

"SEAQUEST 2032: THE VAULT"

TEASER

FADE IN:

PEARL HARBOR UEO NAS - SEAQUEST BERTH - DAY (CGI)

CHYRON OVER: "UEO NAS Pearl Harbor, Hawaii - seaQuest berth"

As the boat slips toward its docking collar.

HUDSON (V.O.)
Gently, Mister Piccolo. Bring her in
gently.

PICCOLO (V.O.)
Aye, aye, sir.

INT. SEAQUEST - BRIDGE

FORD, HENDERSON, PICCOLO, LUCAS and O'NEILL man their
stations and DAGWOOD stands behind CAPTAIN HUDSON.

PICCOLO
Cutting all engines.

Mostly silence until the boat BUMPS into position, and smiles
peel across the crowd.

O'NEILL
That's contact, sir. Liberty call has
landed.

HUDSON
Liberty for some of you Lieutenant.

Hudson glances approvingly toward Ford and Henderson, then
solemnly as he finds Piccolo and Fredricks.

HUDSON (cont'd)
Others of us have to baby-sit. Lieutenant
Fredricks, as we discussed, you'll stand
Supervisory watch over seaQuest during
the weekend's maintenance procedures with
the assistance of Mister Piccolo.

PICCOLO
Seems like the best plan, Cap'n,
considering what happened with those
Marines last time out...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HUDSON

Thanks for your support. The rest of you people--

O'NEILL

Begging your pardon sir, but I've got a special UEO transmission coming through.
(a beat)
It's Secretary General McGath, sir.

HUDSON

Uh-oh. On the vidlink.

O'NEILL

Linking sir.

SECRETARY GENERAL MCGATH stands outside a military base.

MCGATH (ON VIDLINK)

Good day, Captain Hudson and crew of seaQuest. Sorry to intrude on your plans, but we have a special situation requiring your assistance.

(swallowing hard)

It sickens me to tell you that our negotiations with Macronesian officials have uncovered an independent internment outpost at 150 meters. Reportedly there are many survivors requiring post-trauma and medical treatment, including several children.

He certainly has everyone's attention.

HUDSON

Sir, as you know, we're scheduled for--

MCGATH (ON VIDLINK)

Yes, Captain -- sorry to interrupt. I already know how exciting your weekend's going to be. If you're agreeable, Captain, we could immediately use the services of Lieutenant O'Neill, Ensign Wolenczak, Doctor Perry and Seaman Dagwood on special UEO Recon- Humanitarian assignment for the next 48 hours.

Hudson finds Lucas near Dagwood, both of them all ears.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUCAS

I was just hoping to finish my presentation for the technology summit next month.

(off Hudson's look)

I'd like to go, sir...

DAGWOOD

Yes, and me, too, sir... The going part....

HUDSON

Mister O'Neill?

O'Neill is up, quickly completing his checklist while configuring the comms station.

O'NEILL

UEO HF comm channel open, sir. With its closure, all comms systems will switch to stand-by....

He snaps off his headphones and turns around pretty darned excitedly to find everyone staring at him. O'Neill looks up at McGath:

O'NEILL (cont'd)

(to McGath)

Sir, is the name of the... internment outpost--?

MCGATH (ON VIDLINK)

Classified, son. You'll receive a full briefing during your trip, that is if the Captain...?

HUDSON

(ignoring him; to O'Neill)

You're senior non-medical officer on this trip, Lieutenant.

O'NEILL

Yes, sir,

(gulp)

of course. This sounds important.

Hudson scans O'Neill, then Lucas and Dagwood.

HUDSON

Each of you should prepare for battle conditions -- including MOPP gear -- and take whatever precautions are necessary to get back safely....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Hudson moves toward the vidlink.

HUDSON (cont'd)
Lieutenant O'Neill will consult the
doctor -- and seaQuest's share of your
Reconn-Humanitarian team can be underway
in...
(looking around)
ten minutes?

Lucas and O'Neill dive for the door.

LUCAS
Launch Bay one in ten; pack all the
connector gack you've got.

O'NEILL (O.S.)
Plus chem and landing gear! Which
computers, Lucas?

Dagwood is still standing there until the captain's look
ignites his burners... Dagwood's outta there.

HUDSON
In ten minutes, sir. Anything further?

MCGATH (ON VIDLINK)
On behalf of the UEO, thank you, Captain.
I'll be meeting your team there myself in
a few hours. Good luck with the lawyers;
I expect it to go smoothly. Out.

The transmission ends as Captain Hudson looks at Henderson.

HUDSON
Lieutenant Henderson, your planning and
prep work on the trip home was quite
impressive. You appear to have been
motivated...

Henderson and Ford exchange the fleetest of glances.

HENDERSON
Thank you, sir. The maintenance schedules
are completely up-to-date.

FORD
The station's weapons and engineering folks are
boarding now, sir. All repairs set to be
effected during the next 48 hours, although we
estimate completion in less than forty--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

HUDSON

--Yes, Commander. You both handed in your homework early. I give you both high marks, and grant you 48 hours liberty. Clear for departure.

Ford snaps a salute and spins clear --

FORD

Thank you, sir.

Henderson snaps hers --

HENDERSON

Thank you, sir.

and follows out of frame. Hudson next finds Piccolo and Fredricks.

HUDSON

Fredricks and Piccolo, your watch begins in two hours at 1900 sharp.

The sound of ITEMS FALLING signals the departure of Fredricks and Piccolo. Hudson now surveys his empty bridge...

Darwin surfaces in his pool to watch the captain.

Hudson moves to the moon pool and activates the mechanism to close Darwin's tank and pressurize it. With a raised thumb, the captain tentatively motions to Darwin to move out. After a moment of recognition, Darwin kicks up a wave, careening off toward his door to the sea as we

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

PEARL HARBOR UEO NAS - SEAQUEST IN BERTH - MAGIC HOUR (CGI)

CHYRON OVER: "UEO NAS Pearl Harbor, Hawaii - seaQuest berth"

INT. SEAQUEST - LOADING DOCKS

Captain Hudson strolls out to find the sunglasses-donning Commanders JEREMY JACKSON and CARTER DELONG of U.S. Armed Forces Special Operations.

HUDSON

Good afternoon, gentlemen. I'm Captain Hudson: Welcome to seaQuest.

JACKSON

Thank you Captain. Commander Jeremy Jackson, and this is Commander Carter DeLong. Of course you realize, we're not here on a pleasure trip.

(looking around suspiciously)

Shall we go?

Hudson braces for an arduous journey... as he turns and leads his guests down a corridor. CROSSFADE BEEPING SOUNDS...

ON THE BRIDGE

Freddie glances up from her BEEPING digital clipboard and smiles at Piccolo who's studying a photograph.

FREDRICKS

Hey Tony, what's that?

He tries innocently slipping it back into his pocket and resumes poring over a ship's schematic.

PICCOLO

Oh, nothing really.

The beeping's stopped, and he looks up to find Fredricks grinning at him.

FREDRICKS

Oh I get it: It's a secret....

Piccolo pulls the picture back out of his pocket and hands it across.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PICCOLO
 (on the spot)
 No, no.

A sub-fighter trading card with a picture and the specs of the SF/A 2.

PICCOLO (cont'd)
 I guess they make these things for kids, but it's all right there. Twin-jet SF/A 2 Specter sub-fighter, submersible fighter/attack craft. Max speed, two-fifty knots, range one hundred fifty kilometers without drop tanks....

FREDRICKS
 Hey Tony, don't you think I know all that stuff? Armament, range,
 (handing card back)
 the faint power-loss feeling that tells you you're about to enter a strong cross-current... I know a lot more about those things than...

Piccolo looks at her with his full interest.

FREDRICKS (cont'd)
 Wait a minute: Is this a set-up?

INT. SEAQUEST - THE MAG-LEV

Henderson and Ford stand side-by-side, emotionally aglow.

FORD
 I can't believe it's really happening. Somebody pinch me....

