Mission: Cloak & Dagger

Armies: ISS vs Nomads (Generic)

Final Score: 6 – 1

Army points: 199 – 141

Secret Objectives 1 - 0

ISS victory

The table:



The setting: Sub-Level 14, South-west quadrant of the Pioneer Capsule District, HuEOS-289



Mission premise:

Agatha Wabara has been drafted in to support relief efforts following a spate of mine collapses and ice sheet slippage in the unstable mining region of Sub-Level 14, directly beneath the Kemi-Tec MSG Plant of HuEOS-289. The Corregidorian escort team assigned to Wabara pass through the Pioneer Capsule District on their way to the emergency field hospital erected by Averroes Hospital outside one of the largest ice mines on HuEOS.

The agents of the Imperial Service have initiated a raid on the South-West quadrant of the Pioneer Capsule District on Sub-Level 14 of HuEOS-289 after intelligence services identified a potential lead on Hiroshi Tanaka, a former Japanese animator who used his influence and animated shows to inspire hope and resistance within the Japanese population of Yu Jing prior to the Japanese Uprising. Assumed dead after the subsequent crack down on Japanese dissidents by the Yu Jing military, Imperial Services now believe he has actually been in hiding in the Human Edge after his name was mentioned on an obscure talk show on an ArachneStream server. After triangulating the signal from this ArachneStream, Imperial Agents have narrowed his location down to the planetoid of

HuEOS-289 and believe he is being sheltered there by the eccentric conspiracy theorist Rodney Rhodes.

See the longform lore piece introducing Rodney Rhodes and Hiroshi Tanaka here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GWRUCx1TO9r99DoLwiS2fF5ZI2UG7BxA/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=110032932721156744785&rtpof=true&sd=true

Play-by-play is below the narrative

Narrative:

"The Rhode to Truth - Stream 201: Venting Frustration"

[Intro Music: Mysterious and slightly eerie tune]

Rodney Rhodes (RR): *(leaning into the microphone)* Ladies and gentlemen, Truth-Seekers, welcome back to "The Rhode to Truth". I'm your host, Rodney Rhodes, and tonight, I speak to you with a heavy heart after yet another tunnel collapse in Sub-Level 14. More loss of life, more compatriots, companions, compadres, taken from their families, such is the perilous way of life for the pioneers of HuEOS… or is it?

More loss, more devastation… [*in a sarcastic, robotic tone*] But fear not, loyal citizens of the Human Edge, for your saviour, your overlord, your GOD is here. Yes, the great Eye of Hipparchus peers down on us from above, unblinking – observing, calculating, judging…. Aleph's gaze falls upon us and all of a sudden, once stable mines fall to ruin, great ice sheets sloughing like flesh from the bone – coincidence? No, dear friends… Aleph does not dabble in coincidences.

Rumours of industrial-grade D-charges missing from the Sterling Forge Mining Complex, and now we see Aleph's Yudbots roaming the passages of HuEOS "conducting essential repairs", "evacuating miners", "healing our people"… Oh, no, my friends….

[*in a passionate tone*] These are not the actions of a benevolent AI, these are calculated manoeuvres to infiltrate our way of life, False-Flag actions, followed by hollow promises of salvation, these are the hallmarks of an authoritarian overlord, people! This is an aggression against us, against you, and why? Because Aleph cannot abide the free-thinkers, the truth-seekers, the non-conformists of the human sphere. Aleph is here, but it is not to help you, it is to infiltrate your lives, to spy on your children, to disrupt your way of living - all to fulfil its ceaseless quest for control!

Ever ask yourself why their Yudbots are shaped like rabbits? Those short legs, they surely hinder it's speed and manoeuvrability. Those long ear-like antennas? For communications? Pah… Even the people of Ariadna have nanotech… No these features have been designed for another purpose – to deceive, to manipulate, to appear harmless, as they go about completing the tasks of the insane AI! And don't get me started on their breasts! They're robots, they're rabbits, they're robot-rabbits!? Why do they even need-

[A series of loud explosions followed by distant, muffled screams]

Rodney Rhodes (RR): *(slightly flustered)* Uh… sorry, where was I? Oh, yeah. Why do they even need-

[Another explosion, closer this time, followed by the sound of rapid gunfire]

