Noel Aside

As you are packing to go home for two weeks of leave before your deployment to the starlight, you are unexpectedly summoned to the base commander’s office.

The commander is standing when you enter his office.

Cmdr Vitali Ivanov: Comrade! Welcome. Please, sit down. (he gestures to one of the plush chairs in his office. If noel sits down in one of the plush chairs he will sit down in the other. If he prefers to stand, instead the commander will sit behind his desk, saying ‘very well, if you wish to stay formal)

Cmdr: How have your last few days with us been? Has packing been going smoothly? Have you found a place to store your stuff while you’re deployed?

Cmdr: I’m sure you have figured, I did not summon you to my office for some idle chitchat. I have one final order for you before you leave us here at the PRA for your assignment with the UEA. An order that comes directly from the General Staff.

Cmdr: As you are aware, the Sorensen Industries Modular Mechanized Soldier represents the latest in military technology. Unfortunately, the charter of the UEA prevents Sorensen Heavy Industries from selling that technology, except to select members. Of which the PRA is not… selected. UK Stellar… the European Union, the North American Condordiate… these are the only nations who may acquire this technology, harkening back to the western imperialism of the 20th century. That is where your order comes in (he holds out a small electronic dongle). For the last six months, our military’s greatest computer experts have been assembling the code contained upon this memory stick. All we require you to do is find a computer that is connected to the main computer on the starlight, though I wouldn’t recommend putting it into the computer in your personal quarters, or something like that. It will give our experts the access they need to get all the information we require on the MS design.

Cmdr: Comrad, as I said, this order comes from the highest level s of the General Staff. You will be helping the PRA keep at the front of the Mechanized Soldier arms race.