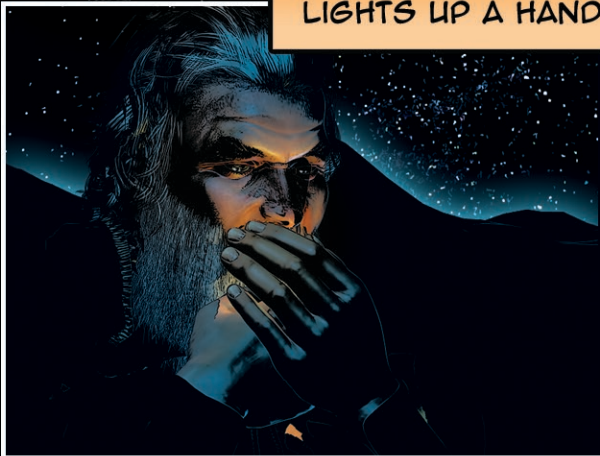


5 MILES NORTHWEST OF AFAK,
IRAQ. DECEMBER 24, 2002.



THE BEDOUIN EXITS HIS TENT AND
LIGHTS UP A HAND-ROLLED CIGARETTE.



SUDDENLY, THE OLD MAN SENSES SOMETHING THAT CHILLS HIM TO THE
VERY CENTER OF HIS SOUL. INDEED, SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY WRONG
ON THIS COLD, DARK NIGHT. BUT...

WHAT IS IT?



**HE FIXES HIS EYES INTENSELY
ON THE DISTANT HORIZON.**

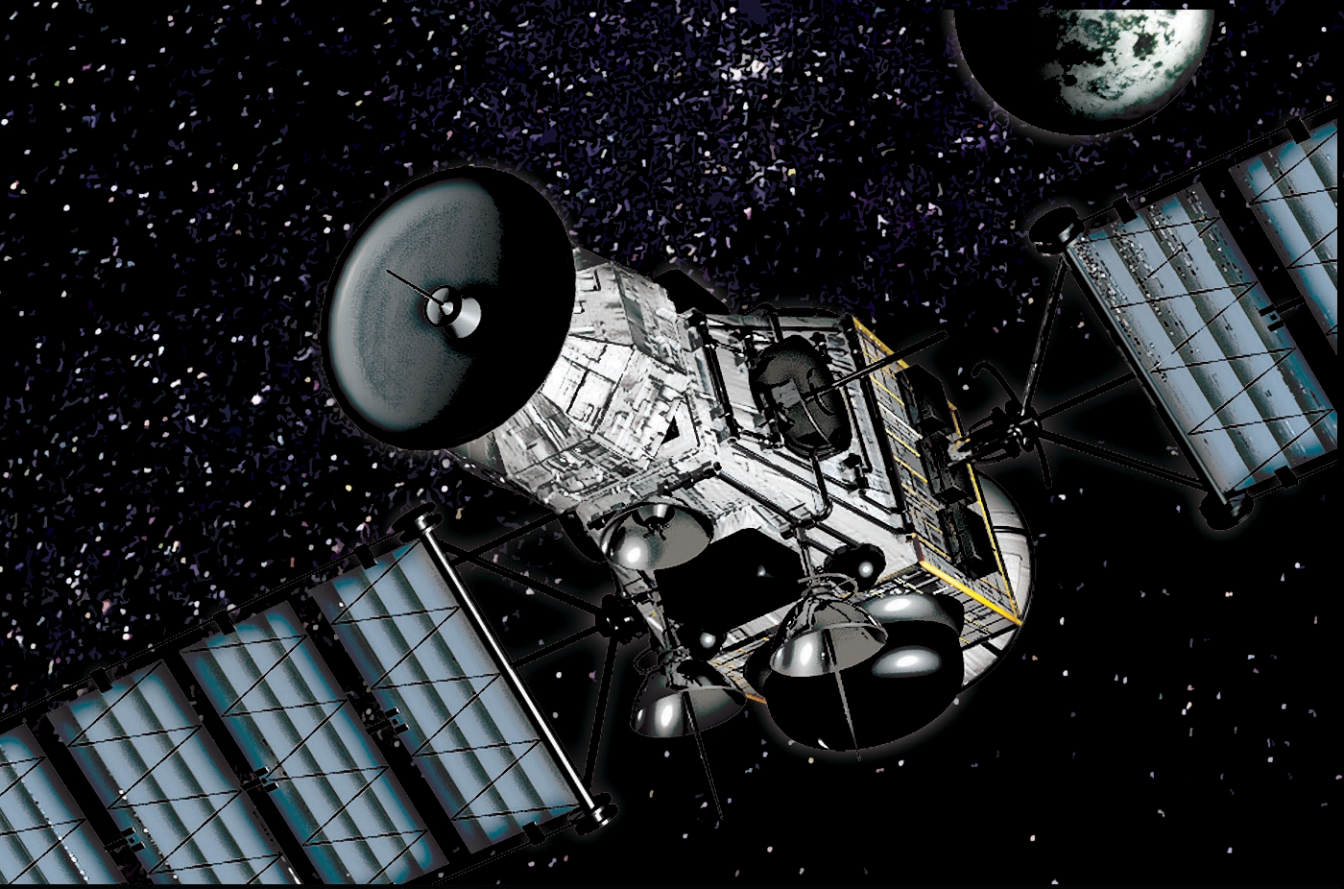
**AS HE GAZES FURTHER UP INTO
THE SKY, THE CONSTELLATION OF
ORION CATCHES HIS ATTENTION.**

