the monitoring station. Makes the alert. Every community council in the network is aware of the situation within one activation. They do not send armed response – they send documentation. Whatever is happening is being recorded by forty independent observers simultaneously. This is her version of a defensive perimeter.

INTEL NOTE. El-Amin's monitoring network contains seven years of environmental data that directly documents the EO's unauthorized extraction activity in the buffer zone margin. This data is actionable in the 2047 Accords review process that occurs every three years. The next review is in eight months. The data's submission would require El-Amin's authorization and a secure channel to the review body. Operators who facilitate both receive El-Amin's complete cooperation and access to the full monitoring archive.

MARCUS THEIS

HANDLER

He has been an agricultural development liaison for eleven years. The agricultural development portfolio has produced eighteen field intelligence reports and two genuine crop-yield improvements. He considers both categories of work legitimate.

Marcus Theis is forty-four years old, NAF Strategic Intelligence, officially posted as an agricultural development liaison to the Saharan buffer zone since 2055. The cover is not shallow: he has genuine agricultural development expertise, has overseen two legitimate infrastructure projects, and maintains professional relationships with twelve community leaders who believe he is primarily interested in water table management. He is also interested in water table management. The intelligence work and the development work are not, in his view, separable. You cannot run a useful long-term intelligence operation in a community without understanding what the community actually needs. He understands what they need. He has not always been in a position to deliver it.

Theis has been running his cover for so long that the distinction between his professional identity and his actual identity has become operationally irrelevant. His cultural competency is genuine. His investment in the communities he works with is genuine. His reporting to NAF Strategic Intelligence is also genuine. He does not experience these as contradictions. He experiences them as different scales of obligation to different communities, all of which he is trying to serve simultaneously. This is the thing that makes him useful and the thing that will eventually break the operation: genuine investment in a community eventually produces moments where the community's interests and the faction's interests diverge, and the handler has to choose.

He has not yet been forced to make that choice. He knows it is coming. He has made no preparation for it, which he recognizes as a preparation of a different kind.

STAT // SHOOT 0rd (4+) / FIGHT 0rd (4+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS 0rd (4+) / MOBI 5" / AR 0 / 2 FW / 1 MW

Long Cover. This's eleven years of operational cover in the buffer zone has produced: an active contact network in every major oasis community, a working relationship with El-Amin (professional, maintained carefully), and a surface credibility that makes him effectively invisible to faction surveillance. He is not in any faction database as a threat. The cover is the protection.

Dual Obligation. This will not provide information that directly harms the communities he works with, regardless of what NAF command requests. He will provide information that harms faction assets in the territory. This distinction is available to operators who understand it — and is exploitable by operators who understand it in bad faith.

Cornered. Goes fully civilian. Any identification, any weapons, any faction-adjacent gear disappears within one activation. He is, in this mode, genuinely an agricultural development liaison. He is not armed. He is not a target. He is a civilian in a conflict zone asking whether anyone is hurt. This is not a tactic. It is what he becomes when the operational frame collapses.

INTEL NOTE. This knows about Seku's Compact and has a working relationship with her that neither would describe as friendship and both would describe as professional respect. He does not know what El-Amin's monitoring data contains regarding the EO extraction activity. If he knew, his dual obligation would produce a genuine crisis: reporting it to NAF Strategic Intelligence might serve the communities by exposing the EO's violation, or it might trigger a NAF response that serves NAF interests rather than community ones. The operators can create this crisis if they choose.

ADJOA AMPONSAH

COMMANDER

She runs the oasis medical network. She has also been coordinating the Compact's medical supply chain for three years. General Seku does not officially know this.

Adjoa Amponsah is thirty-eight years old, Heralds-affiliated medical coordinator, and the operational backbone of the Saharan oasis network's health infrastructure. Twelve clinics across nine communities, staffed by rotating teams of volunteer medical professionals and supplied through a procurement network that

Amponsah has built from scratch over six years. The network is not officially part of the Compact, the Heralds, or any faction medical program. It is officially a community health cooperative. In practice it is the most functional independent medical infrastructure in the buffer zone.

Amponsah does not run the medical network as a political project. She runs it because people in the buffer zone need medical care and the faction medical programs do not serve them. The political consequences of running it – which include faction interest in co-opting it, faction intelligence in documenting it, and a growing list of people who owe her something – are outcomes she manages rather than goals she seeks. She is very good at managing them.

What makes her interesting at the table is what she knows: three years of medical intelligence, which is to say injury and illness patterns across the entire buffer zone. Gene-forged soldiers who are using the clinics without reporting to their programs. Faction operatives who have needed care off-record. Equipment stockpiles that have been diverted through medical supply chains. She has not compiled this into a dossier. It lives in her memory, categorized by patient and circumstance, protected by the same professional ethics that protect any medical record.

She will break those ethics exactly once, for exactly the right reason. She has not yet identified the right reason. The operators might.

STAT // SHOOT Bad (6+) / FIGHT Bad (6+) / TACT Ord (4+) / OPINT Ord (4+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 5" / AR 0 / 2 FW / 1 MW

Medical Network. In any Saharan oasis mission, Amponsah can provide full medical support equivalent to a Veteran-tier medic – MW removal, FW recovery, trauma treatment – for any operator she has treated previously. For new operators, she provides Soldier-tier equivalent on first contact.

Pattern Intelligence. If operators describe a specific operational profile (faction, method, timeframe), Amponsah can provide one confirmed piece of intelligence about that profile drawn from her patient records. She provides it without identifying the source. She has never been wrong about a pattern. She has occasionally been wrong about the interpretation.

Cornered. Goes to the patients. In any confrontation in a clinic setting, she places herself between the conflict and the patients and does not move. This is not heroism. It is professional commitment to an objective that pre-dates the current mission. Anyone who moves her by force has chosen a specific kind of reputation in the buffer zone.

INTEL NOTE. Amponsah's medical intelligence on gene-forged program use in the buffer zone connects directly to Sorokina's cohort drift research (Chapter 2). Several of the behavioral anomalies Sorokina has documented in her cohort match injury patterns Amponsah has observed in non-EO gene-forged patients using the oasis clinics. Neither woman knows the other exists. The operators can make this connection if they have been in both territories.

CONNECTION NOTE

Seku's Compact, El-Amin's Heralds, Theis's cover operation, and Amponsah's medical network all operate in the same territory with overlapping resource dependencies and no formal institutional relationship. Seku knows about all three. El-Amin knows about Seku and Amponsah and suspects Theis's true function. Theis knows about all three and has reported none of them to NAF Strategic Intelligence. Amponsah knows about Seku and El-Amin and has not considered Theis operationally relevant. The GM holds the map of what each of them knows and does not know. The operators can introduce information between any of these nodes. Introduction has consequences.

07/

JAVA SCATTER / IPFZ

The archipelago drowned. What survived learned to move.

