

Tech System 191

Chapter 191 Going To Their First Post

The next day, as the Soldiers woke up, they cleaned themselves and donned their military uniforms, which bore an insignia that was unique and didn't have any affiliation to any of the branches of the military.

Their uniform had a special insignia which signified that they were a special team which was sent only when a few people were deployed for a special mission or when there was an infiltration task.

As they left the team's quarters, each soldier carried a bag which from the looks of it appeared to be extremely heavy. But surprisingly, the soldiers carrying the bags seemed to not be bothered even in the slightest as they made their way while carrying more than 350 kilos on their backs, without having the need to exert any strength at all.

Following instructions which were provided by Athena through the gears which they were wearing, they entered the elevator.

And much to the surprise of everyone, upon boarding the elevator and after the door got closed, the elevator immediately started rising to the higher floors instead of descending to the ground floor, soon they realized something as the elevator didn't stop and continued to make its way to the highest floor.

Soon, their curiosity was also answered after a few moments as the elevator finally came to a stop and its doors opened, revealing an expansive flat rooftop

And at the moment, the rooftop housed five super massive helicopters, which the soldiers were sure were unlike any others in the whole world. These helicopters looked futuristic and were intimidating even as they remained powered off for the time being.

Without wasting any time, all of them started boarding the helicopter which they had been designated to. As the door closed, the pilots powered up the helicopters, immediately showcasing the difference between the remarkable capabilities of these helicopters which were far superior to the rest of the world. The rotor went from being completely idle to rotating at full power in just ten seconds while being scarily silent enough for many soldiers to think if it was still operating in low power mode, but contrary to what they had thought, the helicopter wasn't going to get any louder than what they were hearing at the moment.

The massive reduction of noise from the rotors was the result of them being rotated by using the electromagnets instead of the usual rotor system, which at the same time eliminated the need for any mechanical connections, reducing the number of things that could possibly go wrong in a normal rotor driven helicopter.

At the same time, due to the reduced friction and mechanical losses, it also allowed the helicopter to have a much longer flight endurance while having a reduced fuel consumption and with the energy denseness of the fuel, the helicopter now had the capability of flying for three days straight without having the need to refuel during the period.

With the helicopter now being completely powered on, the pilots immediately lifted them off without having to worry about the other helicopters causing a problem for them as the only thing the pilot had to care for right now was to control where and how he wants to direct the helicopter to

go, as for how this feat was accomplished, it was thanks to the advanced flight controlled system which will use all of the control surfaces available for it to control to bring the given command to life without failure, while the pilot only had to focus on navigating the machine, leaving everything else in the hands of the system.

With the helicopter started, it quickly started gaining altitude until it reached its ideal altitude and then immediately started heading to its designated location where these soldiers would be stationed until the batch of new trainees graduated.

Aron on the other hand was inside his living room, observing the helicopter as they departed and were heading to the border. A sigh of relief escaped his lips realizing that his worry was now lifted.

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45 minutes later.

The helicopter landed a few kilometers away from the temporary base that was set at the border, without letting any soldier in the vicinity have the idea that helicopters had entered their surroundings.

Both sides failed to pick up the presence of these helicopters on their radars, which in itself was nothing to feel proud about, knowing that the radar systems being used were pretty outdated.

The soldiers got off the helicopters one by one and soon enough, the helicopters lifted off, leaving them on the ground by themselves. With the helicopters gone, the soldiers immediately started walking to the bases that were established on the borders of Eden.

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[Sir, they've arrived] Nova reported to Aron about their arrival.

"What is Athena's next course of action?" stopping what he was doing, Aron asked the question.

[She plans to gradually start reducing the number of soldiers on our side to minimize the casualties on our side in case the other side starts firing] Nova reported back.

"Good. By the end of next week, we should have all of the soldiers now stationed there to be withdrawn from that border. How are your calculations regarding when they are going to attack going?" Aron then inquired.

[That task has been delegated to Athena and she predicts that to happen at the latest by the end of the month. Us starting the rotation of our soldiers will be seen as the window of opportunity, increasing the chances of them launching an attack during that period] Nova reported.

"Excellent. It's about time that we have our confiscated material returned back to us," Aron said without a sliver of worry because he was sure that the fifty soldiers that were stationed there were capable of dealing with the enemies as long as they had enough ammunition, especially since Athena had sent with them an overkill of them.

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At the same time, on Esparia's base on the opposite side of the border, an order was received which was sent through the military encrypted channel.

After the order was decrypted, it was immediately sent to the commander of the base who read it, immediately resulting in the formation of a smile on his face as if it was precisely something that he had been hoping to happen.

There was only one sentence written on the decrypted message: Start the preparation for entering paradise.

"Hamisi, come in," he called for his assistant to enter the room, disposing of the paper into the shredder.

"Sir," Hamisi saluted after entering the room.

"Call the high-ranking officers and inform them we have an emergency meeting," he commanded without wasting any time.

"Yes, sir," Hamis replied with a salute before immediately leaving the room in a hurry to accomplish the orders given by the commander.

Chapter 192 Self-Deception: A Tactical Advantage

"The ultimate art of war lies not only in deceiving the enemy but also in mastering the art of self-deception, for therein lies the true path to strategic supremacy."

It was a serene day in Eden as usual, with the sun gracefully rising over the horizon, painting the sky in the shades of pink and orange. And together with the tranquil appearance, the minds of the citizens were already preoccupied with two topics that also seemed to dominate every conversation in the state.

The First and foremost was the incessant buzz surrounding the ongoing construction worker recruitment.

Since January, the construction industry had been in a state of perpetual motion, with a single company being responsible for all of the activity, clamoring for labor to fuel their ambitious projects.

Eden seemed to have started its journey on the ladder leading to high-speed progress and development, and the demand for construction workers didn't seem to be showing any signs of abating even after several months had passed along with hundreds of thousands of people already being hired by them.

As the city's skyline morphed with each passing day, the construction sites stood as a testament to the nation's determination to push forward and start recovering from the brutal dictatorship of Adolf whose trial was still ongoing with more and more atrocities being revealed to the public with each day that passed.

The allure of steady employment and the promise of contributing to Eden's burgeoning infrastructure drew people from all corners of the country, seeking opportunities to better their lives.

Amidst the hum of construction machinery and the hustle of workers, the second topic of concern reverberated through the city's streets and town squares.

A growing number of young men and women were joining the army, with their ranks swelling in response to what they perceived as Esparias' provocative actions.

Thanks to these provocative actions of Esparia, including confiscating and blocking access to Eden citizens' cargo that had passed through their ports and increasing the number of soldiers on the borders the two nations shared with them, had ignited anger and a sense of patriotism among the citizens.

