

Mission Title: The Crystalline Conundrum Setting: USS Pathfinder, 24th Century, Beta Quadrant

Mission Brief: The USS Pathfinder, on a routine exploration mission in the beta Quadrant, encounters a spatial anomaly emitting unusual tetryon emissions. As the crew investigates, they discover a previously unknown species of sentient, crystalline rock lobster-like aliens, which they dub the Crystaridians. The Crystaridians are a peaceful species with a unique ability to manipulate tetryon particles, which they use to power their technology and sustain their asteroid-based ecosystem.

Crisis: A rogue faction within the Crystaridians has developed a device that amplifies tetryon emissions, which they believe will enhance their abilities. However, the device malfunctions, creating a growing tetryon storm that threatens to engulf the Crystaridian habitat and spread to nearby star systems, potentially disrupting subspace and causing widespread navigational hazards. Mission Objectives:

1. Establish first contact with the Crystaridians and gain their trust.
2. Investigate the nature of the tetryon storm and its potential effects on the quadrant.
3. Work with Crystaridian scientists to understand the malfunctioning device.
4. Formulate a plan to stabilize the tetryon storm before it becomes a cataclysmic event.
5. Navigate political tensions among the Crystaridian factions to prevent further misuse of the technology.

Challenges:

- Diplomatic negotiations with a new species with unknown customs and communication methods.
- Scientific analysis of the tetryon anomaly and the Crystaridian technology.
- Engineering ingenuity to repair or neutralize the malfunctioning device.
- Tactical readiness for potential conflicts with the rogue Crystaridian faction or other affected parties.

Success Metrics:

- Stabilization of the tetryon storm without harm to the Crystaridian habitat.
- Establish friendly relations with the Crystaridians, leading to an exchange of knowledge and resources.
- Prevention of the crisis from escalating into an interstellar incident.

Endgame: The crew of the USS Pathfinder must use their expertise in diplomacy, science, and engineering to avert the crisis while fostering a new alliance with the Crystaridians, ensuring the safety and stability of the region for all species involved.

Debrief: Upon successful completion of the mission, the crew reflects on the lessons learned about the delicate balance of technological advancement and the importance of understanding and respecting new cultures. The Crystaridians become a valuable ally in the quadrant, and the Pathfinder continues its mission of exploration and discovery.

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