**CONTINUING TO SCAN THE
HEAVENS, HE ALSO NOTICES
A PECULIAR ALIGNMENT OF
STARS AND PLANETS.**



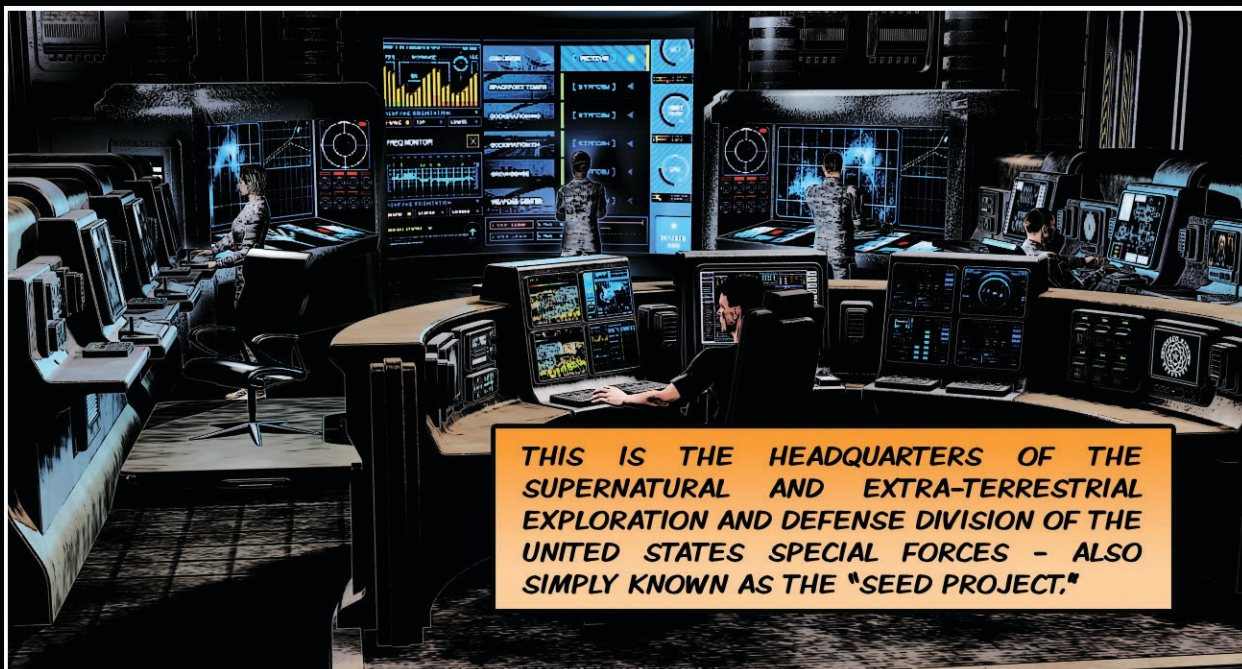
AH. IT APPEARS THE
GIANTS OF OLD HAVE GATHERED
THEMSELVES TOGETHER. IT
WON'T BE MUCH LONGER NOW...

YES. THE SIGNS CONFIRM HIS SUSPICIONS.
THE FINAL BATTLE OF A 6,000 YEAR-OLD
SEED WAR IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.



HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH, THE OUROBOROS SPY SATELLITE BEGINS TO TRANSMIT IMAGERY AND TELEMETRY DATA DOWN TO A HIGH-TECH, COVERT MILITARY COMMAND CENTER.

