Yridia IX Recon

Sith Battlelord Pel sat in the rear of the cockpit of a Lambda-class shuttle en route to Yridia IX. *So it begins again*, he thought*, another ground mission – when did I give up being a pilot? Shouldn’t one spend less time running around with a sabre as one grows older, not more? Ah well, at least the first part of the job was just recon – something that COULD be done from the comforts of the shuttle. Word had yet to spread about what had happened, and things were still operating normally on the planet.*

“Entering Yridia IX atmosphere in two minutes,” The co-pilot/navigator reported.

“Excellent,“ Pel replied. “Check that our transponder is set correctly. I’ve already ensured there is a flight plan filed showing us as a youth sightseeing tour. Do your best to have us maneouver as a transparisteel-bottomed civilian vessel would. I will perform the scans personally…s*ince I can’t do the flying.”* Pel finished the sentence silently*.*

“Transponder squawking civilian vessel ID, and there’s traffic control contacting us now...” The navigator turned his attention to the voice in his ear, “…directing us to follow our filed plan.”

“Perfect, we should be able to get some nice scans of the government building along that path. It runs right along the edge of the secure zone.” Pel ran one last test of the equipment before beginning to actively scan. The upgraded equipment in this shuttle gave clear life-form readings in all the buildings around, as well as energy-field readings that could be analyzed to get an idea of weapons and other devices in use. As the craft slowly made its way through the city, Pel made sure to sweep over all the buildings surrounding the government structure as well as the main building itself.

After an hour that felt like five, plodding along at a crawl, the data were complete. The shuttle finished its known flight plan, switched off the fake transponder, and retreated over the horizon to allow time to review the collected intel. Battlelords Hades and Pel sat down to figure out a plan. The good news was that no heavy weapon signatures were seen. If they had any, they were not yet charged. A sudden rush wouldn’t give them time to do so. The bad news was that there seemed to be teams of 3-5 stationed in every building, and roving patrols of small groups of soldiers as well.

The estimate of two hundred troops was perhaps conservative – the government building had heavy construction and shielding, and only the outer-most areas could be scanned. What lay deep inside was still a mystery but what was observable was that every door had a team NEARBY, but not directly in front of it. This was a well-organized group, and not just some locals with guns…..it would take a serious plan and some serious firepower to take them down – just the thing that the Order of the Trident specializes in!