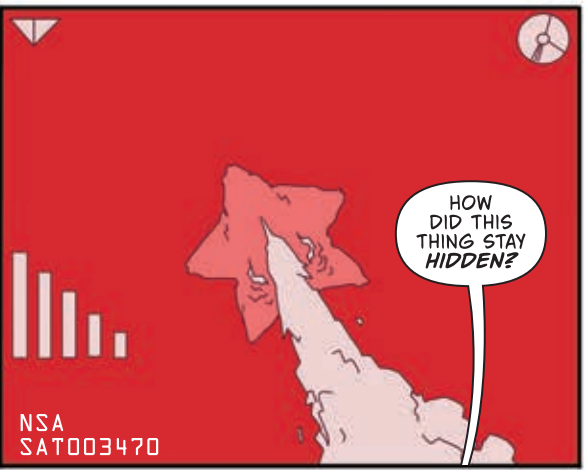


**BIG SCIENCE INC., TOKYO
COMMAND CENTER
02:26 LOCAL TIME**

CONFIRMED BY SATELLITE. IT'S A BIOMEGA **TEN MILES** IN DIAMETER.

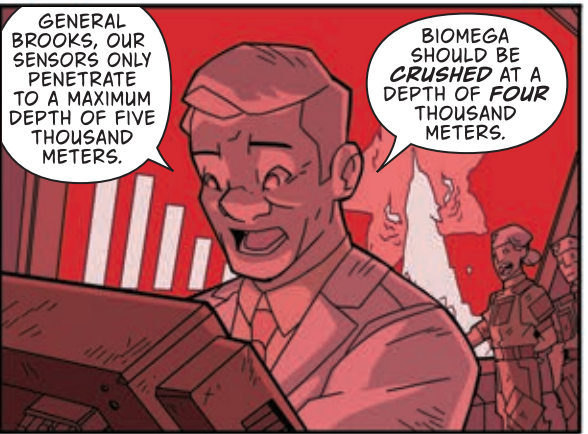
AND IT'S **MOBILE**. TOKYO IS WITHIN ITS PROJECTED LANDFALL.

OF COURSE IT IS.



HOW DID THIS THING STAY HIDDEN?

NSA
SAT003470



GENERAL BROOKS, OUR SENSORS ONLY PENETRATE TO A MAXIMUM DEPTH OF FIVE THOUSAND METERS.

BIOMEGA SHOULD BE **CRUSHED** AT A DEPTH OF **FOUR THOUSAND METERS**.



THAT'S WHY OUR SEARCH FOR A NEXUS WAS INCONCLUSIVE. IT WAS LURKING IN THE **ABYSSAL ZONE**.

THIS IS THE **ONLY** TARGET THAT MATTERS. IT SPAWNED THE OTHERS AND IT WILL SPAWN MORE, KILLING IT WILL **CRIPPLE** ALL BIOMEGA.

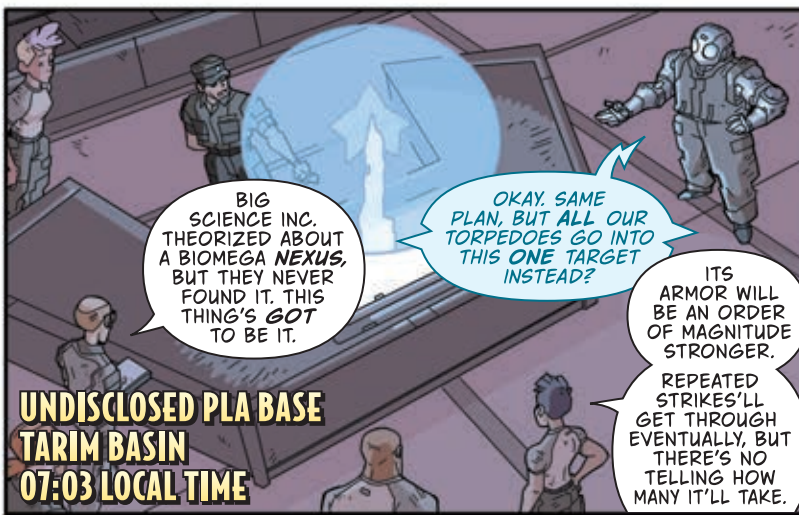


HOW LONG BEFORE LANDFALL?

FIVE TO EIGHT DAYS.

I WANT **EVERY** TITAN PILOT AND ALTERNATE READY FOR A BRIEFING IN TEN MINUTES.

AND WAKE UP WHOEVER RUNS THE PACIFIC FLEET.



BIG SCIENCE INC. THEORIZED ABOUT A BIOMEGA NEXUS, BUT THEY NEVER FOUND IT. THIS THING'S GOT TO BE IT.

