

The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc.



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Status Report



Crew Manifest	
Total Assigned:	13
Officers:	4
Enlisted:	6
Cadets:	1
Citizens:	2

Welcome to our final month as part of our shakedown cruise. After this month, we will be a fully commissioned chapter of STARFLEET INTERNATIONAL, which brings me to Saturday November 16th. That is the date we are having our commissioning ceremony. We start by having a lunch banquet to celebrate the end of our shakedown and start of our voyage through the stars. Following the banquet will be a theater production of a Star Trek Musical at the Gatesville City Auditorium at 6PM being put on by the C.H.E.S.S. Homeschool Co-Op theater team. We also had not one, but two conventions this month.





STAR TREK A MUSICAL

FREE ADMISSION

FRIDAY
11.15.24
6:00 PM
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH
COPPERAS COVE, TX

PRESENTED BY:
C.H.E.S.S.
Christian Home Educators' Support System

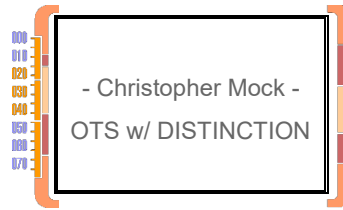
SATURDAY
11.16.24
6:00 PM
CITY AUDITORIUM
GATESVILLE, TX



ACHIEVEMENTS

Academic Achievement

This month a single individual completed classes in the academy. When a member of the crew achieves a score of 90 or better (Honors) or a perfect score of 100 (Distinction) in a course, they will be acknowledged here.



Challenge Takers

– None –

Awards

– None –

Promotions

- Lucas Freeman PROMOTED TO Cadet 3rd Class –
- Floyd Gage PROMOTED TO Crewman Apprentice –
- Christopher Mock PROMOTED TO Crewman –

Crew Promotion Points

Rank	Name	Temporary Points	Permanent Points	Total Points
CMDR	Freeman , Dustin Gene	782	137	919
LCDR	Fitch , Bryan	32	70	102
LTJG	Freeman , Elijah Gabriel	38	60	98
LTJG	Sturgeon , William Arthur	37	95	132
CDT 3C	Freeman , Lucas Alexander	2	0	2
CRA	Gage , Floyd	9	0	9
CZN	PEAVLER OSBORN , RILEY KAYLA-ANNE CORINNE	12	0	12
CZN	OSBORN , IAN WILLIAM	3	0	3
CRMN	Mock , Christopher	0	10	10
CRA	Mock , Rachel	7	0	7
CRR	McQuitty , Hannah	13	0	13
CRR	Hammond , Joshua	13	0	13
CRA	Quinn , Richard Michael	10	0	10

CAPTAINS LOG

Hello crew! We are finally at the end of our shakedown cruise. All systems are operational and the ship is in top shape. We had a busy month with some crew-members putting in a lot of time to support our local non-profits (Trail Life Troop TX-1412 & American Heritage Girls TX-3120) with their pumpkin-patch fundraiser. Also, I have personally put a not insignificant time into a database for tracking promotion points. I'm pleased to report my efforts were successful and have even shared the database with other chapters.

I know that going into November many of us will be very busy. I will be officially retiring from 20 years of Active-duty in the Army on the 30th. On that note, I would like to take the opportunity to invite anyone in the Central Texas Area to my retirement party on the 9th at noon. It will be held at East Side Baptist Church (500N W.S. Young Dr, Killeen, TX 76543)

I'm sure you are all making plans for Thanksgiving but if you can, I hope to see you at the Ship Commissioning Party on the 16th at Galaxy Burger in Killeen. I know it's a Star Wars themed restaurant, but until someone opens a Trek themed one it's the best I can do. We will start at 1:00pm and will also do promotions for those who were recently promoted.

We are still working on getting more activities planned and executed for the ship's crew. I know several members of the Special Operations Auxiliary are planning on holding a range day. Also, another watch party and/or gameday in the near future is in the works. I would like to see more of y'all active on the Discord server. Find a funny Star Trek meme! Share it to the server. It's a great way to interact with the entire crew when you can't make in-person meetings, and it's an easy way to earn promotion points. The more we interact and do, the better the chapter is. Let's work on making the Veritas the pride and joy of Region 3!