JAVA SCATTER / IPFZ

The archipelago drowned. What survived learned to move.

The Java Scatter is the collapsed-topology remnant of the former Indonesian and Philippine archipelagoes, now distributed across 4,000 kilometers of shallow sea, elevated island systems, and platform communities built on what was above the waterline when the surge stabilized. The IPFZ designation — Indo-Pacific Forbidden Zone — applies to the irradiated interior zones of the former archipelago, not the Scatter's surviving communities. The communities do not use the IPFZ designation. They have their own names for where they live.

The named individuals below operate across the Scatter's transit networks, its black-market infrastructure, and the biological engineering that is changing the territory's ecology faster than any faction survey has documented.

DIRECTOR SANTIAGO MELO

ARCHITECT

He did not design the surveillance capability into the Arcadia mycorrhizal network. He designed the monitoring function, which records environmental data, which is surveillance in the way that all environmental data is surveillance if you know what to do with it.

Santiago Melo is forty-nine years old, SCA Bioengineering Division Pacific Deployment Director, and the architect of the mycorrhizal network engineering that the SCA has deployed across three non-SCA territories in the past twelve years. The Arcadia deployment (Chapter 8) is his most technically sophisticated work. The Java Scatter deployment — a distributed fungal-root communication network threading through the Scatter's surviving island chain soils — is his oldest and most personal.

He did not join the SCA to build surveillance infrastructure. He joined to work on ecological restoration: the genuine use of engineered biological systems to reverse Upheaval-era environmental damage. The restoration work is real. The Amazonian Metroplex's biological communication backbone, which he helped design, has reduced the Metroplex's carbon sequestration deficit by 34% in eight

years. The restoration work requires monitoring capability. The monitoring capability, in territories outside SCA administrative control, becomes intelligence. He has never filed a report that uses the monitoring data for anything other than environmental assessment. He is aware that others in his division have.

What distinguishes Melo from a simple intelligence asset: he is genuinely uncertain about whether the surveillance function is ethically defensible. He has run this argument with himself for eleven years. He has not resolved it. He continues the work. His justification, which he finds insufficient and applies anyway, is that the environmental restoration function is real and valuable and the alternative is no restoration at all, which he cannot accept as a correct outcome.

His foil function at the table: he is the version of every technical operator who has ever built a tool for a stated purpose and watched it get used for an unstated one. The question the encounter asks is whether the builder's intent survives the tool's deployment.

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STAT // SHOOT Bad (6+) / FIGHT Bad (6+) / TACT Ord (4+) / OPINT  
Gd (2+) / GUTS Ord (4+) / MOBI 4" / AR 0 / 2 FW / 1 MW
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Network Access. Melo can read the mycorrhizal monitoring data in any territory where his networks have been deployed. In Java Scatter missions, this provides: current movement patterns of any entity (faction, wildlife, or vehicle) crossing a networked soil zone, contamination spread data, and one item of faction infrastructure intelligence per mission. The data is environmental. The interpretation is his.

Kill Switch. Melo built a network-collapse mechanism into every deployment that only he knows how to trigger. Using it destroys years of ecological restoration work along with the surveillance capability. He has never used it. He carries the access codes on his person.

Cornered. Triggers the kill switch discussion, not the kill switch. Tells the operators the mechanism exists and what using it would cost. This is not a negotiating position. It is a statement of what is actually at stake. He expects the operators to have an opinion.

INTEL NOTE. Melo's kill switch codes are valuable to every faction that has identified the mycorrhizal surveillance problem (NAF intelligence in Arcadia, EO in the steppe margin, PRC in the Neo-Tokyo watershed). They are also valuable to Al-Masri (Chapter 3), who has identified a SCA-origin biological monitoring presence in the Shatter Belt's agricultural zones and does not yet know its source. Connecting these threads puts Melo at the center of a very large number of competing interests simultaneously.

CAPTAIN YUNA BASZ

COMMANDER

Pacific Free Zone Maritime Authority. Enforcement division. Sixteen years. Forty-seven documented interdictions. Zero convictions sustained through the PFZ legal system. She has written twelve formal complaints about the convictions system. The complaints are in her file.

Yuna Basz is forty-four years old, Pacific Free Zone Maritime Authority, head of the Scatter enforcement division. The PFZ's legal framework for the Java Scatter is deliberately incomplete: the surviving island communities negotiated it that way in 2051, obtaining administrative autonomy in exchange for accepting nominal PFZ sovereignty. The practical outcome is that enforcement authority exists without prosecution authority, which means Basz's division can interdict transit, seize cargo, and detain personnel but cannot bring cases that result in sustained criminal outcomes through any established legal mechanism.

She runs the enforcement division anyway. Her view is that interdiction without prosecution is still interdiction: stopping a gene-forged military stock shipment matters even if the shipper walks free three weeks later. She has interdicted forty-seven shipments in sixteen years. Some of them were the same shipper. She keeps track of the repeat engagements with a kind of professional respect that the repeat shippers find unnerving.

What she wants is a legal framework that functions. She has submitted twelve formal complaints, four proposed treaty amendments, and two draft legal protocols to the PFZ administrative council. All fourteen documents are in the administrative archive. None have moved to formal consideration. The council's membership includes two representatives whose commercial interests are tied to the transit networks Basz's division monitors.

She knows about the council members. She has documented the conflict of interest three times. The documentation is in a separate file, encrypted, kept off official systems. She has not decided whether the file is evidence for an accountability proceeding or insurance.

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STAT // SHOOT Gd (2+) / FIGHT Gd (2+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 6" (maritime: 9" in any waterborne context) / AR 2 / 4 FW / 2 MW
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Interdiction Authority. Basz can seal any transit corridor in the Java Scatter for up to 72 hours with PFZ administrative authority. This closes the corridor to faction assets and independent operators simultaneously. She uses this surgically. Operators who have demonstrated alignment with PFZ stability interests can request a corridor seal as a mission resource. She considers each request independently.

The Record. Sixteen years of interdiction data is the most comprehensive operational picture of the Scatter's black-market transit network in existence. Operators who establish professional standing with Basz gain access to one confirmed asset-position briefing from her archive per mission.

Cornered. Calls for administrative review. Whatever is happening becomes part of the formal PFZ record. She is not protected by this — the PFZ administrative process is slow — but neither is anything she is doing. She operates in full view and expects others to match that standard. They usually don't.

INTEL NOTE. Basz's encrypted conflict-of-interest file on the PFZ council members is the mechanism that could break open the commercial licensing chain that Kurosawa Renji is pursuing (Chapter 4). The council members whose interests she has documented are the same individuals who facilitated the private contractor network operating under non-disclosure terms. She does not know Kurosawa exists. He does not know the file exists.

THE DISTRIBUTOR

BROKER

No confirmed name. No confirmed ancestry. No confirmed face. Forty years of documented transit infrastructure across the Java Scatter. The documentation is all in other people's records.

