

Thursday, March 15, 2068, 1 a.m., Tracy Island

The weary, hungry rescuers filed into the dining room, where the beginnings of a satisfying dinner were set out. Brains was setting up a large screen at the head of the table and more than one of the new recruits looked at it and him, puzzled. When everyone was seated, and Kyrano and Lisa were bringing in hot dishes full of appetizing food, Brains explained.

"Since it's so late, Scott wanted the debriefing to take place over dinner. This screen is set up so that John and Callie can take part from Thunderbird Five." He turned to the screen. "Thunderbird Five from base. Do you read?"

John answered. "This is Thunderbird Five, base. Reading you strength 5."

"F-A-B, Five. Tell us when the call came in and the details," Brains said, then he moved to a seat near the screen and sat down.

Callie said, "We received the call on March 14th at around 3:30 p.m. There was a serious multi-vehicle accident with a truck crashing into a bus loaded with children. The noise created an avalanche, thereby blocking conventional rescue from being able to reach the scene."

Scott now took up the tale. He swallowed a bite of salad and said, "By 4:30, we had coordinates and an overview of the problem. Thunderbird One was dispatched immediately and arrived on the scene by 10:20 local time and I scouted the situation. I deployed three sets of cahelium spears into the area above the cars to keep them safer in case of another avalanche. Then I used the nose of Thunderbird One to keep the bus from falling any farther while waiting for the arrival of Thunderbird Two with the grabs."

"Scott contacted me here to translate a message into Russian, telling everyone trapped not to panic and that rescue was coming. I also gave Virgil the coordinates to land at a nearby stadium in Ust'-Uls," said Callie.

"Yes," Scott added. "Before moving Thunderbird One to the bus, I used my VTOLs to melt some of the snow away from a couple of the buried cars, helping the locals to dig them out of the avalanches."

Brandon sat picking at his food. How can Scott be so calm? Especially after what we went through. Brandon thought to himself.

Virgil spoke up. "Thunderbird Two arrived on the scene at 11:10 a.m. local time. We first went to the stadium and lowered the pod. Then we returned to the site. We lowered Christopher down onto the roof of the bus to assess the situation."

Christopher looked up from his plate where he had been pushing his food around. "Kat lowered me down to the roof of the bus. I couldn't find any way to get in, but thought some one smaller

could, and I reported such."

Kat stopped eating. "Christopher called through his communicator that there was a small opening into the bus, which could be accessed by a very small person, and so Virgil told me that he would put TB2 on automatic pilot and help winch me down. I scrambled in through a tiny broken window and faced a sea of white frightened children. Some were crying and some were trying to put on a brave face. I asked if anyone understood English and one young man, a passenger on the bus, I believe, said that he could speak a little English."

Nikki soon took her end of the story. "Dom and I were ready with Doc to take Thunderbird Seven to the Danger Zone and assist as many of the injured as possible."

"We set up shop close to the danger zone," said Dominic. He took a bite of salad, before setting down his fork. He wasn't very hungry, anyway. "Doctor Tracy and Nikki went to deal with the bus, and I went to start triaging the car wrecks."

"Dom drove Thunderbird Seven into the Danger Zone," Dianne said quietly. "I sent Nikki to the bus, and Dom to begin triage of the cars while I went to one of the avalanche sites."

Kat added, "After I had found out the injuries sustained and had reported back to Doc Virgil reported that TB7 would be some time arriving so, to keep the children from panicking, I started to sing. I went through my entire repertoire of nursery rhymes."

"I made sure the clamps were in position before Virgil activated them," Christopher looked up from a sketch he was doing. "I then informed those inside of what was about to happen," he continued, his voice a monotone.