



The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc.



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## Status Report

Crew Manifest	
Total Assigned:	12
Officers:	4
Enlisted:	5
Cadets:	1
Citizens:	2

Congratulations Crew! We are out of shakedown and are officially a full chapter of STARFLEET International. We had a good Commissioning party on Nov 16<sup>th</sup> at Galaxy Burger. The CO has spoken with the staff there and they would be glad to have us back any time. The command staff's intent is to have a meeting their quarterly. So be on the lookout for a date to be set in February.



Having successfully completed all necessary requirements and having shown themselves willing to abide by all STARFLEET regulations, is hereby commissioned as a chapter of STARFLEET: The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc. and is henceforth added to the STARFLEET roster as a Starship-of-the-line.

Becoming a chapter of STARFLEET: The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc. is an honor granted to only a few. These commissioned chapters represent the best asset of STARFLEET: her members. It is their pleasure and duty to install and uphold the ideals of Star Trek aboard their ship and in their community. A group who wishes to receive the honor of starship status within STARFLEET must complete a long and arduous apprenticeship to show that they are, in fact, worthy of joining the elite ranks of the chapters that have preceded them. Not all who attempt this difficult task succeed. Therefore it with great pride that this chapter is granted to one such group who, by their diligence, determination and willing spirit, has proven themselves to be true representatives of Star Trek and STARFLEET.

*Steve Perry*  
 Fleet Admiral Steven Perry, Commander, STARFLEET

STARDATE  
 20241116

*Gumbly Simmons*  
 Admiral Johnathan "Gumbly" Simmons, Chief of Operations, STARFLEET



# 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

– William Sturgeon –

Order of Babel - 1st Class

Order of Samaritan - 2nd Class

## Promotions

– Dustin Freeman PROMOTED TO Captain / O6 –

– Bryan Fitch PROMOTED TO Commander / O5 –

## Crew Promotion Points

# CAPTAINS LOG

Congratulations crew! We are out of shakedown and are officially launched as a full chapter of STARFLEET International. Our next focus is building more activities for the ship. One thing that we are looking to do is meeting quarterly at Galaxy Burger. The commissioning party went well and Galaxy Burger is excited to have us again in the future.



I would like to take the time to give special recognition to LTJG Sturgeon who has been very active in the convention circuit this year. He has represented the Veritas, Region 3, and STARFLEET with honor. For this he was awarded The Order of Babel 1<sup>st</sup> Class & The Order of Samaritan 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. He is a fine example of a STARFLEET officer and I'm very glad to have him among us.



I have spoken with many of the crew on ideas on how to increase the number of activities we have as a chapter. I have heard some interest in a Star Trek Adventures game, Artemis Starship Bridge Simulator, and boardgame nights. Reach out to me or the XO and we will see about getting some crew activities going.



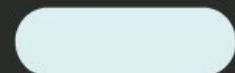
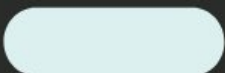
For those of you with a gift for writing, I am always looking for articles for the newsletter. You don't have to worry about formatting. I only need the raw text, and I will take care of making the page in the newsletter. So long as it's loosely connected to Star Trek or at the very least your department (i.e. Science, Engineering, Security, Medical, etc....) and family friendly, I am 99.9% likely to approve and include it.



And lastly you may have noticed we have a new badge / logo for our ship. The owners of Star Trek have given SFI a bit of grief about what images we are allowed to use in our promotional material or merchandise. Two specific requirements effected our logos, no official ships, and no official deltas. So, I got to work on the new logo and I think it turned out well. The badge features a V prominently for Veritas, The Lone Star for Texas, and all three department colors in the background. I hope you all like it!

Until next month, keep up the great work.

-CAPT Freeman, Dustin  
co.ussveritas@sfi.org  
CO, USS Veritas





# FIRST OFFICERS LOG

Greetings Y'all,

I hope everyone and everything is doing well! I personally have been doing great!

This month I want to touch on a couple items one being uniforms and badges and the pros and cons of some of the ones that are out there.

Firstly, are uniforms! A few of the issues I have come across with getting my uniforms in the past is sizing! I personally have found that Star Trek uniforms, as with most things now-a-days, are made in China.

That being said the uniforms tend to run a little on the smaller side, sometimes 2 sizes smaller than what you need. So, keep that in mind when you go to purchase uniforms. Most people think it's due to Chinese sizing is different than US sizes and they don't convert them correctly. Anyway, keep that in mind. The quality of the uniforms range from ok to really nice. The old adage "You get what you paid for" is very true here. However, you can find nice uniforms at a fair price. You just have to keep in mind about the sizing issues. I would recommend reading the company's reviews for their products.