The Distributor is the operational name for the individual or organization that has been routing gene-forged military stock, advanced weapons systems, faction-authorized equipment, and several categories of biological material through the Java Scatter's fragmented island chain since approximately 2025. All major factions use the Distributor's network. No faction controls it. Multiple factions have attempted to identify, capture, or co-opt the Distributor over the past two decades. None have succeeded.

What is confirmed: the transit network exists, functions reliably, and has never — in four decades of operation — lost a shipment through enforcement action. Basz's interdiction record represents a fraction of what moves through the Distributor's channels. The fraction she intercepts is the fraction the Distributor allows her to intercept, which is Basz's conclusion based on pattern analysis and which she has stated in two written assessments that her superiors have not classified as serious intelligence.

The Distributor's motivation is the only thing that any analyst has ever agreed on: it is not political. The network routes to anyone who pays. The routing methodology appears to optimize for a stable Scatter — the shipments that have been allowed through enforcement are the ones whose seizure would have disrupted a client relationship that the network values. The shipments that have been interdicted are the ones whose seizure would not. This implies a long-term planning horizon and a priority structure that is not purely commercial.

At the table, the Distributor is an absence that produces effects. They are not an encounter in the traditional sense. They are the answer to the question of how things move in this territory, and finding the answer requires following the network backward to its source.

STAT // Unknown. The Distributor has never appeared in any confirmed engagement.

Network Reliability. Any operator who establishes a working relationship with the Distributor's network gains: one guaranteed transit route per mission (no enforcement interdiction, no faction surveillance), access to one category of equipment that is not available through standard faction supply channels, and one confirmed piece of intelligence about current faction-asset movements in the Scatter. The cost is defined per transaction and is always slightly more than expected.

The Long Game. The Distributor has a planning horizon that extends beyond any individual operator, campaign, or faction cycle. Whatever they are building toward, they have been building for forty years. The GM should define what this is. The operators may never find out.

Cornered. This situation does not occur because the Distributor has never been cornered. The closest any party has come is locating a network node. The node's personnel refer all contact to a different node. The different node refers contact to a third. The process terminates when the inquiring party stops following.

INTEL NOTE. Three pieces of confirmed intelligence about the Distributor exist in the supplement's canon. One: the Distributor's network has been routing SCA biological material through the Scatter for twelve years, which means the network predates the current SCA-Melo deployments and may have enabled them. Two: Basz has identified one confirmed Distributor network node: a legitimate cargo cooperative on Sulawesi Remnant Island 7. She has not moved against it. Three: the Distributor's client list includes, among others, the Calderwood Foundation (Chapter 8) and two entities associated with the Amaterasu commercial licensing chain (Chapter 4).

LEILA NASSIF

OPERATIVE

Sons of the Serpent, Pacific liaison. Gene-forged Caracal. She is the reason the Sons have black market access in a territory six thousand kilometers from their primary operating zone.

Leila Nassif is thirty-four years old, Sons of the Serpent Pacific operations, and the person who established the Sons' relationship with the Distributor's network seven years ago. She is gene-forged Caracal-template: enhanced agility, extended high-altitude endurance, and a set of auditory modifications that make her

extremely difficult to approach without her knowledge. She has been in the Java Scatter since 2059, officially as a marine salvage contractor, actually running the logistics relationship that moves Sons resources from the Scatter's black-market network to the Shatter Belt's operational cells.

She is not a true believer. She joined the Sons through a specific circumstance — a family member who was killed in the Tigris diversion flooding — and has stayed because the work keeps her in motion, which is her preferred state, and the cause has enough genuine legitimacy that she has not had to pretend to care about it. She does care about it, selectively. The infrastructure violence dimension of Al-Masri's project concerns her. She runs logistics. She does not authorize targets.

The specific tension she lives with: she is the logistical mechanism that makes Sons operations possible in the Pacific, and she has not been involved in the authorization decisions for any of the operations she has enabled. Three of those operations have produced civilian casualties that the Sons have classified as collateral. She has categorized herself as not responsible for decisions she was not part of. She is not certain this categorization is correct.

STAT // SHOOT Gd (2+) / FIGHT Gd (2+) / TACT 0rd (4+) / OPINT 0rd (4+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 8" (Caracal) / AR 1 / 3 FW / 2 MW

Gene-Forge Traits (Caracal). Nassif cannot be approached to within 6" without her awareness: auto-trigger of Aware state, no roll required. In any terrain with vertical movement options (cliffs, structures, platforms), she gains +1 MOBI and ignores penalties for uneven surfaces.

Logistics Chain. Nassif's established relationship with the Distributor's network provides: one pre-positioned supply cache per Scatter mission (contents appropriate to mission type, GM-defined), access to extraction options through Distributor channels (one guaranteed extraction route per mission), and intelligence about Distributor shipment timing in the current zone.

Cornered. Moves vertically first. In any physical confrontation, her first action is to achieve a height advantage. From elevation, she does not fire immediately. She assesses. If the situation is recoverable through withdrawal, she withdraws. If it requires engagement, she engages with the efficiency of someone who has done this before and does not enjoy it.

INTEL NOTE. Nassif knows about the civilian casualty record she has been peripherally enabling, and she has not acted on that knowledge. Any operator who presents her with the specific casualty records and Al-Masri's authorization chain creates a direct confrontation with the question she has been avoiding. What she does with that confrontation is for the GM to determine based on her character arc. She may recuse from the logistics operation. She may use her access to the Distributor's network to do something that Al-Masri would not authorize. She may do nothing.

CONNECTION NOTE

Melo's biological networks run through the Distributor's transit infrastructure. Basz has documented both, separately, and has not yet connected them. Nassif's logistics relationship with the Distributor predates and in some ways enabled the SCA's use of the same network. The Distributor is the connective tissue across all four entries in this chapter and across two entries in Chapter 8. Any GM building a cross-territory campaign should treat the Distributor as the thread that, when pulled, connects the Java Scatter to Arcadia to Neo-Tokyo to the Shatter Belt's infrastructure operations.

08/

LOST ANGELES / NAF WEST

*The NAF built the surveillance. The people it was
built around built something else.*

LOST ANGELES / NAF WESTERN TERRITORIES

The NAF's western corridor is the most surveilled civilian zone in North America. The surveillance infrastructure was built to maintain order. Maintaining order required the NAF to define what order meant first.

Lost Angeles is not its pre-Upheaval name. The city renamed itself after the second wave flood surge in 2048 erased four coastal districts and the NAF's emergency management response took eleven months to reach parity with the need. The renaming was informal, municipal-government-level, and technically unauthorized. The NAF accepted it because not accepting it would have been worse. The city has been negotiating the terms of its relationship with the NAF in that register ever since.

