



The Phoenix Circle's Guide to



ISSUE 10
INVASION

Special Double-Sized "Because Chase Is Insane" Edition

WWW.CITYOFHEROES.COM

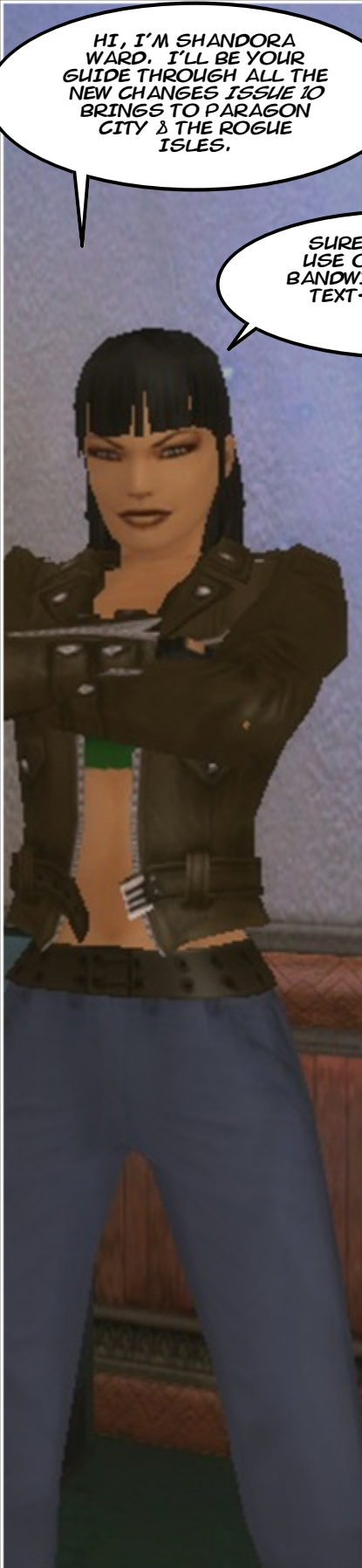






[ADMINIWARNING: Rikti ships have been detected heading for Steel Canyon.]





HI, I'M SHANDORA WARD. I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE THROUGH ALL THE NEW CHANGES ISSUE 10 BRINGS TO PARAGON CITY & THE ROGUE ISLES.

SURE, YOU COULD USE ONE OF THOSE BANDWIDTH-FRIENDLY TEXT-BASED FORUM GUIDES

OR THE PEERLESS PARAGON WIKI



...OR THE AWESOME FAN SITES LIKE VIDYOTMAPS OR BADGE-HUNTER.COM,

BUT SINCE THIS IS A SUPERHERO-THEMED MMO, CHASE WANTED TO TRY SOMETHING CLOSER TO A SUPERHERO COMIC.

OF COURSE, HE THEN SELECTS ME AS A HOSTESS- SOMEONE THAT RATES BARELY ABOVE "JEAN GREY" ON THE "SUPER-SOUNDING NAME" CHART,

...NOT TO MENTION MY LACK OF A REAL SUPERHEROINE COSTUME



THAT'S CHASE.

A FEW BERRIES SHORT OF A FRUIT SALAD.

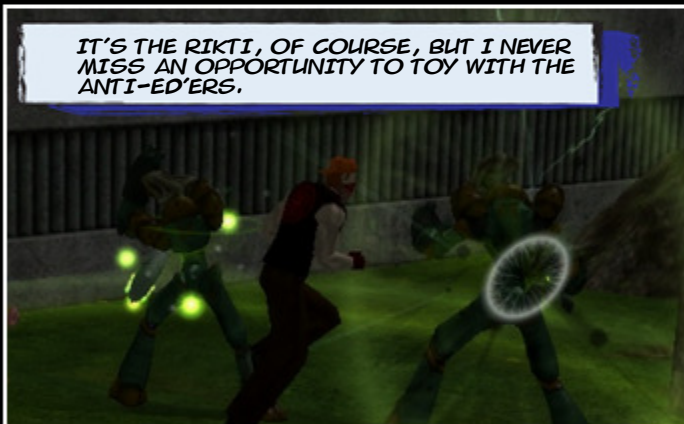


ISSUE 10 FOCUSES ON THE RETURN OF MANKIND'S GREATEST THREAT.



DEPENDING ON WHO YOU ASK, THATS COULD BE "ENHANCEMENT DIVERSIFICATION 2", ODDITY MCHUGGINS, OR THE RIKTI.

MY MONEY'S ON ANOTHER SEASON OF "THE SIMPLE LIFE"



IT'S THE RIKTI, OF COURSE, BUT I NEVER MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TOY WITH THE ANTI-ED'ERS.

AND IF YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ODDITY, WELL, CONSIDER YOURSELF BLESSED.

CENSORED FOR YOUR OWN GOOD

YES, THE RIKTI ARE BACK IN A BIG WAY, WITH A NEW LOOK, A WORLDWIDE EVENT, A REVAMPED ZONE, AND A NEW TASK FORCE ALL DEDICATED TO THEM.

TO SKIP AHEAD AND READ ABOUT THE DIFFERENT FEATURES, CHECK BELOW:

- A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON:** 7
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STORY BY CHASE ARCANUM.

SCREENSHOTS BY CHASE ARCANUM & CINDER FLAME, UNLESS OTHERWISE CREDITED.

EDITING BY THE ENTIRE COH COMMUNITY. YES, CORRECTING CHASE'S GRAMMAR IS A REALLY BIG TASK. SPECIAL THANKS TO: PETERPETER, BLUEEYED, HUMAN_BEING, GREYDOG, LADY_ATHYNA, AND THE DEADLYSHOE.

ALL THE REALLY USEFUL INFO CAME FROM THE ISSUE 10 BETA TESTERS, THE CITY OF HEROES OFFICIAL COMMUNITY, BADGE-HUNTER.COM, VIDIOTMAPS.COM, AND PARAGONWIKI.COM

GAME & ISSUE CONTENT BY THE GOOD FOLKS AT NCISOFT AND CRYPTIC STUDIOS, OF COURSE.

CAMEO APPEARANCE BY RIAN FROSTRAKE IMPERSONATOR AND REFERENCES TO HUGS MCHIGGINS ARE DONE TOTALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION. DON'T WORRY, HE'LL DROP-KICK ME LATER



NOW, IF YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO FIGHT CRIME, YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER THE FIRST RIKTI INVASION.

I MEAN- WHO ON EARTH DIDN'T EXPERIENCE IT?



... UNLESS YOU'RE NOT FROM EARTH.



... OR AT LEAST THIS DIMENSION'S EARTH



... OR YOU'RE AN ANDROID THAT JUST GAINED SELF-AWARENESS...



... OR SOME ANCIENT ONE AWAKENING FROM A DEEP SLUMBER...



OR...

HECK, I HAVE NO CLUE HOW FAST CATGIRLS GROW UP, BUT MY CAT HAD KITTENS AT 2 YEARS OLD, SO IT MIGHT BE PRETTY DARN FAST



OK, AFTER A QUICK SURVEY OF BIOGRAPHIES AT THE TALOS ISLAND MONORAIL

I'M LEFT WONDERING IF ANYONE ON THE PLANET EVEN KNOWS THERE WAS A FIRST RIKTI WAR

A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON



TIME FOR A BRIEF HISTORY LESSON

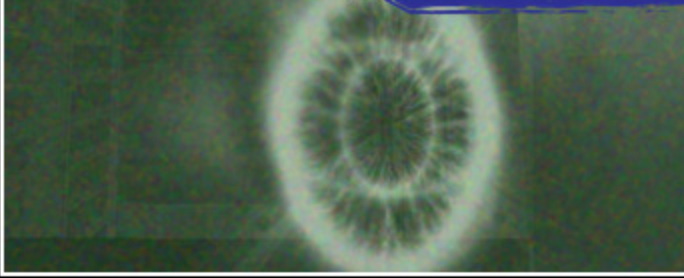
THERE WILL BE A TEST AT THE END



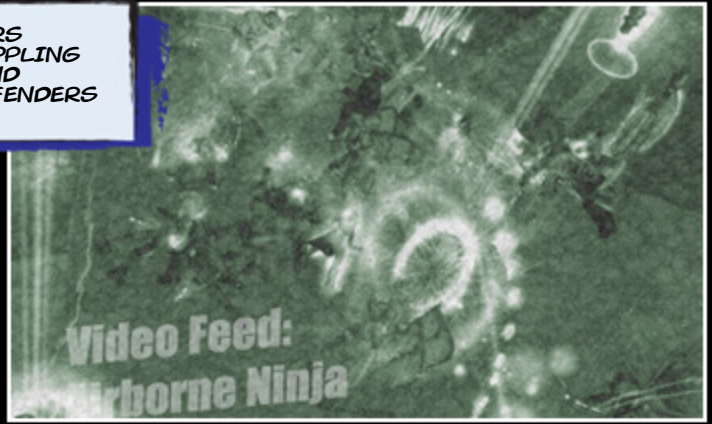
ON MAY 23, 2002, GLOWING RED LIGHTS APPEARED OVER PARAGON CITY.

PORTALS

AS NIGHT FELL, INVADERS FLOODED THE CITY, CRIPPLING ITS INFRASTRUCTURE AND OUTNUMBERING ITS DEFENDERS 100 TO 1.



Video Feed:
Airborne Ninja

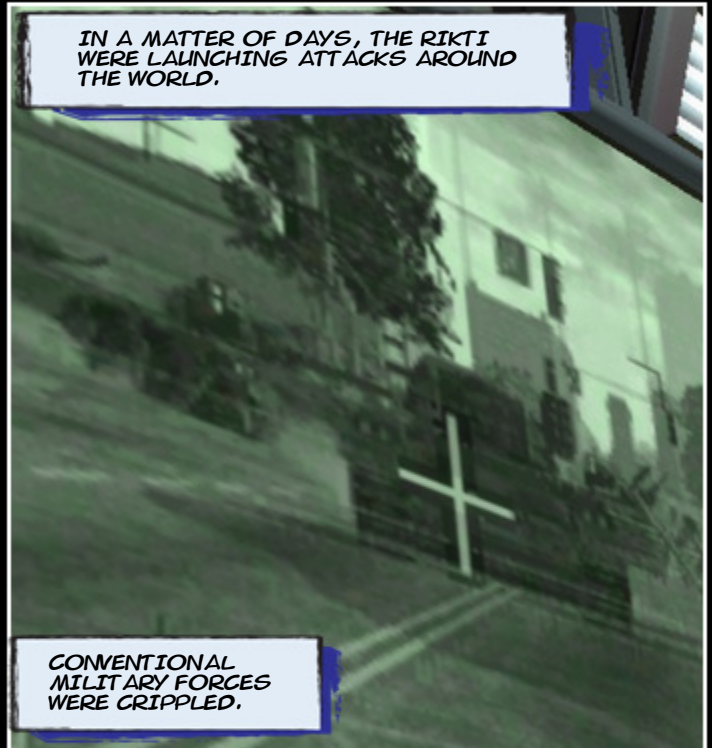


IN A MATTER OF DAYS, THE RIkti WERE LAUNCHING ATTACKS AROUND THE WORLD.

ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOODS - LIKE BALMINGTON - WERE DESTROYED.

