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FEB '10

TRAUTMANN
RICHARDS
FAUCHER

THE SHIELD

NEW MISSION!
FEATURING:

THE GREAT TEN

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SECOND FEATURE **INFERNO**



NORTHERN BRAZIL
AMAZON RAINFOREST,
NEAR MANAUS

SHUFFE
SHUFFE
SHUFFE

SHUFFE HUFF
HUFFE

<--LEAD
US NOT INTO
TEMPTATION-->

SHUFFE
SHUFFE

<--BUT
DELIVER US
FROM-->

<TARGET
CAPTURED!>

<ELECTRICAL
GENERATORS...
ENGAGED!>

ZZZZAK!

--AAA!

<EISERN SOLDAT
019, RETURNING
TO BASE.>*

FORT BRAGG,
NORTH CAROLINA.

-- SHIELD
ACTUAL, THIS IS
MILITARY ATC.
YOU ARE CLEARED
TO LAND.

WELCOME
HOME, LT.
HIGGINS.

ROGER,
BRAGG ATC.
GOOD TO BE
HOME.

UH, SHIELD
ACTUAL, BE
ADVISED, YOUR
ARRIVAL HAS MADE
YOU KIND OF
POPULAR.

LET ME GUESS:
THE OLD MAN IS
HAVING ONE OF
HIS FAMOUS PRESS
CONFERENCES?

AFFIRMATIVE.
YOU'RE THE BELLE
OF THE BALL, SHIELD
ACTUAL.

TERRIFIC.

IN...MORGAN DIE WELT (GHOSTS, PART 1)

LT. JOE HIGGINS -- WOUNDED AND LEFT
FOR DEAD ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE --
RECEIVED A CUTTING EDGE EXPERIMENTAL
WARSUIT AND IS NOW THE U.S. ARMY'S
VERY OWN SUPERHERO. DISPATCHED ON
HIGH-RISK MISSIONS AROUND THE GLOBE, HE IS...

THE SHIELD

Script: **Eric S. Trautmann** • Pencils: **Cliff Richards**
Inks: **Wayne Faucher** • Colors: **Art Lyon**
Letters: **Randolph Gentile** • Editor: **Rachel Gluckstern**
Cover: **Sami Basri**

--GENERAL LATHAM,
CAN YOU COMMENT ON
REPORTS THAT LT. JOSEPH
HIGGINS, THE SHIELD, HAS
BEEN ENGAGED IN COUNTER-
INSURGENCY OPERATIONS
IN BIALYA--

OH, COME
ON, CAROL. IF WE'D
SENT THE SHIELD OUT
TO FIGHT, I COULDN'T
COMMENT. OPERATIONAL
SECURITY.

BUT NO,
LT. HIGGINS
WAS ON A
HUMANITARIAN
MISSION.

HOW DO YOU
EXPLAIN REPORTS OF
A FIREFIGHT BETWEEN THE
SHIELD AND BIALYAN INSURGENTS--
ALONG WITH AMERICAN SPECIAL
FORCES TROOPS -- IN THE AL-
HADI-DIYAH MOUNTAINS?

I'D SAY
THAT SOMEONE HAS AN
OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION AND
THAT MAYBE YOU SHOULD CHECK
YOUR SOURCES BETTER,
CAROL.

BIALYA
HAS FALLEN OUT
OF THE HEADLINES,
SO PERHAPS YOU'VE
FORGOTTEN: THE
SITUATION THERE
IS DIRE, AND
DETERIORATING.

WE HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN. THE SHIELD
PROVIDED ASSISTANCE
TO REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE
MOUNTAINS, PERIOD.
NEXT QUESTION.



LT. HIGGINS,
REPORTING FOR
DUTY, GENERAL.

STAND AT
EASE, LIEUTENANT.
SAVE THE SPIT-AND-
POLISH FOR THE
REVIEWING
STAND.



--YOU'RE
GONNA LOVE
THIS ONE,
JOE.

WE'VE BEEN
GOING OVER THE
DATA YOU RECOVERED
FROM THE INSURGENT
CAMP IN BIALYA.

THE FORTRESS
THERE DATES BACK A
COUPLE THOUSAND YEARS,
BUT THE LAB COMPLEX
INSIDE? A RECENT ADDITION,
BY H.I.V.E.

H.I.V.E.,
GENERAL?