The allure of defending their homeland and protecting their recently hard-won peace which they just had tasted the sweetness of and have started cherishing it was a call that resonated deeply within many, prompting them to join the military.

With the government encouraging and supporting the recruitment drives to bolster its military forces, the once-peaceful society found itself at a crossroads.

The rhythmic cadence of construction works and the resolute footsteps of the new soldiers who were joining the ranks became the soundtrack of the nation that was on the brink of a change.

Yet, amidst this turmoil of hiring and militarization, an undercurrent of unease had also begun to pervade in the conversations. The internet, which had been the lifeblood of Eden's interconnectedness, thanks to the whole internet being owned by one company which had increased the number of investments into the infrastructure, began to falter, its slowdown perplexing and unnerving the people.

At first, the glitch was attributed to technical issues, but as the problem continued to persist, the government websites were the websites that were the most affected. It started with them becoming unresponsive, which was initially quickly solved without causing any harm, allowing the citizens to think that it really was just a technical issue...

However, at the same time, rumors of cyberattacks and clandestine interference from the external forces swept through the population like wildfire. The government's silence only acted as the required fanning of those rumors for those who always needed to find something or the other to talk about in order to keep themselves distracted about their own miserable lives. This worried the normal citizens who were concerned about preserving their recently gained freedom.

Thursday marked a turning point though, a seemingly ordinary day, which immediately turned into a not-so-ordinary day anymore as the residents of the country woke up and found themselves to be in the situation of middle ages since all the websites were showing the same error message: "404 not found" meaning that their access to the internet was no longer a right but was turned into a privilege for those who could circumvent the blockade.

When they turned on the TV to see if they could learn something or the other from the conventional media, however, their jaws dropped when they saw the ongoing emergency broadcast.

On the television, the military's spokesperson was making an announcement and the words coming from his mouth did nothing but only served to increase the worry of the viewers and listeners.

"As the spokesperson for our nation's armed forces, I am here to provide you with an objective update on the events that occurred last night. Eden has experienced an attack from our neighboring nation, Esparia."

This sentence alone caused the earth beneath many's feet to shake.

"Under the cover of darkness, Esparian forces breached our borders and targeted several strategic locations within our border bases."

The spokesperson then took a pause and then continued.

"As a result of this unprovoked aggression, we have incurred casualties and witnessed significant damage to our infrastructure on the border we share with them."

"However, our heroic soldiers responded swiftly and bravely to defend our homeland during this unexpected assault and are still engaged in a fire exchange with the enemies as we continue to keep our promise of protecting every inch of our nation's land."

There was anger and will to fight in his voice.

"At present, our military is actively engaged in implementing countermeasures to secure our borders and ensure the safety of our people. We are mobilizing additional resources to assess the extent of the damage caused by the attack."

The spokesperson spoke in a tone that conveyed the gravity of the situation, his face indicating that the fight against Esparia was going to be challenging, but their determination not to give up no matter what helped in alleviating the previous hate the citizens had towards the military, realizing that this military was different and more committed towards the nation...

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A few hours before the press conference.

[Sir, they have started their movements] Nova spoke through the house's speaker system waking Aron up from his sleep. It was the first time in a long while that he wasn't spending his time in VR.

"What is it?" Aron asked the moment he woke up and opened his eyes after Nova spoke to him, despite her voice being very calm when she first addressed him.

[Esparia has finally started mobilizing their military vehicles and will soon begin firing the first artillery shells at our bases on the border] Nova reported.

"Good, what is Athena doing?" Aron inquired about Athena's course of action.

Chapter 193 Esparia On The Move

"Good, what is Athena doing?" Aron inquired about Athena's course of action.

[She ordered for the other soldiers to start retreating in order to avoid any casualties when the fight starts and also to leave the 50 members to make their moves without worrying about endangering their fellow soldiers unnecessarily]

[As for the helicopters, she had already loaded them with "that direction remover" and sent them to the water side of the borders. She also has ordered our navy vehicles to start retreating, since they would end up as needless casualties as a result of the upcoming fight] Nova reported Athena's plan of action.

"What about the evacuation, how is it going?" Aron asked about the fate of the normal soldiers who had been sent there to act as a response to the other side's increasing provocations.

[Since we only sent those who had previous military experience, the evacuation is going better than if we had sent inexperienced personnel in their places] Nova reported back.

"Good, now show me what is going on in the fields," Aron said as he put on the glasses and returned to lying back as he logged in to the VR. A moment later, Aron found himself inside a massive building that had what looked like thousands of people looking at different feeds, systems and data, all reporting to Athena whenever they found something important for her to make decisions based on the intel they were providing.

In front of Aron were two massive screens that showed the information on the ongoing situation at the borders, displaying the movements of the Esparian soldiers as if there were informants among them. However, all of this information was being collected by one powerful system known as "Henry's eyes" which was being flown by two drones that were circulating the two border regions Eden shared with Esparia, areas which had a massive military presence.

The name "Henry's Eyes" was inspired from his younger brother because the engineers had gotten the inspiration from the data of how Henry's eyes had evolved and thanks to that, they managed to build the tech that replaced the radar technology in the military.

This tech was already integrated into almost every device that needed a detection method. The glasses and other VR devices had been using this tech to get access to data from the real world, the same could be said for the military headgear, all the way to the inside of helicopters, eliminating the need for radars and other traditional sensors in them.

The tech worked by creating a bubble with it at the center, collecting every bit of data within that bubble which is then collected, which was then analyzed and displayed by the device, giving one an unprecedented amount of information and the capability of viewing the information from any point of view as long as it is within the bubble.

"They are really planning on bulldozing through us and continue moving to take over the whole island before they move to the other island and take over them," Aron murmured as he observed the number of soldiers that were stationed behind the borders.

[Yes, after hacking into their government system, this is just the beginning of their plans and some of their plans even include the complete takeover of Eden] Nova reported.

"When was this plan uploaded into their system?" Aron asked, wanting to see the timeline of how these events had come to be.

[It was logged minutes ago before I woke you up] Nova reported.

"Any hint about who might have given them the boldness to make such large movements?" Aron asked knowing that Esparia wouldn't have made the move by themselves.

[I suspect it to be the Morgans, during last week's flight that was heading from America to Esparia, the devices on the plane connected to our internet infrastructure, allowing me to receive information about the devices inside the plane.

Strangely, despite most of the devices being powered by using GAIA OS, a few of them weren't using it, which was strange, So, I decided to investigate them and found out that one of them was working for the Morgans.

I had his information when I was collecting data about their plans against the Rothschilds, So, I immediately placed a bug on his phone before it got out of range and although throughout his visit he kept the phone powered off, the bug I put on his phone continued collecting location data.

