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Ten Forward

The Theta Fleet Newsletter

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OUR LITTLE PIECE OF PIE

Since 2009, Theta Fleet has opened its doors to the downtrodden folk who had a rough go elsewhere, and to new writers seeking a more “Mayberry” like community, where having fun matters and respecting one’s *neighbor* is the law of the land. When you choose Theta Fleet, you are choosing to be part of something bigger than all of us.



2018 SIMMING PRIZE LAUREATE

Our Roots?

Theta Fleet was established in 2009 as more than simply a simming fleet; Theta Fleet was built upon and prides itself in being a community, fostering creativity and providing a neighborhood feel to writers and game managers (Commanding Officers).

Why It Matters?

We playfully label ourselves as the “Other” sim choice out there but hope to be right choice for many. With fleets shifting gears away from classic Trek simming and writing, or becoming embroiled in power struggles, we stick to what matters: having fun and building upon collaborative creativity. We do it because we care.

Building a Better Neighborhood?

We are the “Mayberry” of the simming community which means we are open and accepting to anyone looking to settle down, or to someone who just needs a fresh start, an escape from high octane fleet politics.

How Can We Assist?

Theta Fleet accepts general players and COs (old and new) with any level of prior experience. We offer hosting services to all sims in the fleet completely free of charge. Alternatively, Split-World Alliance provides their hosting and additional support services to any sim regardless of fleet affiliation or independence. There is also Anime Trek Avatars at your service. Worried about your intellectual property and creative rights? Fear not, we do not believe in claiming anything that is not ours. What is yours and yours whether you stay with Theta Fleet or decide to set sail one day, but we will certainly leave the light on for you should you wish to return in the future.



From the Office of Admiral Kathryn Burke

Theta Fleet's Founder & Commander-in-chief

Jordan was the CO of the USS Endeavor and a TGCO in Obsidian Fleet in 2009 when he grew tired of the politics in the fleet and among the admiralty. His XO had become CO of the USS Orion the previous August and another of his crew was going through the OF Academy. When Jordan decided to start his own fleet, the CO of the Orion joined him. The other player left the Academy to start Starbase Typhon in Theta Fleet. Theta Fleet was formed on December 10, 2009.

By the end of the month, four other sims joined the fleet. Even though the fleet was active and taking on new players, he wanted to start the new year with the new sim, so on January 1, 2010, he officially launched Theta Fleet. His goal was to create a fleet that kept politics out of simming. He wanted the fleet to be a place where people could have fun writing.

Unfortunately, he was a full-time officer in the Canadian Navy and was assigned to a ship for most of 2010. As such, he'd spend two to four months at sea, then be in port for a week or two, then go back out to sea. He only had internet when he was in port, so he was unable to handle the day-to-day business of running a simming fleet. And so, he appointed his sim's Chief Science Officer to the position of Deputy CinC.

When he was in port, or had a few weeks at home, he'd be tweaking the IFS and writing Executive Orders. Otherwise, he left the running of the fleet to his DCINC, the Webmaster, and his TFCO. He would always touch base with them, especially his DCINC to find out what was going on and to talk over any concerns.

However, as time went on, he had even less time to sim. In 2011 he decided to become a JAG officer and went to school in his free time. He tried to juggle his work, school, and fleet responsibilities, but in the end realized that he could not. In June 2011 he stepped down and handed over the fleet to his DCINC.

He came back once to be a CO, but he was still too busy and had to close the sim. Every now and then he'll drop us a line or pop in to see how the fleet is progressing. Right now he's a lawyer and still busy juggling his responsibilities.

While Kathryn Burke has worked to keep the fleet going the way it was set up, much of what Theta Fleet has become is because of Jordan and the work he did in the beginning to build the IFS and set the course.