THEY WERE A
TECHNOTERRORIST
GROUP --

--TAKE A SEAT,
LIEUTENANT--

--HAD A DEAL
WITH THE QUEEN
BEE WHEN SHE
RAN BIALYA.



HEIRARCHY OF INTERNATIONAL
VENGEANCE AND EXTERMINATION,
IF YOU CAN BELIEVE THAT.

DANGEROUS AS
HELL, THOUGH. THEIR LAB
RATS WERE TOP SHELF,
DEVELOPING BLEEDING-EDGE
WEAPONS SYSTEMS THAT WE
WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO
KEEP OUT OF TERRORIST
HANDS.

WHICH
IS WHERE
I COME
IN.



CORRECT. WE'RE STILL DECRYPTING THE
H.I.V.E. FILES YOU RECOVERED
FROM BIALYA, BUT WE'VE PINPOINTED
DOZENS OF POTENTIAL LAB
SITES AND WEAPONS CACHES
AROUND THE GLOBE.

YOU'LL BE
STARTING IN
BRAZIL.

WHY
BRAZIL?

THAT'S
WHERE PEOPLE
ARE DYING,
SON.



"WE'RE HEARING REPORTS OF ENTIRE VILLAGES GOING MISSING IN NORTHERN BRAZIL."

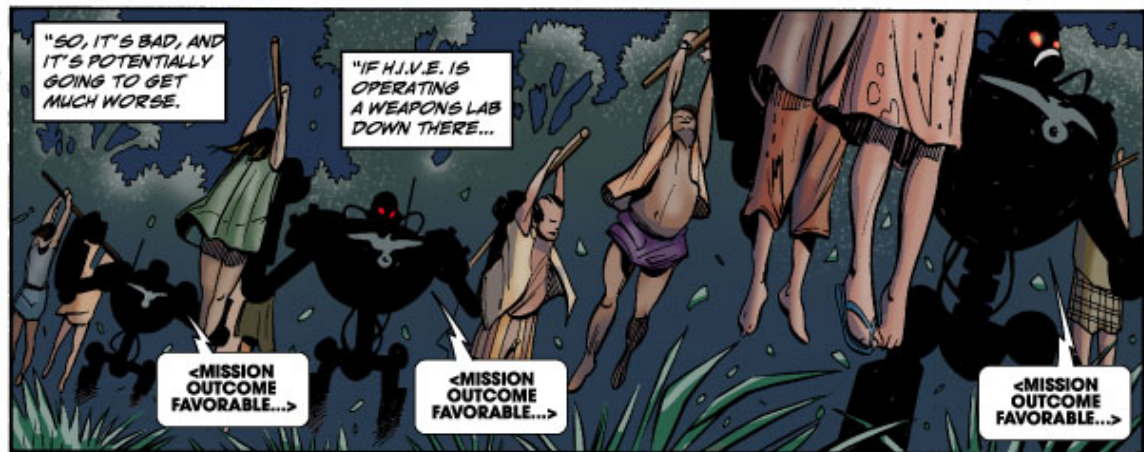
"LIMITED INTEL, OF COURSE. TRIPLE-CANOPY JUNGLE MAKES SATELLITE COVERAGE A NEAR IMPOSSIBILITY."



"WORSE, WE'VE STARTED TO SEE SIMILAR ATTACKS ON FOREIGN BUSINESSES-- MOSTLY AMERICAN, FRENCH AND CHINESE -- IN AND AROUND RIO."

"OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE COUNTRY."

<EISERNSOLDAT 018, APPROACHING GATHERING POINT...>



"SO, IT'S BAD, AND IT'S POTENTIALLY GOING TO GET MUCH WORSE."

"IF H.I.V.E. IS OPERATING A WEAPONS LAB DOWN THERE..."

<MISSION OUTCOME FAVORABLE...>

<MISSION OUTCOME FAVORABLE...>

<MISSION OUTCOME FAVORABLE...>

"...FIND IT. BEFORE SOMETHING NASTY WINDS UP IN THE WRONG HANDS."

<HEIL...>

<HEIL...>



--NANOTECH
REFRESH RATE,
97% AND
CLIMBING--

--POWER
UTILIZATION
CURVE
CONSTANT--

GOT YOUR
TRANSPO AND
BRIEFING UPLOADS
READY TO GO.
LANGUAGE PACKS,
MAPS, THE
WORKS.

