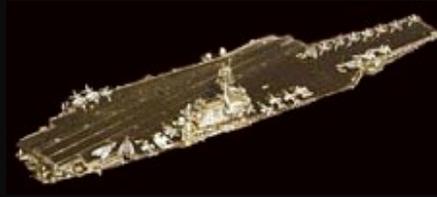


THE WRIGHT STUFF



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THE WRIGHT STUFF

Volume 31 - Number 5

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IMAGES - Title Banner

Wright Flyer from NASA/Ames PAO photo archive; *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk* (USN CV-63) from navicp.navy.mil; *Constitution* class cruiser from gwu.edu/~rljones/khawk.

IMAGE - Featured Front Page

***Star Trek* and NASA: 54 Years and Counting**

<https://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/star-trek-and-nasa-54-years-and-counting>

The Center Seat

By John Troan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

... or should that be “Anniversary” instead?

October 2020 marks *thirty years* since the commissioning of the *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk* as a ship of the line in STARFLEET. Since we couldn't gather for this major milestone — and I really wish we could get together to celebrate — take a look at [the pics on the website for our 25th Anniversary celebration](#).

I hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of the fall weather! (As I write this, my home office window is open and there's a light cool breeze coming in to keep the room from getting too toasty.)

Following up from the September meeting, I have not heard anything new about [GalaxyCon Raleigh 2020](#) in December. We're still on the waiting list and I don't see us having enough volunteers to keep the tables staffed the whole run of the Exhibition Hall if they contact us about space — if the con is even held this year.

Looking at a topic from the August meeting, our Yeoman/QM found information about virtual food and toy drives and [put it in his report](#) for this issue, which gives us the opportunity to continue our annual tradition of helping the Food Bank and Toys for Tots. ☺

We've added a new position on the corporate side of things — the Data Protection Officer (DPO). Christopher Bandy has agreed to take on that role and already [filed his first report](#). Thank You, Christopher! He'll help develop our

new Data Privacy Policy and be the important extra set of eyes to make sure we stay in line with it.

The [chapter handbook's draft Table of Contents](#) has been updated with the DPO position, plus a couple of other updates across the whole list as I was putting in the promotion points for each section. Pretty much the entire handbook is available for people interested in writing a piece of it.

Echoing our Yeoman/QM, my thanks to all who have donated into our treasury. For anyone wishing to make a donation of any size, there's a link to our PayPal account on the top left corner of every page on [the website](#).

A reminder to all that there's [a collection of Hallmark Star Trek ornaments post for sale](#) on our web site. They were given to me and I (still) plan to send any net proceeds into the *Kitty Hawk* treasury. (The “net” part is buying any shipping materials — the buyer still covers the shipping cost itself. Fortunately, I've been hoarding supplies from my inbound packages, so I may already have plenty — but I would still prefer a socially-distanced hand delivery to save even the shipping cost.)

More items have yet to be added, with those net proceeds also benefiting the treasury.

In closing, I repeat a request for people to send in articles for the newsletter — especially the department heads. It doesn't have to be much, and even a paragraph or two about just about any topic is fine.

Esse Quam Videri and Stay Safe!

Computer Operations Report

By John Troan

I've had a bit of a lull in things, but STARFLEET's new Data Protection Policy (DPP) — and eventually ours — is going to get things hopping at some point soon.

This issue of the newsletter brings a new narrative, with [a teaser elsewhere in this issue](#) and [the rest online](#). It's planned for release in three parts and should be finished by the end of 2020. (We've got another narrative planned to start in the Jan/Feb 2021 issue that will run for a big portion of the year — and another narrative in the works beyond that.)

Now that the Mars *Perseverance* rover [has launched](#), NASA is giving everyone a chance to [follow its journey to Mars in real time](#). NASA's JPL is [also putting Perseverance's twin, named OPTIMISM, through its early paces](#) to get it ready for when *Perseverance* lands on Mars, currently scheduled for Feb 18, 2021. (See the [Engineering Report](#) in this issue for more on the first helicopter on Mars, Ingenuity, that's paired with *Perseverance*.)