Until next month, keep up the great work.

-CMDR Freeman
co.ussveritas@sfi.org
CO USS Veritas

FIRST OFFICERS LOG

Greetings Y'all,

Well, things have been kind of quiet since the last log. Well, for me anyway. Lol I've been out of town with work. I hope everyone has been doing good. I just received my new uniform and look forward to having it on at our next meeting. I'm also looking forward to our commissioning soon.

Anyway, I really want to encourage everyone to try and choose a department specialty. It will help you get promoted. As well as give you a direction to work towards. It also gives the Captain and I an idea how to help you accomplish your goals. I'm also still looking at finding department heads. I know it may be a little daunting but it's really not that difficult.

I hope everyone has been doing academy classes. It helps in getting awards, promotion, and just knowledge about Starfleet and Star Trek.

The next thing I want to hit on again is recruiting. If you have any friends or family members who may be interested in participating in our crew, please try and get them to join us! We can't grow if we don't recruit.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all. So, if you have any questions, concerns or comments. Please feel free to contact me at texascavtrooper@gmail.com

Or text me at (254)258-5066

I will do my best to help you in any way I can.

Ok keep on trekking.

Fair Wind and Following Seas

XO, Out

-LCDR Bryan Fitch
xo.ussveritas@sfi.org
XO USS Veritas

SpaceX's Latest Rocket Catch!

Stardate 24784.6 (2024.10.13) – That day marks an extraordinary leap forward in the realm of space transportation, as SpaceX achieved the successful launch *and catch* of a reusable rocket, sending waves of excitement and pride through our engineering community. This achievement brings us closer to a future long-foreseen in Starfleet: shuttles that lift off and return as reliably and seamlessly as a city's transit system!

A Breakthrough for Efficient Transport

Imagine a Starfleet vessel operating with just one shuttle—constantly returning, reloading, and relaunching without wear or tear holding it back. This is precisely the vision that today's SpaceX landing has illuminated. SpaceX engineers have moved us one step closer to routine, Earth-to-orbit shuttles that don't require the complex, costly, and lengthy refurbishments we once thought unavoidable. As Starfleet engineers, we recognize this milestone as a bridge to our ultimate goal: fleets of shuttles and starships that operate with near-perpetual uptime.

Reusability Realized – A Key Step to Starfleet's Shuttlecraft Vision

The October 13th SpaceX launch and landing, conducted with almost mechanical precision, showcased the power of engineering ingenuity. By perfecting the art of controlled descent, SpaceX demonstrated that the frequent, reliable landings we envision for Starfleet vessels are well within reach. This concept of reusability echoes the essence of our shuttlecraft operations, where our craft transport crew and cargo swiftly between starships and planetary surfaces.

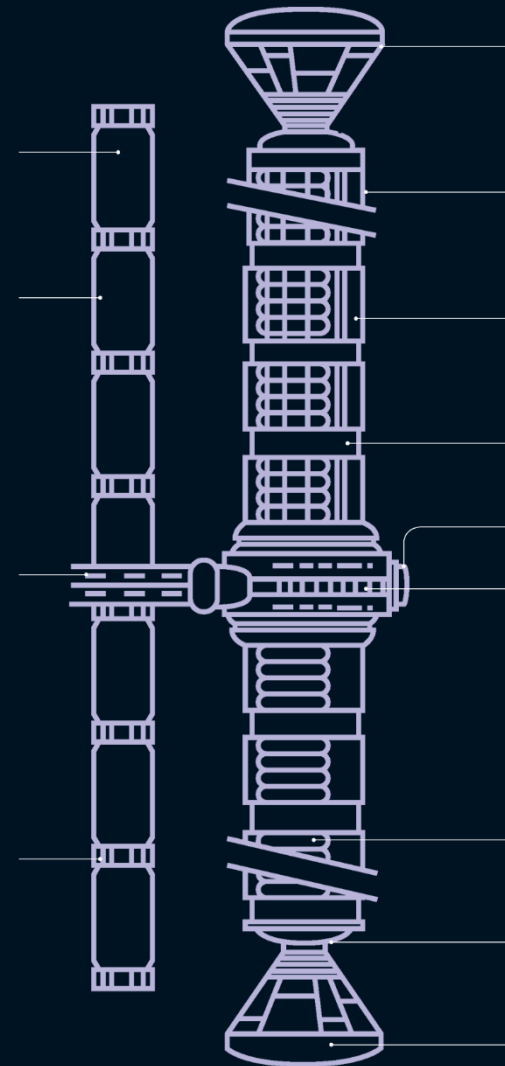
Today's accomplishment underscores the belief that, one day soon, shuttles won't just be for planetside missions—they'll be integral to galactic travel, providing Starfleet with the flexibility, readiness, and durability essential for deep-space exploration.