And after he powered the phone back on after returning to America, I received a summary of the locations, which also included the residences of powerful people in Esparia and many of them have their names included in the uploaded plan] Nova lengthy reported.

"So it's them again," Aron smiled when he heard the name, immediately realizing what they were planning to do with this war. When Rina visited to bring him the tritium he had requested. She had informed him about it during that period and also warned him to be careful.

[They have started moving] Nova informed Aron. At the same time, the room that was filled with people started getting chaotic as the screen displayed the moving soldiers who had started trespassing into the border into Eden, officially starting their invasion plan.

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"Time to get to work, boys," the team leader of the fifty remaining members on the now empty base said as Athena immediately uploaded the information into their headgears as they were already fully geared with all the tech a soldier would need.

They immediately started walking towards the group of soldiers that were ten kilometers away from them and this continued until they were about five kilometers from the convoy of soldiers. The convoy stopped, allowing the fifty soldiers to lie on the ground and start aiming, waiting for the other side to start making their moves. At the same time, Athena was informing the soldiers as to why the convoy stopped.

"BOOOOOOOM" And the answer came right after, as shells started falling on the base that they had left empty.

[Now you have the justification to fire back] Athena spoke into their ears in a tone that showed her excitement, finally, she was getting the chance to put into practice in real life what she had been training for her whole life in the simulation.

Her excitement caused the soldiers who heard it to have goosebumps over their bodies.

Chapter 194 20.27 Seconds Of Utter Silence

Eden-Esparia Maritime Border.

"Do they even know that we are already in their waters?" asked the assistant commanding officer aboard the leading vessel that was at the rear of the Esparia's fleet, which was spearheading itself and prepared for a faceoff with Eden's Navy at the maritime border.

"Even if they know, they won't be able to do anything about it anyway, so what's there to worry about? Still, make sure that our soldiers are not full of themselves and continuously keep their eyes on the sonars to make sure there are no mines left behind in our way to victory," the fleet commander responded, as he turned to the right side, glancing at the multitude of vessels on both sides of the fleet, causing a smile to bloom on his face as he imagined the future ceremony were he would be rewarded for trashing Eden's navy.

Just to his right, he could see more than 15 vessels lined and that was the same for the number lined up on the left side, making a total of thirty vessels that were entering the waters of Eden, ready for their face off which would rather be described as a massacre.

"Yes, sir," the assistant commanding officer replied, immediately picking up his radio and relaying the instruction to all the vessels in the fleet.

However, just as he was about to continue his conversation with the fleet commander, an announcement resounded across all the fleet radios and it was even audible to those who don't have radios, in fact, the sound was so crisp and clearly heard as if it was being announced a few meters near them.

[Attention all Esparia Navy vessels,

This is a warning announcement from Eden's Navy.

We have detected your entry into Eden's territorial waters, and we demand an immediate explanation for your presence in our sovereign waters.

Be advised that unauthorized entry into Eden's waters is a serious violation of our territorial integrity and will not be tolerated. We are closely monitoring your movements, and any provocative or hostile actions will be met with a firm and decisive response.

In the interest of de-escalation and maintaining regional peace, we urge you to identify yourselves and your purpose for being in Eden's waters. Failure to provide a valid and satisfactory explanation may result in serious consequences.

]

"Looks like they found us. I would have been even more disappointed if they hadn't," the commanding officer muttered, maintaining a smile on his face.

He picked up the radio and responded, "This is Esparia Fleet commander. We are here under the order of the Commander-in-Chief, the President of Esparia, in retaliation to you firing the artillery at our base along the land border. Surrender immediately, or you will be forced to do so," his voice carried the pride of being on the powerful side where he was sure that no matter what the other side's response was, he would always be the one to emerge victorious in the war.

[If you don't turn around within thirty seconds, you will regret having said those words] A counter response came with a tick in each second that followed, indicating that it was a counter. [You have a vote in how things turn out, but whatever you choose, it better not be with continuing your trespassing act] The warning concluded with finality with no word after that.

"They really have a well-worded soldier," remarked the assistant commanding officer, though he didn't even dare to think about asking the Commander on whether they should continue to proceed or not. He just kept his head high, showing his confidence, as the Commander raised his radio for the second time and sneered, "Big words used by weak people, but this will also be our last warning. As soon as the thirty seconds you gave us are up, we will be the ones firing the first shots if we haven't received your declaration of surrender."

He then immediately announced to his fleet while still being in an open channel, showing how little he thought of the other side's words, as he said with disdain, "When the thirty seconds are over, fire at them," he ordered the fleets of four gunships they had bought in bargain from America a few decades ago.

"Yes sir," the response came from the gunship crew, showing their unwavering confidence as they ordered the soldiers to start the preparations for firing the first round of artillery when the timer reaches zero, similar to their Commander, they did so without even trying to move to a secure channel, giving the entirety of the ordered without worrying about the other side doing anything that could do something from preventing on doing so or consider them a dangerous adversary.

Athen, on the other hand, remained silent, taking note of the actions that completely showed disrespect to Eden's military, however, she simply saved all of these recordings, knowing that they would be useful in the future.

Ting, ting, ting, ting.

TING!!!!

The Type2 Bomb, strapped with a booster that was hanging on the helicopter about thirty kilometers away, was released as the pilot pulled the trigger after he was ordered by Athena.

With her timing as immaculate as it could be, she had timed the launch of the bombing order exactly when she was sure that there were very little number of imaging satellites over them to avoid letting them have the image of "That direction remover" while it was on its way to the Esparian fleet which still believed that they had the upper hand.

"Fire!" Esparia's commanding officer announced through the open channel and the four gunships responded as they fired without even locking onto their targets, considering that these were just warning shots.

Amidst the flying shells of artillery fired from them, "That direction remover" passed right between each other, one meant as a warning and the other's purpose was clear, as Athena was not joking at all, since they had disrespected her Father's forces, she had decided that they should be given a long-lasting lesson.

"What is that?" Those were the very last words uttered by the commanding officer and many soldiers in Esparia's fleet, being too late to realize that their appointment with the grim reaper had already been set as a sun emerged before them.

The bright light turned the dark ocean into daylight. There were exactly a period of 20.27 seconds of utter silence as the helicopter pilot watched as his face lit up with the light from the explosion about thirty kilometers away before the deafening sound of the explosion finally caught up to him.

[illegible]

Despite the heavy shockwave, the flight control computer of the helicopter took control and made the helicopter remain unaffected, not even the slightest shake resulted from it.

[You shouldn't have taunted and belittle father like that] Athena said in a serious tone after the first "TDR Type1" bomb detonated, obliterating with it a total of fifteen Esparia's military vessels after

they ignored her warning announcements, clearly indicating that as long as you ignore her warnings, Athena won't hesitate to use your death as an act of lesson for her soldiers.