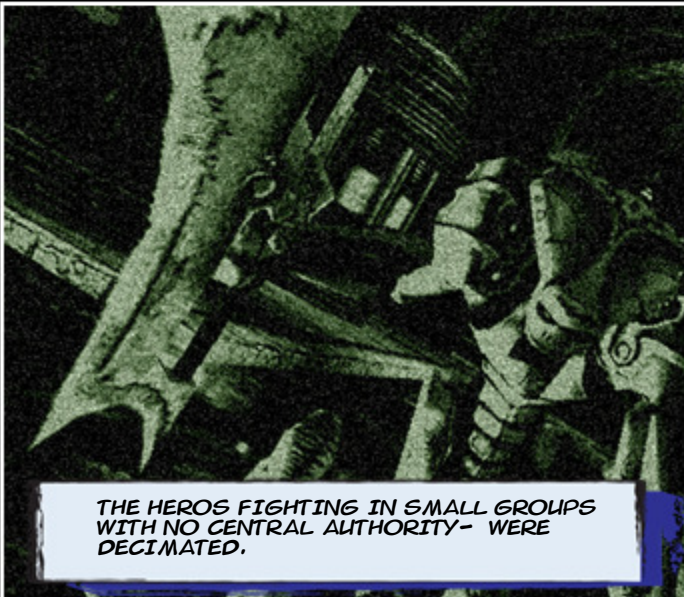


CONVENTIONAL MILITARY FORCES WERE CRIPPLED.



THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED THE VANGUARD - AN ELITE CORPS OF INTERNATIONAL SUPERS WITH LIMITLESS RESOURCES.

THE HEROES FIGHTING IN SMALL GROUPS WITH NO CENTRAL AUTHORITY - WERE DECIMATED.



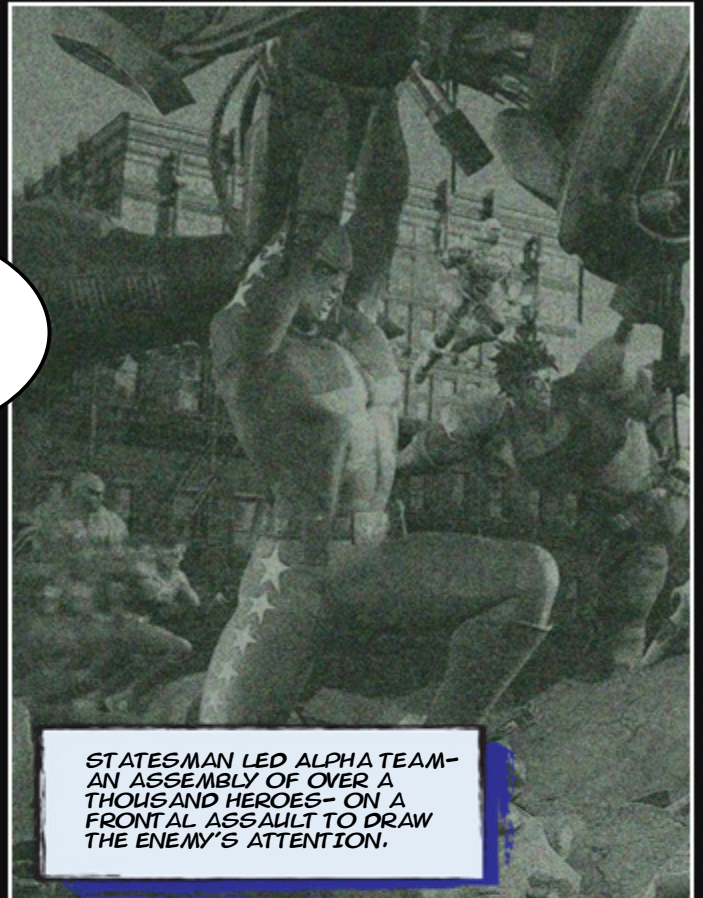
THEIR GOAL: TO COORDINATE THE HERO RESPONSES WORLDWIDE.



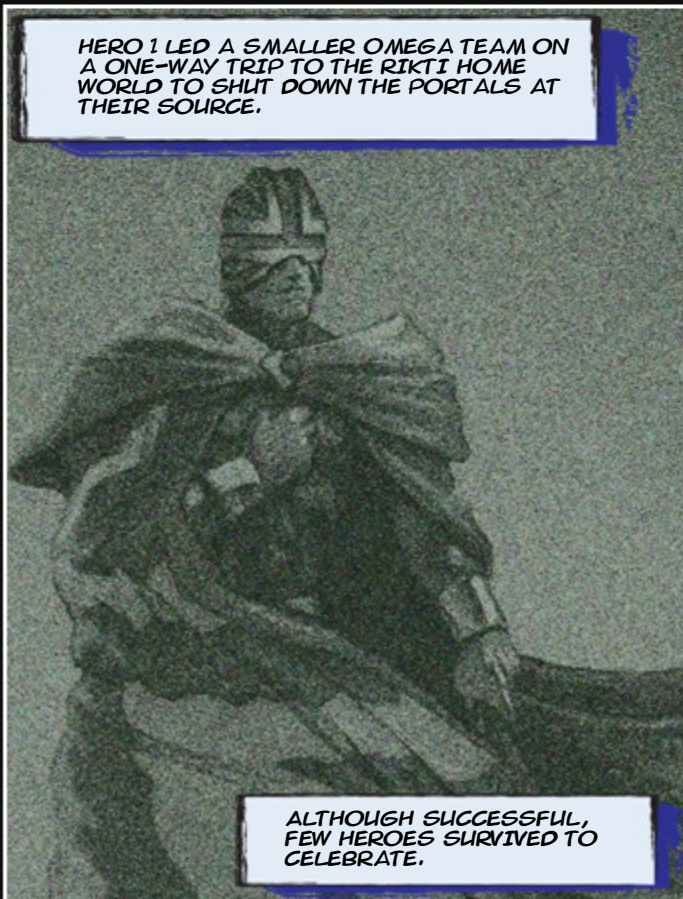


WHILE THEIR DEFENSE HELD, RIKTI REINFORCEMENTS KEPT COMING THROUGH THE PORTALS.

IN NOVEMBER 2002, VANGUARD ORGANIZED A TWO-PRONGED ATTACK TO CUT THE RIKTI ON EARTH OFF FROM RESUPPLY.

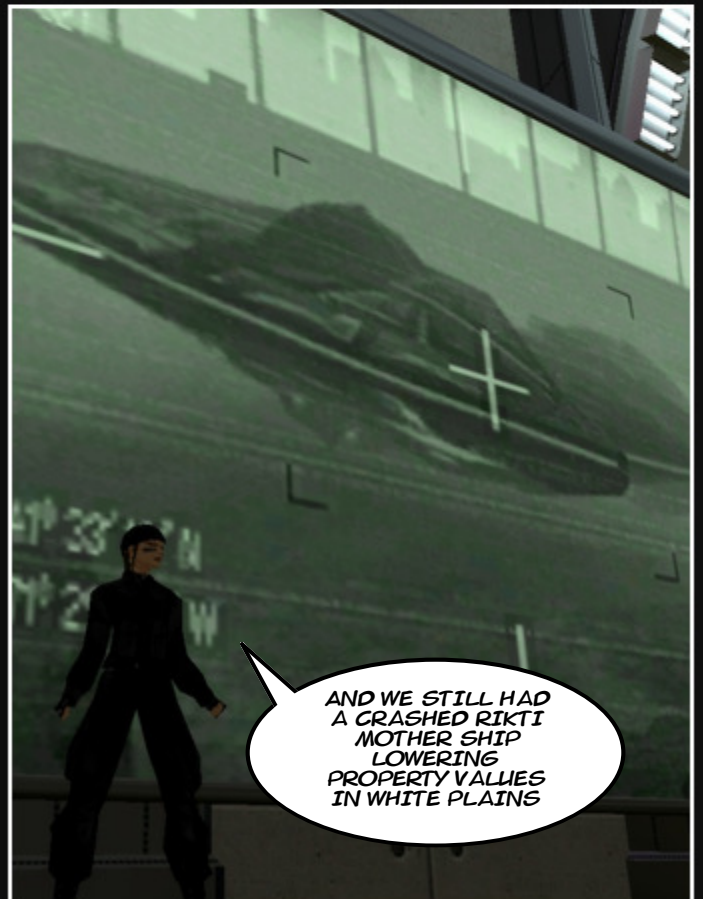


STATESMAN LED ALPHA TEAM- AN ASSEMBLY OF OVER A THOUSAND HEROES- ON A FRONTAL ASSAULT TO DRAW THE ENEMY'S ATTENTION.



HERO 1 LED A SMALLER OMEGA TEAM ON A ONE-WAY TRIP TO THE RIKTI HOME WORLD TO SHUT DOWN THE PORTALS AT THEIR SOURCE.

ALTHOUGH SUCCESSFUL, FEW HEROES SURVIVED TO CELEBRATE.



AND WE STILL HAD A CRASHED RIKTI MOTHER SHIP LOWERING PROPERTY VALUES IN WHITE PLAINS

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF LADY GREY, VANGUARD REBUILT.



WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF HAVING DEEP POCKETS IF YOU DON'T USE THEM?



THEY CONTINUE TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT GLOBAL THREAT- AND KEEP PUBLIC AWARENESS UP SO WE KEEP PAYING THEIR BILLS.

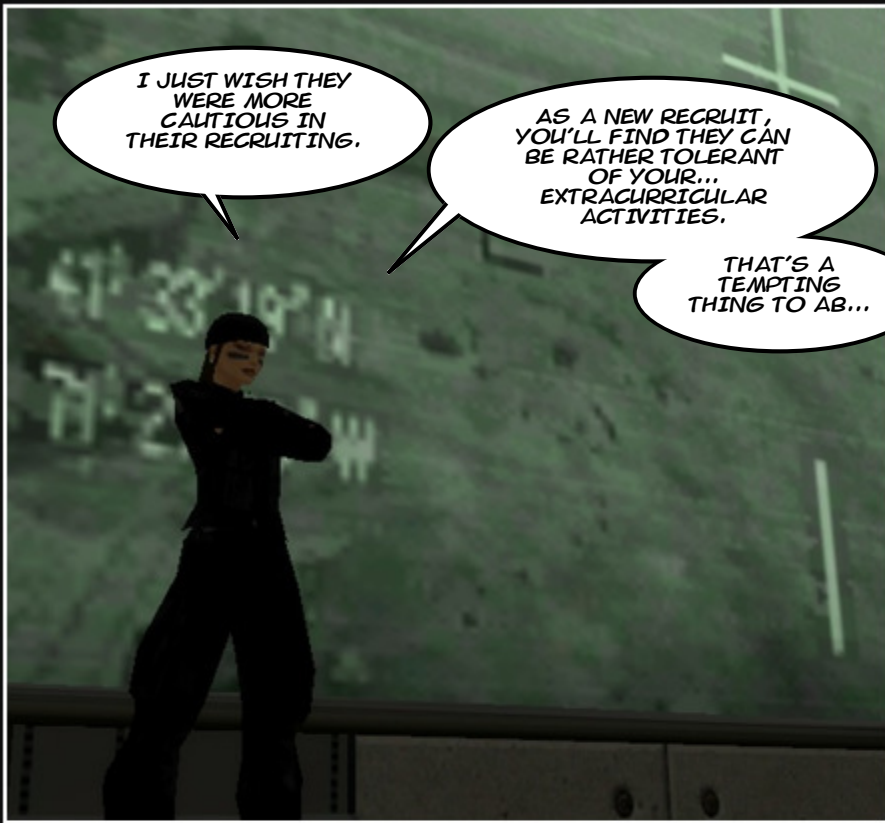


THE BILLBOARDS YOU SEE AROUND THE CITY ARE PART OF THEIR PR (PARANOIA AND REVENUE) CAMPAIGN.



A LITTLE XENOPHOBIC, MAYBE, BUT CAN YOU BLAME THEM?

