(Option 1)

*Arx*

*Eos City Rooftop*

“Tango down.”

Arden muttered into his comlink as he stared down the sights at the Collective officer he had just dropped with an expertly placed bolt to the head. He had a habit of admiring his work for a moment after a kill, though this particular shot was just like a dozen others he’d made today. Though it required quite a bit of coaxing from Ronovi, Arden had decided it was actually worth the effort to participate in the defense of Arx. He had plenty of reasons not to, issues with the Dark Council, pressure from his family to step away, not to mention a burgeoning financial empire. Still, letting the Collective win was not in his long-term interests. They were fanatics, full stop. No one the Force touched would be safe if they were not stopped. Besides, it had been a long time since he’d done this. As much as he hated to admit it, most especially to himself, shooting people’s heads off was fun.

Arden had taken a special forces squad and a LAAT and set up on a rooftop between the Collective’s landing areas and the major population centers. Keeping the transport covered with camo netting as they worked, he and the squad had focused on targets of opportunity. Officers, medics, exposed vehicle drivers, and heavy weapons teams had all been targets. So far, the hunting had been good and they had managed to make the Collective slow their advance and be much more cautious in their advance. Arden also knew this would not last forever. The Collective had been an intelligent foe thus far and they would likely take measures against a sniper’s nest.

“Sir, check the eastern side.” Arden heard the voice of one of the other snipers over the comm just as he was lining up his next shot. Swinging his rifle around and zooming out the scope, Arden looked in the indicated area. Arden sighed as he did.

“Kriff. This is about to get interesting.”

What he saw was a group of 4 of the Collective’s modified AT-MPs moving towards the structure they were in. Arden was not quite sure of exactly what their plan was, but in their place, he would use the missiles to bring down the structure and the gun to take out any stragglers. They had to go, now.

“Prep for evac.” Arden commanded. “We’ll need to try and get one down so we can lift off. Teams One and Four, focus fire on a target. Rest of you, spin up the LAAT. We dust off in forty-five.”

While the soldiers did as they were told, Arden zoomed his scope in on the lead AT-MP. The benefit of having a gun like the NT-242 is that it was more than capable of engaging vehicles, especially in key locations. Arden focused in on the vehicle’s left leg joint while directing the other two sniper teams to do the same on the right. Once they were all lined up, Arden gave the command.

“Fire!”

Three blaster bolts struck the vehicle a moment later. The joint holding the left leg on was nearly blown completely off while the right joint took equally heavy damage. The sudden loss of support as the vehicle was moving caused it to lurch violently forward and topple to the ground face first. Arden did not wait to take a second shot, quickly jumping up from his prone position and making for the LAAT just as the transport roared to life. He and his spotter along with one of the other teams made it to the vehicle just as he heard the distinct sound of missiles being fired in the near distance. No command was necessary, the LAAT pilot dusted off as soon they were aboard. The missiles impacted the area where they had been shooting from just as they cleared the rooftop, obliterating the remaining team. As the LAAT sped away, Arden looked to the pilot.

“Find me another spot, I’m not done yet.”