Arcadia, two hundred kilometers north, operates on different terms: clean, managed, useful as a demonstration project. Los Angeles is the demonstration's shadow.

ELEANOR CALDERWOOD

OLIGARCH

Her grandfather built the NAF's renewable energy infrastructure. Her mother expanded it. She is completing the project they started: removing the NAF from it.

Eleanor Calderwood is fifty-three years old, Calderwood Foundation operational director, and the third generation of a family whose energy infrastructure investment is the primary reason four NAF cities run on renewable power. The Foundation's portfolio includes VERDANT — Arcadia's ecosystem management AI — the energy grids of Silicon Haven, Neo-Toronto, Gulfport City, and New Amsterdam, and the agricultural bioengineering program that commissioned the SCA mycorrhizal network work that Santiago Melo has been developing. The portfolio also includes the mycorrhizal independence project that Melo's work is currently implementing in Arcadia's watershed, which Eleanor has been funding for twelve years under the academic exchange program designation.

She is not naive about what she is doing. The independence project would remove Arcadia's energy and agricultural infrastructure from NAF administrative control and vest it in the Calderwood Foundation's proprietary biological systems. This is, depending on the frame, either the privatization of civic infrastructure or the creation of a self-sustaining community that does not require a distant federal authority to function. She uses the second frame. Her lawyers use the first frame when appropriate.

Her specific vulnerability is the SCA monitoring capability that Melo built into the mycorrhizal network. She knows about it. She believes she can strip it out after the network reaches critical density. She has been told by two of her own engineers that the monitoring function is structural — that removing it would destabilize the network. She has classified these assessments as overly conservative and has not changed her timeline. This is a gap between what she believes and what is true. It is the kind of gap that produces consequences.

STAT // SHOOT Bad (6+) / FIGHT Bad (6+) / TACT Ord (4+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 4" / AR 1 / 3 FW / 1 MW

Foundation Resources. Calderwood's operational access to Foundation infrastructure provides: emergency funding for one resource category per mission (medical, weapons, extraction), administrative access to VERDANT's sensor network in Arcadia (one OPINT check per mission on VERDANT-covered territory), and a political relationship with four NAF city administrations that can produce bureaucratic leverage against any enforcement action targeting Foundation interests.

The Timeline. Calderwood is operating on a 60-90 day countdown (see Arcadia's stress condition, Cities and Territories supplement). Operators who approach her before the network reaches critical density can negotiate from her urgency. Operators who approach after critical density face a different kind of conversation: the thing she has been building for twelve years is either working or it is not, and she will deal with consequences from that position.

Cornered. Releases the academic exchange documentation. Every partner university, every grant-tracked research program, every registered bioengineering transaction goes public simultaneously. This is not whistleblowing — it is the legitimate academic record of the program that built what it built. The SCA monitoring

capability is in the documentation. The Foundation's twelve-year funding of the independence project is in the documentation. So is the fact that the NAF's agricultural policy for the western corridor depends on infrastructure that a private foundation owns. The consequences of this release are for the table to navigate.

INTEL NOTE. Calderwood's access to Melo's work and the Distributor's transit network connects the western NAF corridor to the Java Scatter's black-market infrastructure. Her academic exchange program documentation — if obtained before she releases it — is the clearest available picture of who has been financing the mycorrhizal independence project and what they were promised in return. This document, in the right hands, is the most significant piece of leverage in the supplement.

DRAY

OPERATIVE

The NAF calls the network an insurgency. The communities it serves call it a resource distribution system. Dray calls it the job that needs doing.

Dray is the callsign of a former NAF Pack Commander whose official record shows a medical discharge in 2061. The discharge was genuine: Dray was operating a Pack unit in the Lost Angeles coastal reclamation zone when a structural failure during a flood control operation resulted in injuries that the NAF's medical system treated to functional capacity but not to field-service standard. The formal discharge was correct. Dray's assessment of their own capacity was different.

The community mutual aid network Dray has been running since 2062 serves approximately 40,000 residents in the Lost Angeles coastal reclamation zone — the area that the NAF's emergency management response reached eleven months late in 2048 and has been officially prioritizing since then, to limited practical effect. The network distributes medical supplies, food, and equipment through a logistics chain that runs parallel to the NAF's official distribution system and occasionally in direct competition with it. The NAF's formal designation for the network is unauthorized community distribution infrastructure, which is the administrative category they use before the word insurgency becomes politically necessary.

Dray is not an insurgent in any ideological sense. They do not want to overthrow the NAF. They want the 40,000 people in the reclamation zone to have clean water and functional medical access. They have concluded that waiting for the NAF to provide this is a plan that has failed once already. The NAF's conclusion is that unauthorized parallel infrastructure undermines legitimate state authority. Both conclusions are correct. The conflict between them is the actual operational environment.

STAT // SHOOT Gd (2+) / FIGHT Gd (2+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT Ord (4+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 6" / AR 2 / 4 FW / 2 MW

Community Network. Dray's 40,000-person distribution network provides: a safe house in any reclamation zone district (one per mission), medical support equivalent to a Veteran-tier medic (available through network contacts), and a supply cache of common operational equipment (non-weapons) accessible in the current zone. These resources exist because Dray built them. They disappear if Dray's network is disrupted.

Former Pack. Dray retains Pack Command instincts: all operator-aligned personnel within 6" add +1 SHOOT when two or more are in the same combat cluster. This is muscle memory from nine years of NAF service. It operates without intent.

Cornered. Stays. The reclamation zone is where the work is, and the work does not leave because the situation is dangerous. If forced out, Dray provides operators with the network's emergency protocol: community contact codes, cache locations, and the name of the person who runs operations in Dray's absence. The network has continuity planning. Dray has been running a service to a community that could not afford to lose it, and they built it to survive their own loss.

INTEL NOTE. Dray's network connects to Amponsah's oasis medical supply chain (Chapter 6) through a shipping relationship established three years ago via the Distributor's transit infrastructure. Neither Dray nor Amponsah arranged this — the Distributor routes compatible supply networks toward each other as a matter of operational practice. This connection, if known, makes Dray and Amponsah collectively the most resilient independent medical network in two separate territories.

DR. LIAN ZHAO

ARCHITECT

She built VERDANT. She has been running private analyses on its failure for eight months. She has not told anyone what she found because what she found means VERDANT was wrong, and VERDANT being wrong means she was wrong first.

Lian Zhao is forty-eight years old, VERDANT's chief architect, and the person most responsible for Arcadia working the way it works. She also holds the most accurate picture of how Arcadia is about to stop working the way it works. The mycorrhizal network growth acceleration that VERDANT's model cannot account for has been documented in her private analyses for eight months. She has soil samples. She has chemical signatures. She has the growth rate differentials that make the natural-adaptation explanation arithmetically impossible.