Secondly, are the badges. Most uniform badges aren't very expensive, under \$20. There are 3 main types.

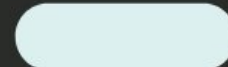
The first type is the plastic/ resin type with a horizontal pin. A lot of the uniforms you buy come with one of these. They are ok and will get you by. However, they tend to be dull in appearance and lack the metallic look of the screen worn badges. They will get you by until you can get a better one.

Next is the metal one's with a single pin/post with separate brass clasp, i.e. what the military called a brass "damit", to hold it on. These badges are nice and have the look we would expect. They are usually a good quality item. The only issue I have come across with this type is the pins/posts breaking off! This is due to the way they attach the pin to the badge. If you're not careful the pin could break free from the badge. It's very difficult to get them repaired making them a dust collector on a shelf somewhere.

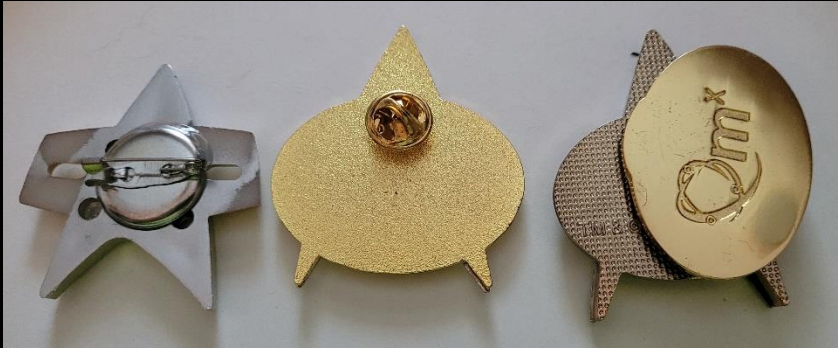
Lastly is the metal one's with the magnetic attachment system. In my opinion these are the best ones to use! There are no pins to be broken off. They look exactly like the screen used badges and have that luster you want. They attach by using a magnet on the badge with a small metal plate that you put inside your uniform to hold it in place. Some of the plates have holes so you can attach the plate to the uniform so it doesn't fall off when you take the badge off. That way you can remove and replace the badge just like in the tv show. The one issue I found is they will sometimes spin on the uniform causing your badge to be sideways. However overall, I think these are the best badges to get. They aren't really more expensive than the metal pin on type. So, if you're going to buy a uniform badge this is the type I'd recommend getting. However, any of them would be fine. I've added a few photos showing the different types of badges as well as an example of the issue with the pin/post type.



More Next Page...



# FIRST OFFICERS LOG



*CONTINUED...*



Lastly, I want to hit on recruiting. I know I keep repeating this but we can't grow and survive without recruiting. Like I've said before, 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! Also, if you happen to come across someone that is talking about Star Trek, let them know about the group. We can't grow if we don't recruit.

Like I said before, I'm looking forward to meeting you all. So, if you have any questions, concerns, requests, or comments. Please feel free to contact me at [texascavtrooper@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:xo.ussveritas@sfi.org)  
XO USS Veritas

## Voyager I's Antennas and Subspace Communication Advances

**Stardate 24784.6** – In early November 2024, Earth engineers restored clear communication with the Voyager I probe by recalibrating its S-band and X-band antenna systems. These antennas, designed in the 1970s, operate as the spacecraft's lifeline, transmitting data over 15 billion miles to mission control. The success of this repair highlights both the ingenuity of 20th-century engineering and the lessons that guide Starfleet's own advancements in subspace communication.

### The Issue: Misaligned Signal Paths

Voyager's X-band antenna, its primary channel for data transmission, had become misaligned due to a power-saving reconfiguration, reducing its already faint signal to near unreadability. Its S-band system, typically used for telemetry diagnostics, was similarly affected. Engineers faced the daunting task of realigning these systems remotely, with only a 20-watt transmitter to work with (That's less than a modern refrigerator lightbulb uses) and a 37-hour round-trip communication delay.

### The Solution: Precise Engineering

To correct the issue, NASA engineers uploaded commands that adjusted the X-band antenna's alignment. They used data from the S-band system to confirm misalignment details and refine the adjustments. After weeks of careful recalibration and testing, Voyager I's signal strength was restored, allowing the spacecraft to continue its interstellar mission.