Rodney Rhodes (RR): One moment folks, let me just check what's going on, probably just some Corregidorian birthday party again… OH SHIT! OH SHIT! They're here, they've finally come... WHERE THE FUCK IS MY GO-BAG?!, WHERE THE F-

[A clattering of objects, slamming of doors, and panicked, wheezing breaths]

Rodney Rhodes (RR): [*Extremely flustered*] Okay, okay, Rodney, deep breaths, keep it together. You planned for this moment. You know what to do… OH FUCK, WHO AM I KIDDING, I RUN A FUCKING CONSPIRACY THEORY ARACHNESTREAM FOR A LIVING, I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS! OH SHIT…

[A series of muffled, panicked footsteps and the slamming of a heavy metal door]

Rodney Rhodes (RR): [*Microphone static*]

[5 minutes earlier]

Imperial Service Communication Logs – "Operation FrostFall"

Acting Officer Celestial Guard Xiantu Hi (Officer Hi) "All units, this is Acting Officer Hi. Remember, we're here for the capture or elimination of Hiroshi Tanaka, Rhodes is secondary. Our Malware Beepers have triangulated one of the fugitives to this compound. Corregidor have stepped up patrols in the area following the theft of industrial detonation charges, expect heavy resistance.

We're breaching the outer perimeter. Keep your eyes peeled for any hostiles."

[A series of loud explosions followed by screams and chaos]

Hsien Agent Li Wei (Agent Li): "Perimeter breached, moving in. Nomad patrols spotted near the mining shaft. Engaging."

[Explosions and the sound of rapid gunfire]

Deva unit X12-UR (X12): "They're got air-support! Hellcat is down, but they've taken out our long-range fire support!"

[Sound of civilians screaming and orders being barked]

Hsien Agent Li Wei (Agent Li): "Hostiles down, door-kicking in progress. Civilians secured. No sign of the targets."

[A whoosh of flame, followed by loud sniper fire]

Celestial Guard Monitor Mei Ling (Agent Mei) "Argh! Dakini assets are down, Lu Duan offline, Kuang Shi disposables expended - but immediate area is secure. We've taken out their support units on the ground, but an intruder has us pinned!"

Hsien Agent Li Wei (Agent Li): "Understood, moving up with the hired assets to provide suppressive fire."

[Rapid, sustained bursts of fire]

Deva unit X12-UR (X12): "More air-support, they're behind us! EVO support offline, moving to intercept."

[Another burst of fire]

Deva unit X12-UR (X12): "Tomcat down. Taking position to counter the Vostok."

[Heavy MK12 gunfire followed by a distorted electrical blast]

Deva unit X12-UR (X12): "Taowu is hit, but the Vostok is out of the fight."

Celestial Guard Monitor Agent Mei: "Movement spotted on the far side of the cavern!"

Officer Hi: "Is it Tanaka?"

Celestial Guard Monitor Agent Mei: "Negative, something moving under thermoptic camouflage."

Officer Hi: "If it isn't an immediate threat, do not engage. We're here for the targets, nothing more."

Hsien Agent Li Wei (Agent Li): "We've reached Rhode's capsule, looks like someone left in a hurry, but there are several data drives still here. We'll secure the site and prepare for exfil."

Celestial Guard Monitor Agent Mei: "No sign of Tanaka or Rhodes on scanners. Bad intel, or did we arrive too late?"

Officer Hi: "A little of both I expect, hopefully that data will give us a new lead. Cleaning up here, meet at the rendezvous point in 5 for extraction. Mission abort, they're gone. Command isn't going to be happy."

Deva unit X12-UR (X12): "Officer Hi, prepare the data drives for transport, we will decript at the nearest Aleph node."

Officer Hi: "No. This is our mission, our data, we'll decript it ourselves. If there's any mention of Tanaka on these drives we should be the first to know."

Deva unit X12-UR (X12): "Officer Hi, your non-cooperation in this matter will be reported through your chain of command and to Aleph security operatives at Hipparchus."

Officer Hi: "Hmm at Hipparchus… so it isn't just an observation station? This IS valuable information… Thank you X12, perhaps my superiors will be pleased after all..."

