

Tik Tak (T'vaoan):

Personality:

- **Full Name:** Tik Tak, the Tinkerer
- **Height:** 6'8"
- **Weight:** 90kgs/198lbs (without armour)
- **Rank:** Murmillo
- **Personality:** With a passion for being meticulous around technology, Tik Tak is an inquisitive and curious T'vaoan... hardened by several horrific experiences during the Human-Covenant War, where it could be said that his bloodthirstiness and enthusiasm for mindless slaughter have been eroded over the years as the war progressed. Getting close to him is not easy, but those who are persistent enough to try and break through his PTSD deadlock, and show him the funnier side of things, may be able to coax out his more emotional self. Likewise, those few who brave his outwardly uncaring demeanour and succeed in befriending him should know; Tik Tak is incredibly loyal to them, and fiercely protective, quick to remind everybody that despite his age (fourty-nine as of 2560), he's still in excellent physical condition... as one would expect from any T'vaoan, particularly those with a military background. Old, not obsolete.
- **Previous Occupation:** Covenant Shock Trooper & Combat Engineer (Sapper) capable. He's a bit of a tinkerer.
- **Post-War Occupation:** Repair Specialist (Outer Colonies)

Service Record:

Early Life:

Tik Tak was born in the year 2510 and traces his roots back to T'vao with himself growing up in Myur City. Tik Tak was an outsider, born elsewhere on the asteroid colony, but for various circumstances his family had settled in Myur. This territory fell under the jurisdiction of the clan that held members such as Chol Von. Born a male in a matriarchal society and as an outsider to the resident clan meant few opportunities for a T'vaoan of his status... even if they proclaimed themselves superior to the other Kig-Yar subspecies.

The status quo took a dramatic shift in February of the year 2525: The Human-Covenant War had begun. The news (which quickly spread through the Covenant territories) provoked a massive recruitment drive amongst the covenant aliens, no doubt using their (assumed) early victory on Harvest to exaggerate the reputation of the Covenant whilst sugar coating the underlying conscription.

Although it remains unknown if the Kig-yar even considered the legality of a minimum age, it could be said with certainty that they would still hold reservations about sending young 'chicks' or adolescents into battle. Like many his age, Tik Tak was fully aware of this, but nevertheless bought into the Covenant's propaganda... And so it was that Tik Tak lied about his age in order to qualify for conscription into the Covenant Empire. Despite rigorous indoctrination, the fifteen-year-old T'vaoan

attempted to maintain his position as an employment opportunity, rather than devoutly believing in the Covenant Religion.

Into the Fray:

After a brief period of military training and instinctual combat the year 2526 had rolled around. As of March 26th, Tik Tak was shipped to a planet called Borodan (also referred to as the human colony of Biko). The planet had been known to the Covenant; no doubt acquired from forerunner luminaries which would indicate some unknown forerunner presence down there.

The assumed presence of forerunner artefacts was enough to ensure the religious-lead Covenant would first attempt an invasion, before committing to a glassing operation (which could potentially damage the forerunner structures below).

Whilst the battle in orbit drew to a close, the Covenant's search dropped numerous shock troopers, T'vaoan included, into the heart of downtown Durban, Biko's major population centre. Drove of civilians and emergency service personnel were gunned down as they attempted to flee. Although thousands of humans were successfully evacuated in the chaos, the Covenant underlings pursued them to the evacuation points, encircling and trapping a great deal more. Meanwhile, the higher echelons of command, such as the Sangheili zealots were charged with searching for the forerunner artefacts beneath Durban.

Reporting a successful find, the Covenant evacuated its ground forces as their warships moved in, destroying the orbital elevators and leaving the remaining population stranded on Biko. By this point, the human Cynthia Sims had already been transported off world. Those that fled were treated to a horrific view, forced to watch as their world burned: The Covenant fleet had successfully moved leftover space debris towards the planet's north pole allowing their ships unrestricted access to glass the planet's surface.

As the forerunner site lay beneath, Durban was spared this blanket approach: The orbiting warships were ordered to the surface in order to commence in light plasma bombardment, excavating the site carefully so as to avoid damaging the holy relic.

Circinius IV:

A month passed before Tik Tak would see deployment again, this time on the date of April 26th, 2526. Once again, the human colony (Circinius IV) was caught completely by surprise. Tik Tak and his allies had the distinction of being dropped onto the Corbulo Academy of Military Science, instilling fear in the unprepared cadets. Although several humans were gunned down by Tik Tak directly, the most notable casualty he inflicted would be that of cadet Philip Shere, who collided with the T'vaoan whilst attempting to flee down a corridor and was subsequently dispatched in bloody close quarters.

Tik Tak returned in preparation for the Covenant exfiltration, his claws and beak notably stained by blood. This apparent evidence of bloodlust in addition to his previous service record was sufficient enough to impress the Sangheili officer he fought with to recommend him for a promotion. Soon he would be given a new uniform and have his feathers dyed, somewhat symbolically matching those bloodstained claws.

