Delak sat aboard the Imperial Star Destroyer Indomitable, his flag ship for the last few years. He knew that there was to be a coming battle between Imperium and Excidium, and he knew where the first fight would take place. Intelligence reports had come across his desk recently that showed that Excidium’s forces, while trying to hide themselves, had slipped up and given up the location of one of their primary communication hubs. It was located in the abandoned mines of the Jormungand Quarry on Ptolomea. This was the news that Shadow Guard had been waiting for. House Imperium’s loyal soldiers, Sith, and Dark Jedi were all waiting for their chance to strike. They currently sat in the hanger bay awaiting Delak’s order from Lexiconus to begin the attack. The Laats that they would be using for the trip to the surface were fueled and their cannons were manned in case there was some surprise waiting for them.

Lexiconus had been good enough to get the main Imperium forces into position around the mines at one of the primary entrances to act as a diversion. However they hadn’t heard from the Quarren Quaestor in some time. The waiting game was killing Delak and his troops. Delak felt through the force to try and ascertain if something had happened on the surface. To the best of his abilities he couldn’t sense anything and his power of foresight was also without answer this time. He knew his own abilities in this facet were limited as it was so he hadn’t expected too much from it this time. He paced back and forth on the bridge of the Indomitable waiting for his chance to strike.

The moment came. The private stationed at the holo-terminal called him over.

“Sir we have received a communication from the Quaestor.” The private stated.

“Put it through Private.” Delak ordered.

The holo-emitters fired up and the Quarren Quaestor’s face was lit up brightly.

“Lexiconus, Krennel here. We await your orders.” He said with a bow.

“Warrior Krennel, the time has come for the assault. We are going to take our forces in the front while you head in by the back entrance that we had mapped out. Blade has recently come over from Excidium and is already in place as a mole. They don’t know that she has come over to us yet and is going to make sure the rear defenses are down. You have your orders begin your drop.” The image of Lexiconus flickered out of existence again.

The Commander of the Indomitable took his orders and left his brother Jurdan in command while he headed to the hanger bay. Time seemed to slow down in the turbolift as Delak prepared himself mentally for the fight ahead. He made a habit to center himself in the Dark Side before going to battle. His battle skills would be tested and he needed to make sure he was set for the fight. Within moments the doors opened onto the flight deck and Shadow Guard was assembled there. They looked ready for a fight Lightsabers and Blasters at the ready. The Sith Warrior ordered everyone into their drop ships and as soon as they were aboard they lifted off and flew into the darkness of space. The flight through the atmosphere was rougher than normal due to turbulence in the upper ionosphere and one of the landing craft’s engines suddenly caught fire. The pilot did everything he could to keep it level on the descent to the planet surface. The ship bucked back and forth until they were near their landing zone. The pilot couldn’t hold it anymore and the ship crashed into the ground and started on fire. Delak’s craft landed quickly and everyone jumped off to go check on their comrades. As they opened the door on the fiery wreck they could see some movement but not everyone seemed to be alive. Delak could sense the life force leaving some of the troopers that had accompanied the Battle Team to the planet. The rest of the group seemed ok and the medics in Shadow Guard tried to do what they could for the members that were unconscious in the ship. They pulled them off before the ship burned completely.

Wasting no more time, Delak knew he had a job to do and Blade was waiting on them. It was a quick hike to the quarry and the rear entrance that they were supposed to meet up at. The Battle team double timed it up the hill into the mountains where the quarry had been dug out over the years. Excidium didn’t have any defenses around the quarry for obvious reasons. The main one being the secrecy that they liked to keep. The Battle Team reached the rear entrance and found Blade standing there with two Excidium soldiers lying on the ground outside the doorway into the hub.

“What took you so long Delak?” Blade inquired. “I have been waiting her for at least the last hour.”

“We only just got the call from Lexic, I guess there was an issue with the time frame for the op. We are here now so let’s get this party started. How many are inside?” Delak asked.

“There is at least two squads of troopers and some of Excidium’s Dark Jedi. They don’t have a full house here just a few Commanders. Alara is here and Jorm. No one we have to worry too much about. I can take out Jorm and you can take out Alara. This should be fun.” The fiery Aedile suggested.

“Consider her taken care of. I have been itching for some payback after our training on Kamino recently. She won’t get the upper hand on me again.” Delak stated with a hint of anger in his voice.

“Let’s go then.” Blade ordered. “Also, before we go, make sure your masks are on. I would hate for my pheromones to make you soft little saps.”

The group followed closely behind their new Aedile and had found quickly that she had taken a few of the guards out by herself. Her creative use of pheromones on the unsuspecting men in the mine had them completely under her control. They had put their breather masks on to make them less susceptible to Blade’s womanly charms. The Soldiers and the Sith Warriors followed Blade into the hub. The halls were not very wide because they were mine tunnels originally so a fight would get difficult. They walked for a few meters before they heard explosions from outside the quarry. Lexiconus had started the bombardment of the hub to distract the house forces that were inside. Delak assumed that Excidium would take at least half its forces to try and stop the assault keeping half in the base for any defense that they would need to mount.

The halls were clear until they hit one of the security tunnels adjoining the central hub corridor. Once they reached the security tunnels they found a few soldiers of House Excidium walking around. Delak went to call on the force to trick the men into walking the other direction when Blade just walked out into the hall. She raised her hands up when the men turned to face her. They looked like they were going to shoot her but then they dropped their blasters and got a weird sleepy look on their faces. “She must be using her pheromones to dull them down,” Delak thought to himself as he lowered his Lighstaber. He watched as his Aedile walked up to the men and snapped their necks with a twist of her wrist. How quickly she turned on her old house mates. How quickly would she turn on Delak and his group if something happened in the future? No one would know until it happened.

Delak walked behind blade admiring her quick dispatch of the men and walked into the security office. Looking at the view screens he could see the fight happening outside. It looked like many of the Excidium forces had been killed already and the remaining forces were pulling back to the main hub control room. Jorm and Alara were standing tall in the front of the room while the soldiers were huddled behind control consoles. Delak directed his troops into the main hub before the main force reached them. They would make sure the enemy was taken care of.

All of the troops ran down the corridor and headed straight for the main hub room. They blasted through the door and started shooting at Alara and Jorm first and then moved to the other targets and Delak, Blade, and Zagro headed through the doors with the other members following behind as support. Blade moved up to Jorm Lightsaber ignited. She walked around him in a circle as he walked around her in a circle. Delak likewise walked up to Alara as the battle raged on. Blade took a few swings at Jorm as Alara lunged quickly at Delak’s head. Delak parried the lunge and brought a big elbow down on the back of Alara’s neck. The young Dark Jedi fell to the ground and then took a kick to the midsection. She screamed in pain from the attack of the larger Sith Warrior. He sliced her lightsaber in half disabling the weapon and then pulled from within he picked her up and choked her in mid-air. When she lost consciousness he flung her against the closest duracrete column. Her body slumped and lay quietly on the floor. Meanwhile Blade had taken to her pheromone therapy with Jorm and he was now wavering in his ability to control himself. She made a quick move to knock him out and to take him prisoner. She jumped into the air and kicked the man square in the jaw knocking him backwards onto the ground. He stirred a bit and she kicked him in the jaw again. This time he passed out unconscious as well. Lexiconus ran into the room followed by the rest of Imperium. They quickly stopped to see two of Excidium’s top members and the other troops that weren’t killed held as hostages.

“Hey Lexic, nice of you to join us.” Delak said. “Looks like you missed all the fun.”