The Future of Space Transport Has Never Been Closer

We're thrilled to witness the development of rockets that can launch and catch themselves as if they were routine airliners. This accomplishment opens the door to new possibilities and reduces the cost of frequent space travel exponentially, pushing Earth closer to the ideal of an orbital station network where shuttles will launch and dock as naturally as sea vessels entering a port.

From all of us here in Starfleet Engineering, we tip our hats to SpaceX's dedicated engineers. Today's success brings us all one step closer to a galaxy in which space travel is routine, accessible, and boundless. The stars have never been closer!

End Log.
-CMDR Dustin Freeman



AT WARP WRAP-UP

Good tidings, Veritas!

I have been busy as a small industrious insect preparing for a holiday you earthlings call All Hallow's Eve. It is a fascinating celebration of creativity; I was ecstatic to be invited to a carving contest recently!

Unfortunately, I was unable to acquire a suitable pumpkin, so I painted characters I have seen in video games aboard the ship... It was such fun; I'm looking forward to wearing a costume and playing tricks on you all for candy! (That's what you do during the holiday, right?)

While that has been the most exciting report this month, I have also been hard at work reading all the many materials aboard the ship to familiarize myself with your customs. There is so much to learn about, I hardly know where to start! I am brimming with excitement for your first away mission — so that I may hear all the juicy details.

If you are celebrating this most wicked of holidays, don't forget to leave out some candy! Here is a photo of my paintings. Can you guess who they are?

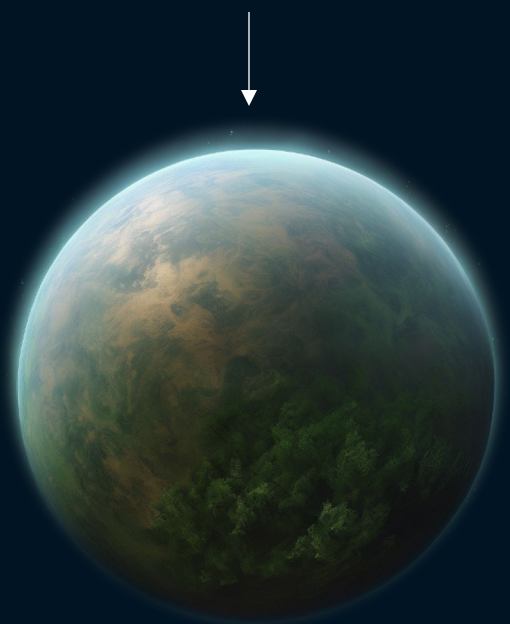
Signing off,

Rivet, Scrivenus of Cendrial

(R. K. Osborn)



Cendrial





Next Gen Weapons: A Tactical Analysis

Recently, the U.S. Army has been fielding the NGSW (Next Generation Squad Weapon), among the new weapons include the XM7 rifle to replace the M4 carbine, and the XM250 automatic rifle to replace the M249 SAW. Both weapon systems are designed by Sig Sauer under a 10-year contract by the U.S. Army which was awarded in April of 2022.

