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Subject: Re: Regaining Momentum

Posted by [artisticrainey](#) on Tue, 24 Jul 2012 00:39:58 GMT

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The recruits hurried into the lounge to find Jeff, Dianne, Scott, John and Gordon already there. Brains entered the room moments later, then Tin-Tin came in. Jeff was at his desk, talking to Alan. As the youngest Tracy finished his report on the call, his father made notes on a data pad in front of him.

"... and when I pulled up information on the computer while taking the call, I found out that the mall was being built on a landfill. That means there's bound to be pockets of methane gas that have been released." Alan stopped, waiting for his father to speak.

"That will be a problem. Methane is not toxic, but it's suffocating and combustible. We'll probably have to take extra oxygen. And it takes radical chemistry to remove methane from the atmosphere," Brains said. He looked over at Callie.

"Brains is right. In the twentieth century, they used a hydroxyl radical, formed from water vapor broken down by certain oxygen atoms, using ultraviolet radiation. Some progress has been made, but it's never been a real priority, and the process is pretty much unchanged," she confirmed.

"Then the sooner we get there and find the people trapped, the more people we will save," said Dianne.

"Right. Okay, Scott, take off in One. Elise, you'll pilot Two. Take the DOMO, Excavator, Seven's medical cabin, and the Mobile Crane. And all the oxygen tanks you can fit in with them." Jeff looked over at Will. "I presume the tanks are all full."

Will nodded, and replied, "Yes, sir. I checked them yesterday." He saw Scott take hold of the light sconces and was astonished to see what happened next. Jeff grinned at the look on his face, then sobered and continued.

"Okay. Callie, John, Gordon, Dom, Nikki, Dianne will all go in Two. Luke, you, too, and take Rommel. He'll be needed to help find victims. And if anyone says anything about us having a dog, just say something about how it had taken time to train him, it's his first rescue, something along those lines. Brains, Tin-Tin, I'd like you to go, too. Work with Callie to see if you can do anything about those methane pockets."

"F-A-B, Mr. Tracy."

"Then get going. The rest of you, stand down."

Everyone stood up and Dom handed a still sleeping Joshua to Lisa, who had walked in a few minutes earlier. He, Dianne and Nikki took the elevator directly to the hangar. Will, seeing Elise leaving in her own special way, shook his head and stood up, too. "I'll go help them load up, sir."

"F-A-B, Will. Come back here when you're finished."

"Yes, sir." Will followed the others to the regular elevator. As they headed down, he turned to Luke and quietly asked, "F-A-B?"

Luke snorted a laugh and began to explain.

Posted by hobbeth, January 12, 2008

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