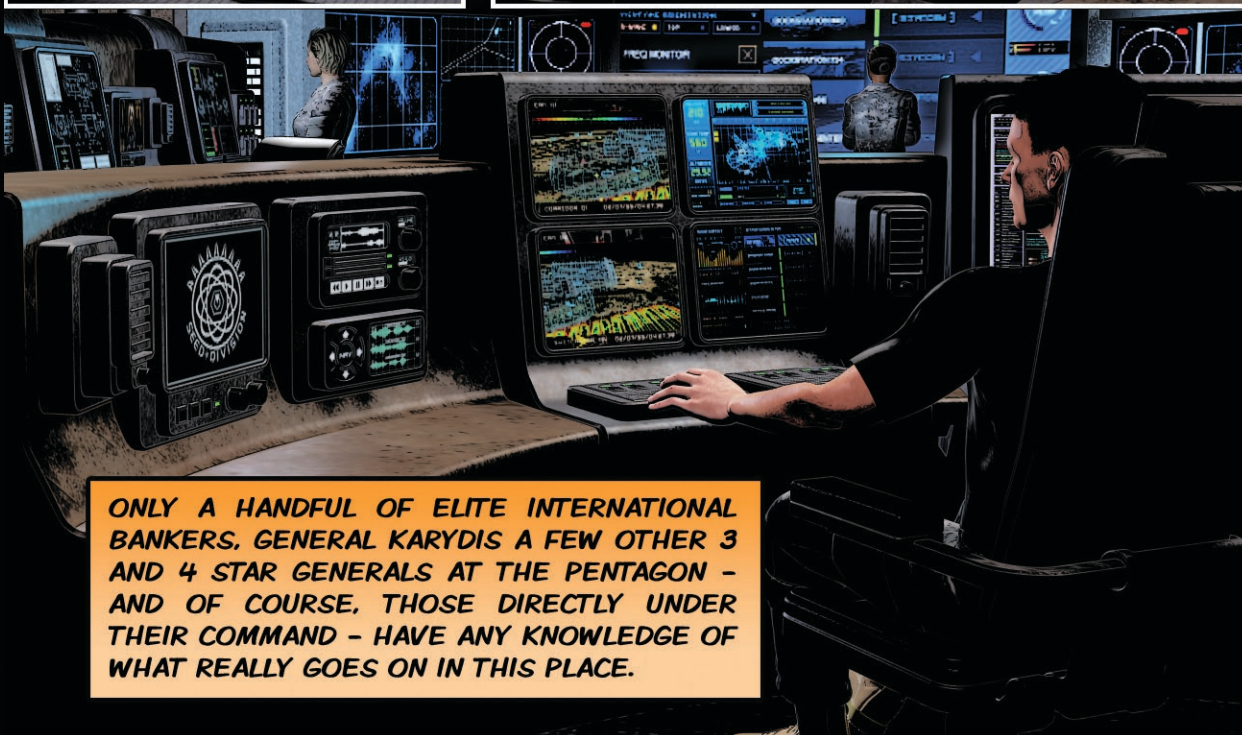




THIS IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SUPERNATURAL AND EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL EXPLORATION AND DEFENSE DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES SPECIAL FORCES - ALSO SIMPLY KNOWN AS THE "SEED PROJECT."



IT WAS THE BRAIN-CHILD OF MAJOR GENERAL VICTOR KARYDIS.



ONLY A HANDFUL OF ELITE INTERNATIONAL BANKERS, GENERAL KARYDIS A FEW OTHER 3 AND 4 STAR GENERALS AT THE PENTAGON - AND OF COURSE, THOSE DIRECTLY UNDER THEIR COMMAND - HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT REALLY GOES ON IN THIS PLACE.

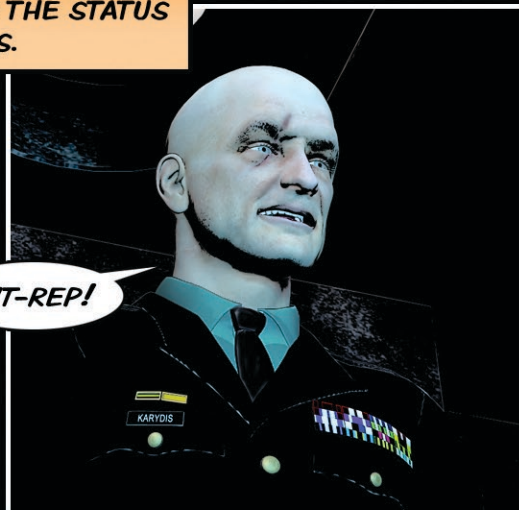
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE PLANS FOR EXPANSION, CURRENTLY, IT CONSISTS OF ONLY THREE SIX-MAN SQUADS.



TODAY, GENERAL KARYDIS ENTERS THE S.E.E.D. TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER, EAGER FOR AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF TWO OF THOSE SQUADS.