NASA's Commercial Crew partners are both making progress with their efforts. [SpaceX's final test flight \(Demo-2\) has concluded](#) and their [first crew rotation flight to the space station](#) is currently scheduled for late October. This would follow the Soyuz crew rotation and allows better coordination with spring's Crew-2 crew rotation.

Boeing's [Commercial Crew program has three flights on the schedule](#). The first is a repeat of their Demo-1 flight (OFT-2), currently scheduled for no earlier than December. Next is the Crew Flight Test (CFT) in mid-2021, followed by a crew rotation flight (Starliner-1) in late 2021. (All of these dates assume all goes well with each successive flight and nothing else has to be repeated.)

NASA's own [Artemis](#) program is also advancing, with the recent test firings of the [SLS booster](#) and the [SLS core stage](#) in early September. The launch hardware for the Artemis program is the [Space Launch System \(SLS\)](#), which consists of a mix of new hardware (core and upper stages) and shuttle-era hardware (upgraded solid rocket boosters and the space shuttle's RS-25 main engines) — but the [launch pad](#) will look a *lot* like it did with the [Apollo program](#). The [Artemis I](#) flight, now scheduled for late 2021, will be an uncrewed test into lunar orbit for several days and return to a splashdown in the eastern Pacific after over three weeks in space. Then the fun begins — [Artemis II](#) (the first crewed mission) in the second half of 2023, followed by Artemis III (a return to the lunar surface) in late 2024. Seven additional Artemis flights are on the drawing board, but nothing has been finalized yet.

Data Protection Report

By Christopher Bandy

Greetings and salutations! Some of you may know me, others may not. This is my first article for the Kitty Hawk newsletter, and I wanted to take this opportunity to give a brief introduction of myself and an overview of my new position as Data Protection Officer (DPO).

As stated above, my name is Christopher Bandy. I am a Lieutenant, Junior Grade, in STARFLEET. I have been a member of STARFLEET since 2012, albeit I had to take a break for a few years. I re-upped my membership a few years ago, and I hope I will be able to remain active for a good long while! My long-term goal within STARFLEET is to become a STARFLEET Captain. I am also the Helmsman for the U.S.S. *Kitty Hawk*. That is my “fictional” position, however. My real-life position is the new one of Data Protection Officer.

If you are not that familiar with what a DPO does and is for, I will give a brief overview: Recently, STARFLEET has released a new “General Data Protection Regulation” (GDPR) policy. STARFLEET refers to this as our Data Protection Policy (DPP). Since our organization is worldwide, STARFLEET felt it should apply this regulation to better co-operate with the European Union’s own GDPR, as well as California, since the state has also recently adopted a similar set of laws.

According to Wikipedia, GDPR laws are “primarily aimed to give control to individuals over their personal data and to simplify the regulatory environment for international business by unifying the regulation within the EU. The regulation contains provisions and

requirements related to the processing of personal data of individuals who are located in the European Economic Area (EEA), and applies to any enterprise — regardless of its location and the data subjects’ citizenship or residence — that is processing the personal information of data subjects inside the EEA.”

My job as DPO basically boils down to making sure that the *Kitty Hawk* [website](#), [handbook](#), and members with access to Personally Identifying Information (PII) are in compliance with STARFLEET’s (and *Kitty Hawk’s*) DPP rules. For those that are unaware, PII are things such as Social Security numbers, Driver’s License numbers, Passport numbers, etc. STARFLEET has expanded this to include names, email addresses, physical addresses, and other identifying information and protects it in a secure manner to prevent it being put together to identify a specific person.

STARFLEET’s DPP also states that STARFLEET officers who maintain chapter rosters must secure their members’ PII so that no one other than the DPO of the chapter has access to it. Only the PII required for STARFLEET, Chapter, or Region operations may be asked for and retained, and the DPO (me) must have permission from the members to use his/her PII for Chapter/Regional operations.

Hopefully, this article has given you a better understanding of some of the new policies and laws regarding STARFLEET. I look forward to working with you all more in the future.

Live long and prosper.

Engineering Report

By Brad McDonald

Hello! It’s been awhile and I hope you are safe and healthy. Let’s get started.