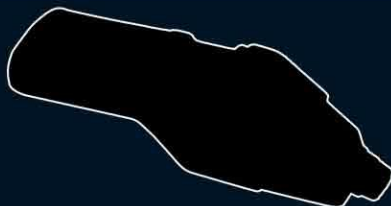
Starting with the XM250, the specifications have improved from the M249 SAW, to include a drastic weight difference, with the new gun being 13 pounds with a bipod, as opposed to the 22-pound beast the M249 was. The cartridge the XM250 takes is the 6.8x51mm or more commonly known as the .277 Fury, as opposed to the 5.56 NATO cartridge the previous weapon used, producing higher firepower and longer effective ranges due to its larger size, this is not a round to shrug off, even with today's improved body armor systems.



	277 Fury	5.56x45
Parent Case	None	223 Remington
Bullet Diameter	0.278"	0.224"
Neck Diameter	0.310"	0.253"
Base Diameter	0.470"	0.377"
Case Length	2.015"	1.760"
Overall Length	2.825"	2.260"
Case Capacity	54 grains	28.5 grains
Max Pressure (SAAMI)	80,000 psi	55,114 psi



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Next, the XM7, The XM7 is a slightly heavier, but deadlier younger brother to the M4 carbine.



It, like the XM250, uses the new 6.8X51mm cartridge. The new rifle takes 20, and 25 round magazines, along with the proven Short-stroke Gas-operated piston, along with a rotating bolt.

Along with these weapons an optic was made to be fielded with them. The XM157 Next Generation Fire Control System, Made by Vortex optics, this optic is not your average rifle scope, instead, it comes with a built-in range finder, windage correction, augmented reality to allow the soldier to see what other soldiers have tagged, and many more features. This optic will automatically calculate and adjust for bullet drop and windage, its reticle also amazingly changes for CQB and long-distance shooting. This is no riflescope you want against you, truly amazing technology from Vortex optics.

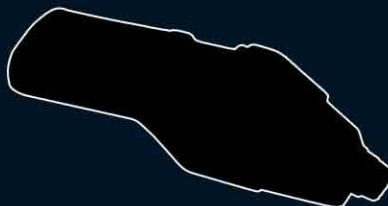
These new weapons and optical systems are truly Next Generation.



-Chief Weapons Officer
LTJG Elijah Freeman



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Exploring "The Corbomite Maneuver": A Defining *Star Trek* Episode (S01E10) Nov 10, 1966

"The Corbomite Maneuver" remains one of the most celebrated and defining episodes of *Star Trek: The Original Series*, despite being just the tenth episode in the show's first season. Aired on **November 10, 1966**, it introduced viewers to Captain Kirk's tactical brilliance, the series' philosophical undertones, and its commitment to depicting intellectual problem-solving over brute force. This episode not only captivated audiences with its suspenseful narrative but also left a lasting impact on the *Star Trek* legacy.

Episode Synopsis: A Tense Encounter in Space

The episode begins with the *USS Enterprise* crew encountering an unknown, intimidating alien spacecraft led by a fearsome figure named Balok. After warnings to leave the area go unheeded, the *Enterprise* finds itself ensnared in a tense standoff, facing imminent destruction. In a brilliant display of psychological tactics, Captain Kirk bluffs his way out by inventing a fictional substance, "corbomite," which he claims will retaliate and destroy any attacker. Balok, ultimately curious about humanity's ingenuity, reveals himself to be testing the *Enterprise* crew and, in an unexpected twist, is depicted as a benign, childlike alien. The episode concludes with the message that peaceful exploration and diplomacy are more powerful than aggression, a theme central to the *Star Trek* ethos.

Audience Reception and Critical Acclaim

Upon its release, *The Corbomite Maneuver* garnered positive feedback from audiences who were captivated by its combination of tension, suspense, and intellect. Unlike many sci-fi shows of the 1960s, *Star Trek* presented a story that wasn't solely about high-stakes action but revolved around creative problem-solving and human values. Fans appreciated the introduction of Lieutenant Hikaru Sulu in a more substantial role, the tension of the unknown threat, and the moral complexity displayed by Kirk.

