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Finishing Half-Life is just the beginning!

STATUS REPORT

Fan Fiction Event

Contents

Introduction	2
Dr. Head, Chief of Specimen Integration - Biodome Complex	3
Simon O'Connor - Hospitality & Catering Manager	5
Dr. Issac Kliener - Hazardous Environment Material Supervisor	6
Dr Jacobs - Sector C Status Report	7
Patricia Holden - Psychotherapist	8
Ken Kurtulik - Director, Advanced Biological Research Labs	9
Dr. Walter Posnell - Head of the Department for Occupational Safety and Standards	10
Dr. A. Johansson - Sector C Test Labs	11

Introduction

This is the fourth short story event I have run and they seem to be getting more and more popular. I do hope my readers read and enjoy them.

This short story event came about from a meme that was running on Twitter. Various people, myself included, would occasionally post the quote from Half-Life: "Did you submit your status report to the administrator today?" I thought to myself, "That could make a fun little fan fiction event". And here we are.

The word limit was 600 and there were two prizes: one for my favourite and one for the readers favourite. If they were the same, then the second reader favourite would get the prize. The prizes were random Steam games.

At the time of publishing this PDF, no prizes had been allocated.

The stories are listed in submission order.

Thanks to the authors for taking the time to submit their reports. I hope you enjoy them.

Phillip - 1st April 2018

Dr. Head, Chief of Specimen Integration - Biodome Complex

Subject: Status Report - May 15th 200-
From: Dr. Richard Head
To: Wallace Breen

Donaldsons Barnacle (*Cirripedia donaldsonia*)

Specimen 1176 remains largely dormant following removal from its point of gestation. A number of tests have been carried out, the results of which are attached. Dr. Wells was to continue testing tomorrow morning, but I understand that you have requested that he be present during the Anomalous Materials experiment tomorrow morning. As such, Walter Bennett will continue testing with 1176.

With regards to Donaldson, the boys and I had a whip round and we'll be sending a fruit basket to his family in the next couple of days.

Houndeyes (*Canis Oculus*)

A pack of these wonderfully responsive creatures have now been added to their enclosure and I have attached the first series of findings. All precautions mentioned in previous reports are now in place. The final list is as follows:

1. Ear protection for all research associates
2. Reactive shock absorbers for concrete foundations
3. Reinforced, sound proofed glass for observation areas
4. High frequency emitting deterrent system

Dr. Phillips and Dr. Marlowe are still recovering in the infirmary, but it's unlikely that their hearing will return.

Fish Lizard (*Ichthyosaurus*)

Security has been upgraded following last week's incident. It shouldn't be necessary, but we have also ordered some "No Swimming" signs which will be installed in the tank access areas.

Officer Noden's remains are to be returned to his family later this week. The parcel is small enough that it can be sent via the courier service.

Xen "Tree" (*Flagellum Ligno*)

I don't know how or indeed why the survey team brought back a number of these lifeforms, but they have given us considerable amounts of trouble.

Firstly, we still do not know how to appropriately classify them. They remain largely motionless when not disturbed, but will relentlessly bludgeon anything that enters a small radius around them. It seems that this is some very aggressive form of carnivorous plant. It kills anything that gets too close and seems to feed off of the corpse as it decays. It also has the potential to lure scavengers which would then also fall victim to its merciless pummelling.

We utilised a heavy loading vehicle in order to “plant” them in the biodome, but this was damaged beyond repair in the process.

Headcrabs (Capite Cancros)

Following the false alarm and subsequent fatalities last week, we have moved the headcrabs into a more suitable section of the complex. The new enclosure uses heat tracking sensors rather than cameras, and the surface is comprised of a less granular substance, which should prevent them from burrowing underground again.

Given the rare opportunity, we studied the mawman specimens of the former officers Daniels and Ferguson for a couple of days before they were incinerated as per standard procedure. The results of these tests are attached. Officer Bernier has requested transfer to a different department, though was denied due to the sensitive nature of his previous duties. He accepted a position at the transit system entrance as a compromise.

Additional

We would appreciate if the survey team could reduce the number of specimens they bring back. The Biodome expansion is ongoing and we have a number of creatures in incomplete enclosures while others... well, as I write this, I have two tanks in my office. One contains carnivorous leeches while another holds three creatures I am yet to formally identify. The others have taken to calling them chubbytoads or something along those lines. Personally, I can't stand them. They're noisy, foul-smelling and they keep staring at me.