Siege of Madrigal:

Now a T'vaoan Major, Tik Tak was allowed to assume command of a small unit consisting of Unggoy and minor (Ruuhtian) Kig-Yar infantry in the December of 2528, a permission granted in immediate preparation for the siege of Madrigal.

The defenders of Madrigal offered a much stiffer resistance than what Tik Tak had previously been accustomed to, their forces dug in to cover the evacuation. On the ground, Tik Tak placed additional importance on the literal “cannon fodder” of Unggoy under his command going so far as to sternly reminding the Ruuhtian Kig-yar below him of that fact: The battlefield was not a place for internal squabbling, even that which is motivated by the ongoing Unggoy/Kig-Yar feud.

His disciplinarian leadership was at least partly responsible for the magnitude of impact his small task force would inflict, succeeding because of the decision to prioritise the groups Unggoy and their Type-33 LAAW assets. Nevertheless, his party also sustained casualties in the face of fierce resistance. Madrigal fell, but not before Tik Tak received two penetrating shots to the shoulder and chest respectively. The surviving Unggoy, who were allegedly moved by his kindness, would go on to pay it forward by assisting in his evacuation from the battlefield. From that day forward, Tik Tak revoked any prejudices he may have had towards the so-called ‘grunts’.

In the closing weeks of 2528, the T’vaan received treatment for his injuries and was removed from active service, effectively ending his first tour of duty.

The Rubble:

Part way through the Year 2529, a Ruuhtian by the name of Reth had discovered the human insurrectionist settlement known as ‘The Rubble.’ After reporting this to the hierarchs, a number of Kig-Yar led by Reth received a commission from the High Prophet of Truth to infiltrate the settlement. This was done under the guise of free-trade in order to elicit human slip-space coordinates. In light of his recent injuries, Tik Tak was assigned to this detachment as a form of “light duties.”

It should be noted that despite initial tensions between the two species, the Kig-Yar’s agreeable nature and the insurrectionist held belief that they would mediate peace with the Covenant had extended the alien settlers an amicable if not uneasy relationship.

Naturally, the Kig-Yar and humans stationed aboard would come into contact either through trade or by working in the so-called interoperation zones.

Tik Tak was initially slow to commit himself, warming to the idea of cooperating with the humans the longer he stayed aboard the Rubble. He took an interest in understanding human technology, which eventually drew the attention of one of the human settlers: Raquel Rodriguez, herself a refugee from Madrigal.

Tik Tak didn’t intend to pay much attention to the human. She was the tomboy type. A female mechanic with a young and facetious, occasionally sassy attitude. It could be argued that it was Tik Tak’s shiny armour or dyed red plumage that caught the attention of the human, or perhaps she was just trying to make the best of a bad situation. It was, after all, a unique opportunity for humankind to gain some insight about the Kig-Yar. Surprisingly it was Raquel who approached the alien, bought a round and made a proposition: She’d teach him about how human technology works, and in turn, she asks questions about his kind.

The lassie was also insistent on immersing the alien in human cultural practices, probably under the guise of juxtaposition. Originally this was much to the dislike of Tik Tak, but as time passed, he, as with a number of other things, slowly warmed to the idea.

In the year 2534, their working relationship suddenly turned physical. Raquel’s curiosity had piqued, the change being noticeable in her behaviour. She expressed this discreetly of course and for the remaining year they would frequently steal themselves away for some private sexual company, where it is alleged that the two enjoyed exploring their differences.

February 2535 saw the T'vaoan shipped to Lambda Serpentis in preparation for the final push on Jericho VII, however the human resistance was weaker than first anticipated, leaving him surplus to requirement...the planet was glassed before his deployment. Although nothing came of his transfer, Tik Tak was unable to return to the Rubble following the news of its betrayal. Like many of his kind, Tik Tak expressed a deep-founded resentment towards such an order, especially when considering the mercantile nature of the Kig-Yar, to say nothing of his sensual experiences.

Round Two:

After four years of authorised leave, the battle-hardened Major would next find himself dropped onto the colony of Kholo in the year 2539. The pathetic defences garrisoned at Kholo offered welcome conditioning to Tik Tak as he reacquainted himself with the battlefield where he would find it far easier to herd a great deal many civilians and civil defence forces into bunkers and other facilities, which would later entomb their skeletons as the planet was glassed.

Wearing a fresh face for battle, Tik Tak would be later be thankful for this light engagement when the year 2542 came round, bringing with it the Alluvion Campaign: The United Nations Space Command managed to defend the planet with a substantial military force, keeping the Covenant at bay for weeks, with the battle likely raging on for many more, were it not for an interdiction of the UNSC's vital supply routes. It was just as well, because the UNSC made the Covenant pay dearly for every mile. Tik Tak would struggle to form an attachment to his subordinates on the basis that most of the fresh recruits were quickly killed, deployed as nothing more than meat for the grinder.

As the theatre drew to a close in 2544, things found a way to go from bad to worse. The Covenant's invasion of Miridem was equally a costly one, those few that survived Alluvion long enough to establish a working relationship with Tik Tak would subsequently fall in the battle of Miridem.