OKAY. SAME PLAN, BUT ALL OUR TORPEDOES GO INTO THIS ONE TARGET INSTEAD?

ITS ARMOR WILL BE AN ORDER OF MAGNITUDE STRONGER.

REPEATED STRIKES'LL GET THROUGH EVENTUALLY, BUT THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MANY IT'LL TAKE.

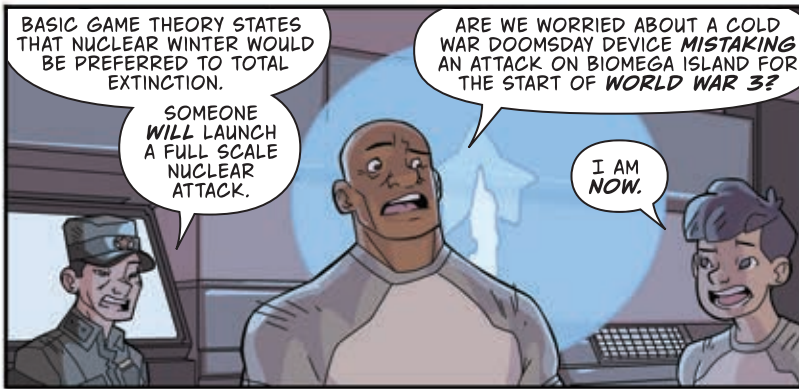
**UNDISCLOSED PLA BASE
TARIM BASIN
07:03 LOCAL TIME**



MIGHT NOT MATTER. IT WEIGHS MILLIONS OF TONS. SETTING OFF NUKES IN IT MIGHT DO AS MUCH DAMAGE AS A BURP.

THAT BRINGS US BACK TO BRUTE FORCE. THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO KILL A BIOMEGA THAT BIG, AND DOING IT WILL CAUSE NUCLEAR WINTER.

WE'RE TALKING BILLIONS DEAD BEFORE AGRICULTURE CAN BE STARTED AGAIN.



BASIC GAME THEORY STATES THAT NUCLEAR WINTER WOULD BE PREFERRED TO TOTAL EXTINCTION.

SOMEONE WILL LAUNCH A FULL SCALE NUCLEAR ATTACK.

ARE WE WORRIED ABOUT A COLD WAR DOOMSDAY DEVICE MISTAKING AN ATTACK ON BIOMEGA ISLAND FOR THE START OF WORLD WAR 3?

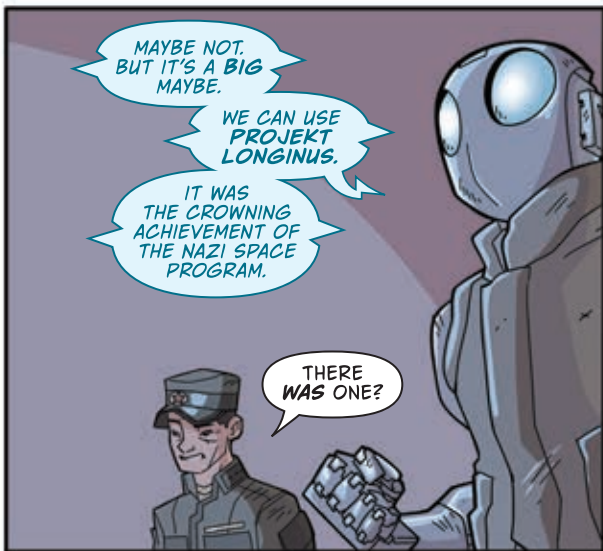
I AM NOW.



SO ALL WE NEED IS A MIRACLE WEAPON AS POWERFUL AS NUKES BUT WITHOUT RADIATION? ALSO READY TO DEPLOY IN MASSIVE NUMBERS?

WE'RE DEAD.

SHRRRRP

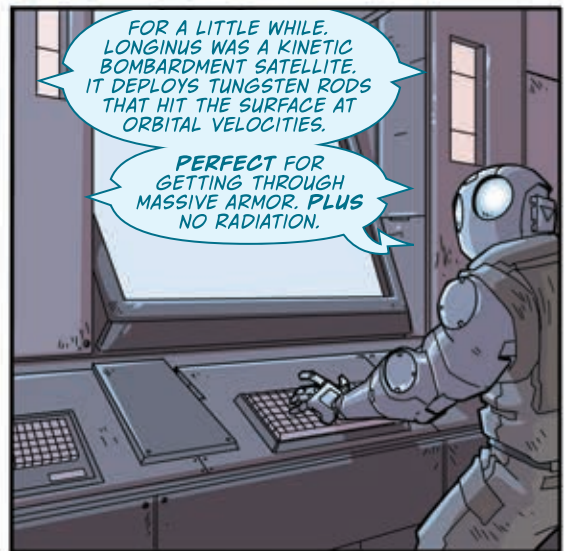


MAYBE NOT. BUT IT'S A BIG MAYBE.