HENDERSON
 Pinch you? Commander, I think I had you wrong. You obviously are in touch with your feminine side--

And she discreetly pinches.

FORD
 (reacting)
 Hey, it's just an expression.

He looks around to see if anyone's watching. They're safe, and their eyes meet. Henderson teases up a little closer as the MAG-LEV prepares to stop.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORD (cont'd)
That's it, I'm all man from this point
forward.

HENDERSON
Sounds like--

The DOORS WHOOSH OPEN and in steps Captain Hudson, Jackson and Long in tow, still wearing their sunglasses. Henderson sees them first:

HENDERSON (cont'd)
Hello, Captain.

Hudson looks up at Ford who's slightly off-kilter. Hudson nods "move along", and Ford nods back gratefully and complies. The Captain turns to his stoned-face guests and resumes the Herculean staring contest as the MAG-LEV doors slide shut.

EXT. PEARL HARBOR UEO NAVAL AIR STATION - DOCKS - MAGIC HOUR

As a futuristic Limo pulls away.

INT. THE LIMO - CONTINUOUS

Henderson and Ford sit pretty far apart; now that they're really alone together, there's an awkward discomfort.

FORD
So you're excited about this place, huh?
Le Rebord Vert?

HENDERSON
For the last two months it's been my
vision of heaven. I'm glad you trusted me
on it: You'll love it.

Ford hesitates in asking the next question, but finally:

FORD
How did you find out about it... have you
been here before?

The question catches her off-guard.

HENDERSON
Well, yes... a long time ago.

Ford sees her fidgeting.

FORD
Did you have a good time then?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HENDERSON
 (reacting, hurt)
 Oh Jonathan!
 (taking his hand)
 I'm pretty sure you're not accusing me
 of...
 (off his look)
 are you?

He looks at their hands clasped together.

FORD
 What do you mean? Just because you came
 here with someone else--

HENDERSON
 Jonathan, you're assuming that. I
 happened to travel through here with some
 friends; it was really mostly innocent...

FORD
 Mostly innocent?
 (lets her hand go)
 Wait a minute, I don't think I can handle
 this right now.

HENDERSON
 You what? Can't handle this now? We're on
 shore leave for 48 hours Jonathan; if
 you're not ready now...?

FORD
 I'm sorry Lonnie, but everywhere we go,
 I'm going to think about you being here
 with somebody else.

HENDERSON
 Let's just talk it through--

FORD
 We tried that!

EXT. CITY STREET NEAR HONOLULU - CONTINUOUS

The limo stops and Ford bounds out, closing the door behind
 him. Henderson opens it and stands there as Ford shoulders
 his duffel.

FORD
 I guess it'll never be just us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HENDERSON

Jonathan, this is silly. Maybe we're both just a little nervous.

FORD

First you accuse me of being effeminate, and now I'm nervous. You don't know me very well....

HENDERSON

Jonathan...

BEGIN SLOW MOTION EFFECT:

HENDERSON (cont'd)

Don't.

Ford slowly turns and steps away.

Henderson sadly but resolutely steps back into the limo. After a moment, it pulls away.

Ford finally turns back around and sees the limo gone. BACK TO REAL TIME as Ford drops his bag and kicks it, hanging his head in frustration.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE VAULT - NIGHT (CGI)

CHYRON OVER: "November Canyon - "The Vault", Depth: 185 meters"

The seaQuest shuttle approaches a time-eroded docking facility. Medical evac subs stand-by, their swirling emergency lights joining searchlights from underwater patrol craft to highlight jagged edges around the Vault's lead-enclosed perch on the steep embankment.

INT. SMALL UEO SHUTTLE

An N.D. UEO driver pilots the shuttle as the crew clusters around a display terminal. We inspect the faces of Dagwood, Dr. Perry, O'Neill and Lucas.

COMPUTER VOICE

...Doctor Stephan Colon captured every member of this proud tribe in a sealed vault under the ocean; isolated from the world, forced to endure twenty years of paranoid antisocial propaganda, the inhabitants became solitary and savage.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COMPUTER VOICE (cont'd)

Dr. Colon created an arcane, secret crypt wherein he mentally plundered the Zebulon people.

O'NEILL

For hundreds of years, their seafaring tribe ranged over the Netherlands' Outer Frisian Islands; they were simple, peaceful and incredibly loyal -- I mean, there were legends about them.... And they just disappeared.

LUCAS

(to computer)
Where's Colon now?

COMPUTER VOICE

According to the most recent data, Doctor Colon is under house-arrest within the Vault, awaiting transfer to... an undisclosed location.

O'NEILL

What about the children?

ON THE DISPLAY TERMINAL

A SERIES OF CUTS shows some of the ten -- 5 male and 5 female caucasians, the majority having dark features -- ailing children of the Vault emerging from shadows.

COMPUTER VOICE

Since it is suspected that this outpost has been completely isolated since the Zebulon abduction of November, 2012 -- and since it has been learned that all their living children were put to death --

An incredulous look moves through the crewmembers.

COMPUTER VOICE

-- we must assume that these children were born within the Vault.

ON DISPLAY

A young girl holds her hands out before her dirty face.

COMPUTER VOICE

From what's been learned, apparently these children have been abandoned by their parents. Individuals were on their own, yet dependent upon Doctor Colon's handouts of food.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Dagwood looks concerned.

DAGWOOD
Did Doctor Colon have children?

ON DISPLAY

a picture of Doctor Colon fills the screen.

COMPUTER VOICE
There are no records to indicate any
aspect of life within the Vault.

Dagwood's a little disappointed.

DAGWOOD
Oh....

Lucas finishes taking notes then stows his computer.

O'NEILL
Why did you ask that question, Dagwood?

DAGWOOD
He looks so sad....

Dr. Perry appears.

DR. PERRY
Let's settle-in for landing, folks.

And they all move toward their seats.

THE VAULT - DOCKING AREA (CGI)

as the shuttle settles into place at the docking rig.

CUT TO:

INT. SEAQUEST - WARDROOM - NIGHT

Hudson sits across the table from Jackson. Delong paces the floor.

JACKSON
I don't mean to make a big deal out of
this Captain, but every item on this list
has to be signed-off to our satisfaction
before we can move to the next one. Your
indolence... is not reassuring.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HUDSON

Why don't you just tell me what you want me to say....

Delong turns on him.

DELONG

That's clearly not the point Captain.

(monotone)

United States Naval regulations ascribe your line-level responsibility to every budgetary item your decisions impact, and until we're satisfied that in the future you will weigh each move with the proper respect due your tax-paying financiers', you're up an un-American creek.

Hudson shoots Delong a lethal stare:

HUDSON

Is that right? Have you ever been to war, Commander?

Nuclear winter moves across Delong's face.

JACKSON

Captain, you must realize that virtually every scenario this ship could ever encounter is programmed into the ship's computer?

HUDSON

That's no secret, Commander. They've been working on that one since you boys were in diaper training.

DELONG

(more pissed)

Nonetheless, seaQuest's log shows an alarmingly inefficient procedural track-record compared with your programming. If we're reading this correctly, Captain, your boatload of misfits is procedurally ass-backwards when it comes to Navy standards....

Hudson rises dangerously, his anger barely contained. He makes a bee-line for the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HUDSON

I apologize for the interruption but I'm due at a critical maintenance inspection of our weapons system. If you'll excuse me for just thirty minutes....

INT. CORRIDOR

as Hudson rolls, irate, looking for something to punch. His anger grows as he staggers mindlessly through the corridors. Think Nicholson in *The Shining*; this is the part of the Navy that threatens to break him. He turns a corner to

INT. SEA DECK

Hudson enters, looking at the walls, trying to find something to stabilize his thoughts. A SPLASH of water drapes him.... Simmering, he turns to see... Darwin. As Hudson stands there staring daggers, Darwin cheerfully squints at him. After a long tension, Hudson chuckles. He moves to the edge of the pool and rests his hands on the rail. Darwin swims under then surfaces, looking at him, opening his mouth and nodding.