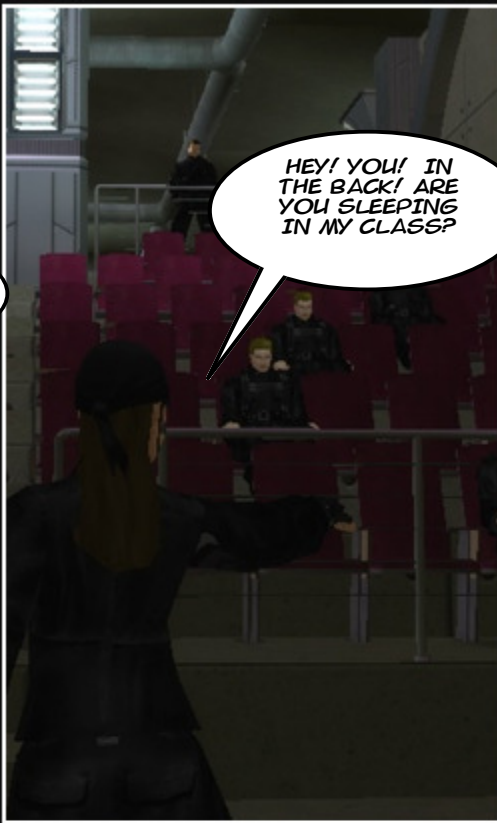
IF THE FATE OF THE WORLD RESTED ON YOUR SHOULDERS, YOU WOULD BE A LITTLE CAUTIOUS TOO.



I JUST WISH THEY WERE MORE CAUTIOUS IN THEIR RECRUITING.

AS A NEW RECRUIT, YOU'LL FIND THEY CAN BE RATHER TOLERANT OF YOUR... EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

THAT'S A TEMPTING THING TO AB...



HEY! YOU! IN THE BACK! ARE YOU SLEEPING IN MY CLASS?



DROP AND GIMME TWENTY!

SO... TWENTY'S EASY FOR YOU?



I GUESS IT WOULD BE WITH ALL..

..WITH ALL THOSEMUSCLES



OH... M...

THAT'S IT. YOU'RE STAYING AFTER CLASS, FOR ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN?

PHONE NUMBER?

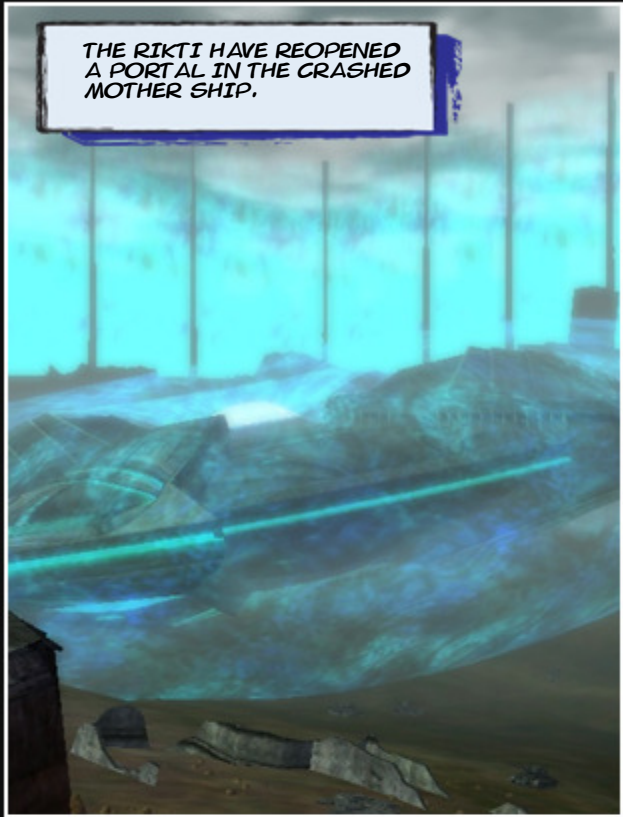


WHERE WAS I? OH YEAH- BE CAREFUL- IT'S VERY EASY TO ABUSE YOUR AUTHORITY.

CLASS DISMISSED



OK. ENOUGH HISTORY. WHERE ARE WE NOW?



THE RIKTI HAVE REOPENED A PORTAL IN THE CRASHED MOTHER SHIP.



THEY'RE ALREADY SHUTTLING OVER NEW GEAR, NEW RESOURCES, AND EVEN DESTROYERS BETTER DESIGNED TO BATTLE THE SUPER POWERED.



THEY'RE COMING OVER IN A BIG WAY,

AND AGAIN, IT'S UP TO VANGUARD-

AND YOU-



TO PUSH THEM BACK.



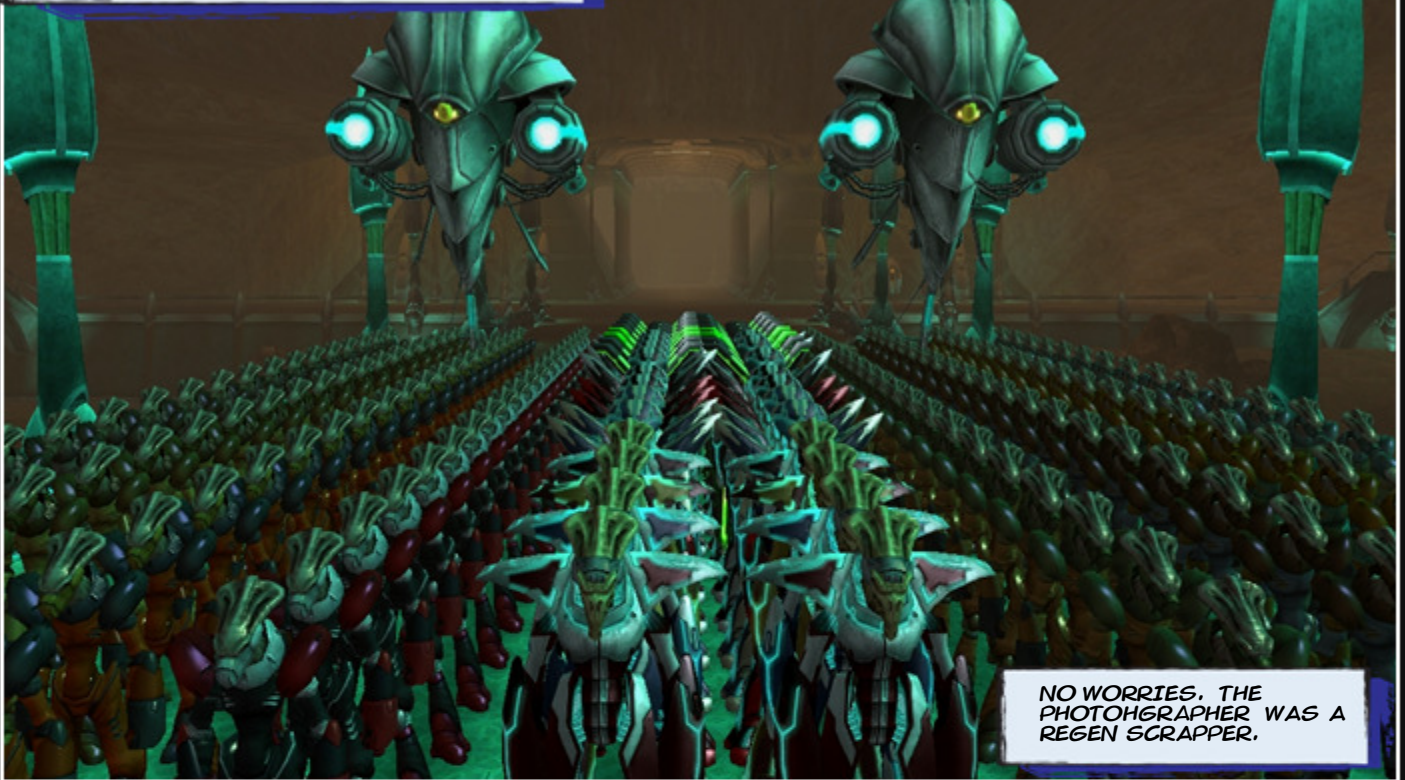
*DID I MENTION THE ART UPGRADE? CHECK OUT THE NEW RIKTI LOOK!

THE RIKTI'S NEW LOOK



SPECIAL THANKS TO _SPARKY_ FOR ALL THE GREAT SCREENSHOTS. MY VIDEO CARD SEETHES IN ENVY.

THIS SHOT REPRESENTS THE TYPICAL SPAWN SIZE A SOLO PLAYER RUNNING ON "HEROIC" (OR "VILLAINOUS") CAN EXPECT.



NO WORRIES. THE PHOTOGRAPHER WAS A REGEN SCRAPPER.

THE NEW RIKTI SWORD-BLASTER



KRAK'DIL D'ONDI:
KNIFE: NOT THAT
KNIFE: THIS IS

THE RIKTI'VE BEEN BUSY
WITH SOME HOME
CONSTRUCTION

THIS TILESET COURTESY
OF THE RIKTI CABLE SHOW
SPACES:TRADING.

THEY'RE PROMOTING THEIR
UPCOMING "OMEGA TEAM
SPECIAL"

I HEAR THE RIKTI
REALLY DIDN'T LIKE
SOME OF THE OTHER
TEAM'S REDECORATING
CHOICES

ZONE INVASIONS



YOUR FIRST CHANCE TO SEE THE NEW RIKTI LOOK WILL LIKELY BE THE "INVASION" LAUNCH EVENT.



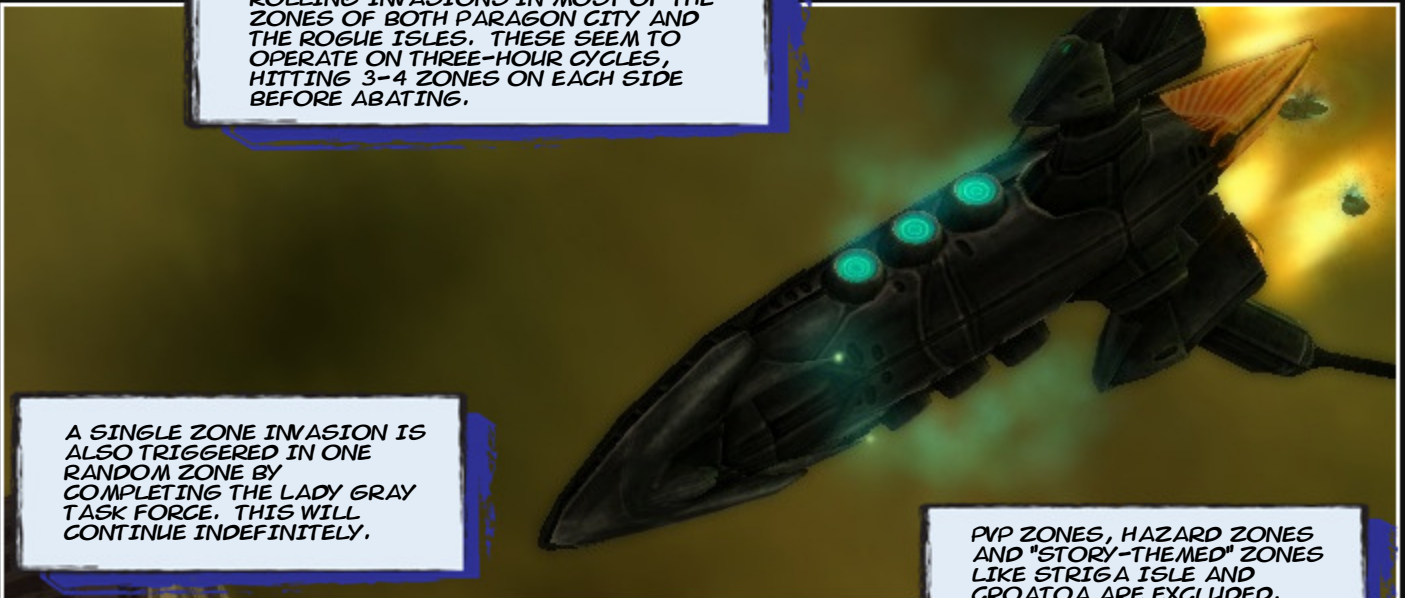
RIKTI DESTROYERS FLY OVER A ZONE, BOMB THE HECK OUT OF IT, THEN DROP IN INFANTRY FORCES TO TRY TO HOLD THE GROUND.