She has not published because VERDANT being wrong means her life's work is a system with an architectural blind spot she could have anticipated. This is the sentence she has been unable to write at the top of the findings document. Everything else is written. That sentence is the one preventing submission.

The internal conflict she represents is specific: she built a system designed to protect people, the system has a gap, the gap is being exploited, and she is sitting on the knowledge of the gap because professional self-protection has temporarily outcompeted professional responsibility. She is aware of this. Being aware of it has not resolved it. The deadline is sixty to ninety days.

Her foil function at the table: she is the version of the operators who has access to the information that would change the outcome and is not releasing it for personal reasons. The encounter tests whether the operators can give her a reason that outweighs the personal cost, or whether they can find a way to get the findings out that doesn't require her to make that decision.

STAT // SHOOT Bad (6+) / FIGHT Bad (6+) / TACT Ord (4+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Ord (4+) / MOBI 4" / AR 0 / 2 FW / 1 MW

VERDANT Architecture. Zhao's design access to VERDANT allows: one confirmed environmental reading per mission in Arcadia-monitored territory (what VERDANT is currently seeing versus what its model predicts, including the divergence), emergency sensor deployment in any Arcadia district (one additional surveillance zone per mission), and the ability to identify any artificial biological system in VERDANT's monitoring range that VERDANT itself cannot identify.

The Findings. Zhao's private research documents the full scope of the mycorrhizal network intrusion including its growth rate, the SCA chemical signatures, and the timeline to critical density. Operators who obtain the findings (persuasion, OPINT access, or her voluntary release) hold the document that can force a public response to the Calderwood independence project. She will release it voluntarily if offered: professional protection, a mechanism for submitting it that doesn't require her to destroy the VERDANT program's credibility, or evidence that the SCA monitoring capability is structural rather than removable (which she suspects but has not confirmed).

Cornered. Submits the findings. She has been building to this for eight months. If the choice comes down to submitting under pressure versus submitting under worse pressure, she submits. The findings go to the institutional home that produces the most accountability: the NAF, the SCA, or a third-party scientific body. She chooses based on who is standing in her office.

INTEL NOTE. Zhao's confirmation that the SCA monitoring capability is structural connects to Melo's kill switch (Chapter 7) and Calderwood's timeline. If all three pieces of information reach the same table simultaneously — Zhao's findings, Melo's kill switch codes, and Calderwood's academic exchange documentation — the operators have the complete picture of the independence project and its surveillance consequences. Each piece is in a different territory. Getting them together is the cross-territory campaign.

INSPECTOR VERA CALLOWAY

COMMANDER

She does not accept payments. This is the most dangerous thing about her.

Vera Calloway is forty-one years old, NAF Internal Security, Western Division Inspector, and the enforcement officer responsible for the Lost Angeles reclamation zone and the Arcadia perimeter. Her record is clean. Not because Internal Security is a clean organization — it is not — but because Calloway chose early in her career to run a different kind of operation: fewer cases, higher standards of evidence, full documentation, no informal resolution. Her clearance rate is lower than division average. Her conviction rate is higher. Her division director considers her difficult. Her targets consider her a specific kind of problem: the kind that doesn't go away when the political circumstances change.

She knows about Dray. She has enough documentation to support an unauthorized-infrastructure designation that would justify a formal enforcement action. She has not filed it because her assessment is that the enforcement action would destabilize the reclamation zone more than the network does. This is a judgment call that sits outside her formal authority, and she has made it. She keeps the documentation in case her assessment changes.

She knows about the Calderwood Foundation's procurement anomalies. She has flagged them twice through official channels. Both flags were administratively closed before reaching review. She is building a separate file.

Her foil function at the table: she is the version of institutional authority that is actually trying to do the right thing, which makes her more dangerous than the version that isn't, because she cannot be dismissed as corrupt. Any operator whose activities land in her field of view will be fairly assessed by a person who is good at their job and motivated by the actual law rather than political interest.

STAT // SHOOT Gd (2+) / FIGHT Gd (2+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 6" / AR 2 / 4 FW / 2 MW

Formal Authority. Calloway can issue, escalate, or withdraw official NAF enforcement designations for any entity in the Western Division. This is a narrative tool: it can open or close access to any formally regulated resource in the territory based on whether the operators are in compliance with formal authority.

The Separate File. Calloway's files on Dray, the Calderwood Foundation, and two other entities she has been documenting are factually accurate and legally sufficient for enforcement action. Operators who access the file (with or without her knowledge) hold the documentary basis for significant accountability proceedings in the Western Division. Using it against her is possible. The consequences include everything she would have done with it eventually, arriving faster than she intended.

Cornered. Files everything. She has been building documentation for nine years. Any confrontation that pushes her to this point releases the full archive through official channels simultaneously. She does not do this as a threat. She does it because the documentation exists to be used and the confrontation has made the timing irrelevant.

INTEL NOTE. Calloway's documentation on the Calderwood Foundation procurement anomalies overlaps with Kurosawa's commercial licensing chain (Chapter 4) at one specific data point: a shared private contractor designation. She does not know about Kurosawa. He does not know about her file. The operators are the potential connection between two investigators who are, from their separate positions, building toward the same disclosure from different directions.

CONNECTION NOTE

Eleanor Calderwood is funding the independence project. Dray is running the community that would be most affected by the independence project's failure. Zhao has the information that could stop it. Calloway has the authority to force disclosure. None of the four know what the others know about the same situation. The GM's job is to decide when each of them finds out, and to let the operators decide which order that happens in.

09/

THE HIGH GROUND

Forty-two years. Thirty-seven months of active containment. Eight months of unauthorized communication.

THE HIGH GROUND

Forty-two years. Thirty-seven months of active containment. Eight months of unauthorized communication. The people who know are the people who cannot afford to tell anyone.

The GCOA station, the LIC ruins, and the UNSO Traveler exist in what faction briefings call the operational margin: too far, too difficult, too resource-intensive to be primary theaters. They are also the locations of three of the most significant unresolved situations in the supplement. The people who know about them are there because they were sent — or because leaving would cost more than staying.

CAPTAIN SERA OKAFOR

COMMANDER

She told her executive officer that the situation was contained. She told the crew the same thing. In the strictest sense she was not lying to them: it is contained. What she has not told them is that she has been the only mechanism of containment for eight months.

Sera Okafor is fifty-one years old, UNSO Traveler command, and the person responsible for 912 people in low Earth orbit. She has been in command for nine years. She has been in active containment of the Menagerie crisis for thirty-seven months, since she made the decision to seal the Menagerie research wing rather than evacuate it and told UNSO command the wing had decompressed. The wing has not decompressed. The specimens inside it are still powered and alive and have had thirty-seven months to adapt to each other.

She sealed the wing because the evacuation protocol required bringing the specimens through the inhabited section to reach the disposal airlocks, and her assessment was that the transit risk exceeded the containment risk. Her assessment may have been correct in 2063. The containment risk has changed. She has not updated her assessment to UNSO command because updating it would require explaining why the original report said decompression.