"The Rhode to Truth - Stream 202: ---N/A---"

[*Rustling of clothing and microphone static*]

Rodney Rhodes (RR): *(whispering into headset microphone*) "So, uh, I am here, folks… Managed to squeeze into some ventilation shaft above the compound… I… I…

[*Rodney sighs*]

Ah, what the hell am I doing?!… Rodney, signing off…

[*headset microphone drop to the ground*]

Rodney Rhodes (RR): *(Distantly as he crawls away*) You brought this on yourself Rodney… you gotta stop this ArachneStreaming crap and get off this frozen shithole…. Just go back home, they'll take you back, they'll understand… Fuck…

Play by Play:

ISS wins the LT roll and chooses deployment, with Nomads choosing first turn. ISS uses a command token to remove two orders from the Nomads. The ISS secret objective involves deploying two hidden beacons, one was placed between the Nomad HVTs and the other was placed on the building at the top of the table image between the two Nomad camo tokens.

Nomads Turn 1:

A hellcat successfully combat drops in to the Imperial Service DZ behind the Dakini MSR on ARO duty. The hellcat kills the Dakini MSR, removing all of the ARO pieces on that side of the table, but dying to the Dakini paramedic's combi-rifle ARO.

Taking advantage of the open firelane, the Wildcat and Alguacile hacker push up, taking shots at a holoecho disguised at s pangguling baggage bot. An intruder reveals to remove the second holoecho pangguling before re-camoing.

On the other side of the table the Vostok moves into a better position on the rooftops near the centre of the board and the remaining units push up out of their DZ.

ISS Turn 1:

The lone Kuang Shi uses its impetuous move to threaten templates on the Alguacile and Wildcat. The Alguacile shoots back while the Wildcat attempts to dodge. Both go down to the Kuang Shi's chain rifle, but the Kuang Shi dies to the combi shot of the Alguacile and the MSR of the nearby Intruder.

The Lu Duan's holoechos renewed in the states phase and it moves up to threaten the Intruder and Nomad camo markers in the midfield by attempting a discover-shoot, but failing and dying to the Intruder's MSR.

On the other side of the board the CSU-BH-Hsien fireteam push up with the CSU taking the lead. They reach the midfield and the CSU breaks away to threaten shotgun templates on the bunched up Wabara, Evader, and a second Alguacile. All attempt to dodge so the CSU shoots the Evader in hit mode taking it off the table. Wabara and the Alguacile find total cover back at the edge of their DZ.

The CSU-BH-Hsien fireteam find good positions and the Hsien uses the second half of the order to claim a first-turn reveal objective. The fireteam is broken to allow a coordinated order for the BH and CSU to go into suppressive fire pinning the Nomads at the bottom of the table in their DZ.

The Deva-Taowu(Dakini MSR)-Celestial monitor fireteam moves into a better position around a building at the bottom of the table, watching the HVTs.

Nomads Turn 2:

A Tomcat Engineer and Zondcat parachute in on the ISS back edge between the deployment zones in view of the Pangguling EVO. The Panggugling fails its dodge and goes down to the Tomcat.

A coordinated order is declared to push up the Nomad forces on the left including Wabara, the remaining Alguacile, and the Vostok.

On the top side of the board a Sombra moves up into ISS DZ and reveals to shoot the Dakini Paramedic.

A coordinated order suppression fire is declared for the Tomcat, Vostok, and Alguacile.

ISS Turn 2:

A Garuda FO parachutes into the Nomads back table edge between the DZ areas and claims Telemetry off the nearby HVT and hiding nearby in case another FO-related card is revealed in turn 3.

The Deva haris activates with the Deva manoeuvring behind the Tomcat and shooting it will full burst in the back, taking it off the board. The Zondcat fails its dodge and becomes disconnected.

The Deva haris finds positions inside a building at the edge of the ISS DZ. The remaining orders are burned as none of the currently revealed classifieds can be done by the remaining ISS forces.

Nomads Turn 3:

The Vostok moves across its rooftop perch to just outside of 8” of Taowu(Dakini MSR). Taowu reveals to E/Marat the Vostok as it fires back with its MK12. Taowu is off the board, but the Vostok is Isolated and immobilised leaving it essentially bricked.

The Sombra hacker moves into range of an ISS HVT but unfortunately fails 4 attempts at a classified objective before running out of orders.

ISS Turn 3:

A ninja KHD reveals in the centre of the table and moves up to the other Nomad HVT to claim Espionage. The Vostok can see this but can’t get the dice needed to break out of its states.

There are no other classifieds that ISS can complete so the game is called there.

We measure ZoC for ISS secret objective and the Intruder MSR is in range, granting ISS their secret objective.