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Subject: Re: Growing as a Team  
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Wed, 25 Jul 2012 21:05:36 GMT  
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Alan laid back in his seat, arms resting behind his head. He was used to this, being a passenger on Two while his brother flew them to the Danger Zone. He looked around at the others. Kat and Brandon were quietly talking, and he'd noticed once more that Kat was about to leave her seat with the same look of worry that she'd had the first time he saw her leave. This time he decided to tag along. He didn't have to go far; Kat had gone back down to the winch again to check on it. She was taking her role on this rescue very seriously.

Alan hunkered down beside her, smiling. Kat smiled back and said, "I'm just making sure that everything is okay."

"Haven't you already checked this?" Alan asked.

"Yes, but I want to make sure it's safe."

Alan nodded his understanding, and praised her work. He'd heard from Virgil how good she'd been working with him, and how impressed Virgil was with what she knew. Their conversation was stopped when Virgil's voice announced they were approaching the DZ and everyone needed to be in their seats. Here we go! thought Alan as he took up his seat again.

Virgil landed TB2 with his usual finesse, and Alan was immediately out of his seat.

"Brandon, let's go."

Brandon complied and they headed towards the lift that would take them to the ground level pod door. Alan walked behind Brandon hoping the confidence he saw in him would still be there out in the field.

I told Virgil I thought Brandon could handle the equipment. I sure hope he can. I'm in the Firefly and I won't be able to help him.

Alan pushed his worries aside as he climbed into the Firefly, but not before telling Brandon to stay in touch and good luck. Brandon had smiled and winked before disappearing into the Recovery Vehicle. Alan got himself comfortable, and adjusted the seat.

Virgil, why do you always leave the seat so far back? he mumbled to himself.

Switching on the radio link, he called his brother.

"Firefly to Thunderbird Two, ready to proceed."

"Firefly from Thunderbird Two, F.A.B. Proceed as normal."

"Recovery Vehicle to Thunderbird Two and Firefly, ready to proceed," came Brandon's confident voice.

Virgil responded by giving him clearance and as the pod door lowered, the two vehicles descended onto the snow covered ground. Alan immediately made radio connection with Brandon.

"Okay, Bee, I'm going to go as far as I can by just pushing through the snow. I want you close behind me all the way. We're approaching from the town of Ust'-Uls so we'll be heading into the vehicles that crashed first. We should be able to see the bus once we're through, but I'm taking it slow at first. Don't want to have to deal with any more snow than we've already got."

"FAB. Understood loud and clear."

Alan powered up the Firefly and it surged forward. He positioned the heat resistant shield low enough for it to become an effective plow. Using the Nitro-glycerine gun was out of the question, one shot from that gun and the rest of the mountain would dump on top of them. Alan chugged along until he reached the area where the snow had cut off the road.

"Okay, Bee, we're here. Thunderbird Two and Mobile Control from Firefly, ready to begin pushing through."

"FAB Firefly, proceed with caution," replied Scott.

"Will do," Alan replied.

Like I can go faster than a snail in this thing and all this snow! he thought as he rolled his eyes at his brother's remark. Even now, Scott thinks I'm going to floor this machine like a race car!

He turned his thoughts to the task at hand and felt the Firefly shake as the shield encountered its first batch of heavy snow. Brandon kept up with the Firefly, staying on Alan's heels, and before long they were half way through.

"Mobile Control from Firefly, I'm switching on headlights and remote control searchlight. It's not too clear under all this snow, and I'll be using the warning klaxon as we're breaking through on the other side, so let everyone who needs to know, know."

"Okay Firefly, will relay message. What's your ETA on the other side?"

"I'd say about another 15 minutes or so. I've managed to clear most of the heavy stuff already."

"Good job Firefly, relaying message. See ya soon."

Alan smiled to himself. Scott got on his nerves sometimes, but he was always grateful to have his big brother on hand and in charge in situations like this. All this snow was starting to make Alan feel claustrophobic. Finally, the snow became lighter and Alan broke through on the other side. He let out a slow whistle at the mess of twisted vehicles and carnage. Brandon pulled up the recovery vehicle alongside and spoke to Alan.

"I'm going to push on ahead. Hopefully Thunderbird Seven will be here soon, and it looks like the

bus will need help, too."

"F-A-B, Bee, I'll stay here for a while, looks like they may need help shifting some of these vehicles. Catch up with you later."

Alan watched as Brandon maneuvered the Recovery Vehicle and departed. Brandon had handled himself and the machine very well. Alan made a mental note to mention this at the debriefing. If a guy deserved a pat on the back, Alan was willing to give him one.

After helping move some of the vehicles on the road, Alan was able to get a clearer picture of what was going on with the bus and when Thunderbird Seven came on the scene, he ran over to help.

"Where do you want me?" he yelled as he trotted up to Dominic.

"Here, you can help me with this stretcher," Dominic replied. Alan grinned.

"Sure, no problem!" he answered as he reached out to grab the stretcher.

"Thanks!" Dominic smiled his reply.

Post by FrankieCTB2 on 19/10/2004

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