



TRANSFERRING
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
STAFF PROFILE...



ASSET DESIGNATOR: **EARTHWORM**

BASILISK
TRANSMISSION_011125564_ALPHA
SECURITY: BLACK_BLACK_BLACK
SENDER: GLADIUS_ACTUAL
RECIPIENT: PILGRIM005
|| PRIORITY TRANSMISSION ||
MESSAGE BEGINS WAR DECLARED
BETWEEN CARLYLE ALLIED FORCES AND
HOCK COALITION AS OF 1948 HOURS
GMT THIS DATE_||

|| BRIEFING TO FOLLOW_|||_ STAND
BY_|||_ STAND BY_|||_ BRIEFING
BEGINS:_

TRANSFERRING SITE INTEL

SCIENCE STAFF SHIFT SCHEDULE
SHIFT 1: 2400-1000
SHIFT 2: 0630-1630
SHIFT 3: 1400-2400

SHIFT CREW
3 R&D
10 FABRICATORS



|| PILGRIM005
ACTIVATED OPERATION:
RAVENVECTOR_OBJECTIVE:

|| CONFIRM HOCKLABS
DEVELOPING NEW VARIANT
STRAIN H7N11_M |
PILGRIM005 ORDERED TO RZ
POINT TRACER, HAVANA |
MISSION: PILGRIM005
ORDERED TO LOCATE AND
RECOVER EARTHWORM
E982290_HY_27_ATTACHED |
AND H7N11_M VARIANT STRAIN
SAMPLE | PILGRIM005
DIRECTED UPON ACQUISITION
TO RZ PIERCE FOR
EXTRACTION |

|| RECOVERY OF SAMPLE IS
HIGHEST PRIORITY |

_MESSAGE ENDS

They've declared war.

May the Lord protect us all.

May the Lord

...and I fail. Jesus, help me. I am failing.

I read the words Gladius sends me (of Roman master and I his Christian slave, my service pledged in exchange that I may practice my faith, that I may give comfort, give aid, give help, that I might do as Our Lord did...) and at first I feel nothing, nothing at all.

Then I read the briefing, and I feel terror beyond any I have known before.

And the questions come. Why me, why are they sending me? I am not trained for this, I am not adept at this. I am the wrong person for this, the wrong agent, I am no agent, no spy, I am a nun, and I fear a poor one, at that.

But there is no answer, there never is an answer for that kind of why. Gladius compels me to serve and my choices are simple - do he order me, or do not; do, and risk peril, capture, torture, death; do not, and give the Family yet one more reason to suspend our ministry, to take from us the right to offer our aid, to spread our word, feeble though that may be.

And is not our mission to help? And if what they tell me is true - and there is no reason to believe that it is, I know, but if it is - then is this not a mission of mercy?

I was born the year of Hock's Flu. My mother died of Hock's Flu. Hundreds of millions died of Hock's Flu.

Is this not, then, an errand of mercy?

SECRET



CLASSIFIED BRIEFING MATERIAL

DIGITIZED ARCHIVE

CODE REF 823742.2387423.298347

cc: ARCHITECT

cc: BLENDER

ARCHIVE

SUBREF: VIROLOGY

SUBREF: HISTORICAL

SUBREF: HOCK FLU

BRIEFING_II_SUBJECT: H7N11_M INFLUENZA VARIANT - COLLOQUIAL: "HOCK'S FLU"
THIS REPORT IS GRADED: SECRET!!!

The H7N11_M Influenza A Virus is a manmade modification of the H7N9 and H7N7 Influenza A viral strains. This resulted in a variant of exceptional virulence as well as zoonotic capacity that allowed airborne transmission from multiple infected sources including horses, pigs, domestic and wild birds, and other farmed carnivores.

Beginning in X+25, the H7N11_M virus pandemic lasted until X+29, infecting approximately 30% of the global population at the time, or roughly two billion people. Global fatality estimates run between two hundred million and four hundred million, though an exact accounting has never been verified. Like the 1918 Spanish Flu (H1N1), the virus predominantly killed previously healthy young adults as opposed to more traditional influenza outbreaks which trend towards fatalities amongst juveniles and the elderly.

Coming as it did less than ten years after the cessation of hostilities in the North American Dissolution War (X+13-X+17), and following on the heels of similar conflicts around the globe, the H7N11_M pandemic damaged the already fragile recovery. In many Domains around the globe this led in turn to a "cascade failure" due not solely to raw manpower loss, but also the loss of individuals with advanced training and specialized knowledge. Widespread slaughter of all animals feared to be carriers, famine, civil dissolution, rioting, and other effects were commonly felt around the globe, including, it should be noted, in Hock Territory, where the virus was late to strike, but no less virulent when it did.

CENTER Intelligence concluded in X+25 that the H7N11_M virus was developed at HOCK R&D 018, outside of Paducah, Kentucky, and further concluded that the introduction of the strain was likely deliberate. Intelligence gathered from the period out of Hock Territory reported distribution of inoculations to Territory "Citizens" as part of their health regimen, and the late spread of the illness into the region further supports this. By X+26, however, this was insufficient to deter the progress of the virus. Comparisons of the virus from X+25 with strains from X+27 indicate natural mutation, or drift, though evidence also exists to suggest Hock had taken initial steps to prevent just such an evolution from occurring.



COMPUTER ENHANCED SCAN OF H7N11_M



SURVEILLANCE ASSET: H08302.827: HOCK FLU VICTIM



SURVEILLANCE ASSET: H08102.0027: HOCK FLU VICTIM



SURVEILLANCE ASSET: H0734020.103472: HOCK R&D 018 SITE



November 26, 2014. Central Florida,
Hock Territory.

Sister Mary Grace didn't ask, just
turned the rig south at my request.

Sister Angelina is beginning to understand.
Perhaps she understood from the start.

Perhaps she belongs to Gladius, too.

I don't think she does.
I pray she doesn't.



Let at least one of us have
some innocence left.

We part ways in Miami.
They will continue on the
circuit, north and then
west again.

There's a lift in Las
Vegas in January.



I told Sister Mary Grace I
would meet them there.

"God willing," she said.



November 28, X+64.
Gulf of Florida.

I write this after all that has
transpired, and still I wonder.

God willing. God's will.
How am I to discern it?

The fear climbs my core, claws at
my throat, makes me want to scream,
steals the beauty of the dawn.

Every checkpoint, every
search, every time they
look my way, and I am
terrified.

But at every checkpoint, at
every search, each time they
look my way, they let me pass.

That only makes it worse.
It makes it so much worse.

They search the jumpkit
and find nothing. They
search me and find nothing.

Is that God's will?

Or are they walking me into their trap,
waiting for the moment to call me false,
to label me a spy?