Dr. Head

Chief of Specimen Integration - Biodome Complex

Subject_ Status Report - May 15th 200-.txt

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Submitted by Urby

Simon O'Connor - Hospitality & Catering Manager

May 16th, 2000
Simon O'Connor,
Hospitality & Catering Manager - Black Mesa Research Facility

Dear Administrator,

As you might be aware, I have already submitted our department's weekly report yesterday, as required by our Facility Guidelines.

I am sorry to add a Special Status Report to your thick stack of documents to read, but we think an urgent update was necessary.

My colleagues have brought to my attention that there are some, among the Science Team members, that don't respect the social areas of the Facility, causing discomfort for their own peers, and extra work for my team.

I must say this is a limited occurrence, but it needs to be put under control nonetheless.

It seems like every newly appointed young hot-shot that pops in here, thinks the Facility is a playground and pranks should be tolerated because of the work they perform. Well, we think this is unacceptable behaviour! We had up to here to see these academics, who supposedly have 200+ IQ, behave like they are in kindergarten.

You know much better than me what we deal with here, but we've all seen the missiles and radioactive material at the very least from the safety of our train rides to our daily workplace.

Well, let me tell you that some members of the Science Team don't behave in a fashion that suits this workplace environment.

After our staff were called in different areas of the Anomalous Materials department today, I have inspected the CCTV tapes and I have proof (see attachments) that a new member of the Science Team had been messing around in the cafeteria and the toilets.

You can see from the attached video that this person, who I haven't been able to track their identity yet, sabotaged the microwave, destroying the meal of one of our most distinguished scientists.

He was also disturbing people relieving themselves in the toilets.

I have heard from different sources the same person apparently triggered the security alarm earlier, throwing everyone in panic for a few minutes. One of my staff slipped and injured herself trying to reach a safety exit while she was mopping a corridor. As this was not a drill I think she is intentioned to bring this claim to the next level.

Unfortunately, I can't access the CCTV of the area, but I'm sure you can easily verify. The timing of the events makes this very possible though.

I am deeply concerned about working in this environment with people that play practical jokes like these and handle such dangerous materials and delicate apparatus.

I can only imagine how useless they would be in case of a real emergency.

I look forward hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Simon O'C.

Black Mesa Research Facility
Hospitality & Catering Manager

Submitted by Flavio Mauri

Dr. Issac Kliener - Hazardous Environment Material Supervisor

This is the Administrative Status Report of Issac Kleiner. Today is May 16, 2000, today is the big day of the test of our new sample GG-3883 hopefully this test will give us leeway to newer and greater technology and advancements. Everything so far today seem to be running normally, went down today to meet the new security guard Barney Calhoun, he seems a little bit cocky with his attitude with working in such a as he calls it "Outdated" technology system complex but I am sure he will do well in his new duties as security guard.

The canteen in the office complex area is completely out of Pizza and Whatta Rutta soda thanks to the security guard who help with security on the Sector C area. All system is go on the test chamber in Sector C, with minor technicalities, one of the systems is malfunctioning but this is not a substantial or pivotal problem, I have a technical specialist repair this problem after the test.

The biological dome is currently reporting to me the paperwork on the strange creature we extracted from a planet called "XEN", seem to be a orange bull like creature, we currently have it contained in a secure area of the Biological level, it a mystery to me what they doing to that poor creature, most of the data on the sheet is either edited or blotted out for security reasons.

My request for uniform alteration of the triple pleated pants and tie has been declined again, as well as more leisure time for my fellow colleagues. Other notation I am reporting is I got back the reports on a Mr. Gordon Freeman's hazardous training course results as well as Barney Calhoun's gun range course; both of them came back passing except for disregard for jumping by Gordon Freeman during the training.

Gordon's time was fifteen minutes twenty seconds to go through the course and Barney Calhoun's gun range results was 20 target hits with an accuracy of 32%. I also like to notate that Anti-Mass spectrometer Overlord seminar hosted by Gina Cross was a great success; most of the employees attended has great outcome scores on the final exam, and the demonstration on the "How to prepare for a resident cascade seminar was successful as well, hopefully all this successful training will put us above those Aperture nerds on the safety protocol listings.

The eye scanner access is malfunctioning in Lab A3 which handles experimental procedures of suit battery enhancement and testing, I send a tech down to repair that right away after the experiment since we don't want non access personnel stealing the stationary and equipment in the room for their own personal use. I am closing this report with statement that the experiment will go on as plan with hopefully no problems even with the technical fault on our equipment Gordon Freeman should be arriving shortly from the tram to assist us with the experiment and again if everything goes as plan we will have much more advancements on this technology.

Dr. Issac Kliener M.I.T
Hazardous Environment Material Supervisor

Submitted by Kevin Martinez

Dr Jacobs - Sector C Status Report

We have been making substantial progress in understanding how the plants, crystals and inhabitants of Xen work.