Questionable Ethics:

After enduring all this, those who commanded Tik Tak saw fit to reward his assumed bloodlust by sending him to the site of Draco III, which after falling in January of 2545, was turned into a hunting ground for Kig-yar and to a lesser extent Unggoy, their savage behaviour was to be unleashed on the hapless civilians.

Going into Draco III, Tik Tak considered himself emotionally compromised: Witnessing the loss of so many and in such horrific ways, the sight of blood would trigger flashbacks causing him to remember the recent bloodbaths of Alluvion and Miridem. It was the first time he had been there to witness the Covenant sustain catastrophic losses, but their leaders seemed unphased and inattentive of this fact, content with the mentality of "victory at any cost."

The silent colony of Draco III gave him plenty of time to reflect and express sympathy towards the victims of this remorseless religious genocide, human or Covenant. At no point was his compassion better illustrated than in the eyes of a human mother with infant child: Cowering and defenceless, Tik Tak was in no mood for mindless slaughter, the effects of the previous conflicts weighing heavy on his decision. She was spared that day, even if only to succumb at a later date, the encounter was something Tik Tak kept strictly to himself. Having failed to kill a human in such regard, the T'vaoan chose to leave Draco III and was able to do so before the UNSC's Spartan-led counterattack.

Continued Conflict:

By 2546 the conflict had reached the 'shores' of Sargasso, a tropical paradise world whose ecology would be welcomed by any inhabitant of Eayn. Tik Tak was originally intended to assault the city of Belisk in the aim of crippling the Lethbridge Industrial complex, however the Major championed for his reassignment to the fireteams charged with assaulting the nearby military base. This may have

seemed odd given he was essentially voluntarily putting himself in harm's way, but so soon after the events of Draco III and still under the influence of PTSD, the T'vaoran did not wish to hunt harmless civilian targets. The Sangheili in command reluctantly accepted his persistent badgering, unaware of Tik Tak's ulterior motive.

Tik Tak swapped the lush jungles of Sargasso for the "concrete jungle" of Skopje in 2547 in a sniper's supporting role, assisting the covenant forces advancing on the planet's ship building facilities. He briefly found a distraction from his demons in the form of the Type-31 "Needle Rifle" for which Tik Tak was a keen advocate, this being the first time he had ever used such a weapon.

Tik Tak's second tour of duty concluded with the siege of Paris IV in the year 2349, deployed in the immediate area around Cochineal Pass. In the Covenant's haste, a severe lapse in communication was responsible for an act of friendly fire: Tik Tak was amongst several others who were not evacuated when the glassing began and was forced to seek shelter in the labyrinth of mountain tunnels in a similar fashion to Molly Patel. This blunder was quickly covered up so as to preserve the glorious Covenant's integrity whilst those few that survived this holocaust were discreetly brought before the High Prophet of Regret, where they exchanged a vow of silence for a promotion, paid leave and an official apology.

Third Times the Charm:

After the Covenant extended him a period of time which they deemed sufficient for recuperation, The T'vaoran Murmillo was pressed into service to begin his third tour of duty in the year 2551. His understanding of certain human technologies was looked upon by belligerent minds, if anything it highlighted the T'vaoran's aptitude for the role of Combat Engineer (aka a Sapper). As a result of this cross-examination the Covenant frequently assigned Tik Tak with a task force intended to target and cripple the infrastructure of the local major defence contractor: Chalybs Defence Solutions.

In the April of 2552, Tik Tak was presently engaged on the colony of Fumirole when the CCS-class battlecruiser Sanctity of Purification was scuttled by the Spartan III, Thom-A293. The Sangheili shipmaster who had foolishly elected to hold position over the colony's capital city was dismissive towards the risk of infiltration and remained unaware that a nuclear device was smuggled aboard, where it then detonated inside. The subsequent Electromagnetic Pulse destroyed both human and Covenant communications equipment in the immediate vicinity, forcing both UNSC fireteams and Covenant lances inside the area to act on their own initiative.

Breaking Point:

In the closing months of the war, the Covenant made landfall in the Epsilon Eridani system, annihilating the human presence there. Whilst the months July through August are mostly remembered for their pyrrhic victory of the human fortress world, Reach, it was not the only planet in the system which was besieged.

Elsewhere in the system the Covenant forces hot-dropped onto the surface of Tribute, beginning a long bloody battle that would be crowned alongside Reach as a costly Covenant victory. The fighting continued through till November of 2552 when the Great Schism erupted. Hordes of Sangheili and Jiralhanae led forces turned on each other resulting in a situation of chaos and confusion for both the Covenant and human population.

Whilst it remained true that Tik Tak was a strong detractor of the Sangheili leadership, (his opinion further deteriorating as the costly invasion of Reach raged on), the T'vaoran's actions during the civil war were self-motivated: He used the conflict as cover, sneaking away and deserting his post where he sought refuge in the colonies abandoned subway tunnels until the end of the war.

Post War:

TBA: