

File: O5-4 Appointment Dossier “The Return of Cherokee”

Clearance Level: O5

Date: ■/■/■

Compiled by: O5-■

Preface

Matthew Cherokee, formerly **Site Manager and Director of Medicine, Site-65**. Presumed defector following Operation ■■■■■, during which several embedded GOC operatives compromised Foundation assets. Intelligence recovered afterwards confirmed Cherokee had assumed the Coalition moniker “**Lt. Col. “The Native”**”, serving as an officer within the UN Global Occult Coalition’s Occult Warfare Division.

Despite the gravity of defection, the Council voted 8–4 in favor of Directive ■■■■■: **Contact, Contain, Converse.**

The reasoning: Cherokee’s rare insight into the Foundation’s containment infrastructure and the Coalition’s veil-maintenance doctrine made him a potential asset, or even a threat. Either way, the Council refused to let that mind go to waste.

The Summons

Location: Unmarked Foundation Airfield, Greenland Sector

Condition: Classified

*The snow muffled everything but the whine of the transport turbines.
Cherokee descended the ramp wearing a stripped-down GOC greatcoat. No
insignia. No flag. Only a faint burn mark where one once was.*

*Waiting on the tarmac stood two Alpha-1 operatives and a woman he trusted
Director ██████, Site-█████'s acting chief.*

*"The Council wants a word," she said.
"I thought they'd rather give me a bullet," Cherokee replied.
"They changed their minds. Don't make them change it back."*

*She handed him a sealed envelope embossed with the O5 sigil.
Inside, written in that familiar, sterile font:*

O5 Council Directive - Mandatory. Location: Overwatch ██████

The Council Chamber

*Location: Overwatch Command, ██████
Clearance Level 5: Top Secret*

*The chamber was silent but for the hum of the filtration system.
Twelve silhouettes watched from behind glass, their voices filtered
through layers of modulation. One appeared to be a face on a computer
monitor*

<BEGIN TRANSCRIPT>

[00:00:01] — *Chamber lighting stabilizes. The subject is escorted by Alpha-1.
He is unrestrained.*

O5-1: *Dr. Cherokee. I expected we'd never see you again.*

CHEROKEE: *You almost didn't. I'd assumed the next Foundation aircraft I
saw would be carrying my execution order.*

O5-9: *You earned that assumption. You walked away from Site-65 without
clearance. You joined the Coalition of all things.*

CHEROKEE: *I joined what I thought was the last group still asking why. The
Foundation had stopped.*

O5-3: *And what did you find?*

CHEROKEE: *Fanatics with better funding. Different flag. Same blindness.*

[Silence — 6 seconds]

O5-1: *You were a good Manager and Medical Director, Cherokee. Cold. Efficient. But when you left, it wasn't just dereliction. It was betrayal. TREASON.*

CHEROKEE: *[leans forward] Maybe. But, you never asked why I left.*

O5-2: *Enlighten us.*

CHEROKEE: *Because I was tired of pretending the Foundation was still saving humanity. We were saving the illusion of control patching a dam that's already cracked through. The GOC wanted to burn the dam down. Neither side's right.*

O5-8: *You sound like an idealist.*

CHEROKEE: *No. A realist who's seen too many bodies buried under "classified."*

[00:04:23] *Audio distortion increases slightly. The voice of O5-7 interjects, lower tone.*

O5-7: *You understand the stakes better than most. We're past idealism. What we need is someone who can hold the line between us and them.*

CHEROKEE: *You want a diplomat?*

O5-1: *We want a bridge.*

O5-9: *O5-4's seat has been vacant since the [REDACTED] Breach. We've debated filling it for months. The Council voted, barely, to offer it to you.*

CHEROKEE: *[quietly] You're serious aren't you?*

O5-3: *As serious as a heart attack.*

O5-1: *You've seen the Foundation from the ground up. You've seen the Coalition's creed. We need someone who can understand both faiths without kneeling to either.*

[00:06:57] — *Cherokee approaches the vacant chair. The surface glows faintly with biometric activation.*

CHEROKEE: *If I take this seat, it's not for the Foundation's sake. Not for the Coalition's. Not from my own gain. It's for the people who still sleep under a sky we keep from tearing.*

O5-1: *Then take it, Doctor. Serve as our Pontifex, the bridge between worlds.*

[Pause — 11 seconds. Chair activates.]

SYSTEM: *Authorization O5-4 granted. Codename: 'THE PONTIFEX'.*

[A soft chime resonates through the chamber.]

O5-7: *Welcome home, O5-4.*

O5-4: *Home's been dead for a long time. But I'll build something in its place.*

[Silence — 12 seconds]

O5-1: *Then let's begin.*

<END TRANSCRIPT>

Addendum: Intercepted Communication
UNGOC/INSEC/████-████████

Classification: EYES-ONLY / LEVEL ALPHA / FOR 108 COUNCIL REVIEW

**Origin: United Nations Global Occult Coalition – Intelligence Operations
Division**

Intercept Source: Foundation SIGINT Node #004-Geneva

Date: ██████████

BEGIN TRANSMISSION (Recovered from Encrypted Channel “OBELISK-7”)

[AUTH: Brigadier General Havelock Varga // OCCULT WARFARE DIVISION]

Recipient: UN Security Council Committee, docket 083-1-99

Subject: Internal Notice

Defection of Lt. Col. M. Cherokee (“THE NATIVE”)

1. Summary of Event

At 0420 [UTC+1], Coalition reconnaissance confirmed that former officer Lt. Col. Matt Cherokee was exfiltrated by SCP Foundation elements from a neutral airfield under false registry. The subject is now verified active within Foundation command under the assumed title O5-4 “The Pontifex.”

2. Assessment

Dr. Cherokee’s knowledge of Coalition containment (Types Red through Violet) represents a Threat Level 5 intelligence breach.

Internal consensus suggests the O5 Council intends to use Dr. Cherokee as an intermediary for stabilization rather than active hostility... (Hopefully).

3. Directive Recommendations

- Suspend all active Veil Enforcement against Foundation pending further observation.

- Establish back-channel through AIC Protocol assets sympathetic to Dr. Cherokee’s former command (callsigns: ██████, ██████, and ██████).

- Should Dr. Cherokee attempt outreach, he is to be treated as a potential interlocutor, not an enemy.*
- Under no circumstances is lethal retrieval authorized; symbolic optics outweigh tactical loss.*

4. Strategic Implications

The emergence of “The Pontifex” introduces the first credible line of communication between the Foundation and multiple GOI agencies’ leadership in over two decades.

If mishandled, it could start a second Cold Occult War.

END TRANSMISSION