

**DELACROIX 23.JUN.04 re: A Plea**

*"The genie of Citadel station is out of the bottle, and I am the cause. This is my last transmission, my friend. Be careful...I think SHODAN has plans for you."*

## The World of System Shock 2

The near destruction of Earth by SHODAN sends shock waves throughout the world. The events on Citadel station lead to a general rebellion against the government by a mega-conglomerate. TriOptimum, the corporation that created SHODAN falls nearly into ruin. The Unified National Nominate (The UNN), a paramilitary Junta, steps in to fill the power vacuum.

Thirty five years later, Nobel Laureate Marie Delacroix, working under a grant from the dwindling resources of the skeletal TriOptimum corporation, publishes preliminary research findings on a faster than light mechanism. Hungry to get their hands on this technology, the UNN allows TriOp to develop a prototype. The unit performs successfully and work begins on the first FTL starship, the "Von Braun."

**DIEGO 17.MAR.04 re: Yanking my chain**

*"Anatoly, there's only so much corporate calisthenics I can go through before I start to feel a little queasy, so let's get down to brass tacks here. We don't like each other. We each have our own motivations for undertaking this mission. So let me give you a little warning. I cannot be circumvented, I cannot be tricked, I cannot be manipulated and I cannot be bought. You come at me straight and keep the fancy maneuvers for your next board meeting. Just because my father swam with the sharks doesn't mean that I do."*

The UNN will not allow TriOp to undertake a mission, however, unless an element of the military is attached. To that end, the UNN "Rickenbacker", a heavy destroyer, is literally tethered to the Von Braun. The mission is launched in early 2114.

A few months into its historical journey, the situation is deteriorating. Tension is growing between the civilian elements of the Von Braun and their military counterparts on the Rickenbacker. Things are almost coming to a head when something remarkable happens: The ship receives a distress beacon from the surface of Canopus 5, hundreds of millions of miles outside of colonized space.

A team is sent to investigate the beacon. However, when they return, William Bedford Diego, Captain of the Rickenbacker (and son of Edward Diego) orders an entire deck of the Von Braun cleared of all personnel.

A week later, the players awake from cryogenic sleep to discover that they've been implanted with military grade cybernetic implants. The surgery has destroyed their memory of recent

**DIEGO 17.MAR.04 re: Yanking my chain**

*"Anatoly, you MUST open up the planet to the scientific staff of this vessel. If there IS something down there, it's bigger than TriOp, it's bigger than the UNN and its bigger than you. And why have you and Diego shut off deck 3? What's going on?"*

events... They remember neither going in for the surgery, nor what has happened since. They soon realize, however, that something terrible has happened aboard the Von Braun.. They find guidance in both the helpful voice of a surviving crewmember and the logs and emails from those who were not so lucky.

Shadows envelop the decks of the Von Braun, and strange shapes lurk in the darkness. The ships' defenses act as executioner to their former masters for the crime of humanity. And behind it all is the cold voice of a virtual nightmare thought long dead....

## Weapons

*System Shock 2* features fourteen weapons. In addition, Shock's weapon systems simulation boasts by far the most sophisticated modeling of any first person RPG or Shooter. Most weapons can accept between one and four types of ammunition (such as armor piercing and incendiary), can be fired at one of two settings, such as "Contact Explode/Timed Explode" and can be modified numerous times to yield better rates of fire, larger ammo magazines, more damage, etc. In addition, weapons and ammo impact differently depending on the target being fired at. A robotic target would laugh off incendiary rounds, while armor piercing slugs and EMP rounds would bring it to its "knees".

Some of Shock's Weapons include:

**Pistol:** "Developed by TriOptimum's military division, the Talon M2A3 .45 caliber pistol is a standard issue sidearm provided to all UNN military personnel. After 23 years in service, the weapon has been designed to accept a number of kinds of ammunition, including the standard steel-jacketed rounds, uranium tipped armor piercing rounds and even a slug injected with a compressed napalm mixture."

**Psi\_Amp:** "Developed by Esper Industries, a critical branch of TriOps military R&D division, this controversial device allows psionically abled individuals to amplify and project their powers into the world. Before the development of the Psi Amp, Psi Powers were mostly detectable in a lab environment. The Amp contains and inhibits the normal diffusion problems inherent in Psi phenomena. The amp also allows the user to effectively channel their innate Psi powers to a number proscribed effects. This device caused furor in the Psi community, primarily because of its obvious military applications, but also because of the Amps tendency to define Psi powers along a few specific (and generally utilitarian) axes."