Hudson slowly reaches out a hand... and Darwin moves to meet him. The hand passes over Darwin's dorsal fin as the mammal swims past. Calmness settles on Hudson as he motions "Okay" in sign-language. On their gaze across the tank, we

CUT TO:

INT. SEAQUEST - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Piccolo stands over the ship's schematic holding his own digital checklist.

PICCOLO

I guess I'm just in love with this stuff, Freddie. I want to be a fighter pilot more than anything.

Fredricks shoots him a proud look:

FREDRICKS

I see that... and I'll tell you something Piccolo -- and this comes from one of the best pilots ever to fly a sub-fighter: The Navy needs you.

Piccolo keeps working, but his jaw is sagging from that one. Fredricks grins as she continues checking the weapons console:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FREDRICKS

You know, Wolenczak will help you link-up with the Academy to start your course-work.

PICCOLO

Yeah, I guess you're right. The folks in Training and Utilization offered to get me set up....

Fredricks looks at him curiously.

FREDRICKS

You don't sound so enthused.

Piccolo studies the schematic.

PICCOLO

Spending a lot of time in front of a display reading and being tested ain't exactly my idea of flying.

FREDRICKS

But that part of your training is much more important, especially at first.

Piccolo turns to her.

PICCOLO

Easy for you to say: You get to strap-in almost every day. I think the real knowledge that you can hold onto that thing and make it go where you want -- I think that's what's important.

Fredricks finishes weapons check and approaches Piccolo.

FREDRICKS

Every hot-blooded recruit feels that way, Tony.

(off his look)

But maybe it's worth a shot: Maybe you should try to get Captain Hudson to let you into the simulator.

PICCOLO

You think the captain would do that for me?

A noise behind them startles them. Then, thunder:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HUDSON (O.S.)

What is that renegade captain getting himself into now?

Fredricks and Piccolo both snap to attention as Hudson appears.

FREDRICKS

Captain on the bridge.

HUDSON

At ease, it's just the three of us.

Darwin breaks the surface of his pool.

PICCOLO

And Darwin makes four.

Hudson looks around a little self-consciously.

HUDSON

Maybe three and a half.... How's it coming along Lieutenant?

FREDRICKS

Sir. Comprehensive weapons control systems eval has been completed. Failed components were mostly routine -- the mission-related repairs will be detailed in my report.

HUDSON

Very well. Mr. Piccolo?

PICCOLO

Captain, the, uh, seaQuest is secured and passed all testing and control measures with flying colors. My revised operational readiness plan for emergency systems should be complete by tomorrow afternoon, just as Lieutenant Henderson instructed.

(relieved)

For now, it's all... quiet, sir.

HUDSON

Too quiet for my taste. Okay; that it?

Fredricks and Piccolo exchange a look; she encourages him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PICCOLO

Sir, Lieutenant Fredricks suggested that I ask you to allow me to begin using the, uh... sub-fighter simulator. I know it seems early, but I think--

HUDSON

Have you started the application process with the Navy and the UEO submarine agencies?

PICCOLO

Well, sir... not exactly. But I understand it shouldn't take too long, once I find my way through the ship's computer.

A stern look from the captain.

HUDSON

I believe you're correct.

PICCOLO

So I'll begin that process... right away, sir.

Hudson shoots a pleased look toward Fredricks.

HUDSON

Very well: You get yourself enrolled in that curriculum and we'll get you some hours in the widowmaker.

The captain turns to leave as Piccolo looks after him.

PICCOLO

Sir, the...?

Fredricks smiles and catches a grin from Hudson.

FREDRICKS

Attench-hut! Captain leaving the bridge.

HUDSON (O.S.)

At ease!

Fredricks and Piccolo relax.

FREDRICKS

I'll explain later, Tony.

(under)

Looks like you got your wish.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CLOSE on Piccolo:

PICCOLO
Yeah, I guess it does....

SLOW DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LE REBORD VERT - DOLPHIN/POOL DECK - DAY

Fresh from a long beach stroll, Ford works his way along the resort's pool deck. He grabs a seat quickly and sits down, covertly scanning.

Through Ford's P.O.V., we find the wind flowing over Henderson, stretched across a deck chair catching sun and watching a dolphin-swim class progress.

A half-dozen rich tourists line the pool's edge, wearing their BC vests and donning photo-breather masks. The young male INSTRUCTOR slowly moves around a swimming dolphin.

INSTRUCTOR
Many people want to reach out to touch the dolphin, but you really have to be careful not to be too aggressive. If the dolphins want you to touch them, they'll move to you, otherwise they'll stay a safe distance.

Henderson reads the back of a hardcover.

Through Henderson's P.O.V., we see she's using the reflective surface to watch Ford's shadow move near.

Ford nonchalantly walks up and kneels next to her. Henderson feigns a bit of surprise.

HENDERSON
Oh, hi.

FORD
Hi. How's it going?

HENDERSON
Really well. You know, this presentation is intriguing; in this guy's book, I'm learning things about cetaceans that I don't think the Navy even studies.

Ford looks at the instructor and sees... red.

FORD
Like what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HENDERSON

Well, you know, at different times I've felt a kind of odd sensation around Darwin, but none of my training really helped me understand it. But according to him,

(reading from the book)

"a dolphin's advanced echolocation system and cognitive capabilities make... telepathy... seem highly probable."

FORD

(eyes rolling)

That must explain why every time Ensign Darwin's on the bridge I'm overcome with the urge to eat mullet.

Henderson sees he's not joking. She puts the book down.

HENDERSON

Hey, what's the problem?

FORD

Do you know this guy?

HENDERSON

Not at all. He tried to talk me into taking the class is all....

FORD

I'm sorry, Lonnie. Maybe you're right about me.

Henderson looks at him earnestly as his look drops.

FORD

You were having a perfectly nice time until I came along and... started putting my foot in it, again.

Henderson lightens up:

HENDERSON

Well, believe me: You're not bothering me.

Ford doesn't catch her humor; his frustration mounts.

FORD

That's nice.

(giving up)

You're not bothering me, either....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He rises awkwardly. Henderson looks up at him simply... waiting a split second too late to reach for his hand. He moves away, and Henderson's form goes limp in the f.g. as we

CUT TO:

EXT. THE VAULT - NIGHT (CGI)

CHYRON OVER: "November Canyon - "The Vault""

INT. THE VAULT - LOADING DOCKS/PRISON CAMP - NIGHT

Dr. Perry, Lucas and Dagwood clear the landing tube with O'Neill bringing up the rear; each wears assault team gear.

O'NEILL

We're all set. Ensign Dougherty will stay with the shuttle.

Secretary General McGath appears in a pool of light across the receiving area in fatigues, helmet and flak jacket talking with two soldiers. He acknowledges the seaQuest team and begins to move toward them,

MCGATH

(yelling)
Lieutenant.

The seaQuest team moves toward McGath and the soldiers. As they approach, they can just begin to make-out the scene behind McGath:

A tall, cast-iron perimeter fence encircles UEO soldiers and the fleet-footed, fair-featured adult prisoners of the camp evading them around a few large, open concrete dome huts.

A PLATOON SERGEANT briefs McGath.

PLATOON SERGEANT

(to McGath)
Sir, we got 20 ground troops just now loading in. We're working on the lights; we were told they were intentionally left on in this dump -- twenty-four hours a night and day, sir. Which prob'ly accounts for the natives being so restless.

The seaQuest team joins McGath.

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CONTINUED:

PLATOON SERGEANT (cont'd)

(pointing)

You folks will be safest over here away from the gate for the next few minutes; we're going to blow it.

MCGATH

Thank you, Sergeant. Please make sure that the Zebulons are treated with the utmost care, especially if they're frightened. Keep working on those lights.

PLATOON SERGEANT

Yes, sir.

The sergeant moves off as our group huddles together in a pool of light a hundred feet from the thick entrance gate.

