

# Danger Island

## (a Rapid Response Team 4 adventure)

### Chapter 1.

Somewhere over the pacific the small ultralong range *frigatebird* seaplane's four 750Hp Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6 turboprop engines droned on through the night. Inside the 8 man rapid response team slept on the removable bench seating , all except the pilot , (steady)Eddy Nakamura , it was 2:50 Am Vladivostok time. The team had spent 10 weeks in Vladivostok undergoing intense martial arts training as part of a trade deal between the Federation Of Independent City's and the much larger Russian federation. Nakamura thought about the trade deal , it had solved a real problem , the federation had started mining cobalt rich seabed crusts , the government provided the submarines for a reasonable monthly rental fee to private teams and bought the ore at 7% below market value , no one expected that the private teams would run the subs 24/7 with rotating crews and battery packs. The federation with It's all renewable energy policy , never had much extra energy so the ore processing quickly fell behind production and the ore started being stored in the the giant bags the federation imported plastic pellets in . Every city had the giant bags of crushed cobalt ore stacked in every corner of the industrial level , the city's were becoming dangerously top heavy. That's when our own enigmatic "Wallfacer" announced the trade deal , The Russian Federation would send a bulk carrier around to every city and offload the heavy ore and take it back to Russia for processing , the Russians had no shortage of energy , and in return every citizen would spend 10 weeks in Russia receiving intense technical training in the depopulated east. Their team had been housed in three rental houses the owners of which had all moved west. Nakamura had no problem with the trade deal , what he wanted to know was who had assigned them to ten weeks of being beaten up on a daily basis ? Of course that information was classified , but there was a limited number of suspects , a Jedi , the chief of police , the head doctor , the school principal , a bank officer , the head of the radiologic office , a local militia leader , and the "wallfacer" of course... The laser com chirped , Chirped again , Nakamura took the plane off auto pilot and held it steadier than any auto pilot could , he couldn't help but smile with pride at his piloting skill as the laser locked on and a message appeared on the cockpit E-paper "clipboard" screen "steady Eddy the best pilot in the federation" he said out loud , just as Atieno Sane the teams nuclear scientist slipped into the copilot's seat rolling her eyes , then reading the message "*Adjust heading for Aleutian islands , best possible speed , details to follow*". Nakamura having already calculated a approximate heading in his head threw the plane into a banked turn , Sane asked "ETA?" , Nakamura thought for a moment , *about 1400 nautical miles almost directly north* , and answered "about 6 1/2 hours we should arrive about 8:30 Am , you better get some sleep" , " uh , I mean closer to 9:30 Am" , Sane looked at Nakamura , he looked tired and in need of a vacation "you want me to stay up here and keep you company?" , Nakamura seriously considered it , falling asleep out here would not be good , he opened a outside air vent and directed it at his face , and said "No you get some sleep I'll set the auto pilot and take a couple caffeine pills , I'll be ok , you guys are going to need to be alert when we arrive".

Four and a quarter hours later Nakamura was watching the sunrise over the ocean when the laser com chirped , Nakamura clicked off the autopilot and the laser locked on , He couldn't help but smile as the clipboard started filling with text and technical drawings too fast to read , his smile faded when he saw the unmistakable drawing of a WW-2 navel mine , and then a other and a other scroll by , *a unidentified WW-2 navel mine* , Nakamura swallowed , reset the auto pilot , and got up , and went back to the passenger cabin , to wake the team up . Nakamura's copilot and the teams computer expert Nuala Griffin (that strangely did not seem to even like computers and was always volunteering for other jobs , Nakamura could not remember if he had ever actually seen Griffin repair a computer) insisted that Nakamura get some sleep , when Nakamura started to protest it was too late , Griffin was already getting into the pilots seat , Nakamura just said "wake me a half hour before landing" , Griffin answered "sure thing captain" , Nakamura said to him self "see that's why I never made it as a Jedi" and fell asleep.

## Chapter 2.

The *frigatebird* taxied up the boat ramp and came to a stop 5 meters from the blocks of fractured glacier that filled the villages main street. A Eskimo came out from what looked like a restaurant and walked up to the seaplane as the 5 bladed propellers slowly spun down . Police detective Arturo Patty James Cavitt , the closest the team had to a explosives expert walked out to meet him. The Eskimo looked at patty's name tag . And patty said "just call me patty , everyone else does" and smiled his best innocent smile. The Eskimo looked at patty for several seconds before saying "My name is Alice" After a moment both patty and Alice said " you ever heard that song called a *boy named sue* ?" Patty and Alice walked back to the seaplane , and Patty called up to the cockpit " This is provisional police chief Alice" Griffin immediately replied "what happened to the regular police chief ? " Alice replied "he tried to clear a mine off the road with a snowplow". Patty said " Alice recommends that we move the plane about a half mile down that side road and he will meet us there with a school bus to take us to our hotel" Griffin who now seemed to have taken on the job of the groups spokes person asked why? Alice replied "the mines are in the glacier in front of you , I have already spotted 6 mines with a drone" Griffin just opened his mouth but no words came out , then the first turbine started spooling up .