YOUR JOB: DESTROY ANY UNEXPLODED BOMBS AND CONVINCE THE RIKTI THAT STICKING AROUND ISN'T A GOOD IDEA.



DURING THE EVENT, THERE WILL BE ROLLING INVASIONS IN MOST OF THE ZONES OF BOTH PARAGON CITY AND THE ROGUE ISLES. THESE SEEM TO OPERATE ON THREE-HOUR CYCLES, HITTING 3-4 ZONES ON EACH SIDE BEFORE ABATING.

A SINGLE ZONE INVASION IS ALSO TRIGGERED IN ONE RANDOM ZONE BY COMPLETING THE LADY GRAY TASK FORCE. THIS WILL CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.



PVP ZONES, HAZARD ZONES AND "STORY-THEMED" ZONES LIKE STRIGA ISLE AND CROATO A ARE EXCLUDED.

UNLIKE PREVIOUS ZONE INVASIONS, YOU WON'T FIND YOURSELF FACING SPAWNS OF GREYS IN THE LOWER-LEVEL ZONES OR INSANELY IMPOSSIBLE SPAWNS IN THE HIGHER LEVEL ZONES.



BATTLE FOOTAGE COURTESY OF AIRBORNE_NINJA

ALL THESE RIKTI USE THE SAME TECH THE DEVS USE FOR "GIANT MONSTER SCALING." THIS MODIFIES THE DAMAGE DONE AND RECEIVED APPROPRIATELY SO LOWER AND HIGHER LEVELS CAN FIGHT SIDE-BY-SIDE, EACH STILL EXPERIENCING A REASONABLE CHALLENGE.



GIVEN HOW OFTEN I TASTE PAVEMENT IN GIANT MONSTER BATTLES, THIS BRINGS A SECOND VERY IMPORTANT POINT TO LIGHT:

DURING THE ZONE INVASION, THERE IS NO XP DEBT FOR ANY DEATH IN THAT ZONE.



YOUR FIRST SIGN THAT SOMETHING BAD IS COMING YOUR WAY IS THE ADMIN MESSAGE.

[ADMIN] WARNING: Rikti ships have been detected heading for Izone!

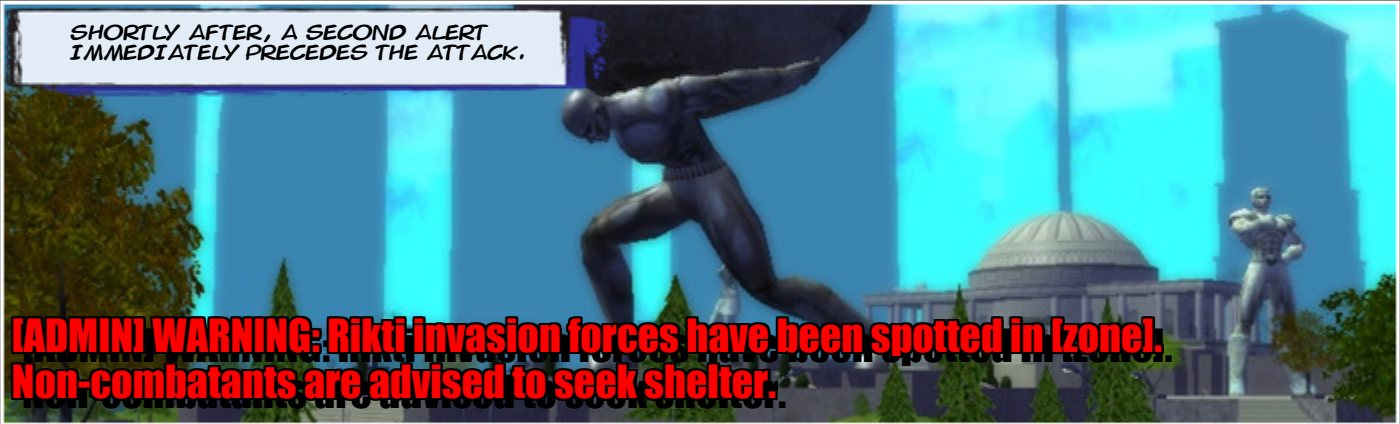


THIS LETS YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO TO IF YOU'RE ITCHING FOR A FIGHT OR GIVES YOU ENOUGH WARNING TO GET THE HECK OUT OF DODGE.



SHORTLY AFTER, A SECOND ALERT IMMEDIATELY PRECEDES THE ATTACK.

[ADMIN] WARNING: Rikti invasion forces have been spotted in Izone. Non-combatants are advised to seek shelter.



WHEN THE BATTLE'S OVER, A FINAL ADMIN MESSAGE ANNOUNCES THE RIKTI RETREAT

[ADMIN] ALERT CANCELLED: The Rikti have retreated from Izone!

WHY AM I SHOWING YOU THE SAME SCREEN 4 FRAMES IN A ROW?

CONDITIONING.

IMAGINE YOUR FRAMERATE WHEN 200 HEROES ALL CLUSTER AT THE MONORAIL

IF I DIDN'T PREPARE YOU NOW, THE LAG WOULD DRIVE YOU INSANE.



NOW SOME HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT THE USE OF THE ADMIN CHANNEL FOR THIS ALERT,

THEY'RE SAYING THAT IT ISN'T VERY IMMERSIVE OR IN-CHARACTER.



WHAT THESE PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND IS THAT THE CHANNEL IS IN-CHARACTER

ADMIN IS AN ACRONYM FOR THE "AIR DEFENSE MULTINATIONAL INFORMATION NETWORK."

SEE? IMMERSION ISSUE SOLVED!



OH... THAT "SERVER SHUTDOWN" MESSAGE THAT ADMIN GIVES OUT?

WELL... IT'S... UHH... A CODED MESSAGE, KINDA LIKE THOSE HIDDEN IN WARTIME RADIO BROADCASTS:



"THE CHAIR IS IN THE CORNER. THE CHAIR IS IN THE CORNER."

THE SERVER IS SHUTTING DOWN. REPEAT THE SERVER IS SHUTTING DOWN. THAT IS ALL."



SEE? WE JUST ENCODED THE REALLY SENSITIVE DATA WHILE LEAVING THE LESS IMPORTANT STUFF...

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN TROOP MOVEMENT OR POTENTIAL ATTACKS?

...LIKE REPORTS OF ENEMY TROOP MOVEMENT AND PENDING ATTACKS ON CIVILIAN POPULATIONS... UNENCRYPTED.

IF YOU CAN'T READ THE CODE, THEN YOU DON'T HAVE THE NECESSARY CLEARANCE.

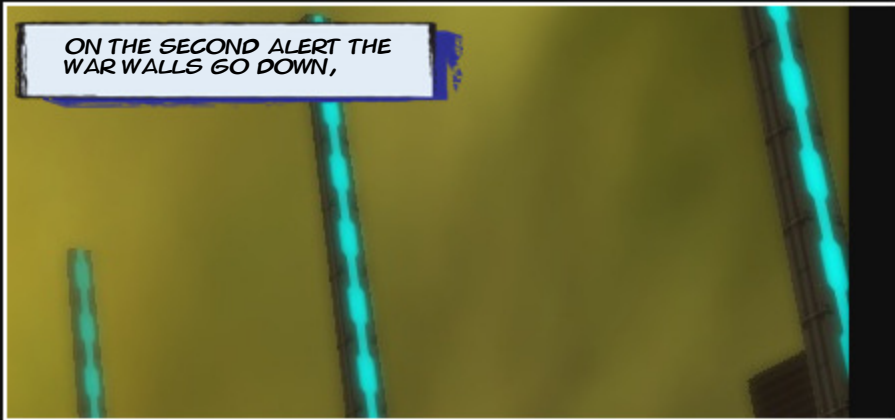
ALL I CAN SAY IS YOU'RE MISSING ONE HELLVA GOOD PARTY.



ON THE FIRST ALERT, THE SKY GROWS DARK WITH A GREENISH-YELLOW HUE.



ON THE SECOND ALERT THE WAR WALLS GO DOWN,

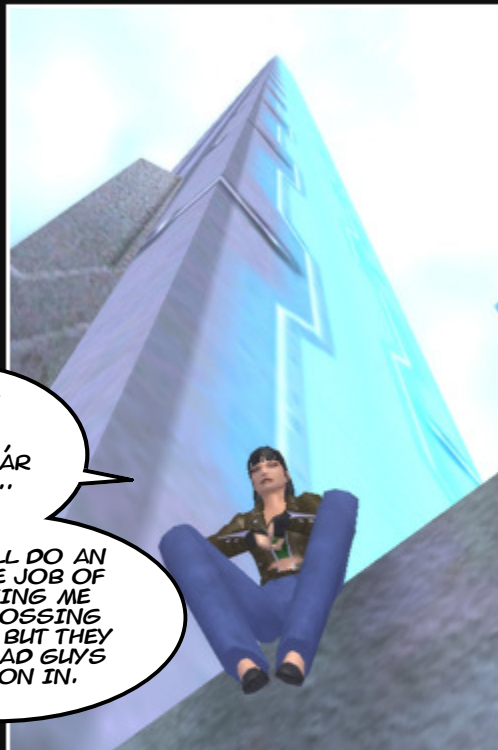


AND RIKI DESTROYERS ARRIVE.

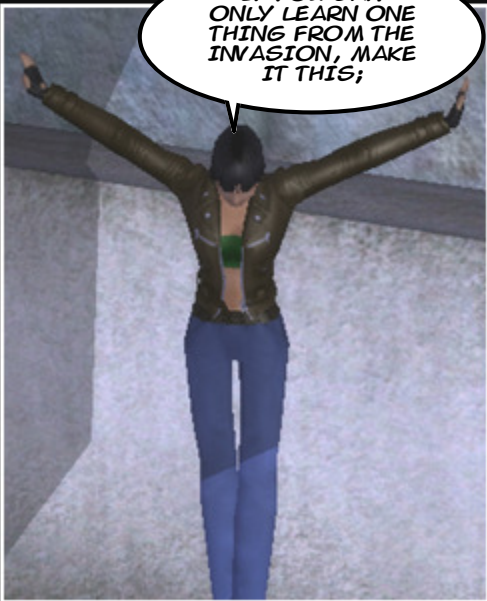


FUNNY THING ABOUT, THOSE WAR WALLS...

THEY STILL DO AN AWESOME JOB OF PREVENTING ME FROM CROSSING THE CITY, BUT THEY LET THE BAD GUYS RIGHT ON IN.



IF YOU CAN ONLY LEARN ONE THING FROM THE INVASION, MAKE IT THIS;



WHEN USING ALIEN TECHNOLOGY TO HOLD BACK ALIEN INVADERS

ASK YOURSELF "WHO WILL BE COVERING THE WARRANTY?"



