

[RoS: Escalation Phase I] Fiction - Target Sighted

Target 2: The Screeching Osprey

By Jafits Skrumm #7764

### ***Dandoran System Space***

A Tenixir Revenants's Quasar Fire-class Cruiser Carrier just entered the space of Dandoran system. A small fleet of Severian Principate orbiting the planet Dandoran reacted quickly by sending warning to the carrier, but so far they got no response. To show their good intention, the Principate dispatched a small group of four starfighters to greet the carrier and ask them politely to turn around.

The group was led by the newly Warden Jafits Skrumm on his trusty T-70 X-wing, *Blue Mist*, while the other starfighters were Principate's TIE/LN starfighters. They were heading to the carrier in a finger four flying formation, with Jafits at the front tip. Jafits thought it was odd and funny at the same time an X-wing could fly along with its archenemies for a same purpose.

Jafits's R3-unit, secure in the astromech socket behind his cockpit, also had the same thought with its master, as R3-N4 said it in the droid's binary language by a long whistle. Jafits grinned and responded to Enfor, the droid's nick name.

"Anything can happen, Enfor."

Then the Corellian as the flight commander conducted a routine check to his flight group.

"All wings, report in."

"Fortis two. Standing by." The right eyeball – pilot's slang for TIE fighter - responded.

"Fortis three. Standing by." The left TIE replied, followed by the far left.

"Fortis four. Standing by."

"Accelerate and stay tight."

The small group was half-way or 3 clicks to their destination, when R3-N4 started to make a noise. Jafits quickly looked at his sensor, there were multiple readings in front of them.

"Fortis Leader, the carrier just launched six Z-95 Headhunters. They're coming in hot." Fortis two reported.

"Noted, Fortis two. Let them have our warm welcome then."

He watched his targeting screen carefully. It was clear that the incoming Z-95s, six of them, moving swiftly to intercept Fortis group.

"Break, two elements. Fortis Two, tight on me." Jafits said.

"On you tight, Fortis Leader."

Energy flared all around as the battle began, shots barely missing their targets and rocketing off into space.

Jafits was closing in on his next target, the enemy flight leader. He had just blasted one enemy Z-95 and then narrowly avoided a collision with its debris when he heard a desperate voice from Fortis Two.

"I can't shake him."

"I'm on it." Fortis Leader responded. Checking on his target screen, he located the Z-95 chasing his wingman. It was below him.

Ignoring his current target, Jafits took a hard dive, then levelled off at the Z-95 hunting Fortis Two. He punched the throttle up to full power, gave chase, trying to stay close to the enemy fighter. As he lined up the target in his sights, alarm bells went off in his sense. Something did not look right.

Up ahead, the Warden spotted the problem: the Headhunter leader was flying directly toward him fast. With lightning reflexes, he pulled up his flight stick. His nimble X-wing fighter responded instantly and Jafits followed up his evasive action by doing a roll-barrel, making him a hard target.

"Blast it! Fortis Leader where are you?"

"Almost there."

The Jedi pilot calmed himself, throttled up his powerful Incom-FreiTek engine—known as the 5L5 fusial thrust Split-engines—and zoomed back on the tail of the previous Headhunter. He pulled the trigger and sent a sequenced laser bursts from his four Taim & Bak KX12 laser cannons into the Revenants fighter, turning it into a ball of flames.

"Thanks, Fortis Leader."

Jafits did not respond since he was busy swinging his X-wing from side to side, trying to avoid being an easy target as his pursuer somehow tracked his move and already got behind him. Enfor knew this and screamed in panic.

"I know Enfor, just enjoy the ride." The Jedi smirked inside his helmet.

Throttled down to half, the Sentinel took a sharp turn to port, then reaccelerated in full power. The Headhunter leader almost lost his target, but he managed to position him at the X-wing tail again. He waited impatiently for his HUD to turn to red to fire his cannons.

JS levelled up his X-wing a bit against his hunter then pressed the underslung blaster cannon button. An automated Ax-190-B cannon emerged from the X-wing ventral. Facing forward, the cannon then turned 180 degrees and started to spit laser bursts.

The Headhunter leader did not expect this at all and by the time he realized it, it was already too late. The first shot hit the Z-95's light shields, causing it to deplete. The second shot hit the cockpit window, causing it to crack. The third laser shot penetrated the cracked cockpit window and killed the enemy pilot immediately.

Enfor expressed its relieved by whistling in triumphant. "It's not over yet, Enfor."

Then there were two Z-95s left, and then there was only one as Fortis Four just blew up his second. Jafits watched the only Z-95 left, fleeing to the carrier.

"Fortis Two, report."

"We nailed it, Sir."

"Don't get too cocky, Two."

The Jedi had just finished his words when he noticed numerous dots began to fill up his sensor display. This time it looked the Revenants deployed a massive attack to planet Dandoran. Besides Z-95s, they also launched A-wings and trooper transports.

*This is not good.*