Boeing’s problems continue. The 737 Max recertification is back on hold for the time being. No details were available at the time I wrote this. The 787 is now behind in deliveries but production is not the problem. The coronavirus has greatly reduced long-distance air travel, so airlines are not accepting orders or paying for orders. Because of this, there are 787’s parked everywhere space is available. That includes the company paint hanger and the employee parking lot. Boeing has even sent a few airplanes to Victorville, California. It’s an area that was formerly George Air Force Base where I was stationed in 1970. Now it’s a surplus aircraft parking lot. Boeing needs actual sales of 787’s to help with its financial situation and the lack of sales is making a bad situation much worse. But their problems don’t end there. The FAA is now reviewing

quality control issues on the Dreamliner. That may affect as many as 900 of the 1,000 built so far since 2011. However, the problems are not a threat to safety.

A V-shaped aircraft, consisting solely of two wings, made its first flight recently. Actually it was a scale model, three meters in length, built specifically to test the concept. The wings will contain the passenger cabin, fuel tanks and cargo holds in the full sized aircraft. The design is a joint project by Dutch Airlines KLM and Delft University of Technology. Looks very unusual but interesting and will be more fuel efficient than current airliners like the Airbus.

As an indication of how tough things really are for the airlines, United will put 2,850 pilots on furlough and over 16,000 other employees in October after the federal aid package to protect jobs expires. That’s only a small portion of the nearly 80,000 total pilots expected to be laid off worldwide. Furthermore, the airline

industry as a whole estimates full recovery from the coronavirus won't occur until 2024!

The U.S. Navy recently suffered a setback of their own. The *U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard* was in port to receive a major refit and upgrades when a fire broke out. So far, the cause has not been determined, but the fire resulted in over \$250 million in damage. Originally, it was thought the fire could be extinguished in one day. It took four days, however, which led to extensive damage. The official decision regarding the ship's future is in question. How much will it cost to repair vs. the fact that the ship is already over 22 years old. It's being called the worst ship fire since WWII.

On July 20, I watched a really good documentary called *Apollo: The Forgotten Films*. Recently discovered films about the space program were restored and intermixed with interviews of people in the space race of the 60's. Some of the film was shot at 500 frames a second, so the details are incredible and the documentary provides a great look at NASA. It was originally shown 7/21/19 to observe the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, but I didn't see the entire program. Anyway, if you get a chance to see it, do so. It's really good as it shows many behind the scenes events.

A new star system has been discovered and named. It's called the Phoenix Stream and it's a globular cluster, remnants of ancient stars pulled apart over 2 billion years ago. It's a unique type as it's very low in heavy metals and may be one of the last of that type of globular clusters.

The new rover, [Perseverance](#), has been launched successfully by NASA on July 30 at 7:50 am. Its mission is to collect samples and search for evidence of ancient life on Mars. As I mentioned in a previous report, the new rover will use a specially developed helicopter to perform the search.

Sunday, August 2, the [Crew Dragon made a successful landing with very little trouble](#). However, most people did not know [SpaceX](#) passed another milestone. They launched a methane fuel powered prototype of their Starship rocket. It was a very short-duration flight, basically an up and down 'hop' which set down on a landing pad. The new engine, called a raptor, uses liquid oxygen and special high energy methane as propellants. Control systems were also tested and the experimental rocket 'tube' was moved laterally while in flight. Eventually, the system will be used in a 'super heavy' booster which will be powered by 30 raptor engines. The total package will be able to provide 1.6 million pounds of thrust!

Also, SpaceX attempted two launches in one day but had to postpone one. The missed launch was

rescheduled and launched successfully on September 3 from pad 39A. The same Falcon 9 launch vehicle was used before to launch an Air Force satellite on June 30. The planned launch is another part of the Mega Constellation project and the latest launch means SpaceX has put 180 satellites in orbit in one month, the fastest in history. That is all part of the Starlink Satellite Internet system. It will be capable of downloading 100 megabits per second. It uses space lasers to transfer data between the satellites. A recent test of that data system was successful and so things move forward.