--DATA
STORAGE
AND TACTICAL
SUITS LOOKING
GOOD--

...GREAT.



SOMETHING
WRONG?

ANY
WORD ON
MY DAD?



...NOTHING YET, JOE.
I'M SORRY.

YOU TOLD ME
YOU HAD CONTACTS
THAT COULD HELP ME
FIND HIM, SARGE. BUT
LATHAM'S HAD ME
RUNNING MY TAIL
OFF.

IS THERE
A REASON
I SHOULDN'T
BE LOOKING
FOR DAD?



I HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN
YOUR FATHER,
JOE. WE'LL
FIND HIM.

I PROMISE.

--CHOPPER YOU
OUT TO CHERRY POINT.
FROM THERE, YOU'LL
CATCH A FAST-MOVER
TO THE USS JOHN C.
STENNIS.

THEY'RE
DIVERTING FROM
THE REST OF THE BATTLE
GROUP TO JUST OFF THE
TARGET COAST. YOU'LL
MAKE YOUR OWN WAY
INLAND.

...ESTABLISHING
INTERNET CONNECTION.
FULL SECURITY
SAFEGUARDS ENACTED.

I MIGHT HAVE
A BIT OF A
PROBLEM.

I'M
FLYING SOLO
ON THIS
ONE?

I WON'T
BE STUCK IN
A TIN CAN THIS
TIME, NO.

BUT
YOU WON'T
BE GETTING
RID OF ME THAT
EASY. I'LL BE ON
THE SATLINK
HERE AT BRAGG...

DATAMASKING ENABLED...
FROM: HIGGINS, J.
TO: THE WEB
SUBJ: I MIGHT HAVE A BIT OF A PROBLEM.
THE BRASS HAS ME ON THE RUN. KNOW YOU
WERE TRACKING LEADS ON MY FATHER, BUT
I NEED SOME INTEL.

SUBJ: I MIGHT HAVE
A BIT OF A PROBLEM.

KNOW YOU WERE
ON MY FATHER, BUT
I NEED SOME
INTEL.

...YOU REALIZE
YOU'RE THE ONLY
GUY IN THE U.S. ARMY
WHO'S GOT HIS VERY
OWN COMSAT?

LUCKY
ME.

I'LL BE
IN TOUCH,
SARGE.

MESSAGE INCOMING...

FROM: THE WEB
TO: HIGGINS, J.
SUBJ: RE: I MIGHT HAVE
A BIT OF A PROBLEM.

HOW CAN I HELP?

IT'S ABOUT MY BOSS.
I NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING
YOU CAN FIND OUT ABOUT
GENERAL LATHAM...



DAY FIVE

JUST OUTSIDE
BRECKENRIDGE,
COLORADO.

FRANK VERRANO IS A MAN ON THE RUN. HIS MEMORIES ARE SCATTERED AND HIS ABILITY TO CHANGE INTO AN INCENDIARY SUPERHUMAN IS A MYSTERY. PURSUED BY SHADOWY ENEMIES, FRANK MUST UNCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT HIMSELF AND HIS FIERY ALTER EGO—

INFERNO

BURNING INSIDE
PART 4 OF 4

WE HAVE
VEHICLES PARKED
OVER THERE! MOVE
QUICKLY AND QUIETLY.
WE'LL GET YOU ALL
SOMEWHERE
SAFE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY
SENSE AT ALL, YOU'LL
DO EXACTLY AS
I SAY....

...AND
RUN!

I APPRECIATE
THE HEADS-
UP...

...BUT I
DON'T DO
"RUN."

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

BRANDON JERWA • WRITER GREG SCOTT • ARTIST RANDOLPH GENTILE • LETTERER
TANYA & RICHARD HORIE • COLORISTS RACHEL GLUCKSTERN • EDITOR

FWOOOOO!!

SPLAT
SLOOP



MORE NEUTRALIZERS
COMING. HAVE TO
SHAKE THIS OFF--

---GET IT
TOGETHER,
FRANK!

NNNNRRRRGGGGGH!

OH, GOD...I CAN
FEEL IT IN MY
CHEST...GETTING
HOTTER...

EEEEYYYYAAAAAAA!

MORE HEAT THAN
I'VE EVER FELT...
LIKE I'M...GOING TO...

HERE IT
COMES--

KRA-KA-BOOM!

WHAT JUST
HAPPENED...?

DID THAT...
COME FROM...
INSIDE ME?