At the hotel restaurant Alice was explaining to the team that about 20 men from the village had gone up the main causeway to try and delay the air national guard troops that were heading to the village to evacuate it, Nicolás Donisi one of the teams two doctors asked "That does not sound like a bad idea" , "you weren't told ?" replied Alice , Nicolás answered "we here given a very thorough briefing but I'm afraid we only looked at the different mine designs , everything else seemed unimportant compared to getting the defusing correct" "why on earth would you not want to evacuate the town?" , Alice replied "don't worry we moved everyone out of the blast radius , which thanks to the police chief , rest his soul , we know what it is" , "the problem is the air national guard wants to evacuate the town so the air force can send a B-52 to carpet bomb the glacier , and that will be the end of our town , we will all be put in FEMA camps and given welfare , you know our town is completely dry ? We like our town and we don't want to have it carpet bombed". At that point breakfast arrived .

### Chapter 3.

After breakfast the team went to their individual hotel rooms , showered and went to patty's room for a meeting . Alice had brought a laptop with the drone footage. Nakamura asked "how much time do we have till the guard gets here" Alice shrugged his shoulders " we blocked the road with an avalanche , the guard is bringing in snow plows to clear the road they should be through today and most likely the guard won't want to travel in the dark so they will continue in the morning , the rest of the way is flat , about two days drive , the next logical move will be to start dynamiting the bridges....." everyone in the room knew dynamiting bridges to stop the military was a serious escalation , they also knew these people would do it to save their town.

After a moment of silence while everyone contemplated what was at stake , Alice said "but right now we have a more urgent problem , the mines are dark and every day they sit in the sun they warm up and sink further into the glacier , from the drone footage I would estimate they will hit the road late this afternoon , some one needs to attach ropes on to them to stop them from sinking" no one in the room spoke. Then Griffin said "why not just spray paint them white ?"

Griffin wearing the teams bomb disposal suit and a messenger bag full of spray cans of white paint approached the first mine and peered into the cassavas when the side of the cassavas collapsed and he slid down to land just inches from the mine "shit , shit ,shit" Griffin waited till his heart stopped pounding in his chest and his breathing returned to normal and pulled out a spray can of white paint and started painting the mine white. By lunch time three mines were painted white and griffin was singing the city song *Plastic Love* while he worked. The team decided to go back to the hotel for lunch except for Griffin who wanted to finish the job and Nicolás who said he wanted to stay in case griffin needed anything .

### Chapter 4.

Back at the hotel Atieno was saying "the glacier comes down the hill across what looks like a stream bed" , Alice said "it is" , Atieno continued "then up that small rise to the main road , what if we remove the section of glacier over the stream bed , won't the glacier then fall back into the gap?" Alice replied "you forget the much larger glacier on the other side of the stream bed , it will also move into the gap and when it contacts the section on the other side it will push it back up on to the road" , "also we don't know how many mines there are in total and how far they extend , the stream bed could be mined as well". The discussion continued through the afternoon.

The sun was setting when Nakamura's walk-talky crackled it was Nicolás " we ran into some difficulties but we're finished , we need a ride back to the hotel" Nakamura answered "were on our way" . Griffin went straight to his room , he looked sun burned and exhausted , Atieno followed a few minutes later with a plate of dinner.

### Chapter 5.

Next morning everyone agreed to just let Griffin and Nicolás sleep. Over breakfast Patty said "there must be a way to reverse the path of the glacier" At this point the Dutch/African road engineer Rutger Faraji Spoke up "you are making this too complicated , remove the glacier from the river bed with road salt dropped from the *frigatebird* , we can carry 2 ½ tones a trip , as the two sides move to fill the gap the *frigatebird* will keep melting them , any mines exposed will be detonated with rifle fire

from the village , the salt will be washed out to sea in the spring , where it will make no difference at all". Everyone looked at each other till Nakamura said "what are we waiting for ?"

Chapter 6,

On the trip home every one was too excited to sleep for most of the night , the flying had been exciting , and watching the villagers detonate the mines as they were exposed on the river bed brought a cheer every time ! Rapid Response Team 4 was returning as hero's !

If you liked this story about Rapid Response Team 4 please let me know , I will be happy to wright more. Robert lackey