1. We have collected, studied and (mostly) understood many of the fascinating plants and strange inhabitants so far found on Xen.(a sample of one of these amazing beasts have been sent down to Walter in Sector E for further research).
2. We have also found out about that the crystals found on Xen is made up of exotic matter which is absolutely essential for making far more advanced teleportation devices in the hopefully foreseeable future.

Sadly where there is progress there are bound to be disappointments and setbacks.

- 1.Out of all of the crystal samples we have found so far,none of them have given any substantial information from any of our tests.
- 2.It is also out of these seemingly pointless quests for samples we have also lost some of the members of our excavation crews during some of these missions (may god rest their poor souls).

I only hope that this most recent sample (sample GG-3883) will finally yield some results.

In conclusion, we are very close to fully understanding how everything in Xen works and also extremely close to a technological breakthrough with our teleportation devices.

Signed,

Dr Jacobs

now if only i could figure out who's eating all of the doughnuts...

Submitted by BFG2000

Patricia Holden - Psychotherapist

9th May 20XX

Patricia Holden,
Human Resources Department - Black Mesa Research Facility

Sir,

As you know, I have a number of "patients" under my care and with the forthcoming research and testing schedule you insist upon enforcing, I find that their visits have increased.

I have spent quite a few hours with Dr. Gordon Freeman, a research associate, who seems to be under an inordinate amount of pressure.

If you have ever had the pleasure of meeting him, you will know that he is not exactly verbose at the best of times but lately he is shrinking deeper and deeper into his shell.

All I can get out of him lately is something about the Ides of March. I have no idea if this alludes to settling some debts or simply a personal reference that has little or no consequence. Of course, the Ides of March has passed without incident but that does not mean he has forgotten it.

He has spoken of feeling that his talents, training and experience are wasted in his current position and work schedule, and has also mentioned being teased by security staff and possibly other scientists.

This I believe has pushed him to his limits.

From what access I have, I see he is scheduled to be involved in an important procedure with the next few days and I advise against his involvement. We don't know what he is capable of.

Therefore, I respectfully request, within the limits of my authority that he be relieved of duty with immediate effect, for the foreseeable future at least.

Patricia Holden.

Submitted by Phillip Marlowe AKA PlanetPhillip

Ken Kurtulik - Director, Advanced Biological Research Labs

Subject: ABR Labs Stand Ready

Hi Paul,

I've restructured the Advanced Biological Research Lab to accommodate the latest wave of new hires. We'll be ready to carry our weight when the rate of specimen intake increases. People feel good about their job security in this period of rapid growth, but morale is deteriorating while top talent stagnates waiting for work. The situation is under control for now, but the sooner we have new specimens to analyze the better.

On the topic of specimens, we really need to know more about the environment these creatures are coming from. The creatures are highly exotic, and a greater perspective would allow us to speculate more accurately on the origins of their dangerous traits. At present, we're years away from reengineering the creatures or synthesizing their biles. I understand that the government contracts stipulate departments must remain separate, but continuing to work as we are now is akin to tying an arm behind our backs. We're prepared to transform the larger labs into foreign environment simulators. We just need the specifications. With your permission, I'd like to setup a 30-minute conference to discuss this in the coming week.

The labs have successfully developed and installed the new fail-safe devices we talked about last quarter. Our observation strongholds are hardy and our current-good-specimen-practices (cGSP) are stringent, but the staff was adamant that an active safety system would prevent further "coupling" incidents. Mr. Peters made a fully recovery, by the way, and I personally conducted a full review of our cGSP practices with him. I've addressed the outrage that followed about lab-safe dress code by directing employees to wear clip-on ties moving forward.

If you need clarification on any of these points, I'm a phone call away.

Best regards,
Ken Kurtulik
Director, Advanced Biological Research Labs

Submitted by Ken Kurtulik

Dr. Walter Posnell - Head of the Department for Occupational Safety and Standards

Black Mesa Research Facility
Black Mesa, New Mexico
Sector D, Occupational Safety and Standards

29 January, 20XX

Dr. Wallace Breen
Black Mesa Research Facility
Black Mesa, New Mexico
Sector D, General Administration

Dr. Breen,

I am pleased to report that the occupational safety report you had ordered in November is reaching its final stages. However, I found it necessary to respond to your previous memorandum regarding the delays faced by the investigation ahead of the final report. Though originally ordered to investigate the causes, effects, and solutions to the liquefied toxic waste problem faced in several parts of sectors B, C, and D, OSS has uncovered hundreds of safety hazards and issues within the BMRF.