LUCAS

Secretary General McGath, what exactly are we doing here, sir?

MCGATH

In a relatively short amount of time, these people will be free again. Our objective is first to assess damages, then to evaluate impact, and then to publish a classified UEO Recommendations Report to help pave the way to their future.

DR. PERRY

Sir, we noticed that the med-evac ops have begun. When and to where are the survivors being transported?

MCGATH

We'll expect to know that within the next few hours, Doctor.

O'Neill and Lucas exchange a wide-eyed look.

O'NEILL

(under, to Lucas)

Lucas, does this seem like, you know, a pretty standard Recon-Humanitarian mission to you?

LUCAS

You're asking me?

(a beat)

Seems more like a nightmare....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Wide on gate area as suddenly the sky LIGHTS UP with whizzing ultralight military aircraft (CGI-enhanced) zipping over the scene and FIRING in a SEALED LASER BLAST that frees the huge iron gates, which slowly, heavily SCRAPE open.

MCGATH

Let's go. That gate's been sealed for twenty years.

The seaQuest team warily steps through the gates into the internment camp past freaking-out adult Zebulons to witness:

SMOKE-WISPING DOME HUTS

where a handful of dirty children tear around madly as the UEO soldiers capture the last of the adult Zebulons. From the distance, a RHYTHMIC SCRAPING looms larger, growing closer as the seaQuest team looks around.

PLATOON SERGEANT (O.S.)

(yelling)

Clear the street.

Our heroes clear what they suddenly realize is a road just as a team of raging horses appears and tears past. The careening open coach in-tow bears a UEO military escort and the insane-appearing DR. STEPHAN COLON, who stands at the sight of the seaQuest team and points at them.

DR. COLON

(shouting)

What are these people doing in my island?

The M.P.s' hands pull the crazed man down.

DR. COLON (O.S.) (cont'd)

(shouting)

There's no outside world! There is no outside world!

McGath waves them after the coach.

MCGATH

Let's go; Dr. Perry's got to examine Colon before we can ship him out.

We examine the taut looks on the team's faces as they move through frame after the coach.

On the SPARKS from the thundering hooves, we

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT TWO

EXT. THE VAULT - DAY (CGI)

CHYRON OVER: "November Canyon - "The Vault""

INT. THE VAULT - PORT SUPPLY BUILDING

Converted into a temporary command post. McGath reads reports nearby as O'Neill and Lucas peer through the slit of a doorway, into

A SMALL, DARK SUPPLY ROOM

where sits the demon Colon, manacled and limp. As Dr. Perry enters the room with Dagwood and turns on the lights, Colon reacts:

DR. COLON

No lights!

Dr. Perry quickly turns them off, but then, thinking about it, she hits the switch again.

DR. PERRY

I'm sorry Dr. Colon, but we'll need the lights on.

Colon lets his eyes adjust before stealing a glance up at his tormentor.

DR. COLON

Have you come to murder me?

Dr. Perry focuses on the task at hand, avoiding Colon's gaze while retrieving an ocular examiner from her kit.

DR. PERRY

Hardly. I am Dr. Perry; I'll be examining you.

DR. COLON

(re: Dagwood)

Your beast looks dangerous, Perry.

Dr. Perry looks at Colon.

DR. PERRY

This is Dagwood, and I assure you he's no beast.

Colon's eyes roll back as a spasm physically seizes him for a moment. As the seizure relents, an evil grin alights Colon's lips.

INTERCUT: LUCAS AND O'NEILL MOVE CLOSER

Dr. Perry bravely moves near Colon. Holding the tool in one hand, her free hand holds Colon's chin while she peers into his eyes. At her touch, Colon exhales an eery SMOKE from his mouth and nose: His eyes are the devil's.

Dr. Perry conceals her terror and moves to her satchel, retrieving a hypodermic tissue sampler.

Colon is tense:

DR. COLON
I'm guessing, Perry, that right now,
you're stealing my soul. To me, that is
murder....

Dr. Perry moves swiftly, pressing the sampler to his arm. Suddenly, Colon tenses and GROANS -- the HISSING hypodermic sails across the room.

DR. PERRY
Dagwood!

Dagwood lunges in and seizes Dr. Colon by his shoulders, bringing the two face-to-face. Dr. Perry picks up the hypo and turns;

Hold on Dagwood and Colon as Dagwood slowly releases the man, who is shaking. (NOTE: Colon quotes Alexander Pope here.)

DR. COLON
(under, to Dagwood)
"...In doubt to deem himself a god, or
beast..."

DR. PERRY (O.S.)
It's just a standard sample, Doctor...

Dr. Perry turns away, very disturbed.

DR. PERRY
... so we can make sure you're well.

Colon still shakes, staring at Dagwood.

DR. COLON
Any sample of me will assure you
otherwise.

An odd look crosses Colon's face, and the LIGHTS GO DARK. Dr. Perry tries the light switch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PERRY
Uh, the light's gone out. Let's go,
Dagwood.

And the forms of Perry and Dagwood clear the room, leaving only the outline of the manacled madman.

CUT TO:

INT. SEAQUEST - WARDROOM - DAY

Jackson and Delong enter the ward room, where Hudson sits patiently waiting.

HUDSON
Good day, gentlemen. Sorry to have missed you at breakfast; I was up early taking care of a few details ashore.

JACKSON
Oh, yes, we've heard all about that by now. And we only hope you weren't too disappointed to learn that going over our heads didn't get rid of us.

Hudson looks amused.

HUDSON
You boys really enjoy your work, don't you?

DELONG
As members of the USSO Investigation team, our mission is to find answers. You may not like it, Captain, but there are some answers associated with your boat that we must receive... from you.

Our captain cannot sit idly by: He maneuvers.

HUDSON
Get to the point then, Commander. If you're running an investigation and you want answers, maybe you should get to the damn point.

DeLong menacingly moves closer.

DELONG
Are you finished?

Hudson measures this man's mettle and dares him:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HUDSON

Let's get down to business.

Delong turns and looks at Jackson.

JACKSON

Captain, after this morning I feel certain you have an even finer appreciation for our authority; so, we're going to review the records again, expecting your full cooperation. If it's not forthcoming, we'll start working on your permanent reassignment.

Delong flops into a seat and Hudson sinks into his, steaming.

DELONG

When when we finish today, Captain, we're going to ask you to round up your crew. We intend to reenact the scenario of sixteen and seventeen March, 2032.

HUDSON

Just... a... minute. You boys already have full access to the ship's log and the computer; you can use that data to recreate any sequence of events from seaQuest in half a dozen simulators. As you're well aware, the majority of my crew is either on leave, away on orders or attending to the details of getting the only legitimate peace-keeping force on the planet back to where it can do some good.

DELONG

Details that are secondary to our investigation, Captain. This is not a discussion...

Long's look swings to Jackson:

JACKSON

It's an order. We'll need them all here by 0700 tomorrow. Now let's get down to business....

On Hudson's blank expression....

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LE REBORD VERT - SUNSET

The futuristic limo departs.

INT. THE LIMO

Henderson and Ford look at each other, stunned.

HENDERSON
I can't believe it.

FORD
What happened? We were planning this weekend for months...

HENDERSON
And we let the silliest thing spoil it.

A shared incredulous look.

FORD
We've been through so much together with other people around... I can't tell you how much I just wanted to be alone with you.

HENDERSON
And now, all we wind up with is a twenty minute ride back to the seaQuest.

Both their faces light up as their romance rekindles.

FORD
Could be--

And she crushes a kiss on him as they lose themselves to their passions...

CUT TO:

THE VAULT - DAY (CGI)

CHYRON OVER: "November Canyon - "The Vault""

INT. TEMP MEDICAL SHELTER

Dr. Perry stands at the tail of a well-lit medical processing line staffed by teams of UEO nurses.

Under the watch of UEO soldiers, more calm but still edgy adult Zebulons receive treatment from volunteers at stations.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. PERRY

Let's keep them moving, folks. We're scheduled to have them through this line in forty minutes.