### Subspace Communication: Avoiding Voyager's Challenges

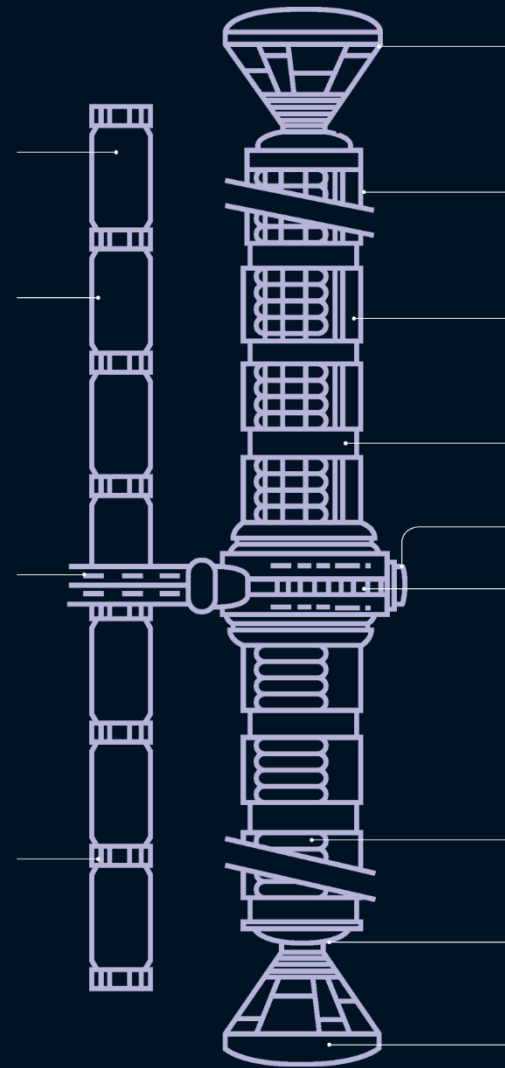
While Voyager's antenna systems rely on traditional electromagnetic waves, Starfleet employs subspace communication—a method that enables faster-than-light (FTL) data transmission across vast distances without the signal degradation inherent to conventional systems.

### Lessons from Voyager

Voyager I's restored communication is a testament to the importance of robust engineering and redundancy. For Starfleet, it underscores the continued need for innovative solutions to prevent communication failures, even as we venture further into the unknown. The lessons learned from this ancient Earth probe echo through our modern designs, ensuring every voice from the stars remains connected.

Live long and prosper, Voyager—your journey inspires us still.

End Log.  
-CAPT Dustin Freeman



# AT WARP WRAP-UP

## Cranberries, Cotton, and Corn, Oh My!

Cotton fields, cranberry bogs, and buildings that touch the sky, shore leave has been quite exciting as my lifemate and I have made our way across the United States of America from Texas to Ohio.

Along our journey, we witnessed a pyramid dedicated to some sort of fish deity. Truly a wonder to behold! I have included a picture to inspire you to visit the pyramid in Memphis, Tennessee. Perhaps you can tell me why it is dedicated to Bass Pro Shops?

As I study the cultures of Earth further, I will report my findings. Until next time, enjoy shore leave and, as they say in America, happy holidays!

Signing off,

-Rivet, Scrivenus of Cendrial

(R. K. Osborn)





## "Chain of Command, Part II": A Powerful Episode that helps define Star Trek: TNG



"Chain of Command, Part II" stands out as one of the most intense and thought-provoking episodes of Star Trek: The Next Generation. Aired on December 21, 1992, this episode delves into themes of resilience, power, and commitment to truth under extreme duress. Its portrayal of Captain Jean-Luc Picard's endurance in the face of brutal psychological and physical torture left a lasting impact on audiences and has become one of the most celebrated episodes in TNG's history. The word *Veritas*, for which our ship is named, means Truth and as such this episode resonates deeply with me.

### **Episode Synopsis: The Test of Captain Picard's Resolve**

The story of "Chain of Command" is divided into two parts, with the second part focusing heavily on Picard's captivity and interrogation. After being replaced as captain of the USS Enterprise by the strict Captain Edward Jellico, Picard is sent on a secret mission to disrupt what Starfleet believes to be a Cardassian plan involving a powerful new weapon. Captured by the Cardassians, Picard is held and interrogated by Gul Madred, a ruthless Cardassian officer with a penchant for psychological manipulation.

