

Objective 2: Gathering Evidence

The Sicarius silently sat on the outskirts of the Lyra-3 system and monitored the frenetic communications coming from dozens of fighter-craft, capital ships, outposts, and orbital stations. Mauro Wynter was prepared for some activity due to the high level meeting between the Severian Principate and the Dark Jedi Brotherhood but this was more than he bargained for.

He had a dual mission, working for seemingly cross purposes. It was true he was a slave to two masters, the Inquisitorius and Clan Odan-Urr. For the Inquisitorius he was a top level member and a Magistrate to boot and he was on site to keep an eye on the Principate. For his clan, he was there to ensure the delegate sent was in no grave danger and the distress call would be heard early. He was the exfiltration plan.

But, this was beyond what was expected. The Iron Navy was allegedly attacking the Lyra-3 system, firing on anything they could find and everything that moved. This was a lie, Wynter knew, as the Inquisitorius had spies and infiltrators with every unit of the Iron Navy. Such a move would never escape the watchful eye of the Inquisitorius.

Wynter ran the analysis on the Iron Navy forces. Their transponders flew the names and marks of either destroyed or captures vessels. Good enough to fool the Principate, but not enough to fool the Inquisitorius. He knew he had to act fast, to find a target, and expose this charade. The question was what target?

Attacking a craft engaged in combat would do no good, nor would assaulting a group of vessels with the odds stacked against him. No, he needed to find a command and control or an intelligence gathering vessel. Here would be all the proof he needed.

And then the answer appeared. The Sicarius engaged its cloaking device and slowly moved through space. The enemy listener ship was hard to find and must have felt its position was safe. Not so, luckily for Wynter. He closed on the enemy ship and locked target. He could not destroy the vessel, but damaging it badly enough to disable it and scan down its systems. If he could use his vessels sophisticated electronic warfare suite he could broadcast the truth of the whoever was behind this attack.

Disengaging his cloaking device, Wynter fired a volley of concussion missiles and laid into the listener ship with his ion cannons. The first missile found its mark, and hit the ships engines. The second missile took out the ships communications array. He hoped it had not gotten off a distress call before the communications went down.

The battered craft sat idle, with only emergency system lights on. Wynter could almost make out the silhouette of the pilot inside the cockpit. He began to synch into the enemy's computer systems – finding out the true enemy behind this attack. And there it was – code names and flight paths that directly traced back to Nancora. The Collective was behind it after all. Wynter engaged his lightspeed engines and sped off.