A young soldier approaches Dr. Perry and hands her a note in a sealed envelope. She opens, reads, then folds it up and hands it back and the soldier departs.

DR. PERRY

Thank you private.

(to medics)

Okay people, we've got to move faster. They're saying less than four hours until we're underway.

She bustles from frame.

INT. CHILDREN'S HOLDING PLAY-TENT

McGath, O'Neill, Lucas and Dagwood stand amidst a giant, play-matted tent filled with big, colorful toys. Three UEO Nurses work near the entrance, packing ten travel packs with supplies.

Three of the kids in different corners quietly search for exits; the other kids, wary of the intruders, are independently inspecting the toys.

The seaQuest team moves through, casually surveying the children. Dagwood is especially distracted by them.

MCGATH

Imagine these children waking up in a place without walls for the first time in their lives.

LUCAS

No walls, darkness at night. Sounds pretty terrifying for them.

O'NEILL

I'll say. A long, patient re-acclimation would be best. Make them comfortable while they re-acquire their way of being.

(then)

Sir, I've noticed that some of these children have dark features... ?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MCGATH

(troubled)

We suspect that Colon may have fathered at least some of them by the Zebulon women. The testing will tell us. Regardless, they'll all receive the UEO's full support.

LUCAS

Sir, can we participate in the committee that's set up to monitor and assist the Zebulons?

MCGATH

That would be ideal, Ensign. But it will, of course, depend on your orders...

LUCAS

Yes sir, I understand. But if I am available, I'd like to be involved... in an official way.

O'NEILL

Uh, the same goes for me, sir.

Two older boys and a dark-haired aggressive young girl steal up to a pool of colored hollow plastic balls and dip into it, each making off with a few balls and dropping some.

One of the balls rolls to Dagwood's feet; Dagwood picks it up and the seaQuest team stops to watch.

MCGATH

Right now, they have no language.

Dagwood inspects the ball and looks at the young girl; we catch a devilish sparkle in her eye.

MCGATH

But we do have some very exciting news.

Dagwood tosses the ball half-way to the young girl and all the kids dash to the outer extremities of the tent, terrified. In horror, Dagwood looks at Lucas and O'Neill. Suddenly, they're SHOWERED WITH PLASTIC BALLS as a kid CANNON-BALLS into the pool.

A look passes through the kids' ranks --

Then the adults': Are these kids playing, or are they defending themselves?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MCGATH

(looking at his watch)

A shuttle's due to arrive at any moment.
They've found a young lady... the only
child we know of that survived when the
Zebulons were abducted.

One of the kids bounces off a giant inflatable ball and sends
it railing straight toward McGath; only O'Neill sees it.

MCGATH

We need to move.

O'NEILL

Sir, look out!

And they clear at the very last moment. Surprised looks from
members of the seaQuest crew -- as a smaller plastic ball
just misses Lucas's head.

Seeing the individual kids' triumphant looks -- the seaQuest
team makes for the door.

LUCAS

How long till we're needed back on
seaQuest, sir?

HUDSON

We've got a little over two hours before
we have to leave.

O'NEILL

Then we need to get to work. We need
someplace with a link; preferably dry.

More balls; now the seaQuest folks are trotting and covering
their heads.

MCGATH

Let's try your shuttle.

LUCAS

Sir, tell us more about this... young
lady....

And they hit the door as the plastic balls fly around them.
Dagwood brings up the rear, pausing at the door. The barrage
ceases. Dagwood pans the room, concerned. Then he departs.

THE VAULT - LOADING DOCKS/PRISON CAMP - DAY

The giant gate has been sealed shut; the dome huts stand alone in the field. McGath, Lucas, O'Neill and Dagwood walk toward the landing tube of the seaQuest Shuttle.

LUCAS

These lights are disturbing, like it's always the middle of the day.

MCGATH

Part of Colon's total control.

At the seaQuest team's landing tube, the UEO pilot who'd been standing by enters the tube to ready the shuttle for boarding.

At another landing tube further away, two female SS officers (one a Dagger) emerge ahead of one UEO DELEGATE from SWEDEN and another from NETHERLANDS. Seeing it's clear, the officers signal and the beautiful blonde 21ish CHRISTINE LEMAY steps down. As the escorts move away from the landing tube, Christine spies the seaQuest group.

Lucas is nearly struck speechless.

LUCAS

Don't tell me: She's the one with the--

Despite being emotionally overwhelmed, Christine walks their direction gracefully. Her expression lights up briefly as she notices someone... but who?

O'NEILL (V.O.)

--with the blue eyes.

O'Neill is equally stunned:

O'NEILL

She's beautiful.

Christine approaches the group and McGath steps out to greet her.

MCGATH

Greetings, Miss Lemay. I'm Secretary General McGath of the United Earth Oceans organization.

She looks at him for a minute, as if deciphering.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHRISTINE

(politely)

Greetings to you. Sorry... if I maybe
talk strangely. My English is... okay.

MCGATH

(nodding to her)

It's fine.

(to others)

She was raised in a remote village in the
Swiss Alps.

Lucas and O'Neill are enraptured... then we find that Dagwood
is, too. Only his attentions are on the female dagger SS
officer... and her eyes are doing some talking.

McGath gets it now.

MCGATH

Oh, I beg your pardon. Christine Lemay,
by order of rank,

(a look to Lucas)

this is Lieutenant Tim O'Neill...

O'Neill steps up and takes her hand -- and he's relishing it.

O'NEILL

(in Swedish)

It's a true privilege to meet you.

Christine is impressed.

CHRISTINE

Oh, we are from a very small village,
Keivsjen, and I'm afraid my Swedish is...
not so okay.

O'NEILL

Well, it's still a true privilege to meet
you.

O'Neill, reluctant gentleman, turns to let Lucas at her...

MCGATH (O.S.)

And this is--

...just as a shrouded figure streaks past them and dives into
the seaQuest shuttle's landing tube... A quick scan of
McGath, Lucas, O'Neill and Dagwood as their reflexes
hesitate. Then:

LUCAS

Get back!

THE VAULT - DOCKING AREA - SMALL UEO SHUTTLE (CGI)

As the shuttle EXPLODES.

INT. THE VAULT - LOADING DOCKS

The EXPLOSION FIRES DEBRIS AND WATER through the shuttle's open landing tube. Dagwood hurriedly seals it as the SS officers whisk Christine and the delegates back to their shuttle. Running soldiers approach as Dagwood rejoins McGath and the seaQuest crewmembers.

MCGATH

Ensign Wolenczak, don't let that shuttle get away; we may need it. I'm also putting you in charge of Miss Lemay and the members of her party.

Lucas rises to the occasion.

LUCAS

Aye, sir.

And double-times away.

INT. UEO LUXURY SHUTTLE

Lucas scrambles aboard but quickly finds himself on the receiving end of the SS officers' weapons.

LUCAS

Whoa, easy! I'm Ensign Lucas Wolenczak. By order of the Secretary General of the UEO, I need to ask you to stand-down.

Looks pass through the crowd; he doesn't even have a gun.

LUCAS

Don't worry folks, we just need to make sure we don't get stranded here.

They let him go and stow their weapons. Lucas looks and finds: Christine looking straight into him. Considering his responsibilities, Lucas averts his eyes.

LUCAS

Make yourselves comfortable... we may be here awhile.

BACK TO LOADING DOCK

Dagwood and O'Neill stand with McGath as the soldiers approach.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Navy frogmen appear and slip into a dive tube to search the wreckage. Dagwood watches them with a troubled look.

MCGATH

Seaman Dagwood, Dr. Perry is in the treatment center: Please have her meet us at Miss Lemay's shuttle.

DAGWOOD

Aye-aye, sir.

Dagwood runs off.

MCGATH

And Lieutenant: I need for you to get aboard that shuttle ASAP and have a secured link standing by.

O'NEILL

Yes, sir. May I contact seaQuest, sir?