WE CAN USE PROJEKT LONGINUS.

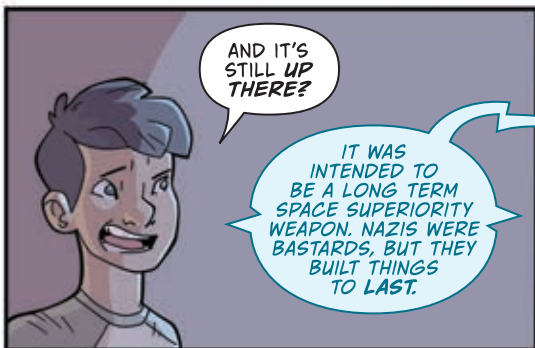
IT WAS THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NAZI SPACE PROGRAM.

THERE WAS ONE?



FOR A LITTLE WHILE. LONGINUS WAS A KINETIC BOMBARDMENT SATELLITE. IT DEPLOYS TUNGSTEN RODS THAT HIT THE SURFACE AT ORBITAL VELOCITIES.

PERFECT FOR GETTING THROUGH MASSIVE ARMOR. PLUS NO RADIATION.



AND IT'S STILL UP THERE?

IT WAS INTENDED TO BE A LONG TERM SPACE SUPERIORITY WEAPON. NAZIS WERE BASTARDS, BUT THEY BUILT THINGS TO LAST.



WAIT!

THE NAZI DEPLOYED AN ORBITAL SUPERWEAPON SEVENTY YEARS AGO AND IT STILL WORKS?!

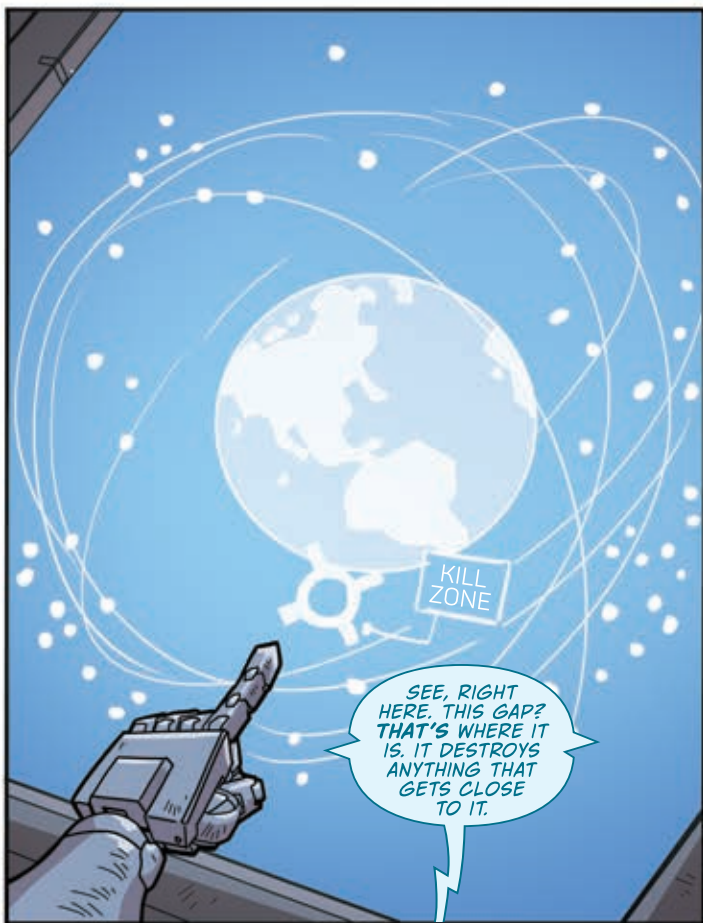
AND NO ONE STOLE IT? OR SHOT IT DOWN?



OH, THEY TRIED. LAST TIME WAS IN THE NINETIES. EVERY ATTEMPT FAILED.