Chapter 195 Taking Out The Command Structure

NORAD Cheyenne Mountain Complex, Colorado.

The specialists and soldiers at NORAD were engaged in doing their usual routine which included monitoring the radar and satellite data and keeping an eye on whether Russia will be playing their usual game of sending T-95 bombers to the Pacific airspace of the US and Canada.

ALERT!!!!

"HIGH HEAT EXPLOSION DETECTED - PACIFIC OCEAN - EDEN-ESPARIA BORDER"

A loud notification was heard throughout the situation monitoring room as the massive screen in front of them displayed the information coming together with the alert coming from the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) satellite constellation. The system showed what it suspected to be a high heat explosion it caught on its extremely highly sensitive infrared cameras loaded on the satellites constellation.

The computer systems in a complex began displaying crucial information about the detected high-heat explosion. This information included the location and other relevant details to help the specialists, soldiers and the commanders to assess the situation rapidly.

Following the protocol, the command center then started notifying the higher authorities and military leadership using the secure communication channels.

In Russia, a similar situation was happening as their early warning information system from their Missile Attack Warning System (SPRN), situated in the Russian Aerospace Forces had received the alert regarding the explosion.

China, too, was not much far behind as their incomplete Yaogan series of satellite constellations didn't fall much behind in detecting the heat from the massive explosion, alerting them of the events that were going on between Eden and Esparia in the middle of the night.

This incident marked as the start of attracting the massive eyeballs on the ongoing war theater where countries scrambled to find out who hit whom and exactly how were they even able to accomplish that feat of detonating such a massive explosion, enough to trigger their satellites, all of those countries who were in the know started changing the orbits of their imaging satellites so that it could pass over Eden in an attempt on imaging the location where the explosion had took place, trying to piece the whole picture as to what was going on. And at the same time, they were trying to establish communication between the two countries where the detonation had taken place, to understand the detonation that had occurred at their border.

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"Oh my god," the helicopter pilot exclaimed in response to the explosion that had taken place as a result of him pulling the trigger and launching the bomb.

'Yep, they had come for it, but that was definitely a deserved overkill.' He thought to himself when he remembered how they belittled his nation's military and had tried to threaten them in their very own territorial waters.

As for the soldiers in the surviving boats, despite being grateful that they had survived, now they were also guaranteed with a burden of a lifetime of PTSD. Most of them had their ears bleeding due to being in such close proximity to the massive sound and shockwave, a shockwave that carried the last voices of their now minced soldiers.

In their eyes, the arrogance they once carried had completely vanished, with its place occupied by horror and fear that could be seen deep within them. Their will to fight had turned into a history and the expectation of glory and medal had forced them to question as to how they even thought that they would be winning the war in the first place.

[Hello to the remaining survivors, if you want to surrender, now is the time and anyone who doesn't show his intent to do so will be visited by a second package] Athena sent out a second announcement before the Pilot fired a row of bullets to act as a warning and thanks to the guns being made of railgun, it managed to reach the debris field where even now the debris of more than fifteen boats could be seen as it was slowly sinking with the bodies of all the soldiers littered everywhere in pieces, one looks and the others surviving boats finding themselves in not a good condition.

Upon hearing the announcement, all the soldiers immediately ran to the nearest radio they could find to announce their surrender without showing a hint of trying to fight back.

And just like that, a war where the enemy expected that they would win victory with a landslide, sadly ended with the victory of the weaker side, simply by detonating a single bomb, taking with it the entire high-level commanding structure, leaving only the boat leaders in the commanding ladder and now using their commanding power, they were taking the boats through Eden's water, following the instruction given to them in order to surrender their forces.

This was a war where an entire Navy fleet fought and lost against a single helicopter of the defending nation without facing any retaliatory fire in return.

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A few minutes before the Pilot had been ordered to send "TDR bomb" a skirmish on the land border had erupted by the rain of artillery fire from Esparia's forces as the vehicles carrying soldiers were at a hold, waiting for the chaos caused by the artillery fire to disorient the soldiers before they started making their moves.

Three kilometers away from the nearest vehicles of Esparia, fifteen among the fifty soldiers could be seen lying down in cover at different distances from each other, their guns aiming and matching in the direction where the vehicle fleet was situated, the sky above was covered by artillery shells which passed and were heading to their border.

[Take out the commanding structure] Athena ordered, using the long-range data collected from "Henry's eyes" and integrating what it into the headgears the soldiers were wearing, highlighting the people she wanted to be removed to elicit surrender from the enemy forces.

The moment the highlighting was done, the soldiers wasted no time in pulling the trigger in unison followed by the sounds of bullets leaving their electromagnetic acceleration barrels, finally embarking on their last journey for reducing a few souls from the living side of the universe.

A few seconds later, the entire high-level commanding structure, that had been in the situation room within a tent that was situated about six kilometers away from the fifteen soldiers, preparing to watch and direct how the entire situation takes place, ceased to breathe, severing their access to the living realm. The bullets marked the first objects to take human life, with the artillery fired by their soldiers being ranked second, having killed 23,532 ants that had their nests on the base of Eden.

The rest thirty-five of the fifty soldiers had their guns aimed at the vehicles that carried people on the next line of command within the massive convoy of military vehicles, waiting for the artillery rain to subside.

Their headgear turned red, highlighting a few people it deemed important enough for them to die before the rest of the fleet.

"BANG" A silent, synchronous sound echoed in the loud night going unnoticed except by the ones who fired it...

Chapter 196 The Fifteen Minute War

After the death of the remaining commanding structure in the convoy, the soldiers finally realized that something was terribly wrong. Some of them even heard the sound of the mirror shattering followed by the sound of a coconut busting, which attracted their attention and forced them to take a look at what was really going on.

But that was not all, some of them had been having a conversation with their comrades, just before the person they were conversing with had their heads suddenly explode in front of them, spattering all of their brain matter over their faces, giving them a horrific experience and a very expensive PTSD to recover from.

Although killing people was good, Athena had practically dismantled all of the existing command structure, rendering any effort of recovering from what had happened in a short period of time almost impossible. And throughout this whole fiasco, artillery shells continued to be fired by their forces since she had already decrypted all the radio signals on the island and was impersonating to be the authentic command, ordering them to continue firing until they ran out of shells, planning to end the war by the end of this very night.

The artillery squadron asked no questions as they were sure that if a problem occurred, they wouldn't be the ones to be blamed for it since the order came from the higher ranks. They continued firing the shell relentlessly, as if there was no tomorrow, making little adjustments in the firing angle after every few rounds.