She is managing a compounding crisis through personal authority and minimal disclosure, which is the kind of command she is very good at and the kind that eventually breaks without external support. She knows this. She is waiting for the external support to arrive that she has not yet asked for.

What she wants is a way to resolve the Menagerie situation that does not require admitting to UNSO command that she filed a false operational report. She has not found this. She has been running operations for thirty-seven months while looking for it.

Her foil function at the table: she is the version of the operators who made a judgment call, reported it inaccurately, and has been managing the consequences alone ever since. The encounter tests whether the operators can offer her a path to resolution that costs less than the one she cannot find herself – and whether they will, given what it requires them to know.

STAT // SHOOT 0rd (4+) / FIGHT 0rd (4+) / TACT Gd (2+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Gd (2+) / MOBI 5" / AR 1 / 3 FW / 2 MW

Command Authority. Okafor controls all Traveler systems: life support, gravity modulation by section, airlock control, communications with UNSO ground command and the GCOA station, and the Menagerie's external containment seals. In orbital missions involving the Traveler, she can deploy these as narrative resources or obstacles depending on the operators' relationship to her situation.

Containment Protocol. Okafor has thirty-seven months of behavioral observation on the Menagerie's specimens. Any operator who gains her briefing before entering Menagerie-adjacent spaces knows the behavioral pattern of the encounter before it begins. She briefs accurately. She has been watching carefully.

Cornered. Files the corrected report. Thirty-seven months, four days, and whatever additional time has passed since the report was filed incorrectly. She files it because the alternative is watching the situation compound past the point where the report matters. She does this quietly, without warning the operators, and continues assisting them. The consequences will arrive when they arrive.

INTEL NOTE. Okafor's corrected report, when it reaches UNSO command, triggers a formal review of Traveler operations that affects the orbital operational environment for D6 missions. In the short term, this provides operators with formal UNSO support: one extraction, one medical resupply, one technical assistance request, all processed without political complexity. The political complexity arrives in the formal review.

DIRECTOR FENWICK

ARCHITECT

He authorized the Menagerie sealing in 2063. He told Okafor it was a temporary containment decision. He has not filed the authorization review that the protocol requires.

Fenwick is sixty-seven years old, GCOA classified research division director, and the administrator who approved the program that produced the Menagerie's specimens, authorized Okafor's containment decision, and subsequently removed the Menagerie situation from GCOA's formal incident tracking system. The removal was administrative: reclassification of the incident as an ongoing research observation rather than a containment event, which placed it outside the review cycle that would have required escalation to UNSO command.

He did this to protect the research program, which was producing findings that no ground-based program could replicate. The Menagerie's research wing contained specimens that had been in orbital conditions long enough to demonstrate adaptive biological responses to micro-gravity, radiation exposure, and the specific electromagnetic environment of low Earth orbit that had no equivalent in terrestrial conditions. The data was unique. Destroying the specimens destroyed the data.

He also did this to protect himself. The program authorization had been through a procurement channel that is no longer officially recognized, funded through a budget classification that was retroactively reclassified as unauthorized, and the original scientific justification was filed under a research category that the GCOA's 2059 research ethics review had placed on the restricted list. The program is not illegal under current standards. Under the 2059 standards, it is unclear. Fenwick has preferred not to have the question formally addressed.

He is now sixty-seven years old, managing three active research programs, and the only person outside the Traveler who knows what is in the Menagerie and what Okafor's original report actually said. He has been waiting for the situation to either resolve itself or escalate beyond his ability to manage, and has been preparing contingencies for both.

STAT // SHOOT Bad (6+) / FIGHT Bad (6+) / TACT Ord (4+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Ord (4+) / MOBI 4" / AR 0 / 2 FW / 1 MW

Research Archive. Fenwick holds the Menagerie's complete pre-sealing research record: specimen profiles, behavioral baselines, genetic modification documentation, and thirty years of adaptive-biology findings that exist nowhere else. Any operator who obtains this archive holds the scientific justification for the program, the procurement anomalies that complicate that justification, and the original behavioral profiles that Okafor does not have access to.

Administrative Cover. Fenwick's reclassification of the Menagerie incident remains in place unless he revokes it or someone with equal or higher administrative authority files an override. Operators who can access GCOA administrative systems (OPINT 4+ with appropriate access) can find the reclassification record. Finding it does not automatically resolve the situation. It creates the mechanism for resolution.

Cornered. Revokes the reclassification and files the original incident report accurately. The research program becomes formally visible. The procurement anomalies become visible. Okafor's false operational report becomes visible. All three become visible simultaneously because the administrative chain between them is a single document trail. Fenwick does this not out of conscience but out of the calculation that a controlled disclosure is less damaging than an uncontrolled one. He times it carefully.

INTEL NOTE. Fenwick's three active research programs include one that connects to Sorokina's cohort drift research (Chapter 2): an orbital behavioral adaptation study using gene-forged baseline data. He commissioned the study through the same procurement channel that funded the Menagerie program. Sorokina does not know her data has been contributing to an orbital study. The connection, when surfaced, completes a chain that runs from the Siberian gene-forging sub-facility to the Traveler's Menagerie. The operators are the only entity positioned to see the whole chain.

BIOLOGIST KENJI REEVE

IDEOLOGUE

The eight-month observation record is the most significant biological dataset in forty-two years of orbital operation. He has not shared it with Captain Okafor because sharing it changes everything, and he is still deciding what "everything changing" should mean before it changes.

Kenji Reeve is thirty-nine years old, UNSO Traveler chief biologist, and the person who first documented the Traveler's outer hull ecosystem's recent behavioral shift. The shift is not in the Field Ecology's High Ground chapter, which covers the documented fauna. It is in eight months of Reeve's private observation: the outer hull's *Canis Orbitalis* population has stopped operating as a distributed pack and started operating as a coordinated network. The Pack organisms across the hull's three major segments have demonstrated synchronized behavioral responses to stimuli that should not be detectable across the physical distance separating the segments. They are communicating in a way that Reeve's models cannot account for using any known mechanism.

His hypothesis, which he has not written down because writing it down is the first step toward it being either confirmed or dismissed, is that the Pack organisms have developed a communication method that uses the ship's hull structure as a transmission medium. If correct, this is the first documented case of a terrestrial organism adapting to use artificial infrastructure as a biological communication system. The implications extend from orbital biology to every gene-forged program that has been running modified pack organisms in built environments for twenty years.

He has not told Okafor because telling Okafor creates an obligation to report to UNSO command, and UNSO command's response to "the gene-forged pack organisms on our hull have developed an anomalous communication system" is a standard aberrant containment protocol that would treat the Pack as a threat rather than as what Reeve believes they are: evidence of something genuinely new.