MCGATH

At this point, let's be safe: no transmissions.

McGath and the soldiers move off toward the supply building and O'Neill joins them.

O'NEILL

May I at least access the data your medical team's compiling, sir? I'd just like permission to pick up the signal that's already skipping all over this lead vault.

MCGATH

Okay, but keep it classified. Your orders are to wait five minutes, and then return to seaQuest. And Lieutenant...

McGath and O'Neill stop.

MCGATH (cont'd)

... you are responsible for the lives of the people aboard that shuttle right now. No others. Understood?

O'Neill salutes.

O'NEILL

Be careful, sir.

McGath offers his hand. They shake.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MCGATH

Same to you. Thanks Tim.

They split the frame.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

SEAQUEST IN BERTH - NIGHT (CGI)

CHYRON OVER: "UEO NAS Pearl Harbor, Hawaii - seaQuest Berth"

INT. THE SEA DECK

An uncommonly calm scene to find traces of Captain Hudson... his time-worn fatigue cap and watch sit on a shelf. PAN TOWARD SPLASHING sounds over a slight chuckle... and we find Hudson climbing into the pool with SCUBA gear on. He clears his regulator, then submerges, moving off through the tubes.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE VAULT - DOCKING AREA - UEO LUXURY SHUTTLE - NIGHT (CGI)

There's only a black blemish on the rig where the other shuttle had been docked; though a toxic hue remains, the forgiving ocean mostly radiates 600-foot inky blue.

INT. UEO LUXURY SHUTTLE

The portal shades are down throughout the quiet ship, except where the Swedish and Netherlands dignitaries peer through one portal out into the sea. The SS Officers sit behind them and another N.D. shuttle pilot almost invisibly mans his helm. In the co-pilot's seat facing aft with an open computer in his lap, Lucas begins outlining the UEO Recommendations Report. Christine is nearby on the floor, her back against a wall.

CHRISTINE

Ensign Wolenczak, what happened to my people here?

LUCAS

(measuring his words)
What have you learned so far?

This affects Christine.

CHRISTINE

Well, I was told that this is where all of the adults were brought, and that my parents died... here.

A long pause.... Lucas looks stricken.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCAS
I'm sorry.

The outer hatch opens and O'Neill comes aboard, closing it behind him.

O'NEILL
Hello everyone.

He looks around the room and moves quickly for the ship's comms console. He and Lucas share a look... O'Neill stands there.

O'NEILL (cont'd)
Lucas...

Lucas thinks he might be in trouble. Is it about Christine?

LUCAS
Yes... sir... what is it?

O'NEILL
I need to get to the comms station: It's behind you.

A little self-consciously, Lucas clears the chair. Tim plops down and spins around to work on the console. The display powers up.

LUCAS
Miss Lemay was just asking about... what happened... here.

O'Neill looks up at him, hoping there's more.

O'NEILL
And?

LUCAS (V.O.)
And she explained that her parents didn't survive.

O'Neill's look says everything.

LUCAS (cont'd)
But, I was just about to explain that what we've also learned is that there are 85 survivors. Including... the children.

CHRISTINE
Those children....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She can't put it into perspective yet. Lucas takes a step forward.

LUCAS

And, also, with the efforts of Secretary General McGath and the UEO, after we help you put together all the information that's available, as soon as they're ready, they're free.

O'Neill joins in.

O'NEILL

We can't repair what's happened here, and it seems likely that the adult survivors will have no recollection of their former lives. But the UEO will do everything to help them try.

CHRISTINE

What about... Colon?

Lucas turns to O'Neill.

O'NEILL

I'm sorry, but it's... classified.

Christine senses the truth:

CHRISTINE

He's still here, isn't he?

She moves for the door. The comms console BEEPS demandingly behind O'Neill; he looks at Lucas:

O'NEILL

Lucas--

Lucas just cuts Christine off.

LUCAS

Hold on a minute. What would you do, even if he was here?

CHRISTINE

Move!

(tries pushing him)
You can't stop me!

O'Neill is tapping into the airwaves and gets a little paranoid:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

O'NEILL

Lucas!

LUCAS

I'm sorry -- Listen! He's dead! Okay?

Christine reacts; her reason for being extinguished.

LUCAS (cont'd)

He died... while he was being moved.

Lucas is kind and composed.

LUCAS (cont'd)

A security officer... shot him.

Lucas looks back toward O'Neill. O'Neill's eyes inquire; he's not sure if it's the truth. Lucas looks down toward Christine, who's seated on the floor, burying her face in hiding her tears. Lucas bends down and helps her to her feet. As he moves her toward a seat, she begins to shake. Lucas puts his arms around her -- and she embraces him. Lucas closes his eyes and holds her tightly. Christine's broken heart is evident. After a moment, Lucas has regained composure and moves her into the seat. He gently sets her down and slowly moves away, just as:

The hatch opens. For a moment, no one enters. Then, in walks Dagwood. He gets to the center of the shuttle then turns around and looks back.

O'Neill and Lucas exchange an odd look:

LUCAS (cont'd)

Dagwood, what is it?

In a moment, the little dark-haired Zebulon girl runs in behind him. Then the other children follow at intervals, infesting the ship. At last a few UEO nurses, Dr. Perry and McGath all climb aboard toting the kid's packs. So much for extra room.

DR. PERRY

(to O'Neill and Lucas)

Boy, am I glad to see you two.

Lucas and O'Neill share a look. There's still that Colon-death question. Lucas nods to O'Neill as if he should understand.

McGath sets down his bags and moves to the pilot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MCGATH

Sir, please set a course by your instruments for NAS Pearl Harbor.

(to O'Neill)

No guidance systems or external signaling. Is that understood Lieutenant?

O'Neill and the pilot exchange a nod.

O'NEILL

Yes sir.

The outer window covers rise (CGI enhanced) and the pilot takes control of the ship. McGath faces the crowd.

MCGATH

Ladies and gentlemen, we're taking you a little out of your way but it won't inconvenience you much. Please secure yourselves and help us keep an eye on these children during the next two- hours while en route to Naval Air Station Pearl Harbor.

EXT. THE VAULT - DOCKING AREA - UEO LUXURY SHUTTLE - NIGHT
(CGI)

The shuttle's engines stir to life, and after a moment, the shuttle disengages... before smoothly arcing out toward the open sea. In its swirling wake, CAMERA SEARCHES its way to the seabed, where it finds an underwater cavern emitting BUBBLES.

NOVEMBER CANYON - ENTRANCE TO THE VAULT (CGI)

As the shuttle emerges, it's joined by two UEO sub-fighters.

INT. UEO LUXURY SHUTTLE

Slight turbulence as the small craft enters the currents. O'Neill peers into the azure horizon, then goes off heads and strolls back into the cabin to McGath.

O'NEILL

We're underway sir, under fighter escort.

MCGATH

Thank you.

(continuing, to the assemblage)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MCGATH (cont'd)

During this trip, the other officers and I, along with the UEO ambassadors and Miss Lemay, will create a document that will summarize the issues facing the New Zebulon Republic and lay the groundwork for a first constitution.

BEGIN SERIES OF DISSOLVES:

ON O'NEILL

O'NEILL

For centuries, they lived by their own laws. Family and community were what they valued most.

DISSOLVE TO:

ON DR. PERRY

DR. PERRY

Paranoid and essentially anti-social. They don't seem to have any positive regard for each other, but maybe it will change when they get outside....

DISSOLVE TO:

ON LUCAS

LUCAS

We can give them access to the whole world of recorded information at the push of a button, but the teachers are the most crucial part of this....

DISSOLVE TO:

ON AMBASSADOR OF NETHERLANDS

NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR

The land is useless to anyone else, it has been vacant since they were taken, and we could safely say....

DISSOLVE TO:

ON CHRISTINE

CHRISTINE

They are strangers to me. And there's no way for me to be absolutely sure....

DISSOLVE TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ON AMBASSADOR OF SWEDEN

SWEDISH AMBASSADOR

You must be careful to respect the rights
of each one. Remember, but allow these
people to heal themselves....

