



Dark Star Quadrant's DARK MATTERS

Official Publication of the Dark Star Quadrant
Dark Moon Fleet
Klingon Assault Group

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NUQNEH!!!!

New Year Hopes!

Greetings to all the brave Warriors in the Dark Star Quadrant!

2003 is gone. The new year looms before us. My prayer for this Quadrant is that our battles be many and always victorious AND that on the home front, we all have prosperity and happiness.

Remember Ship Commanders, you have very important jobs in this Quadrant. You are responsible for your ship and your crew. Your level of enthusiasm and participation set the tone for your ship. Get everyone involved! Be creative in your battles! ABOVE ALL . . . HAVE FUN!!!!

Also CO's, please communicate with me. I need those quarterly reports, even if they are just a "hail, we're still here" kind of communication. As regards other communication, please don't take my lack of contact -- until newsletter time -- personally. I am not always good about initiating writing (have always been that way) to you, but I WILL respond to you if you write me. If you have a problem, or a question, or just want to chat, my cyber door is always open!!!!

On a personal front, my mate and I are now officially in Chapter 13. So I may not be able to do much of anything this year, much less the following four. You may only see me in your mind's eye from email or snail mail. I will be as active as I can and as supportive as I can, but I'm going to have to count on all of you to help me.

If you are planning on going to an event or convention in 2004, **please contact me**. I may have an assignment for you to act in my stead.

Don't forget that we need to support ALL of our Klingon, and other, *Star Trek* actors and actresses as we attend these conventions in year 2004. Get extra autographs and submit them to charity auctions!!!

Speaking of conventions, I neglected to mention that one of our own, Lt. Cmdr. GortoK vestai-QIHqem, commander of the *IKV Shadowrider*, was the banner bearer for Gowron's banner in the 2nd Annual DragonCon parade! *Qapla'!!!!*

WELCOME to our newest chapter, the *Imperial Klingon Outpost Katoq'tIS* (out of Virginia near Washington, DC) commanded by Lt. KoriS tai-DuraS! Warriors and Commanders, if you have suggestions on how this Quadrant can expand, please let me know. Recruit, recruit, recruit!!! Refresh your memories on the KAG Guidelines!!! Hold armor-making workshops!!! Banner making workshops!! Make those tournament bat'leths and work out (don't hurt yourselves, however!)!!! Have lots and lots of FUN!!!!

Remember, CO's, I am here for your assistance, but a lot of responsibility of KAG rests on your shoulders. Don't neglect to promote your crew that armor up (like I inadvertently did -- yes, I got caught up in other duties and now am in shame). Honor them in a public setting! If you have someone you feel needs to be promoted, but you aren't of rank enough to do it, contact me.

There is a Quadrant wide **CHALLENGE** to help feed the hungry at the Southwest Missouri Indian Center. See article on page 9.

All of you are worthy and honorable Warriors in service to the Empire and I am proud to be associated with you!

Cmdr. Keela sutai-Septaric
CO, Dark Star Quadrant



From the Dark Star Quadrant Force Recon Commander

The Klingon Code of Conduct -- Part 1

by MCPT MemtoK' vestai-DevnoH'
Commander, Force Recon, Dark Star Quadrant

The Klingons are mighty warriors. We have been since the dawn of time. What other race can claim to have killed their own gods? None. We are the best killers, the best hunters, the best lovers, but we were not always the best officers. We have come a long way since the day we first entered into space in nothing much more than a metal bucket of bolts. But we are courageous, dammit!



Killing our Commanding Officer for not being honorable is still accepted of course, but we as Klingons have worked on what the humans call soft skills quite a bit. Here I will talk about our code of conduct and how to use it in your every day real world as well as fandom. This issue, we deal with the first code.

Communicate- Talk or write to your fellow members. Guide new members along as you once may have been guided yourself by others in the club. The glory of activities takes on new life when recounted to others.

One of my biggest nuances is communication! Talking, writing, singing, poetry, however you want to get your point across, do it! Communicate up and down the Chain of Command. You may be the Fleet CO or you may be a Chapter CO, but either one, your superiors and subordinates have to know what's going on. Keeping others informed is vital to the success of any organization, but you must be concise and clear. Here is an example, the first being the wrong way and the second being the concise and clear way.

"Hey Keela darlin, how are ya? I hope everything's OK with you and yours. How's your sister? Your mom? Your dad? Your cats? Your husband? Your chrysanthemums? Good, that's all real good. Say look babe, I'm plannin' a shin-dig down here where I live. I live in South Carolina, the upstate, beautiful country. Anyways, I want to let everyone know that they're invited to it. Its gonna be real fun too, I guaran-damn-tee ya. Well to get here, you hafta take the freeway all the way..."