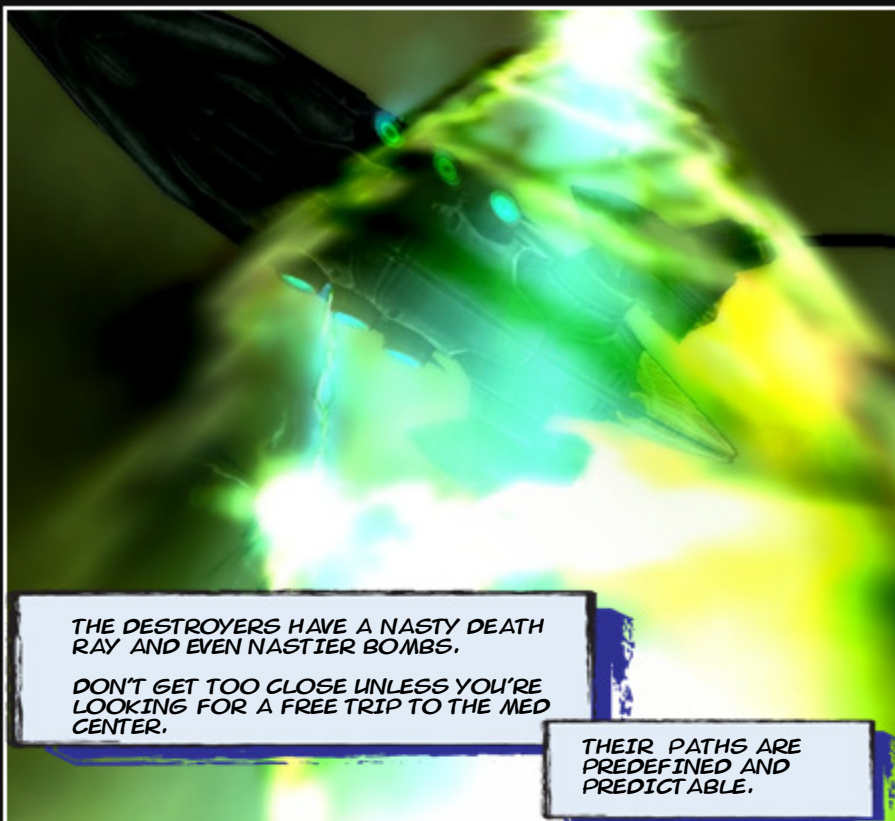
DURING THE FIRST WAVE, THE RIKTI BOMB THE HECK OUT OF THE ZONE.



THE DESTROYERS HAVE A NASTY DEATH RAY AND EVEN NASTIER BOMBS.

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE UNLESS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A FREE TRIP TO THE MED CENTER.

THEIR PATHS ARE PREDEFINED AND PREDICTABLE.



IT WOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO AVOID THEM ALTOGETHER EXCEPT YOU'LL FIND YOUR FIRST QUARRY DIRECTLY RIGHT UNDER THAT FLIGHT PATH.



SOME BOMBS DON'T EXPLODE ON IMPACT. THE DUDS... CALLED LXB'S ARE DAMAGED ON THE FALL BUT SELF-REPAIR OVER TIME.

THEIR DURABILITY AND RECOVERY IS EQUIVALENT TO AN ELITE BOSS.



KEEP AN EYE ON THE BOMB'S FLASHING LIGHT. BLUE= SAFE

YELLOW= MID HP

RED= NEARING FULL HEALTH. BOOM



CAN YA FIGURE OUT WHAT YOUR ROLE IN ALL THIS IS?

YEP. DON'T LET 'EM REACH FULL HEALTH.





NOW, SOME ARE CONCERNED THAT...

WELL... PUNCHING LXB'S MAY NOT BE THE MOST SENSIBLE WAY TO DEFUSE THEM.

BUT CHASE, A FORMER COMBAT ENGINEER, ASSURES ME THAT THIS IS SOUND MILITARY DOCTRINE.

HE CALLS IT THE "MARINE CORPS MINESWEEPER"



HE THEN PLUGS HIS EARS, CLOSES HIS EYES AND STOMPS ON THE GROUND TO DEMONSTRATE IT



I, MYSELF HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS ON DOING THAT JOKE.

NOT ONLY IS IT TOUGH TO DEMONSTRATE VISUALLY IN THE COMIC, BUT IT MAKES FUN OF OUR BOYS IN UNIFORM...

...WHO WEVE TRAINED TO KILL



HI GUYS.

LUCKILY, CHASE IS I'M'ING ME SOME INSTRUCTIONS TO GET ME OUT OF THIS MESS

HE SAYS:

1) THROW SAND ON THE WALL
2) TELL THEM TO STORM THE BEACH."



THANKS CHASE. YOU'RE SUCH A COMEDIAN.



AFTER THE BOMBING RUN, THE REAL MAYHEM BEGINS.

PROVING THAT THERE'S NO INTELLIGENT LIFE OUT THERE, THE RIKTI TELEPORT OUT OF THEIR NASTY NEARLY-INDESTRUCTABLE SHIPS AND GIVE US A CHANCE TO KICK THEIR INTERDIMENSIONALLY-HOPPING HINDQUARTERS.



THE GROUND FORCE INVASION ISN'T LIMITED TO A SINGLE LOCATION ON THE MAP.

THEY CENTER ON YOU.

IF YOU'RE ON THE GROUND AND HAVE CLEAR SKIES OVER YOUR HEAD, THEY'LL FIND YOU.

IF RIKTI PRIESTS DON'T PRACTICE CELIBACY, THIS ONE WILL. FIREBALLS... OUCH

THE BIGGER THE GROUP, THE BIGGER THE INVASION FORCE, INCLUDING THE VERY NASTY RIKTI HARD SUITS.



AFTER A FEW OF THESE SURPRISE ENCOUNTERS, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY DEBT IS DISABLED.

SOME SURVIVAL
TACTICS

1: OVERHEAD COVER



THE RIKTI
APPEAR TO USE
SOME KIND OF
SATELLITE
SURVEILLANCE TO
TARGET THEIR
ATTACKS.

IF YOU MOVE TO A
SPOT WITH
OVERHEAD COVER,
THEY WON'T
TELEPORT IN.



BRIDGES,
BUILDINGS
AND TUNNELS
ALL MAKE
EXCELLENT
COVER.

2: TACTICAL RE-LOCATION



THE RIKI TELEPORTATION CAN TAKE A FEW SECONDS.

IF THE ODDS DON'T LOOK GOOD, USE THE TIME TO MAKE YOURSELF SCARCE.



BRAVE SIR ROBIN RAN AWAY BRAVELY, RAN AWAY...AWAY... WHEN DANGER REARED ITS UGLY HEAD HE BRAVELY TURNED HIS TAIL AND FLED



IT ISN'T REALLY COWARDICE TO CHOOSE YOUR BATTLES.

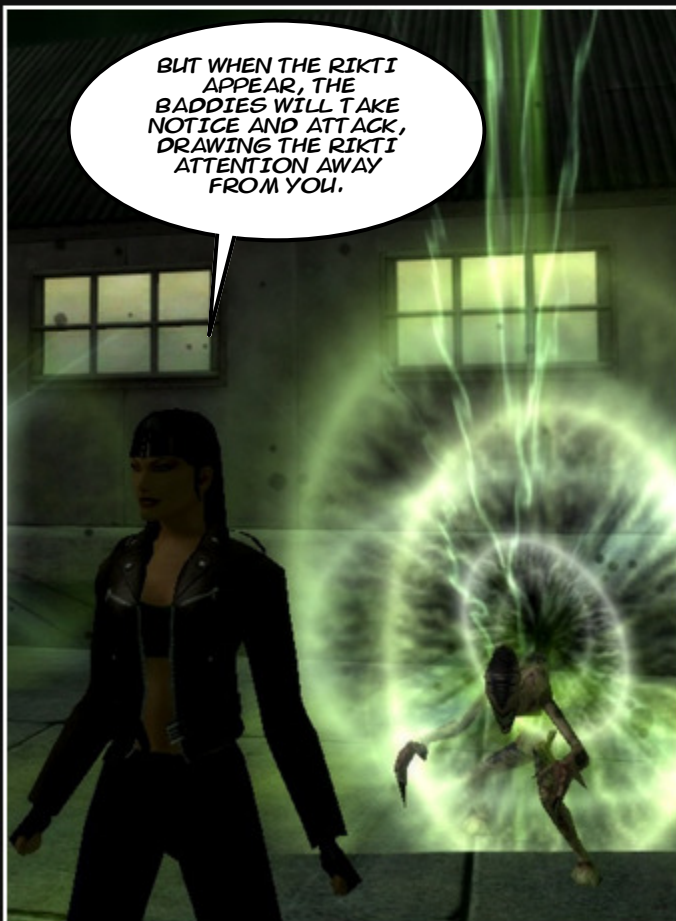
LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY, AND ALL THAT.

JUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT LEAVING WITNESSES



YES, BRAVE SIR ROBIN TURNED ABOUT AND GALLANTLY HE CHICKENED OUT BRAVELY TALKING TO HIS FEET HE BEAT A VERY BRAVE RETREAT

3: CIVIL DEVENSE CORPS



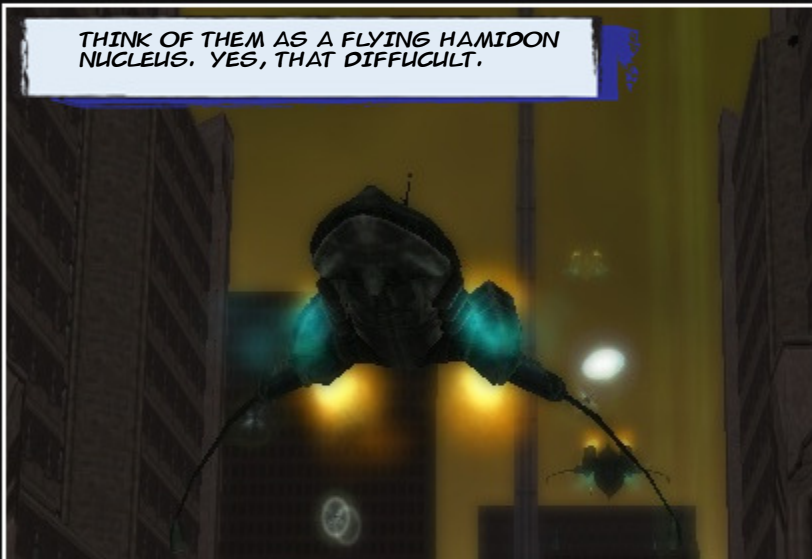
5) DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE

THE RIKTI DESTROYERS ARE BIG, FAST, UGLY, AND TOTALLY NOT MEANT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.



THERE'S NO BADGE, NO XP, NO REWARD WHATSOEVER FOR TAKING ONE DOWN.

THINK OF THEM AS A FLYING HAMIDON NUCLEUS. YES, THAT DIFFICULT.



COMMON SENSE SAYS TO STAY AWAY.



COMMON SENSE ALSO SAYS YOU SHOULDN'T FIGHT BAD GUYS WITH YOUR UNDERWEAR ON THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR PANTS.

ON TEST SERVER, THEY WERE ABLE TO SLOW A DESTROYER, THEN DESTROY IT.

THE DESTROYERS ARE APPARENTLY NOW IMMUNE TO THAT TACTIC



YOU'LL NEED THE CONCENTRATED FIREPOWER OF 60-100 HEROES. FLIGHT HELPS

ADVANCE PLANNING.