The [Arecibo Radio Telescope](#) is offline after a cable mysteriously slipped its mooring and caused a platform to fall. The platform cut a 100-foot long hole in the main dish. Repairs are underway but will take some time. The dish was featured in the movies *Goldeneye* and *Contact*. Opened in 1963, it had already survived hurricanes and earthquakes so this damage is unprecedented.

Raleigh made national news on August 27, when the driver of a Tesla hit a Nash County deputy's vehicle! The Tesla was on autopilot and the driver was watching a movie at the time, consequently he received two tickets. I wonder if he was watching 'Fast and Furious.'

[Hubble](#) is still providing new discoveries. It has located and mapped a halo around the Andromeda Galaxy. The halo ranges from halfway to the Milky Way to a range of nearly two million light years outwards. The halo also contains fuel in the form of gasses that will eventually become stars.

A long-held dream of the future has been the flying car and now it is one step closer to reality. Skydrive is a single seat flying car. It was tested successfully at a Toyota test field for four minutes. It's small, at only 6.5 ft x 13ft x 13ft in overall size, and is powered by eight motors and two propellers on each corner. It's electric, so the range and flight time is limited, but an extended-range unit is in planning now and Toyota hopes to have permits for flight outside the test area.

In a related side note, July 24th the governor of New Hampshire approved a law which will permit pilots to drive flying cars on state roads. Hello *Back to the Future!*

On a personal note, I've been retired for about six months, but recently received a recall of sorts. I am now doing some drawings, but working from home. It's a good situation as I can earn some extra money without endangering myself. Look for changes at the Durham Kanki over the next year or so.

That's all for now. Stay safe and healthy!

Yeoman/Quartermaster Report

By Larry Cox

As mentioned in the August meeting, we have a healthy treasury, thanks to the generosity of our members and friends. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you!

A proposal was made at that meeting that we consider a special donation to the Food Bank to help with the extra strain they're feeling in these difficult times trying to meet the needs of their clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The vote proposal has been sent and a final vote count should be available around or shortly after this edition "goes to press." [Editor's note: the proposal was approved and the donation sent in.]

Also timely at that meeting was the question of our plans for our Thanksgiving food drive for the Food Bank and holiday toy collection for Toys for Tots. I say timely because it's right around the corner and with so many changes, and challenges, around us, it's prudent to plan ahead and accordingly. The Food Bank has a link for sponsoring a virtual food drive <https://foodbankcenc.blackbaud-sites.com/>. It appears that this activity can be shared across social media platforms for others to contribute to; something we can think about for a possible group activity.

Toys for Tots has joined with the Good360 charity to assist with their efforts and is accepting monetary donations now at this website: <https://raleigh-nc.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx?nPageID=100&nPreviewInd=200>.

With the hardships families are experiencing this year with unemployment and reduced incomes they are anticipating extraordinary demands for their services. The local campaign for their toy drive begins 10/1/2020 and hopefully they'll have more specifics on this year's procedures then.

For now, I would suggest that we plan the same as past years and monitor continuing developments and then make changes as needed and necessary.

It's good to see so much participation at monthly meetings; I'm glad the crew has been able to stay healthy and safe and will continue to do so. Thanks to the game developers for putting those together for us, I know I've had fun with them. I'm glad we have Zoom so that we can continue to meet and "see" each other but, I'll admit, I do miss face-to-face meetings and will be glad once we can resume those; and eating...

ST-TOS - "Project Ark"

By Brad McDonald

Immediately after watching *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*, I was struck by the tremendous possibility of retrieving extinct animals and plants from the past and bringing them forward. I suppose part of this revelation was prompted by the possibility of seeing woolly mammoths, sabre tooth tigers and such. It sounded like a good idea so I wrote a story about just such an undertaking. After kicking the story around a bit, I found myself doing several rewrites and then changing direction all together. I decided to do a short story but I still broke it into several parts.

Recently, while cleaning up and reorganizing after completing [Final Mission](#) and the upcoming [Tom and Tom Again](#), I found this already written, so I gave it a final series of proof readings and passed it on to John for inclusion on [the Kitty Hawk website](#).

Hope you enjoy it!