Over the course of the episode, Madred subjects Picard to grueling torture, both physical and mental, to break his spirit and force him to reveal sensitive Starfleet information. The most iconic moment comes when Madred presents Picard with four lights and insists there are five. Despite increasing torment, Picard famously refuses to submit, defiantly declaring, "There are four lights!" This moment exemplifies his resilience and commitment to truth, becoming a symbol of resistance against oppressive authority and its demand for acceptance of obvious falsehoods as truth.

### **Audience Reception and Critical Acclaim**

"Chain of Command, Part II" was met with widespread acclaim from fans and critics alike, who praised the episode for its psychological depth and moral complexity. Patrick Stewart's performance as Picard, in particular, drew immense praise, as he conveyed Picard's vulnerability, strength, and unbreakable spirit with remarkable intensity. Stewart's training as a classical actor added gravitas to the portrayal, making his suffering feel heartbreakingly real and resonant.



*The episode was seen as bold for exploring issues of torture, dehumanization, and the moral challenges faced under authoritarian regimes. At a time when network television tended to avoid such dark subject matter, Star Trek used its science-fiction setting to address universal themes in a way that felt both timeless and relevant. The episode prompted conversations among fans and critics about the ethics of torture and the strength required to resist oppression.*

## **Lasting Impact on Star Trek and Pop Culture**

*"Chain of Command, Part II" has had an enduring legacy within the Star Trek franchise and popular culture at large. Here's how the episode left its mark:*

### **1. Exploring the Morality of Torture and Human Rights**

*- "Chain of Command, Part II" raised difficult questions about the morality of torture, the human cost of warfare, and the resilience of the human spirit. In many ways, the episode anticipated public debates around the ethics of torture that would become more prominent in the following decades. By showing Picard's torment and psychological suffering, Star Trek took a stand on the inherent immorality and inhumanity of torture.*

### **2. The Iconic "There Are Four Lights" Scene**

*- The "four lights" scene became one of the most famous moments in TNG and Star Trek as a whole. Picard's refusal to accept Madred's false reality, despite enduring severe pain, is a powerful act of defiance that has since become symbolic of resisting oppression. Fans and creators have referenced this moment in countless contexts, with "There are four lights" becoming a shorthand for standing up against manipulation and coercion.*

### **3. Setting a New Standard for Star Trek Storytelling**

*- This episode showed that Star Trek could tackle darker and more sophisticated narratives while staying true to its commitment to exploring the human condition. "Chain of Command, Part II" pushed the boundaries of what a science fiction show could do, treating the Cardassians as complex antagonists and creating a story arc that was as morally challenging as it was engaging. Its success helped pave the way for other Star Trek series like Deep Space Nine, which would explore morally complex and darker themes.*

## **Legacy and Enduring Popularity**

*"Chain of Command, Part II" remains one of the most highly regarded episodes of Star Trek: The Next Generation and is often ranked among the best episodes of Star Trek overall. It's a testament to the enduring appeal of the series' commitment to exploring profound moral and ethical questions through the lens of science fiction. By depicting Picard's refusal to give in to cruelty, lies, and tyranny, the episode celebrates the power of the human spirit to withstand darkness.*

*In the years since its release, "Chain of Command, Part II" has resonated deeply with fans and has been cited as a favorite by both casual viewers and devoted Trekkies. The themes and ideas it explores remain relevant today, serving as a powerful reminder of Star Trek's capacity to challenge and inspire audiences. With its intense storytelling, unforgettable scenes, and a powerful message of resilience, "Chain of Command, Part II" continues to be an essential part of Star Trek's legacy and a high watermark for the franchise.*

# Upcoming Events

- **AggieCon 2025**

February 1-3, 2025

Texas A&M University Memorial Student Center  
College Station, TX

Aggie Con is the longest student-run fan convention in the world! They're back this year with many esteemed guests, a larger dealer's room and artist's alley, TCG and videogame tournaments, a cosplay contest run by Texas A&M's Cosplay Club, panels, performances, and more!

- **PeliCON!**

Fri, Feb 7 2025, 12:00pm - 7:00am

Sat, Feb 8 2025, 9:00am - 11:00pm

Sun, Feb 9 2025, 9:00am - 5:00pm

The PeliCON is a 3-day board gaming event that will take place on Galveston Island! The event is hosted by Galveston Gaming Expo, a board game-focused nonprofit, and features games, events for the whole family, prizes, and game giveaways!

- **USS Veritas Awards & Promotions Ceremony**

February *TBD*, 2025 (Possibly the 8<sup>th</sup>)

Galaxy Burger, Killeen, TX

We will hold our Quarterly Awards and Promotions Ceremony and enjoy some great food and company!

