

Thursday  
September 9th, 2028  
09:00 hours (PST)

The D-Squad assembled in the main control room of Space Patrol Delta, all of them awaiting the arrival of Commander Tate. It had been the first time they were all together in a while, as there had been a lot of things going on as of late.

Serenity stood at attention, much like she always did. The last few days had thrown her for a loop and she wasn't sure how to process everything. She'd been sent back in time 20 years to prevent the Vorhsoth invasion that all but destroyed the human race. But now, she'd learned that the Vorhsoth were not the evil force she thought they were. They were working under the orders of someone else, and she was determined to find out who.

Next to her was Ensign Estella Enrile, who hadn't slept much prior to this moment. She had recently been reunited with her father, and while it was good to have him back, she didn't know what that meant for her family. Would her parents get back together? Would her father simply remain at SPD? There were so many questions that she simply didn't have the answers for, and she hoped that Commander Tate, when he arrived, would be able to shed some light on some of these mysteries.

To her right was her brother, Ensign Nathaniel Carson, or, as he preferred to be called as of late, the chief. He had made drastic improves to the Astro Omega Ship, and had recently determined that the Vorhsoth were a creation of another race. He was convinced the Anurians were behind it all; that they were still bitter over being told they could not use the Xybrian people as slave labor if they intended to be a part of the Interplanetary treaty, so they came up with a plan to wipe out the human race. All the evidence he'd found in the computer certainly pointed in that direction, but now the question became what would SPD do about it?

To Serenity's left was Lt. Commander Nik Martin, who recently acquired the powers of the Phantom Ranger, but at a great cost. The gem that powered the armor had already bonded with someone else, so in order to use the power, the two of them had to do so together. That meant that whenever he wanted to access the power, both he and Patrick Harris had to be present to do so. What made it difficult was that Patrick was not in SPD and had no desire to serve. Nik, however, understood that. Patrick had been the Phantom Ranger for the better part of 30 years, and he respected Patrick's desire to have a life away from all the action.

Next to Lt. Commander Martin was Lt. Pascal, the only Xybrian who served in SPD. Xybrian people were motivated only by easing the burdens of others, which could easily be misunderstood as a form of slavery, but they were never forced to do anything. Though he understood how people could have that misconception. The last few days had been interesting

to say the least, but Pascal knew that there were tough times ahead. There was nowhere else he would rather have been than by the side of his friends.

To Pascal's left was Lt. Asia James, who as of late had been serving as the chief medical officer for the D-Squad. Originally, she requested the assignment in hopes of spending less time with Serenity. After all, learning that your daughter had come from the future and realizing that your fate was no longer your own was a little off putting. She wanted to know that she had the ability to make her own choices, that her free will still meant something. Asia had since gotten passed her reservations about the situation and was simply happy to know that her daughter grew up to be such a capable and driven officer. She'd also found herself attracted to Lt. Commander Martin in recent days. Part of it was due to the fact that she knew he would eventually become the father of her child, and that child would grow up to be Serenity. She fought against that for a while, but had come to understand her place in history. Now, she was looking forward to ensuring that she preserved the future for her family.

And finally, next to Lt. James was Lt. Garr, the only Anurian who served in SPD. His race was a very misunderstood one, and he had accepted that. It was easy for humans to impose their values on other races, but even as a child Garr was against the idea of Xybrians serving his race the way they did. He wanted to consider them equals, his friends, but his father would have none of it. Now, Garr was in SPD and serving as chief of security for the D-Squad, and having Pascal on the team allowed him to make up for what he considered the past mistakes of his people. Pascal was his friend, his equal.

Finally, the doors to the command center hissed open as Commander Tate stepped into the room, standing on the opposite side of the table.

"Good morning, D-Squad," he said firmly.

"Sir!" Serenity said, speaking for the group.

"At ease," each of them allowed their posture to loosen a bit, putting their arms behind their backs and giving the commander their undivided attention. "There is a lot going on in SPD right now, so let's get some of the basics out of the way. Both Bridge Carson and Z Delgado have decided to step down from SPD. They will no longer be officers for Space Patrol Delta, but both will serve as ambassadors if or when they are needed," he explained to them.

"Sir, don't we need all hands on deck with this impending invasion? We'll need experienced officers, more importantly experienced rangers out there," Lt. Commander Martin pointed out.

"That may be true, but both Z and Bridge have served SPD with distinction. I respect their decision to step down and pursue other interests."

"Yes, sir."

“As you all know, Lt. Commander Martin is the Phantom Ranger, along with her counterpart, Mr. Harris. Is we are going to have a chance to win this war, we’re going to need more than just one ranger on D-Squad,” he glanced around at each of them. “By the power vested in me by Admiral Anubis Cruger and the high council of SPD, I am elevating all of you to active ranger status,” he announced.

“Yes!” Ella blurted out, but immediately calmed down and stood at attention when she realized everyone was looking at her.

“Lt. Commander Martin will remain on as the Phantom Ranger and as Serenity’s right hand and first office. Lt. Commander Serenity,” he opened a small box that had been sitting on the table in front of them. “I am elevating you to red ranger and leader of this team,” he said, handing her the red ranger morpher.

“Thank you, sir,” she said proudly, accepting it.

“Chief Nathaniel Martin, you shall be the blue ranger,” he said, presenting him with the morpher.

Nathaniel accepted it, taking a moment to look over it. It was much like the SPD judgment scanner, but now there was an additional button that would allow him access to his ranger powers. He nodded with approval.

“Thank you, sir.”

“Lt. Garr, you have served your team well as head of security, and I hope you will use that same valor and dedication as you serve as the new SPD green ranger,” Commander Tate said, presenting Garr with the green morpher.

Garr glanced down at it. It seemed so small in his hand, but he was honored to accept. “Garr do best,” he assured him.

“Lt. Asia James. I think everyone here would agree that you have gone above and beyond the call of duty for your team many times, and you were solely responsible for the escape of the CaAn detention center. It is with great pride that I present you with the yellow morpher,” he said, handing it to her.

Asia blushed. “Thank you, sir, but it was a team effort.”

The Commander turned to Ella, who was giddy with excitement. She could barely contain herself as she stood there, waiting.

“I’m pink, aren’t I? I don’t think you’d give pink to Pascal, that would be weird. I’m gonna be the pink ranger,” she jumped up and down slightly. “Its my favorite color.”

“Calm down, ensign,” Serenity groaned.

“Yes, sir,” she sighed, standing at attention.

“You may have an unorthodox way of doing things, ensign, but your methods are effective. I want you to bring that same enthusiasm to your new role as the pink ranger,” he said, presenting her with the morpher.

“Yes!” she squealed, taking a moment to admire the design of the morpher. Her entire life she’d dreamt of being the pink ranger, and now she was. “I mean, yes, sir,” Ella said in a professional tone.

Finally, they turned to Pascal. “Lt. Pascal, as you know, Lt. Commander KJ Ford is the Shadow Ranger, and unfortunately there are no more morphers in regular circulation,” the Commander told him.

“I understand, sir,” Pascal said, doing his best to mask his disappointment.

“It took some doing, but Dr. Manx was able to reactivate the Omega morpher. There is still much we don’t know about it, but it’s yours,” he said, presenting him with the morpher.

Pascal’s morpher was different from the others. While everyone else had a hand held morpher, his was designed to mount on his wrist. He put it on, taking a moment to admire it.

“Thank you for your faith in me, sir,” he said proudly.

“Congratulations, rangers,” he took a moment to look at each of them. “I have no doubt you will all serve SPD to the best of your abilities,” he said.

“Yes sir,” they all said in unison, saluting.

Ella raised her hand.

“Yes, ensign?” the commander asked.

“So what’s the thing we say?”

“I don’t take your meaning?”

“Like... to morph. What do we say? Do we say *its morphin time* or *ACTIVATE* or what?” she asked.

“Mom use to say *wild access* and then sorta put her arm out and hold the morpher up to her ear like she was making a call,” Nathaniel pointed out.

Serenity chuckled, but chose not to respond.

“To activate the morpher you would call out *SPD emergency*,” Commander Tate informed her.

“Oh, okay,”

“With all the formalities out of the way, we...” he was interrupted as Ella raised her hand again.

“Yes, ensign?”

“What if it's *not* an emergency?” she asked.

This time, even Garr had to let out a chuckle.

“If there was no emergency then there would be no need to morph, would there?” he replied.

“I guess not,” Ella sighed.

“If there are no other questions...” he stated as everyone turned their attention to Ella.

“What?” she said defensively. “It's not like none of you were thinking it.”

Pascal raised his hand slightly. “I was a little curious,” he admitted.

“See?!” she blurted out, feeling justified.

“Now, down to business. We need to be brought up to speed on what's going on. Chief Martin, tell us what you found,” he said.

Nathaniel pressed a button on the control panel, and a holographic screen blinked on. “I had been trying to recover the information on the hard drives from the shuttle my dad and Z were on, looking for anything that would explain where they were. What I found was that they came into contact with thoron energy, and it left a residual energy trace on the shuttle. They passed through a crudely constructed wormhole of some kind. Very primitive, but was able to send them half way across the Theta Quadrant and eventually to the frozen planet in uncharted space,” he explained to them.

“What does thoron energy have to do with wormholes? If you detected it, wouldn't the wormhole implode?” Serenity asked.

"No, but I understand why you would think so. The Xybrian scientists and Ella rescued from the warehouse district told you that a thoron device would cause an implosion and destroy all their research, but they lied to you. Thoron energy is present in teleportation; more specifically, in teleportation through one of these manmade worm holes," he said.

"The scientists said we needed to destroy everything so none of it could fall into enemy hands," Ella pointed out.

"I suspect that they told you that to throw you off their trail. The entire warehouse was teleported through one of these makeshift wormholes and is everyone completely intact," he said.

"How do they benefit from this?" Pascal asked.

"I think the Anurians were forcing them to build this wormhole so that the Vorhsoth invasion could come to Earth sooner than later, wipe us out and be back in their own region of space before we knew what hit us," Nathaniel said.

"What do we do with this information?"

"Are the Xybrian scientists still here?" he asked.

"In all the confusion, I haven't been able to send for their people to retrieve them. They are staying in civilian quarters," Commander Tate mentioned.

"We need to interrogate them, see what they know about these wormholes and possibly how to stop them," he said.

Commander Tate looked over at Ella. "That's your department, ensign. Your unique ability should serve you well in getting information out of them," he said.

"Yes, sir."

"I'd like to join her, commander. They are my people, they may be more inclined to be honest with me," Pascal mentioned.

"As you wish, Lieutenant. Lt. Commander Serenity, assemble a team to go back to the warehouse district and scan for any thoron energy. If they were building it there, it stands to reason there may be some residual traces there. If there is, I don't want the Vorthsoth or anyone else sneaking up on us," he said.

Serenity pointed at Lt. James and Lt. Commander Martin. "I'll leave that to you two," she said.

"Aye, sir."

"This is strictly observe and report. If you do find anything, contact us at once. Don't try to be the hero by running in there," she said.

Of course not, sir."

"Garr. I need you to contact your homeworld and see what they know about all this. According to their report Ella and Serenity fought to Anurian guards. See if the Citadel knows anything about them," he said.

"Garr no talk to family. Family disown Garr," he brought up.

"I am aware of your relationship with your family but they have severed communications with SPD. If anyone can get through to them, it's you,"

"But sir, Garr no..."

"You have your orders Lieutenant," he shot back.

"Garr try," he sighed

"And finally, we need to come to an understanding as it pertains to Gary," Commander Tate brought up.

"Can I keep him?" Ella asked.

The Commander glanced over at Serenity, looking for her input. "Gary has proven not to have a malicious bone in his body. He seems okay, but there is a lot we don't know about his species," she brought up.

"I promise to feed him and walk him, and if he poops on the floor I'll clean it up. Promise!" she insisted.

The Commander sighed. "I need some sort of assurance that he won't go rogue and slaughter everyone in their sleep. Is there some sort of deterrent we can put in place?" he asked.

Asia raised her hand. "Actually, sir, I have been working on a collar for him. If he were to become hostile for any reason, neurotransmitters in the brain begin to flare up. If they do, the collar will emit a sedative that will incapacitate him," she mentioned.

"Very good. Provided he doesn't get out of hand, he is welcome here at SPD. After all, he was responsible for the safe return of two of my closest friends," he turned to Ella. "Don't make me regret this," he said.

“You won’t, sir.”

“Are there any questions?” he asked.

Ella raised her hand. “So when we morph is it like *SPD emergency*? Or is it *SPD emergency... HA*? You know, emphasis on the *HA*,” she inquired.

“Dismissed,” he said firmly.

“Yes, sir,” Ella sighed disappointedly.

The entire team saluted him, then one by one exited the command center.