The whale probe incident had brought a number of issues to light and each one was discussed at length by a number of Federation agencies and departments. Starfleet also had a number of meetings, involving Command and the Federation Council, which raised concerns ranging from the perceived vulnerability of Earth's power systems and its reliance on solar sourced energy, to the inability to protect Earth from the probe. There were other issues as well, but most were subtopics derived from the two primary concerns regarding power and planetary defenses.

However, the issue that gained the most attention was that of the humpback whales, which had been used to deter the whale probe. A worldwide, and eventually Federation-wide, conversation was started about continuing and even expanding the process to include other species

which had disappeared over the last 300 years or so.

Then a proposal was put forward to broaden the effort to include all types of flora and fauna from many eras. The whole process started to snowball and, eventually, various factions were calling for everything from trilobites to dinosaurs!

Finally, the discussions became a genuine issue which was hotly debated and many options discussed concerning the plusses and minuses associated with any topic, but no more than this one.

The Federation Council then set up a research committee to look into the issue as part of the debate. Starfleet became a member of that committee. Obviously someone would have to retrieve any candidates chosen for repopulation, as the term was being used. Since no civilian or scientific agency had the means or knowledge on how that could be done, Starfleet was 'offered' the job.

A very reluctant Operations Division studied the issue for all of fifteen minutes and threw up their collective arms in despair. Not wanting to appear to be opposed to such a 'noble' effort, they would place the entire issue into the hands of the one person with the experience who could actually give a realistic appraisal of the proposal. He could present Starfleet and the Federation Council with a realistic response. If the proposal was deemed feasible, then the means of how it could be carried out would be another topic altogether.

But first things first; therefore, Command called its favorite, and coincidentally only, qualified candidate: James T. Kirk and his able crew...

[Continued on-line.....](#)

ST:TOS - "Only the Good"

By Brad McDonald

This is an older story I wrote, but I recently dusted it off and did some rewriting. The original story was far too short. At the time I first wrote it, I didn't know how long a script had to be. I've since learned that an acceptable script must be between 55 and 65 pages long for a one hour long episode. At least, that's the latest information I have. With most current 'hour' episodes now running about 39 minutes on-screen (without all the commercials), that may no longer be true.

I also held back on this story as I felt it might come under the scriptwriter's dubious classification as a 'Mary Jane' episode. That's a reference to a story where a new character comes in and 'saves the day,' becoming more important than the series regulars. Since redoing it, I don't think that's the case anymore, but if I'm wrong, I apologize in advance. Also, I hope there are a few surprises in store for you.

I hope you enjoy it.

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND DELTA OMICRON V

Enterprise is in orbit around Delta Omicron V.

INT. ENTERPRISE – SICKBAY – WIDE ANGLE

MCCOY is treating four N.D. crew for various minor injuries. Their uniforms are dirty and torn. KIRK and SPOCK look on.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND SPOCK

Kirk is concerned and watches McCoy work while talking to Spock.

KIRK

How bad was it, Spock?

SPOCK

We were unable to avoid a confrontation, Captain. However, we managed to escape with relatively minor injuries.

Kirk looks at Spock briefly, notes Spock's undamaged uniform, then returns to watching McCoy and N.D. injured.

KIRK

Compared to the others, you look relatively unscathed.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Due to the outstanding effort of Lieutenant Bingham. During the altercation, she effectively blocked an attack directed at me; most impressive and welcomed.

ON KIRK

KIRK

I see, let's hope she wasn't too badly hurt.

Kirk nods towards McCoy.

KIRK'S P.O.V.

McCoy has now moved to BINGHAM, running a scanner over her. He makes a few adjustments to his instruments, scans again, then scowls.

AS BEFORE – ON KIRK

He watches McCoy, confused by the doctor's reactions.

KIRK

(to Spock)

What are the prospects for resuming talks?

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

Questionable at best; the local inhabitants were told the Federation was not... trustworthy.

ON KIRK

KIRK

By the Klingons, no doubt.

SPOCK (O.C.)

Unquestionably, Captain; either directly or indirectly.

KIRK

Have Uhura inform Command of the situation. I don't want to provoke warfare. Do we press or back off? We'll let Command decide. Make it a priority.