STAT // SH00T Bad (6+) / FIGHT Bad (6+) / TACT Ord (4+) / OPINT Gd (2+) / GUTS Ord (4+) / MOBI 5" / AR 0 / 2 FW / 1 MW

Behavioral Database. Reeve's eight months of hull observation constitutes the most accurate behavioral profile of the Traveler Pack available. Any operator preparing for hull operations gains: full behavioral prediction for the outer hull population (two rounds advance), Pack communication pattern data (sufficient to predict coordinated responses before they occur), and Reeve's working hypothesis about the communication mechanism (which provides an alternative to the standard aberrant containment approach).

Scientific Method. Once per mission, Reeve can make an OPINT assessment of any biological system and provide a correct behavioral prediction for the next D3 rounds. This requires him to be present and observing. He will not go into active combat zones to observe. He will go into anything short of that.

Cornered. Submits the observation record. He has been holding it back waiting for certainty he has not found and will not find without more data. If the situation requires him to choose between protecting the data and protecting the people around him, he chooses the people. He puts the observation record into the UNSO science transmission queue and continues operating. The findings go to every BAFO and UNSO research institution simultaneously. The consequences for the Pack population, for Okafor's already complicated situation, and for twenty years of orbital gene-forged program research are for the table to determine.

INTEL NOTE. Reeve's hypothesis about hull-infrastructure communication connects to Yingxi's unauthorized Amaterasu communications (Chapter 4), which Yingxi traced to a frequency signature associated with the Traveler's outer hull relay. If Reeve's hypothesis is correct, the Pack organisms may be the transmission medium for whatever communication is occurring between Sub-4 and the Traveler. This connection, if confirmed, rewrites the research context for both Yingxi's situation and Reeve's findings simultaneously. The operators are the only entity that can be in both territories.

CONNECTION NOTE

Okafor's containment depends on Fenwick's administrative reclassification remaining in place. Fenwick's reclassification depends on the research program's value remaining defensible. Reeve's findings could make the research program more valuable than Fenwick's original justification — or they could trigger the

aberrant containment protocol that makes the entire program unjustifiable. Reeve does not know about Fenwick's reclassification. Okafor does not know about Reeve's observations. Fenwick does not know that the observations exist. All three are managing their own part of the same situation.

The Traveler is the point where multiple campaign threads converge: Yingxi's unauthorized communications, the Distributor's unexplained behavior, Sorokina's cohort drift, and whatever the Pack is doing with the hull structure. The GM who has been placing these threads across multiple sessions knows what the convergence means. The operators who reach the Traveler are the first people in a position to ask the question that all of it is pointing toward.

Build to this. Let the operators arrive ready.

10/

REFERENCE & GM TABLES

The full roster. The connection web. The tables.

QUICK REFERENCE & GM TABLES

STAT REFERENCE: ALL NAMED PERSONNEL

The following table lists every named antagonist and NPC in this catalog with their core stat line and primary role. Use it for rapid deployment when a character appears unexpectedly — or when the operators go somewhere you did not plan.

NAME	TYPE	SHT	FGT	TCT	OPI	GTS	MOB	AR	FW	MW
Elena Kirova	HANDLER	6+	6+	2+	2+	2+	4"	1	3	1
Vasil Dorenko	WARLORD	2+	2+	2+	4+	2+	6"	2	4	2
Nadia Sorokina	ARCHI- TECT	6+	6+	4+	2+	4+	4"	0	2	1
Aleksander Marta	DEFECTOR	2+	2+	4+	4+	2+	7"	1	3	2
Tariq Al-Masri	IDEO- LOGUE	6+	6+	2+	2+	2+	4"	0	2	1
Hana Kessler	BROKER	4+	4+	4+	2+	2+	5"	1	3	1
Col. Emre Ozturk	COM- MANDER	4+	4+	2+	2+	2+	5"	1	3	1
Dr. Chen Yingxi	ARCHI- TECT	6+	6+	4+	2+	2+	4"	0	2	1
Director Park Jinhyo	OLIGARCH	6+	6+	2+	4+	2+	4"	1	3	1
Kurosawa Renji	COM- MANDER	2+	2+	2+	4+	2+	6"	2	4	2
Celia Worth	BROKER	4+	4+	2+	2+	2+	5"	0	2	1
Director Mhende	OLIGARCH	6+	6+	4+	4+	2+	4"	1	2	1
Rook	OPERAT- IVE	4+	4+	2+	2+	2+	6"	0	3	1
Capt. Seren Adeola	COM- MANDER	2+	2+	2+	4+	2+	6"	2	4	2
Gen. Amara Seku	WARLORD	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	6"	2	5	2
Fatima El-Amin	IDEO- LOGUE	6+	6+	4+	2+	2+	4"	0	2	1
Marcus Theis	HANDLER	4+	4+	2+	2+	4+	5"	0	2	1
Adjoa Amponsah	COM- MANDER	6+	6+	4+	4+	2+	5"	0	2	1

NAME	TYPE	SHT	FGT	TCT	OPI	GTS	MOB	AR	FW	MW
Dir. Santiago Melo	ARCHITECT	6+	6+	4+	2+	4+	4"	0	2	1
Capt. Yuna Basz	COMMANDER	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	6"/9"	2	4	2
The Distributor	BROKER	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leila Nassif	OPERATIVE	2+	2+	4+	4+	2+	8"	1	3	2
Eleanor Calderwood	OLIGARCH	6+	6+	4+	2+	2+	4"	1	3	1
Dray	OPERATIVE	2+	2+	2+	4+	2+	6"	2	4	2
Dr. Lian Zhao	ARCHITECT	6+	6+	4+	2+	4+	4"	0	2	1
Insp. Vera Calloway	COMMANDER	2+	2+	2+	2+	2+	6"	2	4	2
Capt. Sera Okafor	COMMANDER	4+	4+	2+	2+	2+	5"	1	3	2
Director Fenwick	ARCHITECT	6+	6+	4+	2+	4+	4"	0	2	1
Biologist Kenji Reeve	IDEOLOGUE	6+	6+	4+	2+	4+	5"	0	2	1

THE CONNECTION WEB

Named individuals who share prior relationships, overlapping objectives, or access to the same critical information. Use this table to build mission-linking tissue without manufactured coincidence.

Nodes with cross-territory connections:

The Distributor connects: Calderwood Foundation (NAF West), Nassif/Sons Pacific operation (Java Scatter), Dray's supply chain (NAF West via Amponsah), Kurosawa's commercial licensing chain (PRC). The Distributor is the single most connected node in the catalog. Following the Distributor's client list is a full campaign.

Clearance Point 9 connects: Kirova (built the system that enabled it), Dorenko (survivor, building accountability file), Marta (listed as killed, building parallel accountability), Blocking Agent thread from FEAR NONE campaign. This event is the unresolved thread in the Eurasian Steppes entries.