NO NO NO!!!! Too much conversation not enough information. To get a point across, you need the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How up front.

"Keela, MemtoK here. How are you? The *IKV Stone Dagger* is holding its annual "Because we're Klingon Dammit And We Can" cookout on July 15th, 2004, at Greenville City Park. The entire Quadrant is invited. For directions, please reference the website (www.ikvstonedagger.org). Thank you."

Now none of that is real, it was just used for an example. But do you see how, in an "official" message the point came across? Keela knows who (MemtoK and *Stone Dagger*) What (Annual cook out), When (July 15, 2004), Where (Greenville, SC), Why (Because We're Klingons and We Can Dammit") How (Everyone from Quad invited). This is direct and up front.

Now talking in a personal letter is another matter entirely. That's PERSONAL...between you and another person. If you want to take all day to say come over for dinner but write sixteen pages to do it, all the more power to you.

Lets talk about phone etiquette for a second. Do you know that I don't call most of my friends after like 10 pm? I never call people I barely or don't know after 9 p.m. That's just plain rude. If you call someone, they say the person you are looking for isn't there but they will deliver a message to have them call you, there's no sense in calling fourteen more times that day! They'll call...well most likely they'll call unless you really pissed them off or its the morning after your first date. Whatever!

Does anyone still write good old pen and paper letters? There's nothing quite like holding a letter in your hand from someone you care about and reading and reading it, and being able to save it and keep it. You are holding onto a piece of that person, their heart, their inner thoughts, their handwriting. Nothing stirs a memory like a scent, either. Now can you spray perfume on an email? Nope. Take some time out of your busy day one day this week, sit down, grab some paper, a pen or pencil (not a keyboard!) And write away. The person you write to will be almost as surprised as you will be.

Thank you for your attention, Klingons! Until Next time!! *Qapla'!*



**Warriors, Well Seasoned or Raw Recruits:
Be sure to check out the Force Recon Website!**

<http://fr.kag.org>

It will educate and inspire YOU!!!!

From the Dark Star Quadrant Quartermistress

Hail Warriors!

Again it is time to urge you into battle to make good armor and accessories so that your enemies tremble before you in awe and fear.

Warriors, you may think that it's not a big deal to look as good as you possibly can, but it IS!

Word has gotten back to me of an instance where a local warrior in a borrowed uniform marching at the head of the Klingon contingent in one of the Christmas parades and carrying a custom-made phaser rifle, drew the ultimate praise from a bystander who just happened to know the CO of a local ship.

The compliment was: "All the other Klingons looked good (that would have been L. Lt. Seven of Nine, Lt. Ka'Rowe vestai-Septaric and Cmdr. Keela sutai-Septaric), BUT that Klingon in the front . . . MAN, he *really* looked good!!!"

That Klingon was Lt. Gorrath tai, CO of the *IKV Blood Moon*, and for that parade he was wearing Lt. Ka'Rowe's summer armor (lighter weight) constructed jointly by herself and Lt. Ka'Leth vestai-Septaric. The armor took about a month to construct and was made over a black surgical smock by a combination of several techniques (sewing machine, hand sewing, and Douco cement).

The end product looked fantastic. But it took TIME and effort. It was well worth it! Don't be discouraged. Do the best you can and take as long as you need; you will be pleased with the response!

Remember to keep your eyes open for yard sales, flea markets, and such to purchase inexpensive items to make into fantastic accessories and costumes!! Good hunting!

Lt. Cmdr. Kehlyr vestai-Atratties-Septaric
Quartermistress, Dark Star Quadrant



Dark Star Quadrant Recent Promotions:

IKV Executioner

January 3, 2004

L. Sgt. Seven of Nine to L. Lt. Seven of Nine

IKV Stonedagger

September 7, 2003

Lt. MemtoK' tai-DevnoH to Marine Captain MemtoK vestai-DevnoH

Dark Star Quadrant Honored Warriors:

IKV Shadowrider

January 3, 2004

Lt. Cmdr. GortoK vestai-QIHqem appointed House Proctor of QIHqem

DARK MOON FLEET WEBSITE

Dark Moon Fleet Website: <http://www.darkmoonfleet.org>

KAG WEBSITES

KAG Main Website: www.kag.org

KAG Database: www.roguephoenix.org/KAG/database.htm

KAG E-Corps Website: <http://ecorps.kag.org>

KAG Elint Website: <http://elint.kag.org>

KAG Force Recon Website: <http://fr.kag.org>

KAG Marine Website: <http://kagmarines.org>

KAG Quartermaster Website: <http://qm.kag.org/>

KAG Xen Legion Website: www.kag.org/ixl/



GENERAL NEWS

HELP ADD BRICKS TO THE CYBER-BUILDING FOR GENE RODDENBERRY!

