
Subject: Re: Learning The Ropes

Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Tue, 24 Jul 2012 19:51:40 GMT

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Tuesday, March 6, 2068, 1:25 a.m. Tracy Villa lounge.

The emergency signal had sounded through the Villa and the Cliff House, waking the denizens and summoning them to the lounge. Once they were all gathered, Virgil looked over their faces, some sleepy, some eager, some concerned. Dominic and Lisa put their heads together quietly; Lisa nodding at some question that Dominic asked.

"Okay, everyone, listen up. We've gotten a call from a World Navy vessel in the North Sea, off the northeastern coast of Scotland. They were dispatched to aid a fishing trawler that pulled a live mine up in its nets. The mine's chain is wrapped around the trawler's propellers and it's dead in the water. However, pulling up one seems to have loosened some others and the Navy ship can't reach the trawler as there are several more mines blocking their way. On top of all this, there's foul weather and the fishing boat is headed for the gas drilling rigs out there."

He took a breath. "We'll need Thunderbird Four with Gordon and Brandon. You, too, Tin-Tin; the seas are such that we'll need two divers and a hand on Thunderbird Four's helm. I haven't gotten a count of how many men are on the fishing trawler, but I think that hypothermia will be a problem and Thunderbird Two's sickbay holds six at the most. So, Gordon, put Seven into pod four as well. Dom and Nikki, you'll go as medics. Alan, you're to take Thunderbird One to the Danger Zone; set up Mobile Control on one of the rigs."

"F-A-B," Gordon said as he tapped Tin-Tin and Brandon on the shoulder and they left to move the equipment around.

Alan groaned good-naturedly. "Not another drilling rig!"

"Yes. And see to it you don't lose Thunderbird One like you nearly did last time!" Virgil responded with a smile. "Any questions?"

"Uh, excuse me, Virgil," Nikki said hesitantly. "I haven't had any experience using the equipment in Thunderbird Seven yet."

"And I've barely scratched the surface there, so to speak," Dominic added, nodding his head. "Plus, I can't fly the thing if that's needed. I can fly, but I've not been trained on Seven."

Virgil thought for a moment, and then looked at Alan. "Okay. Alan, use a flight plan that will take you over the States instead of over Asia and stop in New York to pick up Mom. We'll make sure she's waiting for you at JFK."

"What about Scott?" Alan asked, poised to enter Thunderbird One's hangar.

"What about him? He's got work to do at corporate and someone should stay close by in case something comes up with Dad. He stays in New York. Now, get going!"

"F-A-B!" Alan called as he pressed the buttons that would take him to his older brother's Thunderbird. "I'd like to be a fly on the wall when you try to convince him to stay put, Virge," he muttered as he crossed the telescoping catwalk to Thunderbird One's cockpit.

"Okay. Does everyone have their orders?" There were nods all around, but Christopher put up a hand.

"You haven't said who is flying Thunderbird Two."

"I am, and you might as well come along to see how it's done," Virgil replied. "Plus we could probably use an extra pair of hands on the winch." He looked over at the engineer. "Brains, you have the desk. Get the information we will need from John when he comes back on and relay it to us en route."

"F-A-B, Virgil. But you're the one who will have to deal with notifying Scott and Dianne. I'm not taking the heat for that!" Brains answered. Virgil grinned.

"Don't worry. I'll be the bad guy there. Okay, people! Thunderbirds are go!"

The lounge quickly emptied of all but Kyrano, Lisa, and Kat.

"Do you mind if I stay and listen?" Kat asked. "I know I'm not much help right now...."

"I don't mind at all, Kat. In fact, I'm glad for the company," Brains replied, sitting down behind Jeff's desk. Funny how I still think of it as his, even though he's not here, he mused.

"I will brew some coffee and tea," Kyrano said as he swept out of the room.

"Oh! And I'd better head over to Dominic's apartment to keep an eye on Joshua!" Lisa said suddenly, hurrying from the lounge.

Just then, John's portrait began to beep for attention.

"Thunderbird Five to base."

"This is base. Go ahead, Thunderbird Five."

"Hi, R&D. Vee gone with the crew?" John asked.

"Yes, Jay. He's in Two and Ay's in One. Gee is taking Four, and Ay will pick up Doc on the way to the Danger Zone to man Seven. Bee, Cee, Dee, Tee, and En are along for the ride. Can I have the details?"

John relayed the details from Captain Bowers and then added, "We're going to have to do something about the Cee in Two because we also have a Cee in Five."

"And a Cee here at base most of the time as well. I will think about it," Brains said.

"F-A-B. I'm signing off with you and will contact Ay and Vee on tricircuit. Good luck, base."

"F-A-B, Thunderbird Five, and thanks." John's portrait cut off.

"Now, what do we do?" Kat asked.

"Now? Now we wait."

Post by Tikatu on 07/08/2004
