

“Belarius reports that the navy is successfully holding up their fleet.”, Shadow reported. “Our mission is a go.”

Aeternus glanced briefly at his Aedile. This was one of their first few missions together. She showed promise, but he was not yet sure how much so. He nodded in response. They were onboard the Quasar Fire class carrier assigned to their house. Along with them was a Raider Corvette. They were a small, fast force, with the fighters on the carrier enough to perform a surgical strike on Meridian.

“Execute Jump”, he ordered.

They had pre-positioned as close as they dared, and thus the jump was only a few minutes. Meridian had been found, and the Scholae navy was busy keeping it’s naval defenses away elsewhere in the system, leaving the way open for the Imperium strike force.

“Prepare fighters for launch!”, Shadow ordered. Aeternus kept his eyes on the strategium. Some elements of the fleet were already pulling away from battle. He estimated they’d have only 20 minutes before they themselves would have to pull back.

2 minutes to get in position to launch fighters, 2 minutes for them all to launch, 4 for them to get in range to attack, 3 to actually attack, and then 4 minutes for the fighters to return, and then to get ready to jump to hyperspace again. It would be close. “Prepare hyperdrive calculations to get out of here. We will only have one shot at this.”

he noticed his command was being followed immediately, with crewmembers getting to work on them. Still, commanding a space battle was not his forte, he much preferred to board the station, and wreak havok there himself. Unfortunately, this time that would not be happening. The plan had been laid out by his Consul, and he was not yet in a position to dissent against that. In time, that would change.

“Launching fighters!”, an officer called out, pulling him out of his reverie. “Scans indicate weak points for their main power generator, as well as the air filtration vents. If we want to disable a system properly, we need to focus on one target. We lack the firepower to do much else.”

Aeternus briefly considered the options, and thought about the Intel received earlier. “The station is mostly crewed by droids. Life Support won’t impact them much. Focus on the power generator.”

“Understood. All fighters, clear the way for the bombers. Grid coordinates uploading to your systems.”

They were too far out to actually see the results themselves. The fighters, heavily supported by their TIE Defenders, created a weak point in the station shields. Several moments later, the TIE Bombers reached their target, and dropped their payload.

“Target hit,” the deck officer reported. “Their main reactor is offline. Also reading secondary explosions on the station, likely the effect of a cascade failure.

“Excellent. We will let the Inquisitorius figure out what damage we did exactly. Call back the fighters, and prepare for combat landing, we jump as soon as they are in.”

the next few minutes were tense, with the fighters staying barely in front of the cruisers chasing them down. Their landing on the carrier could barely be called that, with several landing gears being

damaged thoroughly. With blast doors closing behind them, they immediately jumped to hyperspace.