KNOW THEIR FLIGHT PATH,
KNOW WHERE TO ATTACK,

AND LOTS OF LUCK

YOU KNOW YOU WANNA...

IMAGE COURTESY OF STARLANCER.
GOOD JOB, TASK FORCE VENDETTA (TEST SERVER)



STANDING NEXT TO ME IS ZOMBIE_MAN, AUTHOR OF THE GUIDE THAT MADE MY WORK HERE SO MUCH EASIER.

Not The Red Zombie_Man

WELL, YEAH.

THE BIG Z HAD HIS PM'S TURNED OFF, SO I HAD TO GET AN ACTOR TO STAND IN UNTIL I COULD ARRANGE A REAL INTERVIEW.



I Get Paid SAG Rates

THIS IS A COMIC BOOK- AN ONLINE COMIC.

*SCREEN ACTOR'S GUILD



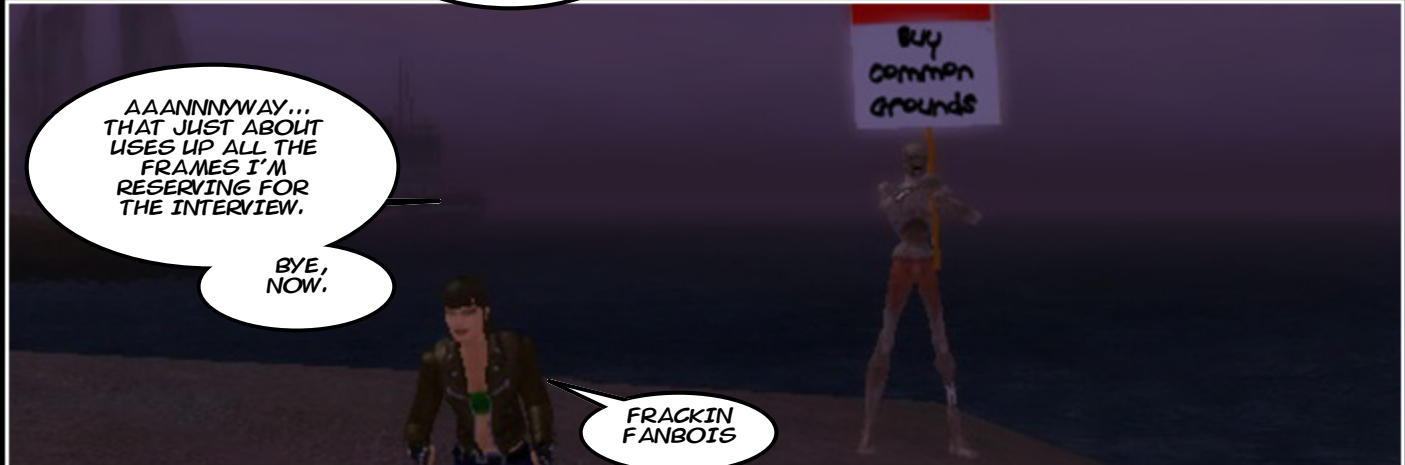
Troy Hickman would

NO WRITER IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD PAY SAG RATES!



Hickman is Gen Awesome!

... MY "RIGHT MIND" CLAIM STILL STANDS....



AAANNYWAY... THAT JUST ABOUT USES UP ALL THE FRAMES I'M RESERVING FOR THE INTERVIEW.

BYE, NOW.

Buy common grounds

FRACKIN FANBOIS

THE RIKTI WARZONE



OK, THE
INVASIONS
ARE ONLY THE
FIRST THING
YOU'LL FIND.

YOU'LL ALSO
DISCOVER AN
ENTIRELY REVAMPED
ZONE FOR LEVELS
35-50.



THE RIKTI CRASH
SITE HAS BEEN
RE-IMAGINED AS
THE FIRST "CO-OP
ZONE" FOR BOTH
HEROES AND
VILLAINS.

THAT'S RIGHT- HEROES
AND VILLAINS IN THE
SAME ZONE, FIGHTING
A COMMON ENEMY ON
A SHARED BATTLEFIELD:

THE RIKTI
WAR ZONE.



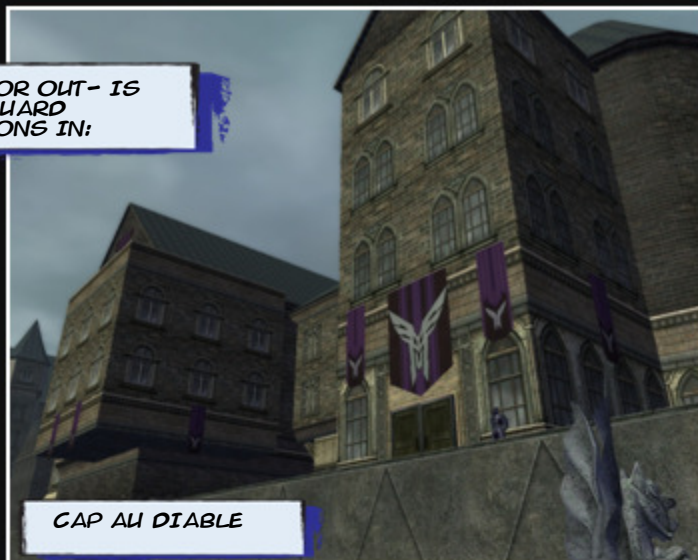
ONE MORE THING: BECAUSE OF
THE LETHAL NATURE OF THE
ZONE, YOU ACCRUE HALF-DEBT
FOR BEING DEFEATED THERE...
KINDA LIKE AN INSTANCED
MISSION.

THE SWAT ENTRANCE IN GREY'S FOLLEY HAS BEEN LOCKED DOWN.

THE ONLY WAY IN- OR OUT- IS THROUGH THE VANGUARD RECRUITING STATIONS IN:



ATLAS PARK



CAP AU DIABLE



FOUNDERS FALLS



ST. MARTIAL



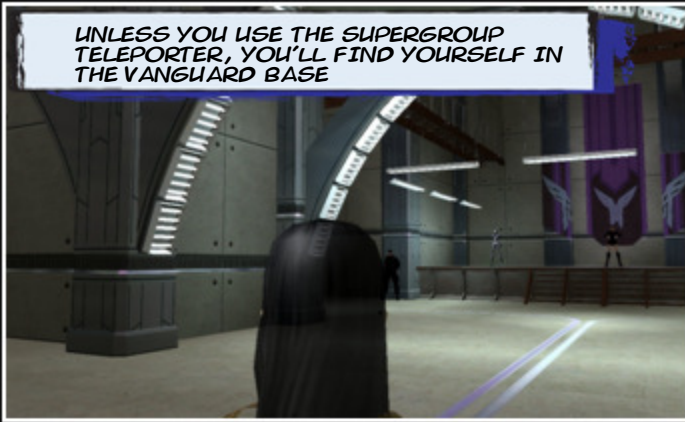
PEREGRINE ISLAND



GRANDVILLE

SUPERGROUP TELEPORTERS CAN ALSO GIVE TEAMS UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO THE WARZONE.

UNLESS YOU USE THE SUPERGROUP TELEPORTER, YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF IN THE VANGUARD BASE



EQUIPPED WITH ALL THE STUFF THAT AN INTERNATIONAL SUPERPOWERED ORGANIZATION NEEDS.



INFIRMARY



BRIEFING ROOM



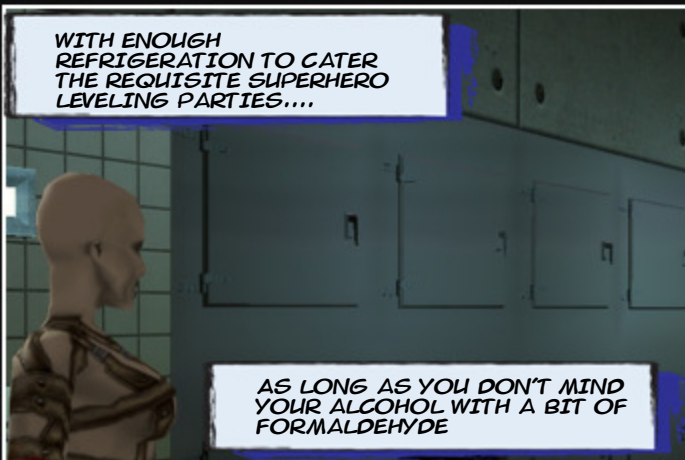
ARSENAL, COMPLETE WITH FIRING RANGE



AUTOPSEY ROOM AND MORGUE



WITH ENOUGH REFRIGERATION TO CATER THE REQUISITE SUPERHERO LEVELING PARTIES....



AS LONG AS YOU DON'T MIND YOUR ALCOHOL WITH A BIT OF FORMALDEHYDE

QUARTERMASTERS, TRAINERS, AND AN EMERGENCY ON-CALL ICON REPRESENTATIVE.



SOME HEROES JUST COULDN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT THEIR ICON FIX

LEVANTARA'S YOUR FIRST CONTACT.

SHE'LL ORIENT YOU TO THE ZONE AND TEACH YOU THE SECRET HANDSHAKE.

BOREA'S HER TWIN SISTER.

YES. TWINS. CALM DOWN, FANBOYS.

THEY LEAD THE SHIELD DIVISION OF VANGUARD.

BOREA'S ALSO THE SOURCE FOR REPEATABLE MISSIONS IN THE ZONE,

SIMILAR TO POLICE SCANNER OR BROKER MISSIONS.

LEVANTARA ALSO WANTED ME TO READ THIS:

HER SISTER'S SINGLE AND... A LITTLE SHY?!?!

WELL, THIS IS COMING FROM A GIRL THAT PRACTICALLY THROWS HER PHONE NUMBER AT ANYONE WHO EVEN TALKS TO HER.

SHE LIKES STRONG GUYS..

WITH A NAUGHTY STREAK

DON'T BOTHER IF YOU DON'T HAVE STAMINA 3-SLO...

WHY IS IT ALWAYS ABOUT STAMINA?

IT'S NOT THE SLOTS IN STAMINA THAT MATTER, IT'S HOW YOU USE YOUR IO'S!

I READ THAT IN THE CITY SCOOP

"ASK ATHY," I THINK.

SHE'D KNOW TOO.

AFTER LEVANTARA, YOU CAN TAKE MISSIONS FROM THE OTHER VANGUARD DIVISION HEADS.