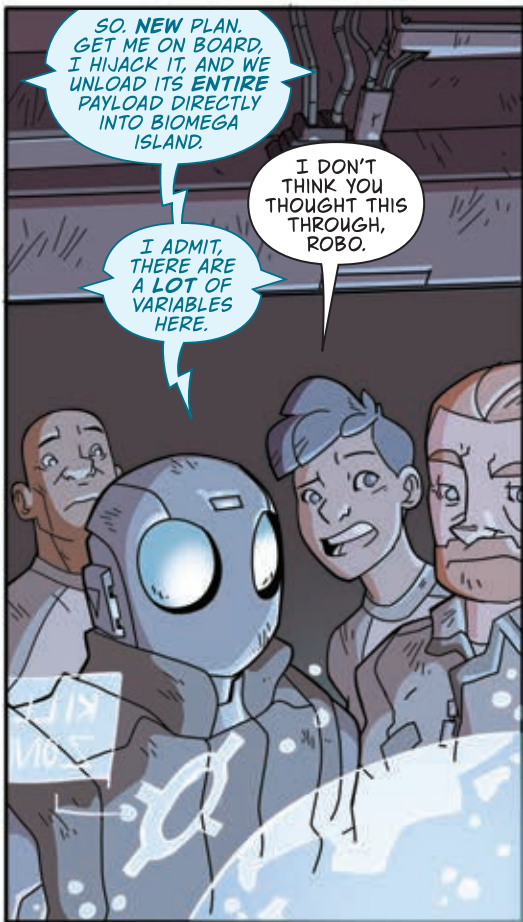
SOME KIND OF DEFENSE MECHANISM?

BINGO. THEY WOULDN'T PUT IT UP THERE IF IT COULDN'T DEFEND ITSELF.



KILL ZONE

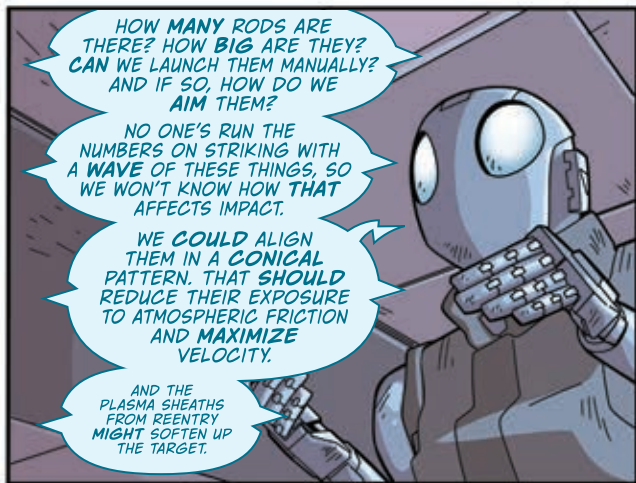
SEE, RIGHT HERE. THIS GAP? THAT'S WHERE IT IS. IT DESTROYS ANYTHING THAT GETS CLOSE TO IT.



SO. NEW PLAN. GET ME ON BOARD, I HIJACK IT, AND WE UNLOAD ITS ENTIRE PAYLOAD DIRECTLY INTO BIOMEGA ISLAND.

I DON'T THINK YOU THOUGHT THIS THROUGH, ROBO.

I ADMIT, THERE ARE A LOT OF VARIABLES HERE.

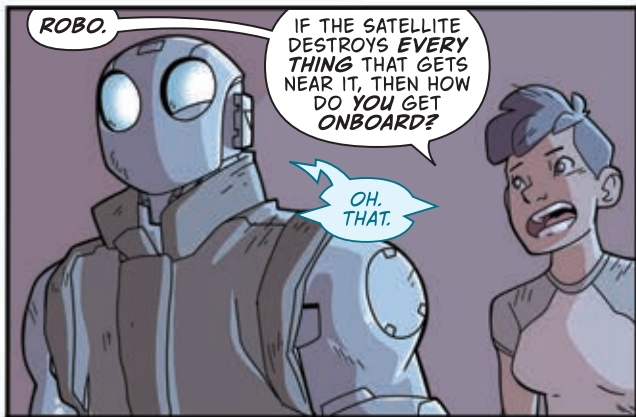


HOW MANY RODS ARE THERE? HOW BIG ARE THEY? CAN WE LAUNCH THEM MANUALLY? AND IF SO, HOW DO WE AIM THEM?

NO ONE'S RUN THE NUMBERS ON STRIKING WITH A WAVE OF THESE THINGS, SO WE WON'T KNOW HOW THAT AFFECTS IMPACT.

WE COULD ALIGN THEM IN A CONICAL PATTERN. THAT SHOULD REDUCE THEIR EXPOSURE TO ATMOSPHERIC FRICTION AND MAXIMIZE VELOCITY.

AND THE PLASMA SHEATHS FROM REENTRY MIGHT SOFTEN UP THE TARGET.



ROBO.

IF THE SATELLITE DESTROYS EVERY THING THAT GETS NEAR IT, THEN HOW DO YOU GET ONBOARD?

OH. THAT.