SIT-REP!



WE'RE RECEIVING SATELLITE TELEMTRY NOW GENERAL KARYDIS.



ELSEWHERE, 160 KILOMETERS
SOUTHEAST OF BAGHDAD, IRAQ.

AGARTHA'S ALPHA AND BRAVO TEAMS QUICKLY
MAKE THEIR WAY ACROSS THE DESERT SAND.

INSIDE THE LEAD VEHICLE
ARE THE BEST OF AMERICA'S
ELITE SPECIAL FORCES...

ALRIGHT... SO, WHO
WAS THE GREATEST MOVIE
VILLIAN OF ALL TIME?

DEPENDS.
WHAT GENRE?

SCI-FI.

ALIEN OR HUMAN?

HUMAN.

THAT'S EASY.
DARTH VADER.

THE EMPEROR.

ARE YOU KIDDING?
NO WAY! KAHN WAS
BY FAR THE BEST.



REYNOLDS

CALL SIGN
"WISHBONE"



JAKES

CALL SIGN
"RED"



CALHOUN

CALL SIGN
"CHEF"



RANDALL

CALL SIGN
"PHOENIX"



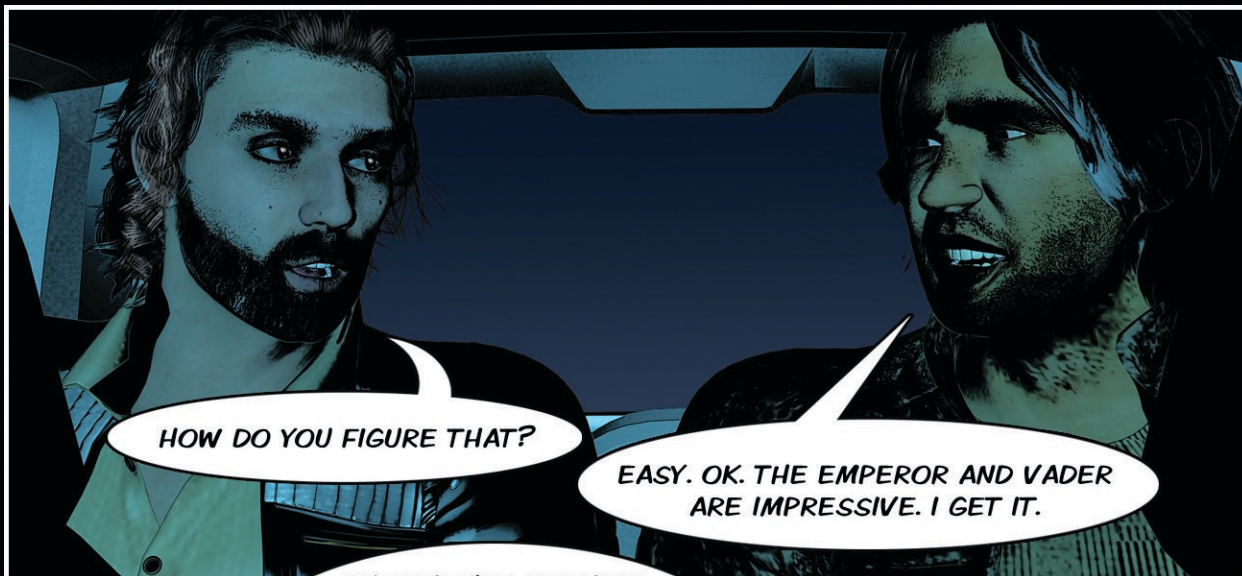
PIERCE

CALL SIGN
"DINO"



MARTINEZ

CALL SIGN
"PRINCE"



HOW DO YOU FIGURE THAT?

EASY. OK. THE EMPEROR AND VADER ARE IMPRESSIVE. I GET IT.

BUT THEY'RE NOTHING WITHOUT THE FORCE. I MEAN SERIOUSLY. TAKE THAT AWAY AND WHAT ARE YOU LEFT WITH? ALL YOU HAVE IS A CONNVING POLITICIAN AND HIS CYBORG SIDEKICK, RIGHT?



IF THE FORCE ISN'T "WITH THEM" THEY'RE TOTALLY SCREWED. THAT ALONE PUTS THEM AT A SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE.

WHEREAS KAHN IS MENTALLY SUPERIOR. NO MYSTICAL ENERGY "FORCE" NEEDED. SEE...

WE'RE TALKING BRAINS OVER BRAWN HERE.

WHILE HIS MEN KILL TIME WITH USELESS TRIVIA, CAPTAIN ZAK RANDALL'S MIND IS VERY MUCH ON THE MISSION AT HAND...