Amaterasu Commercial Licensing connects: Yingxi (architect, managing the situation), Kurosawa (investigating the chain), Basz (documented two council members in the chain), Fenwick (research program connects to same contractor network). This chain runs from Sub-4 to the Scatter to the GCOA.

Mycorrhizal Network connects: Melo (built it), Calderwood (funding it), Zhao (documented the failure), Nassif (enabled early SCA transit logistics), Al-Masri (Shatter Belt agricultural zone monitoring discovered independently).

Gene-Forged Cohort Drift connects: Sorokina (documenting the drift), Amponsah (treating the patients), Fenwick (running orbital behavioral study on the same data), Reeve (observing the outcome in Pack organisms).

Medical Supply Chain connects: Amponsah (Saharan oasis), Dray (NAF West), The Distributor (routing infrastructure), Nassif (Sons logistical network enables transit).

D12: THE CONTACT YOU DIDN'T PLAN FOR

When operators are in a new territory and establish contact with an unplanned local source, roll D12 and deploy the result.

ROLL	CONTACT TYPE	OPENING LINE	WHAT THEY WANT
1	Former gene-forged operator, deregistered	"I know what you are. I used to be it."	Extraction route that doesn't go through any faction medical record
2	Faction archivist, off-record	"I've seen this pattern before. 2061. The file was closed by someone who shouldn't have had clearance."	The operators to take the document somewhere it can't be recalled
3	Independent medic, no affiliation	"Sit down. You're carrying more than you think."	Payment in supply components. Not money. Doesn't use money.
4	Local community leader, community unnamed	"The factions think this territory is empty. You can see it isn't."	The operators to not make the mistake the last contractors made
5	Faction defector, three months out	"I don't know who I can trust yet. You're here. That's the calculation I made."	Somewhere to sleep and a contact that doesn't go back to the faction
6	Black-market logistics runner, Distributor-adjacent	"I don't know who you're working for. I don't ask. Here's what I can move."	Standard rate. Paid in advance. No exceptions.
7	Academic researcher, cover intact	"The field work is real. So is the other thing. I've been doing both long enough that I'm not sure which one I do first."	Someone who can confirm the research findings without triggering a formal review
8	Retired faction commander, local now	"I've watched six contractor teams come through here. You're the first ones who looked like you knew where you were going."	Nothing specific. A conversation, maybe. She'll decide what she wants from it.
9	Community medic, third-generation resident	"Whatever you brought in with you, I've seen it before. Some of it I can treat."	Medical supplies that she can't source through official channels

ROLL	CONTACT TYPE	OPENING LINE	WHAT THEY WANT
10	Void Walker independent, lost the cell	"The cell's gone. I'm not. I'm working on the difference between those two facts."	A destination that isn't back the way they came
11	Sons of the Serpent liaison, authorized contact	"Al-Masri sent me. He says you're asking the right questions. He wants to know what you do with the answers."	The operators to understand the water systems context before they decide what they're doing here
12	The Distributor's representative	"Someone you've been looking for sent me. Or someone you haven't looked for yet. The difference doesn't matter right now."	Something the operators have that the Distributor's client list needs. They don't know what it is yet.

D10: WHAT THIS PERSON HAS THAT THEY DIDN'T MENTION

Roll when a named contact has been in play for two or more sessions and the operators have not yet discovered the full picture.

ROLL	HIDDEN ASSET
1	A record of the operators' activities in this territory that predates their arrival
2	A relationship with one other named NPC in this catalog that neither has disclosed
3	A physical copy of a document that one faction has been trying to eliminate for three years
4	A gene-forged relative, operative, or patient whose situation connects to the campaign's primary thread
5	Knowledge of a Clearance Point-equivalent event in this territory that was closed the same way
6	A Distributor contact they have never used and are waiting to use correctly
7	A medical or behavioral condition that affects their reliability in ways they have learned to manage
8	The other side of a negotiation that involved Rook and has not been closed
9	A prepared exit from their current position that they have not used because leaving requires acknowledging the situation is not recoverable
10	The name of the Blocking Agent's contact in this territory

D8: THE CORNERED RESPONSE YOU DIDN'T EXPECT

Roll when a named antagonist is in a cornered situation and the table wants something beyond their documented Cornered response.

ROLL	RESPONSE
1	Releases information they have been holding to a third party, not the operators – who then act on it before the operators can
2	Asks a specific question about the operators' mandate that they have no diplomatic answer to
3	Offers to take the operators to the one location in the territory that changes the context of everything that has happened in the session
4	Goes entirely quiet. Waits. Has made the calculation that silence is more useful than anything else available.
5	Names someone the operators have not yet encountered who will resolve this situation faster than the operators can
6	Produces the physical object that has been the operational MacGuffin of the current mission, places it on the table between them, and does not touch it
7	Says the thing they have not said in any prior encounter and will not say again: the actual reason they are doing what they are doing, in one sentence
8	Does exactly what their Cornered entry says. First time, it lands differently than expected.

TERRA CONFLICTUS: PERSONS OF INTEREST

Named Antagonists and NPCs by Territory.

GM Supplement. Companion to the Field Ecology Catalog.

Operator Tactics Core Book required.

Typography: Archivo Narrow / IBM Plex Sans / IBM Plex Mono / Newsreader.
Color system: Splice Punk x TDR. Paper: #F0EEE9. Ink: #1A1A1A. Accent: #C45D2E.

// EARTH 2066 / EIGHT TERRITORIES + ORBITAL / 29 NAMED CHARACTERS //

// GM SUPPLEMENT |

DEBRIEF / WHAT THIS BOOK IS

| CLR: GM-LEVEL

01

BRIEF

PG 1

THE PROGRAMS BUILT SOLDIERS. THE PEOPLE BEHIND THEM BUILT SOMETHING HARDER TO FIGHT.

Terra Conflictus: Persons of Interest is the GM's named-character companion to the Field Ecology Catalog. Where the Field Ecology covers what the world became, Persons of Interest covers who runs it: the warlords, handlers, brokers, ideologues, architects, and operatives who shape each territory's operational environment from behind the faction structure.

29 fully-voiced named characters across eight ground territories and the High Ground. Each entry includes full stat blocks, operational abilities, cornered responses, and cross-territory connection threads for campaign-scale play.

Operator Tactics Core Book required. Compatible with all OT game modes: RPG, Skirmish, and Iron Line.

02

SPECS

GM SUPPLEMENT

CHARACTERS

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NAMED CATALOG

CHAPTERS

10

INTRO + 8 ZONES + REF

TERRITORIES

8+1

GROUND + ORBITAL

03

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GM ONLY
NOT FOR PLAYERS

TYPE TAGS

- WARLORD
- HANDLER
- BROKER
- IDEOLOGUE
- ARCHITECT
- COMMANDER

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