Critics later lauded the episode for showcasing Captain Kirk as a tactician who uses his wits and empathy to resolve conflict. The episode also built on the camaraderie and professionalism of the *Enterprise* crew, with key interactions between Spock, McCoy, and Kirk that showcased their distinct personalities. The episode's decision to reveal Balok's true, friendly nature was seen as a refreshing subversion of expectations. Rather than portraying aliens as inherently antagonistic, *The Corbomite Maneuver* suggested that curiosity and mutual respect were fundamental to interstellar relations.



Lasting Impact on *Star Trek* and Science Fiction

This episode's impact on *Star Trek* and the wider sci-fi genre cannot be overstated. Here's how *The Corbomite Maneuver* influenced *Star Trek* and cemented its place in science fiction history:

1. Establishing the Ethos of *Star Trek*

- The episode established that *Star Trek* would be more than just a space adventure; it would also delve into moral and philosophical questions. Kirk's decision to try a psychological bluff rather than use force is the essence of *Star Trek*: showing that intellect, diplomacy, and courage are the strongest weapons. This theme of nonviolent conflict resolution became a central narrative device in many future *Star Trek* episodes and films.

2. Developing Character Dynamics

- *The Corbomite Maneuver* introduced audiences to the distinct dynamics of the *Enterprise* crew. Kirk, Spock, and McCoy's interactions in this episode helped shape each character's role, defining Spock as the logical, often detached voice; McCoy as the emotional and ethical center; and Kirk as the decisive leader who balances both perspectives. This triangle became a hallmark of *Star Trek*, informing character relationships for decades.

3. Introducing Innovative Alien Design

- Balok, initially depicted as an ominous, formidable figure, ended up being a benevolent, childlike creature. This subversion of the "scary alien" trope broke ground in a genre that often depicted aliens as monstrous or villainous. Balok's true appearance—a small, smiling alien with childlike curiosity—emphasized that appearances can be deceiving and that xenophobia has no place in the galaxy. This theme of unveiling the alien "other" as a friend rather than a foe would recur throughout *Star Trek*.

4. Setting Up Recurring Themes

- The concept of a high-stakes bluff became a recurring element in *Star Trek*. The "corbomite bluff" itself was referenced in later episodes and in *Star Trek* lore, establishing Captain Kirk as a brilliant tactician who preferred clever maneuvers over force. The concept of using the mind as the ultimate weapon carried forward in *The Next Generation*, *Deep Space Nine*, and other *Star Trek* series, creating a consistent ethos of diplomacy and cleverness across the franchise.

Legacy and Enduring Popularity

More than fifty years after its initial broadcast, *The Corbomite Maneuver* remains a fan-favorite episode and is frequently cited in lists of *Star Trek's* best episodes. It paved the way for subsequent stories where the *Enterprise* crew encountered unknown life forms that challenged their assumptions and ultimately helped broaden their perspectives. This episode showcased that *Star Trek* would be a thoughtful series that valued exploration and understanding over violence—a trait that has become a fundamental part of *Star Trek's* DNA.

In conclusion, *The Corbomite Maneuver* introduced audiences to what would become core tenets of *Star Trek*: diplomacy, curiosity, and the courage to face the unknown with ingenuity. It is a brilliant example of the show's enduring appeal, blending suspense with a hopeful vision of humanity's future among the stars. Through its reception and lasting impact, this episode has shaped not only *Star Trek* itself but also inspired countless science fiction narratives that followed.

Upcoming Events

- **Trek Tour**

November 15th-17th 2024

A major Star Trek Convention in our backyard!

- **USS Veritas Launch Ceremony**

November 15th, 2024, 1:00pm

Our final commissioning as a full Starfleet Chapter!

Galaxy Burger - 104 W Veterans Memorial Blvd, Killeen, TX 7654

<https://galaxyburgerkilleentx.com/menu/>

- **Star Trek Musical**

November 15th & 16th 2024

A Star Trek play being put on by the local homeschool Co-Op