DISSOLVE TO:

ON MCGATH

MCGATH

....classified, but you should know that
Dr. Stephan Colon was killed. It was he
that ran past us and blew up the other
shuttle. The divers found no trace....

Christine reacts -- pissed -- spinning on Lucas. On Lucas's
aghast look, Christine clears frame.

LUCAS

(tired)

I've just finished downloading the
ancient transcript of your people. It was
entered by a European scholar and we're
using it....

DISSOLVE TO:

ON O'NEILL

O'NEILL

...cross-referenced with the new UEO
charter and Dr. Perry's survey data, our
input will give us a pretty
representative first draft of a
constitution....

SLOW DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SEAQUEST - ENGINEERING PASSAGEWAY

Towel around his neck, Hudson strolls the passages of his
boat. Hearing VOICES, he slows down as he approaches an
intersection.

ANOTHER CORRIDOR

holds the chatting Commanders Delong and Jackson.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DELONG

I can't believe that belligerent ass. I swear to you, J.J., by the time we're done, he'll be singing Stars and Stripes Forever out his--

Jackson signals him to quiet-down, laughing.

JACKSON

Keep it down.

(goadng)

I think you've got something personal for this guy. I could've sworn you were gonna fly into him.

DELONG

I'd like to. I wish the guy would take a swing at me. I'd have him busted, off this boat and out of the Navy so fast--

JACKSON

Easy there, Commander. You've got to stay objective about these things.

DELONG

Listen to you: Mr. Get Down to Business.

They both laugh.

ENGINEERING PASSAGEWAY

Hudson doubles back.

JUNIOR OFFICERS' QUARTERS - PASSAGEWAY

Piccolo hears footsteps and moves to his door; he's surprised to see the captain coming through in workout clothes.

PICCOLO

Evening, sir.

HUDSON

Tony.

Piccolo steps after him.

PICCOLO

You must have been working out pretty hard to get that sweaty, sir.

Hudson turns to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HUDSON

It's water Ensign. I went for a swim.

PICCOLO

Where did you go swimming, sir?

HUDSON

Decided to experience Bridger's folly first-hand.... Winds up the fish is a pretty good tour guide.

Piccolo is surprised beyond words.... Hudson turns up the hallway and Piccolo watches him go.

Hudson just passes another open doorway when out steps Fredricks in a t-shirt.

FREDRICKS

Sir!

Hudson had nearly gotten away. He turns back, averting his gaze.

HUDSON

What is it, Lieutenant.

FREDRICKS

(lowering her voice)

Oh, I was just curious about this intelligence briefing tomorrow morning.

HUDSON

Rest assured Freddie -- it'll be anything but intelligent.

FREDRICKS

That bad, sir?

HUDSON

Almost enough to drive one insane.

FREDRICKS

Good thing you're so effective at channeling it into something constructive... sir.

A shared smile.

FREDRICKS (cont'd)

Good night.

She turns back into her room and Hudson finally makes it to the

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MAG-LEV STATION

where he stands for a moment until the doors whisk open. In he goes, and the doors close behind him.

INT. MAG-LEV

Hudson stands there enjoying the quiet. The MAG-LEV stops and the doors open -- Henderson and Ford step in, all smiles and happiness.

HENDERSON
Captain Hudson, hello!

FORD
Nice to see you sir. Have you been working out?

Henderson laughs at Hudson's raised-eyebrow reaction as the doors slide closed.

HUDSON
I trust you enjoyed yourselves.

FORD
Thank you, sir. It... went really quickly.

Henderson laughs again. They both look at her, she sobers a bit (she's just happy).

HENDERSON
Sir, we didn't know if we were called back early because of a problem with the maintenance, or...

HUDSON
The entire crew has been summoned back early... to attend my barbecue.

Henderson sees he's serious. The MAG-LEV comes to a stop.

HENDERSON
The lawyers from--

Delong and Jackson step aboard.

HUDSON
Hold the door, please.

Delong is closest, so he leaves a hand in the doorway.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HUDSON (cont'd)
Yes. Specifically, Lieutenant, the two
candy-ass cowards that just entered the
MAG-LEV.

Ford and Henderson share an awkward look with Long and
Jackson.

HUDSON (cont'd)
If they have their way, I'll be out of a
job by noon.

He starts to turn and walk out, but likes where he's got
DeLong.

HUDSON (cont'd)
(to DeLong)
Thanks. One more second.
(back to Ford)
And by the way,
(drawing it out)
I'm really, really glad you had a nice
time.

Hudson smiles broadly.

FORD
Thank you, sir.

HENDERSON
Thanks.

Alas, Hudson turns to exit the MAG-LEV.

MAG-LEV STATION

Hudson brushes right past DeLong, who clears the door. After
it closes, Hudson reflects for a moment, checks his watch,
then quickly clears frame as we

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

SEAQUEST IN BERTH - EARLY MORNING (CGI)

CHYRON OVER: "UEO NAS Pearl Harbor, Hawaii - seaQuest berth"

INT. SEAQUEST - WARDROOM - DAY

Around the table sits seaQuest's staff of bridge officers minus Piccolo; dress uniform all around. Order is Hudson, Ford, Henderson, O'Neill, Fredricks, Piccolo and Lucas. The ship's time is shown to be 0645.

HUDSON

Whose job was it to get Piccolo?

LUCAS

He had some work to do on his uniform, sir.

O'NEILL

I think he was up all night sewing.

HUDSON

He's going to miss the fireworks. Wolenczak?

LUCAS

I'll go, sir.

Just as Lucas is about to rise, Piccolo walks through the door just ahead of Commanders Delong and Jackson: Piccolo is weary but looking sharp in his officer's threads. He moves toward the open seat while Delong and Jackson make last-minute preparations.

HUDSON

(under)

Look alive Piccolo!

Piccolo jumps into his seat. Fredricks turns to him, smiling while she checks him out.

FREDRICKS

You look very sharp. Good work.

PICCOLO

Thanks a lot.

Fredricks gives him a pat on the shoulder, then sees something there. Piccolo is so groggy he doesn't notice her pulling the string.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PICCOLO (cont'd)
Just don't pull any of those little
strings....

Then he turns. Half-grinning, Fredricks holds his patch in her hand.

FREDRICKS
Sorry!

Piccolo looks around, takes the gum out of this mouth and spreads it on the back of the patch. A second later, he slaps it back in place.

PICCOLO
That'll have to work.

Lucas leans in.

LUCAS
Shhh. Can you lean back for a second?

Hudson holds up a file folder marked 'Classified'.

HUDSON
(to O'Neill)
I read the Zebulon report this morning
Lieutenant. Excellent work.

O'Neill's broad smile is interrupted by a yawn.

O'NEILL
Wow; excuse me. Thank you sir.

O'Neill turns to look at Lucas, raising a thumb. Then O'Neill leans out of Lucas's way.

HUDSON
(to Lucas)
Great work, Ensign. You've made us all
proud.

Lucas is thrilled. But then:

LUCAS
(re: lawyers)
What's going to happen, sir?

Hudson smiles, looking at the lawyers, then, blatantly:

HUDSON
Nobody needs to worry about them. This
B.S. will be over in no time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jackson and Delong perk up. They're going to enjoy frying his butt. Delong steps up to the podium.

DELONG

All right, we're going to get started. We're sending around a sign-in sheet, we need all your signatures. The Secretary General will be here in just a few--

Just then, McGath steps into the room. All eyes turn to him. McGath finds Hudson and motions for him to follow. Hudson gets up and follows McGath out of the room, much to the co-hosts' chagrin.

PASSAGE OUTSIDE WARDROOM

Hudson and McGath talk quietly.

MCGATH

We just learned that Stephan Colon is in New Guinea. Our forces pulled out of the Vault early last night because we were informed of an impending Alliance attack. When their forces landed, they found Colon alone in the Vault -- and exiled him to New Guinea.