Many sectors of the facility have not been updated to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. There are a notable lack of ramps and wheelchair lifts in vital sectors of the facility, especially around emergency exits. Conversely, there were several locations encountered, most notably the path to the Sector C Anti Mass Spectrometer chamber, which had only an elevator to access vital sectors of the facility.

During the investigation, a Dr. Freeman was trapped inside this corkscrew elevator for several hours, delaying the high energy test he was scheduled to perform by a day. While in the end this had no ill effect on the test results, it represents a worrying trend in the design of newer sections of the facility. Maintenance workers were particularly vocal on the conditions they faced in the facility. Handrails have been seemingly placed at the contractors' discretion, with no pattern to where they are and aren't.

The aforementioned liquefied toxic waste was particularly present in locations without handrails. The state of the art Lambda Complex was surprisingly one of the most dangerous places for workers, with one demonstrating to our investigators the astounding process required to open a section of the Lambda Core for maintenance: He had to jump between several rotating and elevating platforms, and press three separate buttons. At multiple points, fixed obstructions could have crushed or hit him.

At the very least, maintenance workers should be compensated for their difficulties here. The most alarming issue, at least to me, was the frequency at which equipment failed, and their propensity to explode when they do. I hope all of these concerns will be met in due time, Administrator.

Dr. Walter Posnell
Head of the Department for Occupational Safety and Standards.

Submitted by MattheCzar

Dr. A. Johansson - Sector C Test Labs

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| Report nr. 1875 - 20 Jan 2003 - 31 Jan 2003 |
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From: Dr. A. Johansson, Sector C Test Labs
To: Black Mesa Research Facility Administration

CONFIDENTIAL: the information contained in this document is strictly confidential and for the information of the intended recipient only. If the reader is NOT the intended recipient of this document, he/she is strongly advised to stop reading now; failing to do so is a violation of federal law 53 U.S.C. § 203(d) (3) (A) (ii) and N.M. Stat. § 30-45-1 to 30-45-7.

Dear Administrator,

during the last two weeks the team continued studying the interaction of a steady concentrated mesonic flow with a magnetic field.

We estimated the stability of the process by re-running the simulation with different parameters. Unfortunately, these tests were repeatedly interrupted by power failures we eventually found out being caused by some experiments conducted by the Anomalous Materials personnel. I spoke personally with Dr. W. Bennet, asking him to at least warn the other teams of Sector C in good time when those experiments are scheduled (at least an hour in advance). His answer was that (verbatim quote) "informing [us] in advance whenever [they] use the Anti-Mass Spectrometer would be impractical because such experiments are often unexpectedly delayed or cancelled".

I realise these problems are also consequence of the questionable design of our power network; nevertheless one team's irresponsibility must not hinder the other teams' progress, and the only viable alternative is to install Uninterruptible Power Supplies to protect our servers from power surges. EACH ONE of those surges can damage our data banks, for a potential loss of several billion dollars' worth of scientific research - recently, a power shortage actually corrupted our database; thanks to Dr. P. Marlowe's experience with our DBMS, we were able to get the majority of the data back.

Getting back on topic, we managed to successfully run some simulations, which all resulted in the same "ripple" effect in the field (a hint at a possible source of bosons), so we deemed the project ready for experimental testing.

Thanks to a fruitful collaboration with one of our engineering teams, we were able to port our existing Mesonic Microscope technology to a more compact version, capable of producing a concentrated and steady linear flow.

We positioned the device in a small test chamber, with safety shields on each end, and bosonic screens and Hall sensors distributed across the chamber. Contrary to expectations, when we enabled the mesonic flow, the device triggered a sudden burst of hyperboloid-shaped yellow light, that hit both shields (see recording AI7937). The beam induced an intense heat, that melted part of the shields.

We understood from the type of radioactivity on the shields that the device had induced a burst of tau leptons on either side of it - this confirmed Dr. V. Randhawa's initial conjecture, that was discarded early in research due to the simulation results. No boson activity was detected.

Further analyses revealed a high degree of ill-conditioning in the simulation algorithm (and FEM-based variants as well), which is unexpected given its stability for standard discrete particle simulation. Of course, simulation is the only way to safely assess the phenomenon in extreme conditions, so we will forward a request for a mathematician to our HR manager, preferably for a numerical analyst.

Given the nature of the device, we are inclined to collaborate with Weapons Research on the project. Unless we receive an interdiction from Administration by next Monday morning, we will disclose the project to Weapons Research, under the name "Project Tau".

Yours sincerely,
Amanda Johansson

Submitted by Marut