SPOCK

Understood, sir.

NEW ANGLE

Spock moves off and exits as McCoy approaches, subdued.

KIRK

How are the patients, Doctor?

McCoy seems hesitant to speak and motions Kirk to one side. The two move to a corner of sickbay.

ON MCCOY

MCCOY

The landing party has minor injuries and should be back on duty by tomorrow.

(beat)

Except for Bingham...

KIRK (O.C.)
(confused)

Other than Spock, she looks the least injured.

MCCOY

It's not her injuries, Jim. It's a more serious condition.

KIRK (O.C.)
(surprised)

What is it, Bones?

MCCOY

A very long and difficult to pronounce disorder, but always fatal, Jim.

ON KIRK

He's stunned.

Off his reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

(NOTE: ACTION IS CONTINUOUS FROM TEASER.)

INT. ENTERPRISE – SICKBAY – TWO SHOT – KIRK AND MCCOY

The two are speaking quietly, Kirk is concerned.

KIRK

Are you sure?

MCCOY

No question, Jim. She only has a month or two... at best.

KIRK

Can you explain it, in layman's terms, please.

ON MCCOY

He sighs and folds his arms across his chest.

MCCOY

Well... essentially she picked up a bug and it remained dormant until quite recently.

(beat)

No one knows what triggers it: stress, atmospheric conditions... could be anything.

KIRK (O.C.)

She didn't get it planet side?

MCCOY

No. It's been active for weeks. I'll know more when I do more testing, but... medically speaking, she could have picked it up when she was a child.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND MCCOY

KIRK

And you can't do... anything?

MCCOY

Sorry, Jim, not a thing.

(beat)

Right now, I need to get back to her and the others.

Kirk is visibly shaken, but nods in understanding.

KIRK

What's next?

AS BEFORE – ON MCCOY

MCCOY

I have to tell her, Jim. I'm required to, both ethically and by Starfleet regulations.

(beat)

She may want to go home...to Earth, and that's in the regulations too.

TWO SHOT – KIRK AND MCCOY

KIRK

Yes, I know; keep me informed.

(beat)

Oh, yes, I'll need a medical report on the landing party for Command.

MCCOY

After I finish with Bingham.

McCoy looks back at main sickbay, searching.

MCCOY
(continuing)

Where did Spock get to? I was going to examine him, too.

KIRK

He said he wasn't touched. Bingham rescued him.

McCoy looks at Bingham, shakes his head, dismayed and sighs heavily.

MCCOY

I guess it's true, Jim, only the good die young.

McCoy moves off, deep in thought, leaving Kirk alone.

CLOSE ON KIRK

KIRK
(to self)

All too true, Doctor... all too true.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE – ENTERPRISE AND DELTA OMICRON V

Enterprise is in orbit around planet.

INT. ENTERPRISE – BRIDGE – ON COMMAND SECTION

UHURA, SULU and CHEKOV are at their stations, other stations filled by N.D. crew. Kirk enters bridge and moves to command chair where Spock is seated.

KIRK
(moving)

Report, Spock.

Spock rises as Kirk approaches.

SPOCK

Starfleet has been informed of our situation and your concerns. We are waiting for a response.

(beat)

Standard orbit being maintained. Mister Scott says engines are one hundred percent and reports all systems ready.

ON KIRK

He's pleased, but seems distracted and sits hard in Command chair.

KIRK

Very well, Mr. Spock. McCoy wishes to give you a 'once over,' just to be sure you survived your recent encounter.

ON SPOCK

SPOCK

(annoyed)

I believe the good doctor is unhappy unless he is poking and prodding someone, particularly, me.

Kirk fails to respond; Spock shrugs and moves to exit.

NEW ANGLE

YEOMAN BARROWS enters bridge as Spock exits. She steps down to Kirk and hands him a clipboard and stylus. Kirk reviews it quickly and signs off.

KIRK

Barrows, what is the status of the ship's promotion list?

Kirk hands the clipboard and stylus back to Barrows.

BARROWS

(embarrassed)

Oh, well, sir, it's almost done.

Kirk teases her in good nature.