While the shell were still flying over them, the soldiers in the convoy had now fully come to the realization of what had just happened and started panicking, that was when the first person fired their guns in the direction of Esparia's camp, with that, the rest soon followed as they had come to a conclusion that the snipers must be coming from that direction.

Athena silently observed as the Esparian soldiers fired their guns in panic, with some of them trying to run back towards the artillery squadron for their safety, some of them were even hiding in the tanks or in the armored cars. This was immediately followed by the driver of those vehicles starting to retreat, trying to get as far away from the chaos as possible, to increase their chances of surviving.

However, the moment they started firing, some soldiers shot their own fellow comrades in a fit of panic, escalating the chaos even further.

And with more than fifty vehicles trying to retreat at once, another level of chaos now erupted amidst the cars as the driver of every car tried to be the first one to leave this chaotic zone.

[Surrender now and you won't be killed] An announcement was heard through all the radio communication devices, this caused a short moment of lul among the Esparian soldiers on the border as they wondered if they had heard it correctly.

Alas, despite the warning, the artillery continued to be fired as if they hadn't heard the order while they remained oblivious to the chaos that was going on just a few kilometers away from them.

Athena, who had deliberately made it that way as she wanted to demonstrate another feat of force to convince the soldiers to follow her order, sent the order to the pilot of the massive helicopter hovering over the same location since the massacre had started, to release the TDR type.

Wasting no time, the pilot followed the order and pulled the trigger, releasing the bomb which was immediately followed by the booster strapped on it to get ignited as it embarked on its final mission, a journey of being a part-time grim reaper, though just for a brief period of a second.

The soldiers who had paused for a moment continued their attempts to escape once the artillery team continued firing heard a sonic boom coming from the Eden's base and by the time they raised their heads, they could see a white colored tube looking object with a fireball behind it for a brief second before it passed by them. Realizing what it exactly was, the soldiers immediately dunked down, trying to take cover and when they noticed that nothing had happened, they turned their faces towards the direction the bomb had gone.

To their shock, they immediately saw a massive explosion occur exactly five kilometers away from them, it was as if a massive light bulb had been lit up.

And exactly 14.6 seconds later, they were honored with being the very first humans on land to have an enmasse collective loss of hearing, similar to what their counterparts at the sea had experienced.

At this moment from the deepest part of their hearts, they understood very well that the artillery squadron was no more. The moment their hearing returned, they heard the same announcement they had heard before the artillery squadron was wiped out, causing them to understand that if they failed to comply with the given instructions, they would be the missile's next target.

As the saying goes– "It only takes one coward to determine the entire outcome of a battle." The moment the first soldier dropped his weapon, it was as if a domino had started to fall as soldier after soldier followed suit, dropping their weapons and raising their hand high while facing the Eden base's direction, hoping that whoever had fired that bomb or missile could see them clear enough and not do the same thing to them as he had done to the artillery squadron.

However, there were a few brave ones in the midst of the surrendering soldiers, but after the third soldier tried acting heroic and had his head burst out of nowhere, the rest of the soldiers didn't dare to do anything that would make them be deemed as defiance. They now were aware that there was an angel of death somewhere on the other side, who was ready to take them to after life the moment they tried doing anything funny.

[Now, with your weapons left there, start walking to our base. Remember, the moment any of you try doing anything funny, he will be killed. Of course, you are welcome to test our theory] Athena announced once again and at the same time another soldier's head was blown off. When those near him glanced at the dead soldier, they caught the sight of a hidden handgun next to him, this increased the level of fear they had against their enemy as they failed to imagine how the heck the enemy whom they still haven't seen could see that one among them had hidden the gun behind his back.

One by one, they started walking, officially beginning the march of life as they tried to walk as fast as they could, lest they also had their heads popped like watermelons similar to those who had fucked around and ended up being fucked out of the very life.

Just like a jock, the war that had started abruptly also ended abruptly, finishing the entire war with a landslide victory. The only loss on the winner's side was the base that was shelled, with no casualty sustained by them. The entire war had come to a conclusion in a matter of fifteen minutes with the losing side having lost more than two hundred and fifty soldiers altogether, along with it taking the title of the world's shortest war from the Anglo-Zanzibar War which had lasted for only about 38 to 45 minutes.

Chapter 197 The Oblivious Ones

The presidential palace, Esparia.

Inside the situation room, the President of Esparia, Samuel, could be seen quietly sitting, eagerly waiting for the reports of their ongoing invasion on Eden, and from his expressions, it could be said that he didn't seem to be worried about anything going bad at all.

"Do we still have the radio problem?" He asked the Esparias Military General, who was with him, along with several other high-level members of the government and among them there was a person who didn't have any of such lofty position in the government and yet was allowed in the room and was, in fact, even given a chair right next to the President, he was the spokesperson sent by the Morgans after the first visitor from them had observed the situation and returned back to report to them.

"We suspect that the other side is trying to disrupt the rhythm of our operation, but you don't have to worry, Mister President. We are confident of winning this fight with a landslide victory," answered the general, trying to make it so that the President doesn't later try to undermine his glory.

The president looked at the representative of the Morgans and just as he was about to start his conversation with him, a secure phone line started ringing, causing the president to stop and glance at it as the general picked up the phone and put it on loudspeaker since he didn't want to repeat what the conversation might be about.

"Go on," the general said, allowing the caller to start speaking.

[Good evening, Mr Samuel and the rest of the members] Athena's feminine voice greeted from the other side of the phone, causing the people in the room to tilt their heads in confusion and make them wonder if a soldier was messing with them despite knowing that he could be punished for such an act?

"You do know that you will be heavily punished for not following the military protocol, right?" the general stated in an intimidating tone, trying to make the soldier know the weight of what he had just done, "I will ask the President to forgive you under the assumption that you were too excited for the good news you were about to present to us. So, go on and say it without wasting our time," he added.

Athena, who had been quiet throughout the reprimanding words of the general, answered while saying, [Had I been a soldier of your country, that would have been something scary and reassuring to hear from you. Unfortunately, I'm not one of them. I'm calling from the secure phone the currently dead commanding structure had in their planning tent to inform you that we have all of your remaining soldiers under our temporary prison, as prisoners of war] She said in a serious tone, making the members hearing her words to subconsciously believe that whatever she was saying was no longer a joke since no one was dumb enough to play such a foolish prank on them given the current situation.

"You seem to have lucked out and managed to gain connection to our encrypted communication, planning to play a game of minds with us in the hope that we stop our invasion. But you're barking up the wrong tree, you should have used this chance to beg for the conditions of surrender," Samuel said after realizing the caller was indeed from Eden's military.

[I really can't be bothered to give further explanation. Call this number after you are informed, I don't think it should take long] Athena said before ending the call since she had enough time to play mind games with them.

