

## Chapter 1

It was that time of year again, Raise the Flag. That magical time where the squadrons of the TIECorps, conduct their annual training exercise to see who is the best and which ISD will host the "Flag" of the TCCOM for the year.

The day was upon us, we were told to stay sober and ready ourselves for a skirmish with our sister ship, the ISD Hammer. Both ships arrived at the predetermined coordinates, as provided by Fleet Admiral Elwood, who was already on station aboard the VSD Aggressor to view the effectiveness of the Wings. Both ships were told to park with the noses of their ships 5 kilometers apart. Admiral's Dempsey and Plif each deployed their fighters in a screen in front of their respective ships, awaiting the appointed time when the exercise was to begin, which would begin 1 hour after both ships and their fighters were deployed. All squadrons were deployed together and were sitting on station waiting for the timer to start its countdown. At twenty minutes into the countdown, Kappa Squadron started barrel rolling in place, using only their thrusters. Kappa Squadron stopped their antics five minutes later, and Sigma Squadron started barrel rolling, but in the opposite direction. Five minutes later, they stopped and Sin Squadron started doing forward flips in place, which they stopped after five minutes and Theta Squadron started in doing backward flips in place. That too, ended after five minutes, and all was quiet in space for the the next fifteen minutes.

With the five minute warning going off in their cockpits, Flight groups from each squadron started shifting around to fall into place behind a different squadron leader. Admiral Plif and General Frown had been planning for this event for a while, as they had come up with a strategy that would play off the type and make-up of each flight within each squadron. During the briefing, they had laid out their initial plan on what they wanted each squadron and flight to be doing. LC Len Eode would take his Flight 1, Kappa's Flight 3, and Theta's Flight 2, and advance on the Hammer's long range ships to keep them from targeting the Warrior the best they could. COL Wraith will take his Sin Squadron and harass any targets of opportunity. LC Drachen would take his 1 and 2 Flights and 3 Flight from Sigma, and start harassing any ships on the port side of the Hammer. While COL Schueler will take what's left of Theta and Flight 2 from Sigma and focus on any targets on the starboard of the Hammer. All make-shift squadrons are under orders to take any shots at the Hammer at their convenience.

One minute.

Thirty seconds.

Ten....

Nine...

Eight...

Seven...

Six...

Five...

Four...

Three...

Two...

One...

"Begin!" Came Fleet Admiral Elwood's voice over everyone's comm.