**Stasis Field Generator:** "An experimental device, originally developed as an effective, non narcotic method to both tranquilize and immobilize patients undergoing major medical procedures. However, the military and security utility quickly became apparent to the TriOptimum executive corps. The generator can essentially freeze in place a target for a variable period of time. However, the stasis field uses a lot of power and its effect greatly decreases with distance."

**Laser Rapier Mark IV:** The Mark IV laser rapier is an advanced variation on the units first developed by TriOp before the Citadel crisis. The Mark IV consumes less power and is considerably more deadly. It has no particular flaws except its lack of a ranged attack and its relative expense to produce.

**EMP Rifle:** The EMP rifle's origins lie back in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, where it was discovered that a residual effect of nuclear explosions was the total disruption of radio and electrical signals. Scientists were able to isolate the magnetic pulse that caused this disruption and incorporate it into a weapon that was devastatingly effective against droids, cyborgs and robots. However, it has absolutely no effect against non-cybernetic organic targets.

## Monsters

*System Shock 2*'s 20-plus monsters are polygonal, motion captured entities, and feature the same ground-breaking AI technology as the acclaimed *Thief: The Dark Project*. Some of the monsters players will encounter include:

**Protocol Droid:** The RD/19 protocol series can be easily modified for a wide variety of uses, from personal assistant to chambermaid to registered nurse. They are fairly inexpensive to produce and are therefore extremely widespread both on earth and extra-planetary locations. The RD/19 exhibits a fairly serious design flaw, however, in that it's internal power plant is both cheaply made and inherently unstable; in rare cases, the unit has been known to combust spontaneously. While this problem has been addressed through mechanical workarounds, a fairly knowledgeable tech with bad intentions could restore the droid to its potentially dangerous condition.

Security Camera- With development split between the military and the consumer divisions of TriOp, the Sharpeye security camera was plagued with developmental problems from the start. Immobile and extremely fragile, these cameras provide security forces with images

of activity throughout the Von Braun and the Rickenbacker. Trans Digital Video is transmitted to the security sub-systems where it is analyzed for a variety of pre-programmed hostile signatures. If a hostile is detected, an alarm is sounded and security forces are sent to the area to investigate. These devices perform with a near legendary shoddiness, however, and intruders are more likely to escape notice on the first sweep of the camera.

Weapons Platform Turret- Deemed excessive by TriOp, the UNN demanded that security turrets be installed in key places on the Von Braun. As the Von Braun was the first faster than light capable craft, it would also be travelling outside of patrolled space and be therefore vulnerable to attack and/or boarding by unknown assailants. What made the TriOp execs and the crew of the Von Braun uncomfortable, however, was the fact that the control codes to the turret's AI structures were only available to the military crew of the Rickenbacker, although numerous instances were documented of the turrets being sent offline by anonymous hacks. This unit is armed with the AM534/3 slug throwing unit. While deadly, the standard ammunition in the unit has minimal armor piercing capabilities (most likely as a precaution if one needed to be shut down by armored UNN marines).

Repair Bot: "The R9/ORU Optimized Repair Unit (known as \"The Beaver\"), developed by CyberSci, a division of TriOp's scientific arm is primarily intended for industrial use. It is equipped with a 50,000 amp laser unit which is intended to facilitate small repair jobs in both atmospheric and zero G conditions. These units are repeatedly called upon to maintain and repair circuitry, ships systems and engineering components. The ORU is criticized for its minimal centralized computing power and is therefore often controlled by a nearby, independent processing unit."

### Items

System Shock 2 has dozens and dozens of gadgets to help the player on his mission. These gadgets can heal him, help maintain and upgrade weapons, boost psionic powers, crack computer systems, neutralize enemies, convert matter to energy and more.

Light\_Armor: "The Dartech class 1 is a complex mesh of Kevlar and substrate steel mesh that provides lightweight, marginally effective firepower stoppage. The armor is not only designed to resist penetration, but also to disperse the kinetic energy of the impact throughout its frame. Dartech is the arm of TriOps' military branch that generally supplies the poorer belligerents, such as terrorists and local militias. While it's better than nothing, more than one wearer has met an unpleasant end while wearing the DarTech class 1."