"Logan, do you think she is serious about what she said?" Samuel asked the general after taking a short moment to ponder whether their enemies were serious or just bluffing.

"They must be bluffing, Mister President. Through all of our simulation, we are sure that there is not even a slim possibility of them ending up as the winners in this fight," Logan answered with a pride tone, showing how confident he was of winning the fight, to the point of not even considering the chance of the call being real.

At the same time, he started disconnecting all the power cords to the phones in the room to prevent any chance of eaves droppings happening through the infiltrated secure communication lines. Not taking any chances.

"Then how do you explain about the radio being jammed moments after we crossed the border and not receiving any report through any other channels for the past 20 minutes since the war started?" asked the representative of the Morgan's, opening his mouth for the first time since the start of the operation.

They only knew him as the representative, because that's what he had introduced himself as and hadn't even given them his name.

"Due to having a problem with funding allocation, we haven't upgraded the radio of all the soldiers. So they might have the ability to jam them but that doesn't mean that they have won the war. We can explain all of it if they might have got help from the telecommunication giant, CONNECT," Logan said, trying to give an explanation on how the jamming might have been made possible.

"If they are that powerful, why did they fail to stop us from disturbing their government infrastructure and almost their whole internet infrastructure, slowing down the internet and even removing access to their government websites?" asked the representative from the Morgan family.

"Our communication infrastructure is not as advanced as yours, which allowed you to make them suffer. But their communication juggernaut of a company should at least have the capability of blocking certain radio signals. Despite being outdated, if they were to use CONNECT's infrastructure, they should still be a few generations ahead of the most prevalent communication system we have.

So, it should be easy for them to do that. Nonetheless, that doesn't stop us from bulldozing them, all we have to do is bomb their base and kill or capture the rest of them," Logan retorted back, finding that the situation he was in right now was quite embarrassing since he was defending the enemy's capabilities by explaining how they could do such a thing, yet at the same time, also try to show the man that he was confident of them winning this fight despite the other side having the advantage of information infrastructure.

"Why don't we just send a helicopter to the war theater so that it can bring back information on whether everything is going as planned or not?" suggested Logan, trying to end the discussion as the more he discussed this, the more uneasy he started to become. He found the reasoning made by the people in the room was logical, the only discrepancy here being that the Eden's military couldn't have gained so much expertise in such a short period of time.

"That makes the most sense. Go on and order for a helicopter to be sent there and bring back the information as soon as possible," Samuel said, trying to mediate and prevent the two people from starting an argument and also in order to make sure that his second batch of payment would be delivered to him upon receiving the news of the successful start of the operation.

Logan immediately called for his assistant and gave him the order, avoiding the use of phones in the room since they were already infiltrated.

Chapter 198 Meeting The ESF

Under the cover of darkness, six heavily armed helicopters lifted off from one of the well-lit military bases in Esparia. Each helicopter carried two pilots and four soldiers who had been armed to the max, heading in two directions for executing a dangerous mission that was handed to them, one was headed towards the land border and the other to the water border close to the first, where a great massacre was already expected to have happened.

Although Athena deliberately called through the secure line from their land base and only talked about having some prisoners of war, she didn't specify where the prisoners originated from, as she wanted Esparia to still want to continue the war.

Because if the war were to end this way, Esparia would still have the delusion that they had lost merely because the other side turned out to be lucky and had hit them back in surprise, believing that they could win with enough preparations from their side.

She wanted to solve the problem from the very root and prevent it from ever raising again.

The helicopters heading to the land war theater were the first to arrive after a forty-five minutes long flight. At first, they were expecting to be able to see the ongoing fight with the barter trade of bullets taking place, however, nothing of such sort could be seen which in itself was weird and scary.

In fact, the whole scene before them looked deserted.

"Ground Base, this is Recon-1. Over!" The leading helicopter pilot tried to establish communication with the ground base.

"Ground Base, Recon-1 on approach. Requesting radio check. Over." The pilot repeated his attempt to establish communications with them once again.

"Ground Base, this is Recon-1. We are within visual range. Requesting immediate contact. Over." He repeated the communication establishment request for the third time and when he received no reply after waiting for a short period, he immediately said, "All Recon units, this is Alpha 1. Standby in a holding pattern above the vicinity of the base. Maintain radio silence until further notice. I'm going to establish communication with the Home Base to inform them about this. Over."

Beta: "Copy, Alpha 1. Holding in position and maintaining radio silence. Over."

Gama: "Roger that, Alpha 1. Standing by and ready to support. Over."

Delta: "Affirmative, Alpha 1. Holding pattern and radio silence in effect. Over."

Alpha 1: "Good. Maintain visual contact with the landing zone and keep your sensors on high alert. We need to be prepared for any potential threats. Over." He reminded the pilots of the other helicopters to be careful, while immediately started to establish communication with the home base and informed them about what they had seen.

"Home Base, this is Recon 1, we're at the designated recon zone, but we've been unable to establish communication with Ground Base so far. It seems deserted. We've spotted unusual holes that should be the result of a large explosion. Over." He informed them at once.

"Copy that, Recon-1. Can you provide visual and photographic evidence of your discoveries? Over." The home base responded at once, asking for more information.

"Affirmative, Home Base. Activating the onboard cameras for documentation. Sending images now. Over." He responded, immediately starting the process of establishing data transfer with the Home base.

"Received the images, Recon-1. Excellent work. Maintain position until further notice and still remain cautious. We will analyze the data and advise your next steps. Over." The home base reported that they have received the images and ordered the pilots to remain on standby.

"Understood, Home Base. Standing by until fur....." he had just said till then, when...

"BRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR"

They were attacked by bullets that started raining on the helicopter all of a sudden, out of nowhere, hitting only the non-threatening part of the helicopter that was enough to make it incapable of continuing its flight but not bad enough to cause them to explode.

"MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY" All the pilots in the three helicopters entered an emergency response, controlling their helicopter they tried their best to make their landings as smooth as possible and reduce the amount of injuries they would be sustaining after the crash landing.

They started their emergency landing by detaching all the bombs and rockets that they had brought in preparation for an attack and ditching their external fuel tanks which they had brought in preparation for long operations, however, now they were nothing more than additional firewood that would cook them if it exploded upon their emergency landing.

And thanks to them taking that measure and their expertise that was honed over a long period of time, they managed to land alive, albeit not completely unharmed, the injuries were light enough as they survived and managed to get off the helicopter with nothing threateningly harmful.

"Welcome!" That was the first word they heard after they had finished thanking god for keeping them alive.

The soldiers among the group immediately raised their guns, pointing them in the direction where the sound had come from.

"I wouldn't do that if I were you," came a response as they noticed that about fifteen people, who from head to toe were completely donned in futuristic-looking gear, had their guns pointed at them, at the same time, the opponents fired their guns in unison without any further warning, resulting in their bullets to break the guns in the hands of the soldier, causing them to have a mini heart attack as they were both scared for their lives and at the same time impressed with the coordination among these soldiers.

The situation grew tense as the two sides faced each other, uncertain as to what lay ahead.

However, after a moment, the pilots and the few soldiers immediately raised their hands in surrender while the afraid Alpha 1 asked, "Who are you guys?" having trouble remembering any country to have such futuristic-looking gears.

"(ESF) Eden's special forces," one of them answered and then they immediately started handing each of the survivors a black zip tie-looking device and at the same time instructed, "Put them on or you will be forced to do so."

Following the instructions, the Esparian soldiers put their hands at the center of the ziptie-looking device which automatically closed themselves, fitting to the size of their hands at the same time, giving them a sensation as if they had lost all the strength from their bodies, scaring the shit out of them.

This sudden loss of strength had more to do with the zip ties using the nervous system in their hands to force the brain into putting a limiter on the strength of the people wearing them.

Following that, they were immediately escorted to a military truck that had arrived a few moments ago, indicating that it was specifically brought for carrying these new prisoners.

As for the those in the helicopters that had headed to the waterfront, they were met with the same fate, the only difference being that they had to swim for a few meters before a boat came to rescue

them, it was at that time that they were handed the zip tie 2.0 before they were even offered blankets to shield themselves from the freezing breeze in the ocean.

Chapter 199 Flipping The Table

"Sir, we have lost contact with the helicopter we sent for reconnaissance," reported the assistant, who had been the one responsible for sending the order of dispatching the helicopters for reconnaissance.

"What do you mean by that? Didn't we send six of them? How the heck could all of them lose communication at the very same time?" Logan asked, his tone clearly indicating that he was breaking from the inside. He finally started believing that even if they were unlucky for the first time, they couldn't be so ill-fated now as well and have lost all the helicopter's communication despite being well-prepared with counter measures.

"No, sir, they didn't lose communication at the same time, rather, all of them were shot down," the assistant clarified his report as he put down a computer and played the audio recording right before the helicopters were gunned down.

"Understood, Home Base. Standing by till fur...BRRRRRRRRRRRRR" The audio came to an abrupt halt with white noise, indicating that the helicopter was certainly lost.

"Fuck" the President swore, realizing that now they had to buy new helicopters to replace the currently downed ones. He wasn't concerned about the loss of soldiers at all since they could be replaced at any time, however, the money needed to buy the helicopter couldn't be refunded and that meant he would be having a little bit less money to embezzle.

"So, we failed to get any information about what is really going on on the borders?" asked the representative, causing the entire room that was filled with whispers to return back to complete silence.

"No, we have managed to get images from the land base before the helicopters were shot down, however, the one sent over the waters was shot even before they could send us any images back," reported the assistant as he started handing a folder which had the pictures that were sent by the Recon-1 before it was shot down.

"Holy mother!" Logan blurted as his eyes widened as soon as he laid his eyes on the picture, despite being an incompetent general, upon seeing the crater near the base, he could still deduce that whatever had exploded at this place was massive ordnance, carrying quite a heavy power with it.

"So, what are we going to do with this?" Samuel wondered as he put the folder down, knowing how unpopular he was going to be after this news reached the citizens and relatives of those that were sent to the base.

"It might not be as bad as we think, if you look at the explosion, there are only a few body parts scattered around it, meaning that more than seventy percent of the soldiers might be still alive and are only captured. However, the problem is, we don't have the images of what happened at the other location," Logan said, bringing into view that most of their problems were only due to them being starved of information.

"Then how about sending fighter jets for reconnaissance this time?" Samuel asked.

"We can't do that, with them shooting the six helicopters at once; it clearly indicates that they already have a very robust anti-aircraft defense system established," Logan said, shaking off the President's idea.

"I can get you the satellite images of the battlefield, but no matter the outcome comes from the picture, you have to remember the deal, you are not to stop until you have reached one of the milestones stated in the contract, or else you will be the ones who will need to worry about your lives. If the situation on the ground is worse than expected, we will be supporting you with both manpower and even the technology to take down their infrastructures, but for those assistances, our deal will have to be rewritten and increase the share of the pie we will be receiving when everything is over," said the representative, even threatening them to not even think of the idea of giving up.

"We should get those images first and then decide what actions we are going to take following that, but if things are as bad as what we can extrapolate from what little information we have, we will have to be as much prepared as we can and also need to send a massive amount of vehicles and other resources." Samuel agreed, feeling that his money was getting further and further away from him.

"So, how are we going to respond when Eden makes an announcement about this?" Samuel asked after a moment, taking a look at everyone in the room.

"We just have to prepare different responses and choose one based on how Eden reports the incident, that would allow us to understand what they are planning to use their victory at the moment," the representative said before taking his phone from his pocket and leaving the room to call his supervisor for the request to provide him with the satellite images of the ongoing events at the border between Eden and Esparia.

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When they received the satellite images, they finally were able to see the full extent of the war's outcome.

On the land, there were two craters: one massive, which lay in the place that used to be the artillery squadron's location of firing the shells and the second one which was caused by one of the Esparia's special forces after it fired on the ammunition depot, resulting in the depot's explosion, thus forming the small crater.

As for the water, where the other part of the battle had taken place, there was nothing but a calm ocean. No boats or their wreckage could be seen, however, there were still many bodies that could be caught sight of if one zoomed in, this was enough to give them the missing part of information they needed to know what exactly had happened to their navy fleet.

Their entire navy fleet was completely wiped out!

However, when they looked at the next image, they saw some of their boats being docked in a small military port with tents being arranged at the base, giving them slight reassurance knowing that at least some of their soldiers were alive. This would reduce the amount of backlash they would be receiving from the family members of the soldiers and the general public for the huge losses they had suffered had it been a complete massacre of their navy fleet.

"It looks like we have lost round one and Eden should be bragging about it tomorrow morning, but that should turn out to be helpful for us as now that they had won, they would loosen their vigilance and when we return after preparing for over a month, we should be able to pay for this humiliation," Logan spat as he crumpled the papers on his hands in anger, he had lost his chance of winning a battle and get himself a medal, which could have been the start of his journey on etching his name among one of the best generals in the history.

"Are we going to negotiate with them for the release of our soldiers in the midst of our preparations?" he asked after putting down the now crumpled paper on the table.

"Yes. Right after they make their press conference, we will respond that it was a misunderstanding and they were the ones who attacked us first and tell the family members of the soldiers that we will be negotiating for their release, while behind Eden's back, we will still be preparing for the second round of the fight," answered the President's assistant with a starry light in his eyes.

But what happened the next (Thursday) morning was nothing that they had prepared themselves for.

The spokesperson of Eden's ministry of defense just informed the public about Esparia's attack on both land and water, while they never talked about them winning the war or anything related to it, they just said that the fight was still going on and that they will do their best to protect their sovereignty, that's all.

No talks about winning the war or anything to hint at that, they even portrayed themselves to be the ones on the losing side and put themselves in a worse condition and even causing worry among the public where they could have been bragging about their one-sided beatdown that they had dished out to Esparia, flipping the table on almost all of Esparia's plans that were made with the expectation that Eden would be bragging about their win.

"SHIT" cursed the President and the general in unison as they watched the press conference.

They were taken aback by the unexpected turn of events and Eden's unexpected thick-faced nature.

Chapter 200 The Worlds Reaction

The news was received by every corner of the globe in just a matter of a few hours.

However, the world on the other hand reacted completely differently to the information, especially after the American government held a press conference a few hours after the one carried out by Eden's Ministry of defense(EMOD), but during this press conference, they brought out a completely different narrative from what the EMOD had stated about the ongoing war.

The revelation from the American government's side came with imagery evidence among which included the shocking explosion images that were captured by their Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) constellation. The image clearly showed the ocean water rising very high amidst a few boats that were destroyed and only had a few pieces floating together, with a massive plum of water rising for a radius of ten kilometers which was its impact zone. The water turned foamy after being disturbed by shockwaves from the explosion and was caught by the sensors and is now shown as evidence.

In fact, people were completely taken aback by such a horrific event that had occurred just a few hours ago and the country that did this did not even consider what might happen after they

massacred the entire fleet that had breached their maritime sovereignty and continued acting as if the war had only started.

(@CuriousSoul): Woah, just caught up on the EMOD's press conference about the ongoing war! Their narrative made them look weak, but now the American government comes in with a completely different story? #WarSaga #DualNarratives

(@HistoryBuff101): This is getting wild! The American government's imagery evidence is too just shocking. That explosion pic from their SBIRS is horrifying, yet it looked awesome! #WarSaga #ExplosiveRevelations

(@NewsJunkie23): Can't wrap my head around it! Why does Eden's narrative imply that the fight is going to be very difficult for them if they want to come out victorious, but at the same time, America's narrative shows that they have completely dragged and massacred the Esparians, ending the entire thing in a matter of a few minutes? Who do we believe? #WarSaga #ConflictingReports

(@TechGeek99): The technology doesn't lie! The SBIRS evidence is compelling, but who's to confirm that it wasn't tampered with? We need a real report. Conspiracy theories in 3, 2, 1... #WarSaga #TechTruth

(@problemaker): But from where the heck did they even get their hands on such a powerful explosive and how were they even able to use it without the other side doing absolutely nothing to avoid it? #somethingishidden here #Conspiracy #Insidejob

(@PoliticalInsight): Geopolitics at play! EMOD and America trying to shape the narrative in their favor. We need unbiased reporting and fact-checking. #WarSaga #GeopoliticalGames

(@DefenceExpert22): Let's not forget the tragedy! The casualties in the ocean battle can't be ignored. Condolences to the families affected. #WarSaga #RememberTheFallen

(@HopefulMindset): Amidst the chaos, let's hope for better days ahead. Humanity must find a way to resolve conflicts peacefully. #WarSaga #HopeForPeace

(@AnalyticalEyes): The power of perspective! EMOD and America's narratives show how information can be twisted to their liking. Critical thinking is crucial in times like these. #WarSaga #PerspectiveMatters

(@Thecuriousdude69): By the way, where the fuck is Esparia's department of defense? We need some fucking answers, they remain quiet throughout all of this? Are they embarrassed for the beating they received? #WarSaga #WherethefuckisEsparia #Esperia? #Ineedanswers

Interestingly, Esparia had remained silent despite them being the ones who had suffered heavy casualties of their soldiers and were humiliated while the other side had already made their announcement.

As the public pressure continued to increase, the silence could only last for a few hours before the news about Esparia arranging a press conference in the afternoon of the same day.

After all, they were pressured by the public to give an explanation of what the heck had happened and with the cries of the families of the soldiers that had been sent to the border during the period, only escalated the tensions.

People were waiting for the press conference with anxiousness, curious as to what explanation Esparia was going to provide about the devastating events.

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[Esparia Ministry of Defense Press Conference]

Inside the room filled with hundreds of reporters from both local and international media, all were eager to get this news to the curious observers who wanted to get as much information as possible about the ongoing situation. People were curious whether it was just a skirmish that would end as such or will it escalate into a full-blown war, with some secretly hoping for the latter to happen.

A handsome-looking man, donned in a full ceremonial military uniform, walked into the room, carrying a hard folder in his hands. He confidently walked to the podium before putting the folder on it. Raising his head, he looked at the flashing cameras and reporters in the room to address them in a calm and slow manner.

"Ladies and gentlemen,"

The little amount of whispers and talks came to a halt as he continued.

"Thank you for joining us today as we address the recent events involving Esparia and Eden. It is with a heavy heart that I stand before you to shed light on the unfortunate incidents that occurred last night," he paused for a moment, allowing the people to prepare themselves for the gravity of what he was going to say next.

After a short moment of pause, he continued, "Last night, our fleet was engaged in a routine navigation exercise, training for a situation where we use other means of navigation apart from just our GPS navigation system."

"Due to some uncalculated errors occurring during the exercise, our fleet inadvertently veered into Eden's waters without any malicious intent."

"When that happened, Eden's forces, without any prior warning, launched an aggressive attack on our fleet using a bomb that resulted in the loss of numerous brave soldiers and the capture of the remaining members. We deeply mourn for the loss of our comrades and are doing everything in our power to secure the safe return of those captured."

"It is crucial to note that there was no prior warning from Eden and we were taken by surprise when we were suddenly faced with an attack without any provocation."

He let out a sigh, a look of worry flashing on his face, he then continued.

"Furthermore, Eden's aggression didn't stop right at the sea as they simultaneously initiated a skirmish on the land border. This clearly indicates that this was not just a simple reaction to us entering their water, but a deliberately planned operation from their side, so that they could inflict damage upon us and us entering their waters was nothing but a mere justification they could use for what they had done to us."

"Their actions caught our forces off guard, leaving them with little to no chance to defend themselves. This attack resulted in severe casualties and a humiliating arrest of all the surviving members of our forces situated on the base."

The man said as he seemed to be grinding his teeth in anger.

Seeing this, many of the reporters couldn't help but start to believe that it was indeed true.