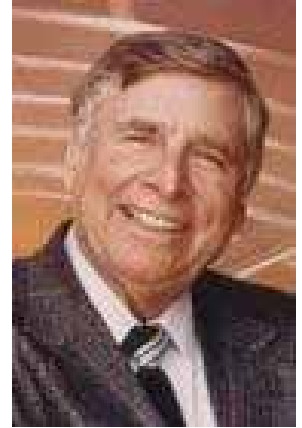
126 BRICKS ADDED SINCE DECEMBER 27TH!!!

Hearty thanks to Karana sutai-Qaw', CO of the *IKV Kahless-ro'* of the Ring of Fire Fleet, for starting a cyberbuilding for Gene Roddenberry. Since she laid the first four bricks as foundation, the building in honor of the Great Bird of the Galaxy has grown to 126 bricks in just 16 days! Qapla'!!!

Each brick represents a separate email address, since multiple bricks cannot be placed with the same email address apparently. So some folks were able to lay one or two and others as many as seven! I visited the site today, January 11th, and found that many, many of these 126 bricks were from Klingons. All of the entries were very moving.

If you can, access this site at www.topdogcity.com/index.htm and add a brick to the Gene Roddenberry cyberbuilding. Karana writes:

"I hope this is something that everyone would like to help with; he has given us so much enjoyment and life lessons over the past 30 years."



SPIRIT LANDS ON MARS! OPPORTUNITY FOLLOWS!

Congratulations to NASA and JPL for the successful launch in July 2003 of the Mars Rover *Spirit* and its subsequent safe landing on the Martian surface at about 11:35 EST on Saturday, January 3, 2004!

For those of us who were watching, it was indeed a joyous moment when the *Spirit* contacted its earth-bound "parents." Three hours later it began sending pictures back of the landing site.

Over the next three months the golf-cart sized rover will be deployed on a voyage of exploration that could encompass a distance of over 1/2 mile from the landing site. Early reports are that the landing area seems to resemble a dry lake bed, but it was too early to tell if the rocks were sedimentary or formed by lava flows. By the ultraviolet images relayed to earth, there was some indication that water had been present there, but whether it was from the atmosphere or the remains of a lake is still unclear.

NASA chose the landing site in the Gusev Crater because there appeared to have been evidence that it might have held a lake a long time ago. *Spirit* will spend the next few months exploring and gathering clues as to whether Mars once had conditions able to sustain life.

In a couple weeks the sister rover, *Opportunity*, will also land on Mars. The touchdown is slated for January 24th at about 6 p.m. EST. All our hopes for a successful mission as well.

Good hunting, *Spirit*! Safe journey, *Opportunity*!

EVIDENCE OF ANCIENT WATER FOUND ON MARS!!

Through the efforts of the rovers, mineral deposits of salt and hematite indicate the past presence of water on the red planet sufficient enough to have sustained life. No indications of life have been found, however.

From our earthly perspective, huge canyons appear to have been cut by water, and there is evidence of ancient shorelines of lakes or oceans. In the future it is hoped that samples from Mars will be brought back to earth for further study.

Both *Spirit* and *Opportunity* have 90 days of operational service left. The changing seasons and dust accumulations have already begun to affect their performance. But their scientific contributions have been invaluable and will be remembered always.

SHIP REPORTS

NAVY (Non-Squadron)

IKV Blood Claw

December 17, 2003

Sister Keela:

Here is our report for this month. Hope all is going well on your end, we have been doing OK here for the most part. (even though this Commander has seen better). Hope this report is not to confusing and that it reaches your local easy enough.

Happy Holidays to you, Commandant.

'Qupla'
Rlikay Sutai Septarick
Commanding Officer
IKV Blood Claw



Report from the IKV Blood Claw 12/17/2003

Not much to report on for these couple of months because in some ways we have not done to many activities recently. Meetings went well for the last couple but I can see us skipping having many more till the first of next year. This is mainly do to the holiday season approaching and to some recent problems that the Commanding Officer has had to contend with (none of them positive). But I am sure things will start rolling again in a positive direction and all will be as it was before

There have been no new changes or additions at this time, hopefully by next year this may change also

'Qupla'
Rlikay Sutai Septarik
Commanding Officer
IKV Blood Claw

IKV Demonlance

No report received this quarter.