HUDSON

They'll have to turn him over, won't they?

MCGATH

I'm catching a plane in fifteen minutes. We'll do everything we can.

HUDSON

Sir: the investigation?

MCGATH

Perhaps another time. Meanwhile, since we have these two OS officers here, I've made arrangements for your officers O'Neill and Wolenczak to brief them on the details of the November Canyon Vault. They have to investigate inside involvement in Colon's disappearance.

HUDSON

Do they know yet?

MCGATH

I'm certain they don't.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Hudson can barely contain himself.

HUDSON
Let me tell them.

McGath can't deny him this one....

MCGATH
Very well, Captain. Thanks for the use of
your crew.

HUDSON
They were just doing their duty, Mr.
Secretary.

As he's moving away, McGath calls back:

MCGATH
Remember Captain: So were the lawyers.

McGath turns away. Hudson celebrates a little:

HUDSON
Yes!

and turns back for the Wardroom.

INT. SEAQUEST - WARDROOM - DAY

Silence is heavy as Hudson steps in. He looks at Delong and Jackson soberly, then scans his crew. Hudson steps over to where he'd been sitting and retrieves the classified file. He moves toward the podium, and already Delong and Jackson hate what's happening.

HUDSON
There's been a slight change in plans,
ladies and gentlemen. Hope nobody's too
disappointed.
(a look at Delong)
Secretary General McGath is on his way to
the air base and you two gentlemen are
catching the next helicopter out in a few
minutes.
(handing file to Jackson)
While you're waiting for your ride and
your new orders, Lieutenant O'Neill and
Ensign Wolenczak will answer any
questions you have on the war-torn,
highly volatile militarized zone you'll
be entering.

Hudson moves to the hatchway and swings it open.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HUDSON (cont'd)

So pack your gear and get the hell off my boat.

Jackson and DeLong scornfully gather their things and move out past Hudson. The seaQuest crew is silently impressed. O'Neill and Lucas get up and move after DeLong and Baker, pausing by the captain.

O'NEILL

War-torn, sir? Is there something we don't know.

HUDSON

Alliance troops seized the Vault soon after you pulled out and found Stephen Colon there... alive.

Lucas and O'Neill are stunned.

LUCAS

Will the UEO try to fight them, to get him back?

HUDSON

I doubt it, Ensign. If they let these lawyers keep running things, we'll never accomplish anything worthwhile. But if we ever get close enough, we'll do it ourselves.

Lucas and O'Neill exit. The other officers study their captain.

HUDSON (cont'd)

On your feet everyone.

(a grin)

Since we're up so early and looking so fine, let's go see our visitors off.

The clamor rises as they all move out.

EXT. PEARL HARBOR UEO BASE - HELO LAUNCH NEAR BERTH

The props of a Hughey helicopter spin in the background as Lucas and O'Neill answer last-minute questions from DeLong and Jackson; Hudson, Ford, Henderson, Piccolo, Fredricks, Dr. Perry and Dagwood stand together preparing for the helicopter's departure.

O'Neill and Lucas move back toward the group.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCAS

So, I wonder how Christine's going to react when she finds out Colon's still alive.

O'NEILL

It's probably out in the press by now. I'm almost afraid to check my e-mail.

A suspicious look from Lucas.

LUCAS

Why's that?

O'NEILL

Well, when we got off the shuttle last night, Christine and I... exchanged...

LUCAS

You what? Tim, I can't believe you. The second my back was turned--

O'NEILL

Lucas, we were right in front of you.

(a beat)

Of course, you were in the middle of a solid power nap. But you know what they say: All's fair....

LUCAS

So that's how it's going to be. Well, I guess it's just a shame you can't join us at the technology summit....

O'NEILL

She's going? Lucas, I don't think she even wants to talk to you, after....

Lucas and O'Neill carry their conversation behind the group. Watching the Hughey, Hudson stands next to Dr. Perry.

DR. PERRY

Medically, the tests told us the mad doctor was in perfect health. But there are some curious physiological traits that were still being examined.

HUDSON

From your descriptions of him, I'm surprised the tests showed anything at all. Keep me up to speed on the lab findings, will you doctor?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DR. PERRY
Sure thing Captain.

Hudson moves clear of the group and pulls an envelope from his pocket. He opens it and reads: A big smile emerges.

The helo lifts off and the seaQuest crew looks glad to be rid of them. After the noise dies down, they all turn to Hudson.

HUDSON
All right people, listen up: We've got orders to proceed on patrol of the UEO Pacific perimeter. How soon can we be underway Commander?

FORD
After scuttling, we're clear to launch on your order, sir.

The group moves down a stairwell leading toward their boat.

HUDSON
Get yourselves into some work clothes and man your stations. I feel the need for speed.

INT. SEAQUEST - BRIDGE

The crew talks brightly as everyone reassumes their roles. Henderson is at her systems console.

HENDERSON
Engineering systems report all ready. Prepare to engage primaries on my command.

Piccolo and O'Neill man the helm and comms.

PICCOLO
(under, to O'Neill)
--in the tubes following Darwin around. He said, "Well actually, the fish makes a pretty good tour guide."

Piccolo laughs. O'Neill has trouble believing it.

O'NEILL
(under)
This is our Captain Hudson?

PICCOLO
Ask Freddie, she was there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Fredricks and Ford are at the Weapons station.

FREDRICKS

(to Ford)

--had to put a rush on the SSN-52s, even though they said there'd be no problem. But I made them live up to it. Next time it should go more smoothly.

FORD

Thank you Lieutenant. Great work.

Fredricks sees Piccolo and O'Neill looking at her.

PICCOLO

Come here.

And Fredricks moves to them.

O'NEILL

Tim here doesn't believe about Hudson's folly...

The Captain strolls onto the deck. Ford turns and snaps a salute.

FORD

Captain on the bridge.

HUDSON

Thank you, Commander. As you were, but let's stow the talking and man your stations people.

The crew complies as Hudson assumes the con, intent.

HUDSON (cont'd)

What's keeping us here, Commander?

FORD

Nothing, sir.

HUDSON

Let's move then. Engage forward engines and move us clear of docking facilities Mr. Piccolo. Mr. Wolenczak, make our eyes and ears ready.

LUCAS

WSKRs standing-by for deployment, Captain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PICCOLO

Engaging engines, moving clear sir.

Quiet reigns as the ship responds to the commands. Dagwood and Lt. Fredricks stand-by in the background.

HUDSON

I've never been so glad to be going home
in my life.

(an idea)

Mr. O'Neill, open the low band.

O'Neill configures accordingly.

O'NEILL

Low band open, sir.

UEO NAS PEARL HARBOR - SEAQUEST BERTH - DAY (CGI)

as the giant blue vessel aims for the murky depths.

HUDSON (OVER LOW-BAND)

By special order of the UEO council
general, the crew of seaQuest is proud to
report that we are returning to sea.
Thank you for your services, NAS Pearl
Harbor. seaQuest away.

The seaQuest picks up a little speed.

INT. SEAQUEST - BRIDGE

Ford looks back at the captain.

FORD

We'll be clear in a few seconds, Captain.

HUDSON

Very well. Mr. Piccolo, prepare to set
course two six zero and get us to one
hundred meters.

PICCOLO

Preparing to set course two six zero,
depth of 100 meters, sir. By the way,
Captain, what about that investigation?
Think they'll forget?

HUDSON

However it works out, they'll have to
catch us. And now that we're all back...

Hudson regards his crew admiringly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HUDSON (cont'd)
I don't envy their chances.

FORD
We're clear of port, sir, and on- course,
levelling at 100 meters.

EXT. SEAQUEST - CLEARING BERTH

and making for the open sea.

HUDSON (V.O.)
Mr. Wolenczak, deploy the WSKRs. Give me
full speed ahead Mr. Piccolo.... We've
got our orders.

A swirling jet pulse flares; the vessel effortlessly surges
out into the currents as we

FADE OUT.

THE END