Hack\_Soft: "This piece of software was developed by a rogue group of former TriOp employees who grew disgusted with the secrecy maintained both by their employer and UNN security forces. While officially illegal, this soft has been mass-replicated and rapidly disseminated to virtually every corner of patrolled space. When equipped, it enables one to hack into many computers aboard ship, permitting the user to access restricted areas, shut down security systems, alter replicator databases to allow purchases of previously restricted items, and execute a variety of other nasty tricks."

**KORENCHKIN 02.MAR.04 To: Zhukov, Vladimir  
re: Everything old...**

*Miri, so far our work with the late model assassin cyborgs have gone remarkably well.. I hope things with that son of a bitch Diego never come to that, but it is comforting to know we're not nearly as defenseless as the UNN stormtroopers might think. he only glitch we've encountered is with the upgraded laser rapiers...the poor things keep severing parts of themselves. We're trying to get the bugs fixed, but I know that...bureaucrat...is watching us."*

Rad\_Patch: "Kathryn Delacroix, the chief engineer aboard the Von Braun, was well aware of the imperfections inherent in the rushed development of the ship. Notably, the coolant system of the ship had a chronic cracking problem, leading to the widespread leakage of hazardous materials. While these leaks are easily detected and usually quickly fixed, she demanded that an excess supply of ChemCal rad hypos be distributed throughout the ship. Unlike most of her cautions regarding conditions on the Von Braun, this one was actually heeded. Most effective when used shortly after the hazardous event, anti-radiation hypos inject small amounts of an agent commercially known as NukeTralizer. This agent radically accelerates the half-life breakdown of many potentially hazardous compounds."

Replicator: "The ValueRep Series 12 Replicator is 'One Stop Shopping' at it's most literal. Replicators use state of the art fiber-helix long strand protein to synthesize almost anything the customer could demand. Essentially, the Series 12 culls a huge database of protein codes to item match user selection. The replicator then uses a variable number

of nanite machines to create the desired product. The Series 12 is a consumer version of the Replicator and therefore collects nanites from the customer to facilitate the process. ValueRep (itself the primary consumer products brand of TriOptimum) has made a small fortune out of illegally engineering its replicator database to 'overcharge' customers, skimming a residual amount of nanites in the transaction. While each Series 12 contains a database for each citizen that determines what types of items they may legally replicate, these devices are notoriously hackable, and are therefore nearly single-handedly responsible for the proliferation of firearms in such slum sprawls as Los Angeles, Ramsey and Vladivostok."

**POLITO 12.JUL.04 re: Your cybernetic rig**

*"The cybernetic rig I've had installed in your head is fully expandable. There's a number of upgrade stations in this area, one for each of the unit's skill enhancement functions: Firearms, Basic Abilities, Psionic Projection and Technical Skills. I'm uploading a few upgrade units to your gear right now. You'll need them to interface with the upgrade stations. But choose your enhancements very carefully...upgrade units are difficult to come by."*

Soda\_Can: "Invented in the early part of the 20th century, soda was created as a refreshing beverage, a mixture of carbonated water and corn syrup. For such a trivial seeming product, soda and similar beverages fueled the rise of the first two mega-corporation, the names of which are illegal to publish by UNN Information Ordinance #234/fd34. Net rumors suggest that these two corporations' market skirmishes turned into physical ones, promulgated by the destruction of offshore bottling plants by hired mercenary squads in 2023."

Nanite: "Efficient Nanite based technology was introduced after a series of radical experiments at the University of Masala in '78. Nanites are sub-atomic machines that are capable of being programmed to perform a nearly infinite variety of tasks, from forming themselves in a replication grid to form into arbitrary objects, to fighting bacteria and viruses in the human bloodstream. In other words, nanites (combined with replication tech) created the "every material". The UNN Currency Redefinition Act of '82 opened up the door for moving financial transactions to a strict Nanite basis..

“Stat” Diagnostic Bench- Hospital recuperation has taken on speed and comfort with the introduction of this device, modeled after a military test unit. Introduced by MedQuest, a division of the scientific arm of TriOp, the bed is designed with special nanite based polymers which alter their position and temperature to best suit the patient. These beds can monitor medication, alert staff to emergencies, and record and cyber diagnose most forms of physiological and psychological distress. When the Van Wyck Medical subsystem is attached, the med bench can also perform advanced medical procedures.