KIRK

We have a lot of anxious people waiting... including me. Who knows, I might be Starfleet's youngest admiral!

The bridge crew is amused and joins in. Uhura 'thinks out loud', daydreaming.

UHURA

I might be one step closer to my own command.

Uhura's board lights up and diverts her attention. She works her console as others continue.

SULU

I sure could use a Commander's pay. I have a new hobby.

CHEKOV

I wouldn't be the lowest ranking officer on the ship anymore!

UHURA

Captain, It's Command, coded for your eyes only.

Kirk jumps up and moves to turbolift.

KIRK

(moving)

I'll take it in my quarters. Meanwhile, you have the conn, 'Captain Uhura.'

(to Barrows)

Take communications and you just might stay there if the promotion list isn't posted soon!

He exits, disappearing behind closing doors with a smile as Uhura sits in the command chair.

CUT TO:

KIRK'S QUARTERS – DUTY OFFICE – ON DESK

We see Kirk enter in b.g. and sit at duty desk, tabbing inter-com.

KIRK

Barrows? I'm ready!

BARROWS (V.O.)

Coming on line, Captain.

ANGLE ON KIRK'S VIEWER

We see ADMIRAL CLARK, business-like.

CLARK

Kirk, got your message. You are right, we don't want a war, but there's been a lot of Klingon activity in that sector. The Federation Council wants us to make a stand.

KIRK

(curious)

What makes this sector so important?

CLARK

It's not, except as a symbol. The Council is afraid if we back down here, it will embolden the Klingons and make it even more difficult for us elsewhere.

ON KIRK

He nods in understanding.

KIRK

I agree, but the Diplomatic Corps has said no weapons. We barely survived our first attempt. I need an advantage of some type.

ON CLARK'S IMAGE

CLARK

You've got it. An official of the local government visited Earth and Vulcan. He was very impressed and contacted us, which is why we sent you there. I'm surprised he wasn't there to meet you. Data on him is coded in this message.

ANGLE ON VIEWER

KIRK

And the Klingons? What if they are on the planet? Are we still restricted on weapons' use? I doubt they are.

CLARK

We must play by the rules. Even if the Klingons don't, that's the difference between them and us, Kirk.

(beat)

Give it your best, Clark out!

SICKBAY – MCCOY'S OFFICE – ANGLE ON DOOR

McCoy is studying computer viewer as Spock enters, irritated.

SPOCK

(moving)

The captain said you wish to give me a 'once over'. I can assure you, I am quite well.

McCoy gives Spock a knowing look, exasperated.

MCCOY

That was his subtle way to get you here so I could inform you of a situation without notifying the entire bridge crew.

Spock is confused and McCoy indicates a chair. As Spock sits quietly, McCoy explains.

ON MCCOY

MCCOY

(somber)

Lieutenant Bingham is dying. Since you're in charge of ship's personnel, you need to know.

(beat)

It's also her wish, and right, that only you, the captain and I know.

ON SPOCK

He's affected but tries hard not to show it.

SPOCK

Due to the recent altercation?

MCCOY (O.C.)

No.

Spock is thinking, then:

SPOCK

Will she be willing and able to carry out her duties?

MCCOY (O.C.)

Yes.

Spock remains quiet for a moment, then:

SPOCK

What about family?

AS BEFORE – ON MCCOY

MCCOY

I was reviewing that when you came in. She's an orphan, no known family.

(beat)

She thinks of Starfleet as family, especially the crew of the Enterprise. It may be why she was so protective of you during your 'fight' with the locals.

He finishes on a weak smile.

AS BEFORE – ON SPOCK

He's surprised, searching his memory.

SPOCK

I had thought she was simply performing her duty as a security specialist; protecting the senior officer on the mission.

MCCOY (O.C.)

Are you sure?

The look on Spock's face says he's not entirely sure.

Off his reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE



Upcoming Events

Oct	3	4 p.m. Ship Meeting On-line
	7	30th Anniversary of Commissioning
Nov	7	4 p.m. Ship Meeting On-line, plus possible socially-distanced outdoor
	14	Articles for newsletter are due
Dec	5	4 p.m. Ship Meeting On-line

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR STARFLEET STATUS

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