From the Office of Recruitment & Community Engagement

- If you are a Discord lover and have a passion for simming, try our three Discord based sims! [USS Hermes](#) [USS Hawkeye](#) and our newest addition, the [USS O'Neill](#).
- New crew is sought for the [USS Missouri](#), one the Fleet's steadfast sims under the command of Captain Aika Tenku.
- Theta Fleet welcomes the former Cardassian Station, Empok Nor as [Deep Space 13!](#)

Task Force Treasures Highlighted Sims of the Month

Task Force 23

The USS Ranger began as the USS Archimedes under Commander Coltan Kerr in Obsidian Fleet. A year later, T'mpest Michaels joined the sim as the Chief Intelligence Officer—just in time for the ship to change to the USS Ranger and the Commander to be replaced by Captain Elsie Halliwell (same player). During the next few years, T'mpest moved to Chief Science Officer and then to Executive Officer. When the CO stepped down in November, 2013, Commander Michaels took over. She eventually became a TGCO in Task Force 21 under Captain Lirha Saalm of the USS Galileo.

The sim remained in Obsidian Fleet until a silly JAG issue with the TFCO led to the Ranger and all but two sims leaving. In January 2017 the Ranger joined Theta Fleet, along with several other OF sims.

Set in Task Force 23, the Intrepid-class starship has a more relaxed pace, but there are always players willing to start a post. If you're looking for a sim that doesn't require tagging more than once every week or two, but still like good writing and strong stories, check out the Ranger. With seven players, there's plenty of room for more.

To get an idea of what they do, the sim focuses on exploration. Most recently, they were pulled through a temporal anomaly and ended up thirty years in the future to find that they were hijacked to keep them from preventing the development of an illegal weapon. In that future, the Federation Dictator was using that weapon to destroy anyone who opposed him.

Now back home, they are making first contact with the inhabitants of a starbase who seem to have an idyllic life. Work is pleasant, the station is beautiful, and everyone is happy. It's a little...too perfect. If they aren't careful, first contact could be a Hollow Victory.

USS RANGER



Area 51

Back and better than ever, Joshua Phillips, former game manager of the USS Oracle and USS Chester has brought his experience back to Theta Fleet, taking the Captain's chair once again with the USS Ontario, but the starship Ontario is not just any starship; An old Ambassador class starship operating in the mid-2390s, refitted and upgraded for modern-day service, the USS Ontario proudly serves in Area 51 with an incredibly diverse crew full of enthusiasm and quirks.

Step aboard the pristine elegance of one of starfleets oldest Federation starships still in service. The USS Ontario has seen over 60 years of starfleet service on the front lines and as a support vessel, but she is a far cry from being retired. This aged beauty is ready for more adventures and with a crew ready and willing to boldly go where no one has gone before.

So, she may not be as glamorous and sleek looking as the newer starships, coming aboard the USS Ontario is like serving aboard a living museum. The bulkheads have tales older than most of the crew aboard her have been alive. The echoes of the past are forever etched in her corridors. Be a part of living history, and join the USS Ontario!

USS ONTARIO



FROM THE GALLEY



An elegant looking drink served old for a refreshing summer day.

The Lawaxana Lemonade

This elegant non-alcoholic mocktail is the embodiment of sweetness, vibrance, and tanginess of a certain dignified woman of style and grace. The Daughter of the Fifth House, Holder of the Sacred Chalice of Rixx, Heir to the Holy Rings of Betazed herself would be honored by this delightful summer refresher.



INGREDIENTS

- fresh lemons
- fresh cucumber
- sugar
- water
- sparkling water or clear soda
- lavender extract
- violet food coloring

DID YOU KNOW...

For the 2020 Tournament of Sims conducted by Ongoing Worlds, an incredible 64 sims across various fleets and independent were entered?

Of those 64 sims entered, only several winners were chosen as Outstanding, Excellent, Great, and Star Trek Gameplay?

Theta Fleet had **five** sims recognized as winners, the most of any fleet for the 2020 Tournament of Sims.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Juice your lemons.
2. Slice a few cucumber slices.
3. Combine equal parts sugar and water in a saucepan. Heat until sugar is dissolved, cool.
4. Pour cooled simple syrup into a pitcher.
5. Add lemon juice and cucumber slices.
6. Add a few drops of lavender extract to the pitcher.
7. If using food coloring, add it to the pitcher as well.
8. Pour in sparkling water or clear soda.
9. Server over ice (preferably crushed)



TIMOTHY SOWARDS

Tim has started the USS Saratoga, a Defiant class starship with the sim set immediately after the end of the Dominion War. Though the war may be over, there is a lot left to be done. The galactic powers all suffered a great deal of loss during the war.

