
Subject: Re: Winds of Change
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Fri, 27 Jul 2012 21:58:20 GMT
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From: Tikatu Sent: 5/29/2007 10:19 PM

Wednesday, August 29, 2068, 11:45 a.m., Tracy Island.

Scott sat in a chair near his father's desk, shaking his head as Elise gave Jeff her impressions.

"I felt like I was out of my league, Mr. Tracy," she explained. "I don't have experience fighting fires." She shot a look at Scott. "And it's not as if I've had any training in it, either. In my opinion, Mobile Control training has been sorely lacking."

She's gotten bold, Virgil thought admiringly. Very few people would criticize Scott -- or Dad -- like that. Let's see if she gets away with it.

Jeff sat back, the data pad with his notes in on hand, a stylus in the other. "So you feel we need to add more training in the running of Mobile Control?"

Elise took a deep breath. "Not only that, but in coordination of rescues overall, sir."

"Dad," Scott interjected. "I had to learn by doing in a lot of cases, especially at the beginning." He held up his hands. "We worked some scenarios, sure, but there was a lot of on-the-job learning."

"With all due respect, sir," Elise said as she jumped back into the conversation. "Scott has had leadership training out the wazoo."

"I have to agree, Dad," Virgil said. "Learning to run our fire equipment is one thing; knowing how a fire works, how it spreads, how to best fight it is another." He swept a hand out, indicating everyone in the room. "I think we could all use some training, not just whoever is manning Mobile Control."

Jeff sat quiet for a moment, then asked, "Scott? What do you think?"

Scott took a minute to gather his thoughts, then said, "I can't argue with the need for more training. We need training in all areas, and upgrades in that training, too; we'll never come to a point where we say we know it all. But it's the 'how' that bothers me." He indicated Elise with a hand. "Do you want us to go to fire fighting school? Is there someone you know who can come here and help? Is this something Luke is skilled in? Because I don't think we can learn this from some cut and dried correspondence course."

"I agree with that," Virgil said. "We've had some experience, but for all we know, we could be going about this the wrong way."

Jeff sat up. "Let's not get ahead of ourselves here, boys... and lady." When he was sure he had the attention of the others, he resumed. "Our primary focus is rescue, not firefighting. But if, as part of our rescue activities, we have to fight a fire, I want us to do it right." He looked at his sons,

and Elise, fixing each with a determined gaze. "I need ideas on how to accomplish that goal."

The other three were quiet for a moment, then Elise said, "Bring in someone with experience. Hire a firefighter. You've hired aquanauts, and nurses, and now a search-and-rescue specialist. Bring on someone who's done it before."

Jeff nodded slowly. "That might work. I'll need to think of a cover for them though. This won't be someone we can hire in house."

"Like the cover you came up with for Luke?" Virgil said with a grin.

"Yes," Jeff replied, sighing. "It's getting harder and harder to frame a 'job' in Tracy Industries in terms of IR's needs."

Virgil and Scott chuckled; Elise looked puzzled for a moment, then her face cleared as she understood the situation.

"How about someone to develop fire safety programs and teach them to some of our more far flung plants?" Scott suggested. "I mean, in the States, fire safety is supposed to be written in the building codes, and taught to all the employees. But perhaps in some of our foreign properties..."

"Fire safety is still incorporated in the plans for every property we build, Scott," Jeff said seriously. "But teaching the production crews... it might work at that." He put a note on his data pad. "I'll have human resources start the ball rolling. Hopefully soon, International Rescue will have a firefighting expert to help us better our skills."

"Sounds good to me," Virgil said, smiling.

Jeff uploaded his request, then looked at his watch. "I think we're done here. Thank you all for coming, and for your input."

Scott glanced at his own timepiece, then his paint-spattered clothes. "I'd better change clothes before lunch."

"How are things going on Anna's suite?" Jeff rose from his chair. The two oldest Tracy men started out of the room, walking together and conversing quietly. Virgil turned to Elise.

"Would you like to join us for lunch?"

Elise's face lit up with a smile. "I'd love to. It's been a while since I've talked to Tyler and Alex, and I'd like to see Anna again... in a less professional setting."

Virgil hrumphed. "Tyler and Alex, huh?"

"Well," Elise replied with a twinkle in her eyes, "it's not like you asked me to have lunch with just you now, is it?"

"Hmmm." Virgil looked thoughtful. "I'll remember that for the future."