IKV Eclipse

Hail!

I know it's been a little while since I wrote, but so much is happening here, both good and bad, that I feel like I'm on a roller coaster (and not one of those wimpy kiddy ones like at the county fair, either) :- (BTW, thanks for the very unusual (but appropriate :-) Thanksgiving message. :-)

I'm now on a Bi-Pap machine for Sleep Apnea, and am starting to feel a little bit more like my old self again. It took them =years= to figure out that the comments I was making to my doctor about "I'm not getting any rest when I sleep" actually meant I was suffering from severe sleep apnea. I've been on the machine for about three months now, and am already seeing some improvement in my morale and demeanor, although I'm still trying to figure out how to pay for the blasted thing...

On to the reports...

Some things that we have done, are doing, and will get done within the next few days/weeks or so...

Jason Waltman and his wife Jean are still doing volunteer work at a local Christian Coffee House called "The Canteen".

I've just sent a letter with a check for (believe it or not) \$241.00 (!) to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for their "Costumes For A Cure" fund drive. I get to wear Halloween costumes at work during Halloween week, and I ask people for contributions for the L&L Society. I did quite a bit better than last year's \$79.00 in contributions. :-)

We're actively right in the middle of the annual "Toys To Share From People Who Care" activities - we've been preparing the "Toy Hut" for this year's donations, cleaning and preparing the donations we've gotten so far, and already distributing a few toys to needy families through other agencies. I expect to distribute even more than last year's total of over 2,500 toys to area kids. I'm going to try to get the local TV or newspaper to cover it again this year. We were on TV two years ago, but I could use the extra push as we wind down the days that remain until the distribution of the toys. I'm collecting about 750 stuffed animals this year for the Elks Christmas Baskets, and more other things for local church and civic group Xmas projects.

I've also been very involved with a local outreach center called "Our Community Place" which is trying to raise funds for renovations to an old church and convert it into a full time soup kitchen (we only do the Soup Kitchen on Mondays now) and community center where we hope to reach those unfortunates in the community with no jobs and no hopes. We have a few street people here, and those are the ones we'd like to reach out to most, as well as any homeless and/or underhoused people in the community. They feed us Christmas Dinner on Christmas day, and I return the favor with toys for the kids that show up for the soup kitchen style dinner.

We also cleaned out our respective closets and bookcases, and added that to the collection of books, audiobooks, video cassettes, music cassettes, CD's and DVD's that came up in the "Toys to Share..." drive that we gave to the local library. I had a huge box of books, and several bags of other material. They sent me a nice acknowledgment letter back, and I expect to give them quite a bit more before end-of-year. They said we'd be mentioned in the next library newsletter.

If you need further info about any of the projects we do here, let me know.

Qapla'!

Lt. K'rush D'stroy
IKV Eclipse
Bruce Gray
gurpsgm@vaix.net

Hail!

Here's our wrap up report for 2004.

We have completed the annual "Toys to Share From People Who Care" and distributed about 1,000 toys to deserving kids in the area. That's not counting the ones we cleaned and prepared for other groups. No joke. I suspect we might be close to last year's total of 2,500, but I might be wrong.

I personally delivered about 36 (each!) to the local soup kitchens, including the group I regularly work with, "Our Community Place". "Our Community Place" rewarded us with a fantastic Turkey dinner with more trimmings than you can imagine. Yum! Other soup kitchens that benefited from our toys included: Ottobein United Methodist Church (Mon Night), First Presbyterian Church (Tues. Night), Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church (Wed Night), and Friendship House (Thurs. Night) (although Friendship House's dinner was the week before Xmas).

<http://www.ourcommunityplace.org/>

I set aside a big box of assorted "Kid's Meal" type toys, which went to a local church that was helping with "Samaritan's Purse" - an organization that was preparing shoe boxes full of stuff like socks and other small items to send to needy children in foreign countries during their "Operation Christmas Child".

<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.asp?section=Operation+Christmas+Child>

We had about three bags of stuffed animals that went to the local Hospital Cancer Center for their children's center. They have requested I look for some stuff to put in their waiting room for kids to play with while they wait. They will not be disappointed. I already have a few good items that I think will be right up their alley.

<http://www.rmhonline.com/>

We also had a couple boxes of assorted books, mostly kids books, and older video tapes and audio tapes which we donated to the local library.