[USS Saratoga](#)

Reconstruction: Cardassia's Future

An interview with the CO of the USS Saratoga

USS SARATOGA



"A true victory is to make your enemy see they were wrong to oppose you in the first place. To force them to acknowledge your greatness." – Gul Dukat, Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

Reporter: How long have you been simming, Star Trek or otherwise?

Tim: I have been doing RPG games since I was in HS for over twenty years.

Reporter: Have you had many commands in the past or is this a new adventure for you?

Tim: In a defunct fleet I was commanding officer of an Intrepid-Class vessel. The *USS Midway* before the fleet folded.

Reporter: The USS Saratoga is set directly after the Dominion War. What was your reasoning for picking 2376 as your year, the period of reconstruction?

Tim: We don't know much about the reconstruction. The Dominion War left us with high casualties and people rebuilding. I got the idea of doing so because with what remained anyone would try and take advantage.

Reporter: The era, in particular, has been described in books as being a very important one yet also an unstable one. The Dominion War affected hundreds of worlds, Federation and otherwise. A lot of the galactic superpowers suffered significant loss and were rebuilding at this time. What made you choose a Defiant class, a starship symbolic of the Federation's wartime mentality?

Tim: The Defiant-Class is small, maneuverable, and yes, she's armed to the teeth. But the defiant is the perfect choice for border patrol, interdictions and to take on former members of the Cardassian Military who have access to military grade ships, weapons, and technology. It would put those trying to rebuild their life in a very bad position. The Defiant Class is respected and lets those in the area know the Federation takes the situation seriously.

Reporter: What sort of missions are you going to be focusing on with the USS Saratoga given the ship class you've chosen and the overall setting?

Tim: The Missions designed are not only military in nature but also humanitarian as well as intelligence. There still is much we don't know about what is out there.

Reporter: Do you have any plans for a particular recurring enemy (be it a person or a species), or are you going to have sort of an enemy of the mission feel?

Tim: The recurring villain will be a Cardassian who leads a rag tag group calling themselves the Shard. They will make life very interesting for those in the former DMZ and those within the Cardassian Empire. Their forces so desperately depleted preventing a civil war and preventing this Cardassian from capitalizing on that is a must.

Reporter: Commander Matthew Riley is your Commanding Officer character. He's 42 at the time and described as: firm, fair, and friendly. What can you tell us about his command style? Have you modeled his personality, or have you conceptualized him off of anyone in particular?

Tim: Commander Matthew Riley is based off of another fictional character, Commander Tom Chandler of the USS Nathan James from the series and book known as 'The Last Ship'. Riley much like Chandler is married but there are some differences. Instead of a plaque that Chandler faced, Riley faces a unique situation such as a potential Cardassian Civil War, Politics from both the Federation and the Cardassian Governments, and an individual who believes that his way is the only way forward while Riley believes there is enough for everyone to be at the table in order to ensure that everyone has a seat at the table he has to resort to use of force against those that seek to use the possibility of something even worse to achieve his goals.

Reporter: What made you decide to go with a human character for your CO as opposed to something else?

Tim: Humanity still has a lot to learn and grow. Riley has room to grow and learn as a person and as a leader. He doesn't know what happened to his family during the war but he has to keep hope alive in order to help rebuild those in the area for a better tomorrow.

Reporter: Prior to his transition into command, what was his background in Starfleet service?

Tim: Riley served previously on starships and starbases including a stint as a liaison to a planetary colonial government.

Reporter: Do you have a favorite Star Trek series or some particular episodes that you really enjoy?

Tim: I grew up watching TNG in its entirety. There are some episodes that really stand out. Obviously Best of Both Worlds is at the Top of My list. Inner Light is another wonderful episode that stands out. Then there was the one in which Data believes the exocomps are alive and makes us question what is defined as being alive or being sentient. I saw The Original series in HS which was my mother's favorite tv show. I wanted to mix the two Captains Picard & Kirk and thus Riley was born.