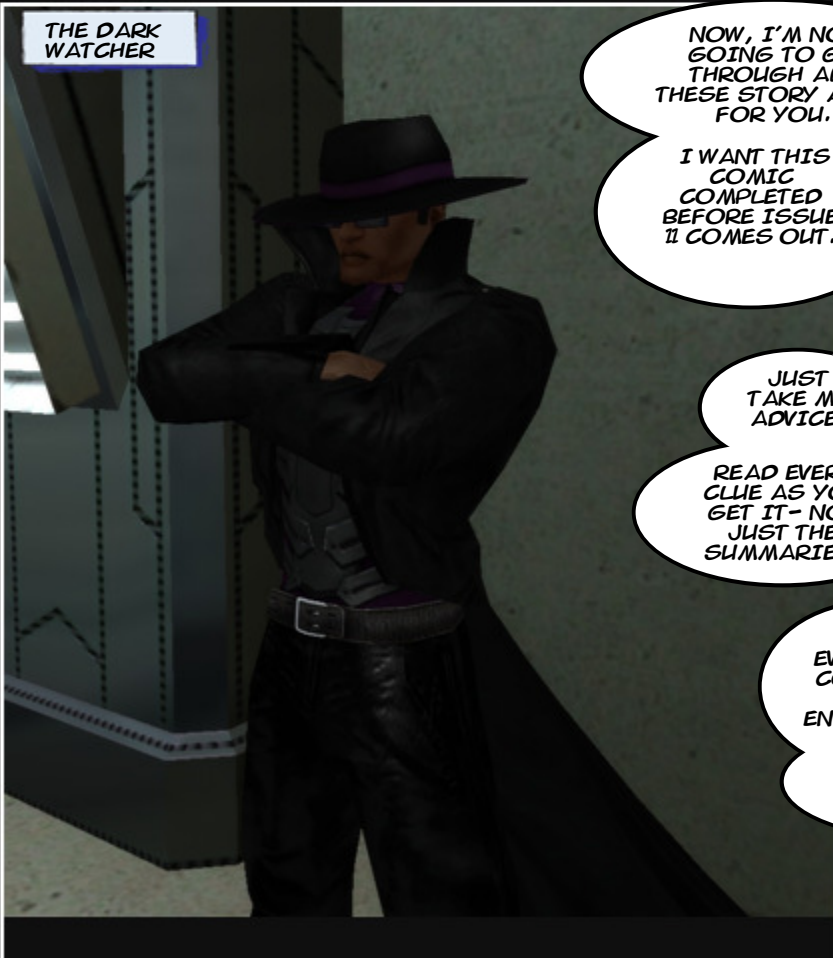


SERPENT DRUMMER



GAUSSIAN

THE DARK WATCHER



NOW, I'M NOT GOING TO GO THROUGH ALL THESE STORY ARCS FOR YOU.

I WANT THIS COMIC COMPLETED BEFORE ISSUE 11 COMES OUT.

JUST TAKE MY ADVICE:

READ EVERY CLUE AS YOU GET IT- NOT JUST THE SUMMARIES.

READ EVERY NPC COMMENT YOU ENCOUNTER

IT MAY SLOW DOWN THE TEAM, BUT IT'S WORTH IT.



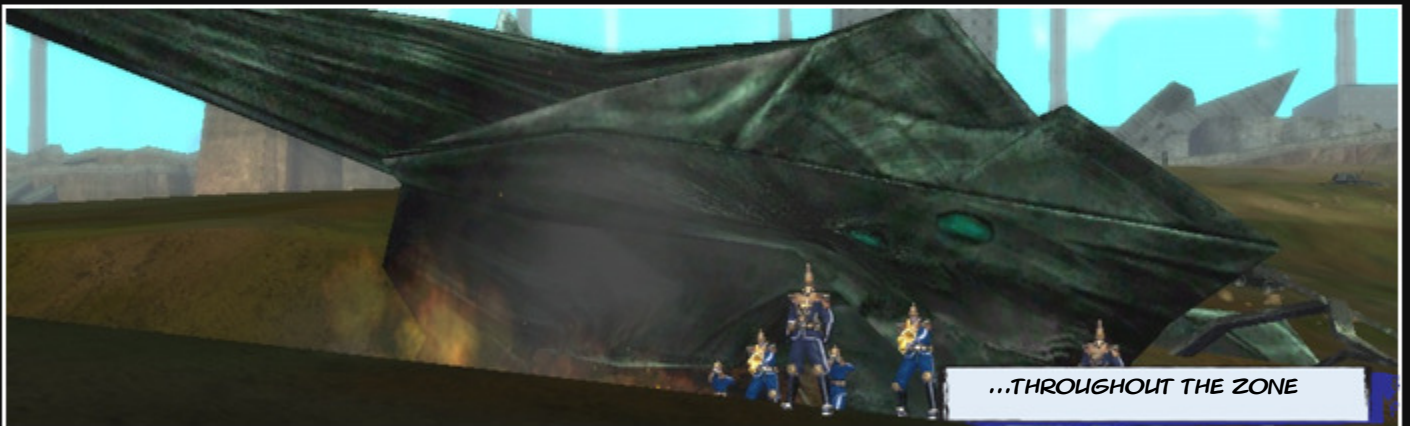
TRUST ME.



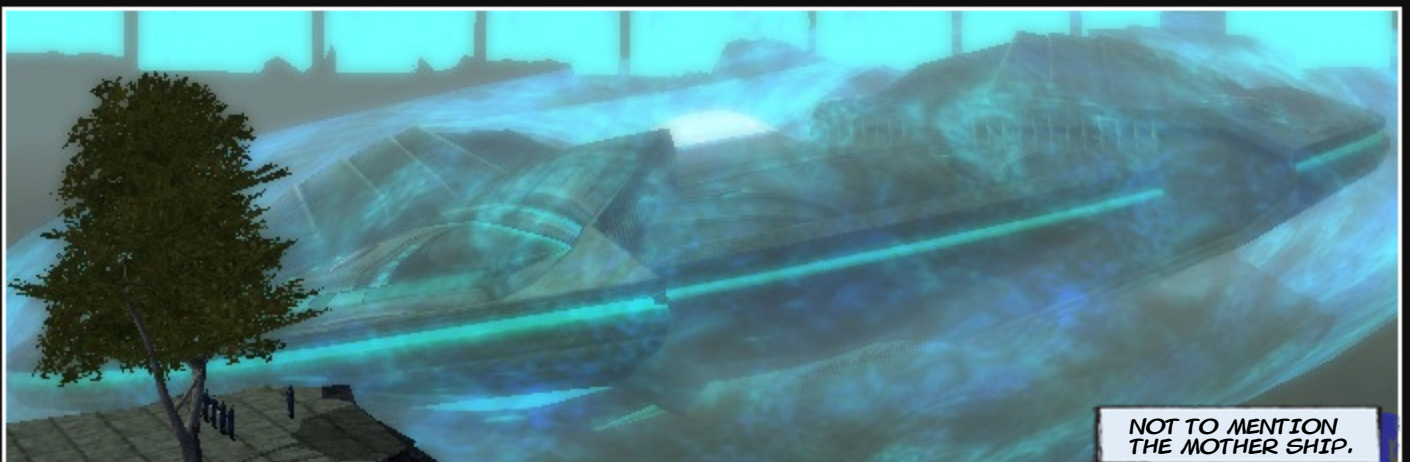
OUTSIDE THE
BASE, YOU'LL
FIND A VAST
ARRAY OF
DEFENSES



AND BATTLES RAGING...



...THROUGHOUT THE ZONE



NOT TO MENTION
THE MOTHER SHIP.

BADGES

THE EXPLORATION BADGE LIST WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY BEEF_CAKE AND THE GOOD FOLKS AT BADGE-HUNTER.COM.

THE GUIDES THERE, ALONG WITH THE VIDIOT MAPS ISSUE 10 MAP PACK, ARE BOUND TO BE MORE USEFUL THAN WHAT I HAVE HERE, SO GET YOUR BUTT OVER THERE AND DOWNLOAD IT ALREADY!

VANGUARD OPERATIVE

LOC: 388 -1188 -2418



LIFESAVER

LOC: -425, 15.3, -206



JUNKYARD DOG

LOC: 1474, 0.3, -3722



ASUNDER

LOC: 3956, 35, -3883



SCARRED

LOC: 2951, -116, -2911



EYEWITNESS
LOC: 1740, 218, -614



BASE JUMPER
LOC: 3434, 0.4, 511



ACE
LOC: 1359, 293, -273



HOMEWRECKER
LOC: 3566, 0, -759



UNDER FIRE
LOC: 1628, 0, -1046



LUCIOUS
LOC: 4243, -24, -1862



TRESPASSER
LOC: 978, 2, -737



POWERFUL
LOC: 276, 84, -745



THERE ARE ALSO THREE ACHIEVEMENT BADGES AND ONE ACCOLADE ASSOCIATED WITH THE INVASION EVENTS

Exploration History Accomplishment Achievement Accolades Gk



Sentry

You have defeated 100 of the invading Rikti hordes!



Bomb Specialist

You have disarmed 25 unexploded bombs.



Chief

You have defeated 10 Rikti Heavy Assault mechs

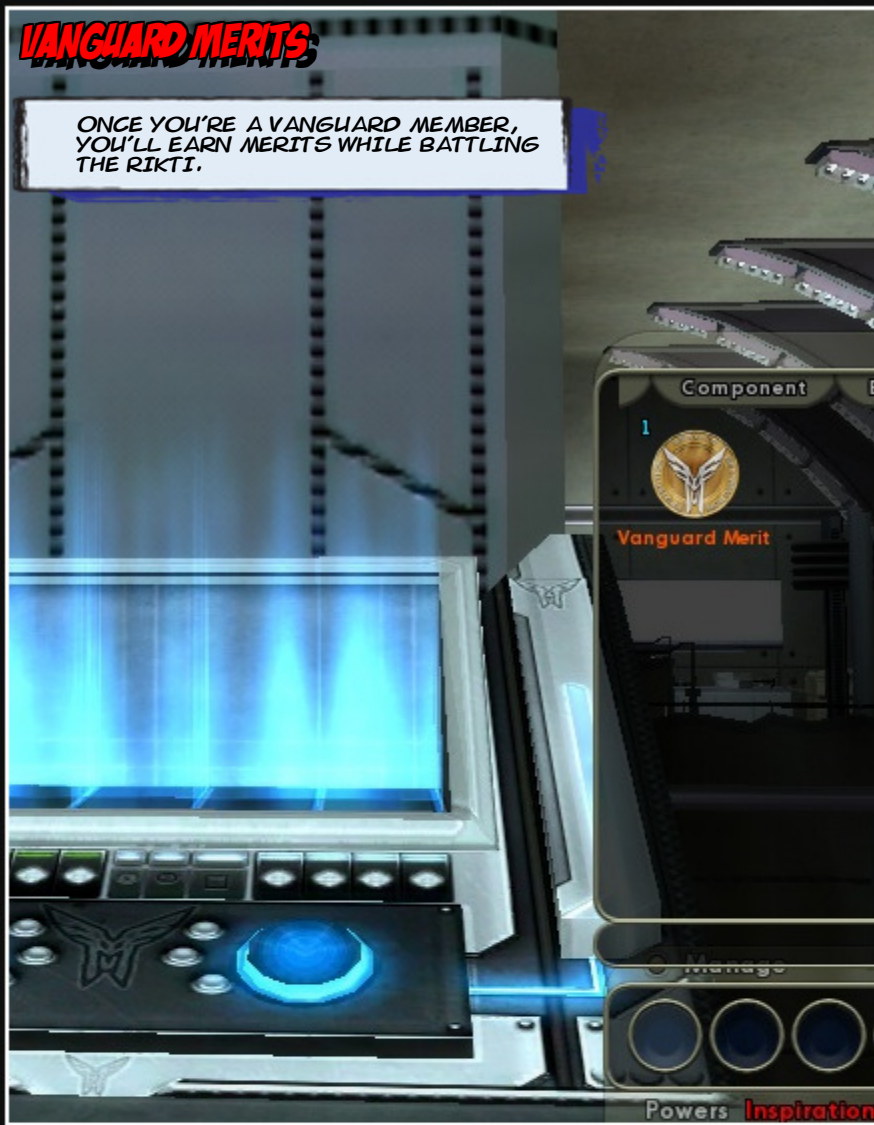


Watchwoman

You have defended Paragon City from the invading Rikti!

VANGUARD MERITS

ONCE YOU'RE A VANGUARD MEMBER, YOU'LL EARN MERITS WHILE BATTLING THE RIKTI.



IN MOST CASES THERE'S A FLAT 10% CHANCE THAT ANY RIKTI YOU DEFEAT WILL DROP A VANGUARD MERIT.



MINIONS DROP 1,
LIEUTENANTS DROP 2,
BOSSES DROP 3.

THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS WHERE THE CHANCE FOR A DROP IS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER, LIKE THE MOTHER SHIP CHALLENGE

	Nectanebo's Curse Breaker [Level 1] Nectanebo's Curse Breaker can be used to strip the effects of the Curse of Weariness from you. It may be used 5 times before fading	Need	Have
Create	Influence	5000	627182
	Vanguard Merit	50	0
	Vanguard Heavy Power Core [Level 1] This will give you a power core to use in powering up a Vanguard Heavy for your personal use.	Need	Have
Create	Influence	5000	627182
	Vanguard Merit	250	0
	Vanguard Psi Bomb [Level 1] This will give you a 3 use psionic bomb to use against the Rikti	Need	Have
Create	Influence	5000	627182
	Vanguard Merit	100	0
	Vanguard Psionic Shield [Level 1] This will give you a temporary psionic shield to use against Rikti mental powers	Need	Have
Create	Influence	5000	627182
	Vanguard Merit	100	0

	Vanguard Storage Sack [Level 1] This will grant you 10 extra Invention Salvage inventory slots	Need	Have
Create	Influence	5000	627182
	Vanguard Merit	500	0
Uniform Piece: Vanguard Belt [Level 1]			
Uniform Piece: Vanguard Boots [Level 1]			
Uniform Piece: Vanguard Chest Detail [Level 1]			
Uniform Piece: Vanguard Hat [Level 1]			
Uniform Piece: Vanguard Head Detail 1 [Level 1]			
Uniform Piece: Vanguard Head Detail 2 [Level 1]			
Uniform Piece: Vanguard Hips [Level 1]			
Uniform Piece: Vanguard Shoulders [Level 1]			

THESE CAN BE CASHED IN TO UNLOCK THE COSTUME PIECES OF VANGUARD ARMOR OR GAIN SPECIAL- AND VERY USEFUL- TEMPORARY POWERS.

THE MOTHER SHIP CHALLENGE

AROUND THE MOTHER SHIP, YOU'LL FIND 18 PYLONS THAT MAINTAIN THE SHIELD AND LET LOOSE A WORLD OF PAIN ON ANYONE STRAYING TOO NEAR.



URBAN
CAMOUFLAGE
SUCKS

TAKE OUT THE PYLONS AND THE SHIELDS GO DOWN.



GIVING YOU ACCESS TO THE SURFACE OF THE MOTHER SHIP, WHERE YOU CAN PLANT BOMBS AND BEAT UP BADDIES.

BATTLING BAD GUYS HERE GUARANTEES A VANGUARD TOKEN DROP- FOR YOU, AND EVERYONE ON YOUR TEAM.



YOU CAN RACK UP SERIOUS MERITS HERE.

BE FOREWARNED: THERE'S ALSO A CHANCE THAT THE RIKTI MASTER-AT-ARMS MIGHT APPEAR TO PROTECT HIS SHIP.



AS A "GIANT MONSTER" HE CONS PURPLE TO YOU. WONDER WHAT YOU CON TO HIM?

THE LADY GREY TASK FORCE

I INTRODUCED LADY GREY BEFORE. HEAD OF VANGUARD... RING A BELL?

I TOLD YOU THERE WOULD BE A TEST.

SHE'S GOT A MISSION FOR YOU,

IT'S TIME FOR HEROES AND VILLAINS TO SET ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND KICK SOME RIKTI HINDQUARTERS

YOU'LL NEED A FULL TEAM OF 8- SHE'S NOT RISKING THIS OP ON A TEAM WITH STAFFING PROBLEMS.



I DON'T WANT TO SPOIL IT BUT...

YOU'LL BE SAVING ONE OF THE PLANET'S MOST POWERFUL PSYCHICS FROM ONE OF THE PLANET'S OTHER MOST POWERFUL PSYCHICS,

CHALLENGE THE HORSEMEN: FOUR

FACE OFF AGAINST THE MOST POWERFUL SINGLE-CELLED ORGANISM ON EARTH,

NO, I'M NOT KIDDING

LEARN THE FATE OF OMEGA TEAM.

AND ENGAGE IN A BATTLE ROYALE AGAINST THE DREADED RIKTI HONOREE WITH THE FATE OF THE WORLD HANGING IN THE BALANCE.

...YEAH... WELL... OTHER THAN THAT, I DON'T WANT TO RUIN THE SURPRISE, OR ANYTHING.



THIS FOOTAGE PROVIDED BY HUMAN_BEING.

HAD THE BATTLE BEEN ANY CLOSER, HIS NAME WOULD BE ALMOST _A_RIKTI

OH... UH... OH YEAH.

SPOILER ALERT
TOO LATEP

COSTUMES

WELL, WE'LL END THINGS BACK WHERE WE BEGAN-
ICON, CHECKING OUT THE
NEW THREADS FOR ISSUE 10

THE STEALTH SUIT IS ONE
OF THREE COMPLETE SETS
IN THIS ISSUE



OF COURSE, WITH A NAME
IMPLYING STEALTH, I HAD
TO HAVE A COLOR SCHEME
THAT'S ABOUT AS
UN-STEALTHY AS YOU CAN
GET.



EX-PROTO IS THE SECOND.

THE VANGUARD ARMOR IS
AVAILABLE BY SPENDING
YOUR MERITS

need vanguard model

CHASE WAS TOO BUSY
WRITING THIS GUIDE TO...
Y'KNOW... ACTUALLY PLAY
THE GAME AND UNLOCK
THIS SET.

A FOURTH SET- BOXING GEAR- BECOMES AVAILABLE FOR THE 39-MONTH VETERAN REWARD

need boxer model

IN ADDITION TO THESE, WE NOW HAVE MORE MODEST "PENCIL" SKIRTS.



HERE, I'M ALSO SPORTING V-NECK TOP, AND THE "FORMAL" HAIRSTYLE.

YES, THAT'S ME. WHADDAYA MEAN I "CLEAN UP NICELY?"

MOST SKIRTS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE WITH A LEATHER OPTION. GOES GOOD WITH THE THE NEW "HIGH HEEL" BOOTS,

WHILE THE HEELS WOULD BE LETHAL IN A FIGHT, THERE'S NO WAY I'M KICKING ANYTHING IN THIS SKIRT

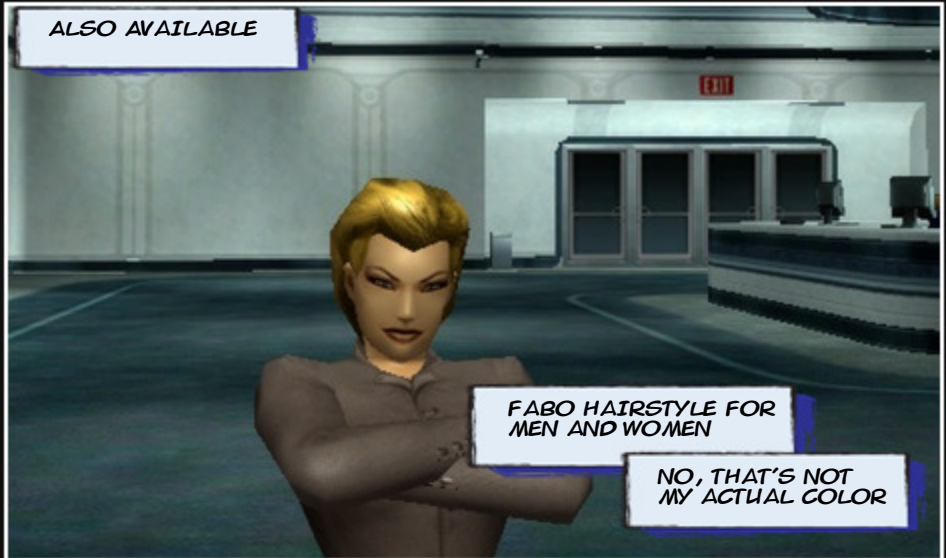


ALTHOUGH THE TIGHTS AND EARS HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR AGES, THE ADDITION OF A BUNNY TAIL MAKES THIS COSTUME COMPLETE



SOMEDAY, SEXY JAY WILL STUMBLE INTO A PVP ZONE AND FEEL THE WRATH OF A MILLION FEMALE AVATARS.

ALSO AVAILABLE



FABO HAIRSTYLE FOR MEN AND WOMEN

NO, THAT'S NOT MY ACTUAL COLOR

ALSO AVAILABLE WITH A TIN CROWN UNDER THE "HATS"

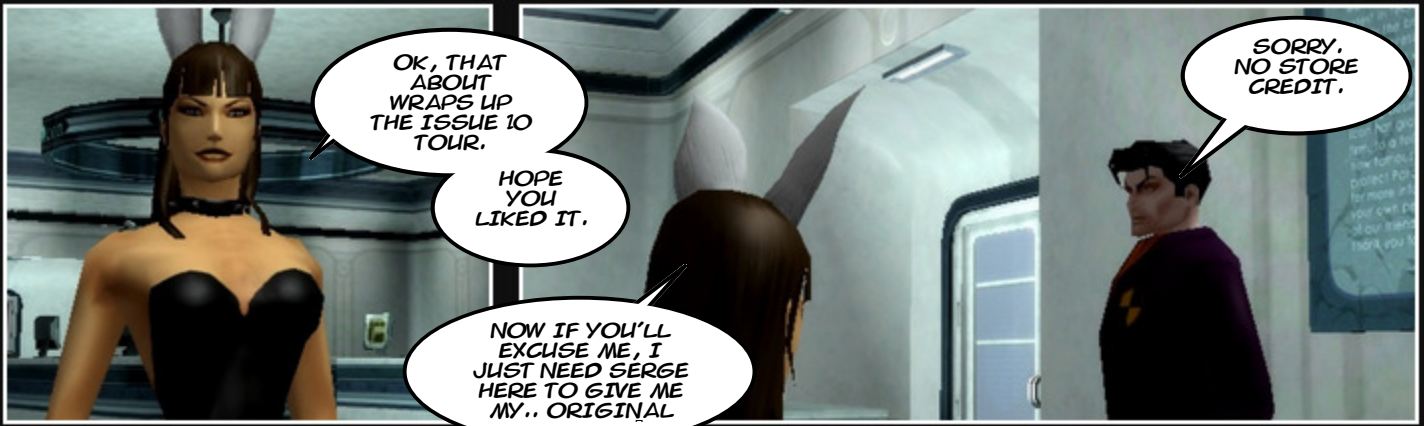


ALONG WITH THE V-NECK, WE HAVE A MORE... PLINGING NECKLINE HERE.



WHO ARE WE KIDDING? THAT'S NOT A NECKLINE.

A NAVEL-LINE, POSSIBLY



OK, THAT ABOUT WRAPS UP THE ISSUE 10 TOUR.

HOPE YOU LIKED IT.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I JUST NEED SERGE HERE TO GIVE ME MY.. ORIGINAL

SORRY, NO STORE CREDIT.



WHAT? I'M BROKE! I... I WAS DOING A COMMUNITY SERVICE!

NO REFUNDS, NO RETURNS, THAT'S STORE POLICY.

I JUST WANT WHAT I WORE IN HERE.

I CAN'T FIGHT CRIME IN THIS!

I'D DIE OF HUMILIATION.



BUT YOU'D DIE LOOKING FABULOUS

ANIME'S IN LATEST RAGE, YOU LOOK VERY VERY HARUHI SUZUMIYA.



I'M FEELING MORE LIKE MIKURU AT THE MOMENT.



COME ON SERGE...

CHASE PUT YOU UP TO THIS, DIDN'T HE?

I'LL NEVER COMPLAIN ABOUT MY COSTUME AGAIN!

TO BE CONTINUED...