Commander's Quarters
Sky Breach Base
Daleem

The klaxons ringing out had an alarming, if not unsurprising effect on Mauro Wynter. The Quaestor was still in his flight suit, returning from a patrol mission. In recent months he had lost his edge, being saddled with leadership and not enough time in the cockpit. The ongoing small-scale escalation with the guilds of Daleem had given him the opportunity to take more time in action. He relished the diligence and methodical war footing his unit was on. At heart, he still felt like the leader of Tython Squadron.

His pistols squarely in his holster, he entered the hallway to see what the commotion was all about. A quartet of Magna Guards stood at attention, their electro-pikes humming to life. Before he could continue his Aedile, Talis DeMorte ran towards him. "They came out of nowhere…our scanners didn't pick them up at all." Wynter smiled. "Of course. The tunnels. That was how the guild's masked their forces at the summit. God I hate this base."

The pair smartly marched to the Comms Center, the hum of activity gave Wynter heart. Groups of JTF Shan and OEF security personnel ran hurriedly to their stations, as the sound of defensive lasers rocked the towering base. "Situation report." Stated the Questor in a calm tone. The answer came from a young Twi'Lek officer. "Sir, from comms chatter we intercepted it appears the Dominion has risen up against the Vatali. Our base is surrounded. The enemy are swarming from the tunnels…new passages keep opening up. We cannot penetrate them without risking undermining the foundation of the base itself."

Wynter and Talis studied the room, taking appraisal of digital displays showing a mixed force of mercenary bands, Sephi warriors, and dissidents of all types. This was not the amateurish forces that Shan had fought in recent memory. "Where the hell did these conventional forces come from? We don't have the manpower to flush out those tunnels unless we bring in the battalions from the fleet. Do we have word from the Slynn Keldra and the Royal Guards?"

Talis shook his head. "The Empire is besieged throughout the system. This is a coordinated attack. Tython is en route now to provide air support, but the collateral damage inflicted if we bring in the fleet…" he was cut off. "Negative. Repeat, negative. If this is a coup the fleet needs to be above Kiast. Until we know what is happening we must hold the base. The enemy cannot leave the tunnels for a full assault, nor can we flush them out. Looks like a siege."

The comms channel opened up, with the welcomed voice of Tyraal Bitshiver, "Tython on station, if anything leaves those tunnels they are slag." Cheers rose up from the room, the exploits of Tython were now legendary. "Tyraal, have your pilots coordinate with the other squadrons from the *Tanos.* We will need continuous air support and a ready reserve. If the

Dominion is making such a move they must have air support somewhere or else this rebellion is done for."

The displays registered something new from the tunnels, as large cannons slowly moved to the entrances. "Shields up, target the tunnel entrances. If they want a laser duel we will give it to them. Have all personnel to battle stations. Prepare everyone for a counter assault we may only get one shot at this. Get all Jedi here, now. We need a strike team."

And so the siege of Sky Breach Base had begun.