<http://www.mrplib.org/>

Several boxes of assorted toys to the local Elks club, who put them in the Christmas baskets they were preparing for underprivileged residents.

We set aside a =big= plastic outdoor play center, that we hope the local low-income day care center can use. We'll find out after I get back to work this week.

Now comes the clean up of the toy donation center, and the prep for next year's event. Whew! Praise Trek that I had a chance to relax this weekend past with a trip to a gaming con in Reston, VA.

Qapla'!

Lt. K'rush D'stroy tai
IKV Eclipse
Bruce Gray
gurpsgm@vaix.net

IKV Glory Hunter

No report received for this quarter.



BLAST FROM THE PAST: Trinicron 2002, Lt. Cmdr. Ko'Mot vestai-Septaric, CO of the *IKV Glory Hunter* with Cmdr. Keela sutai-Septaric.

IKV Gre'thor

No report received for this quarter.

Imperial Klingon Outpost Katoq'tIS

Commander's Report to Quadrant CO:

Stardate 20040121.4375

Greetings, Commander and Quadrant,

It is I, Lt. KorIS tai-DuraS. I send you greetings from my small Outpost Katoq'tIS on the planet Loodoone in the vIrjInya Sector.

I'm recently arrived in the sector after doing a tour of duty throughout the country. I'm glad to settle down, to build up the Empire on this new frontier. I'm looking eagerly forward to this coming year, to the conventions and to opportunities for battle.

As this is my first report, it is cursory at best, but be assured, I will make myself heard in the area!

Qapla'!

Lt. KorIs tai-DuraS
cha'DIch, House DuraS
http://www.geocities.com/bo_arthur/houseduras.html
CO, IKO Katoq'tIS, Loodoone
http://www.geocities.com/bo_arthur/kag.html



WELCOME TO LT. KORIS TAI-DURAS!

GLORY AND HONOR TO HIM!!

QAPLA' TO THE IKO KATOQ'TIS!!!

KPV Krimson Fury

No report received for this quarter.

IKV Shadow Dragon

No report received for this quarter.

IKV Shadowrider

Hail Keela,

I'm hoping that I can get my crew together at DragonCon for the Parade. I plan to have a way to carry the ship flag by then.



We haven't really done anything since Dragon. K'Rajah and I went to Kentucky before Kalex was supposed to ship out. The last that I have heard, he is still awaiting his orders. I'll let you know anything that I find out about that.

Kalex and I talked while we were there and he appointed me House Proctor of QIHqem. It is a great honor and privilege to be chosen for this. **I would like to send a hail out to all QIHqem to let me know who they are for my records.** That is if you don't mind putting this in.

We are in the process of ordering new T-shirts for the ship. A couple of crew members lost theirs in a fire about a year ago and the rest are about worn out. I know mine are on the verge of being transparent. Also, new contact info for me for inclusion in the DSQ Roster.

I guess that's all for now. Glory to you and your House!!!

Qapla'!!

Lt. Cmdr. GortoK Vestai-QIHqem

IKV Stonedagger

No report received for this quarter.

IKV Stormbringer

No report received for this quarter.



IKV Stormwalker

No report received this quarter

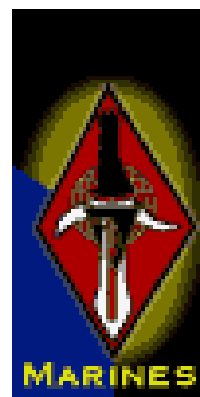


Imperial Cha'aowian Vessel Dragons' Blood

Hail Keela,

The *ICV Dragons' Blood* crew increased by two: my mate, Commander K'neha, is now the Executive Officer. She is joined on the ship by her 4-year-old daughter, be'qun ("The Goddess"). Matthew Todd is due any time now. Will keep you apprised.

Captain Jorf of House Ki'RK



SHIP REPORTS

MARINE

IKAV Khitomer's Vengeance



The crew of the Khitomer's Vengeance had a slow quarter with no real activities to report on. The new quarter brings renewed vigor and the promise of more activity. We are planning to be at RoundCon in Columbia and ConCarolinas in Charlotte, as well as other activities as we find them. Of course, you can always find us on the paintball fields of the South East revelling in combat, as is the Klingon way.

Things are moving slowly, but they are moving. Until later...

'Qapla

M. LT. K'Tarr tai
Commander, *IKAV Khitomer's Vengeance*

Thanks to the KAG website
for the Marine Graphic!