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THE DAEDALUS CENTER MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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Faulty Sticks

2679,031 – 2679,061

Free Trader Class Civilian Transport Mk IX – Civilian Cargo Ship “Freddy”

Argent Sector, Hughes Quadrant, Portilla System

Casualties: 1 Heavily Brain Damaged

The pilot took off from Benford heading for an extremely urgent delivery to Mustakas System in Roddenberry Quadrant, Enigma Sector. It was 4500 clicks before jumping to Enigma when the pilot noticed gray smoke coming out from the cargo holds. The pilot punched the auto pilot and went to investigate the phenomenon. Four days later Militia patrol found CCS “Freddy” drifting in space 2000 clicks near the Junction jump point in Nexus System, Fariss Quadrant, Gemini Sector. After 3 hours of procedures Militia's men managed to tag the Free Trader to Nexus Star Base and what they witnessed was beyond their limit of imagination. The ships crew consists of two, the captain and his robotic sidekick. More than 99.5% of ships cargo was destroyed and the other 0.1% was missing. The captain and the robot were found singing old pirate songs, incapable to walk or communicate with the rest of the world and the auto pilot was set for Rygannon Mining Base. Except from the fact that the ship was found

more than a million parsecs away from it's original destination and out of fuel no other anomalies were discovered by the experts.

Probable Cause(s): The ships cargo was originally registered as Argentinian Tobacco(A class). In reality, 95% of the cargo was Argentinian Tobacco the rest was pure ultimate as it was discovered by the Militia investigators. The ultimate, a well known black market product prohibited in more than a thousand systems, was intended to be delivered in the bachelor's party of a governor's son as it was proven later. Up until today the captain of CCS “Freddy” is in no position to communicate with the real world. Doctors are positive that in the near future it might just be possible. However, from “Miguel's” (the robot) testimony or better said memory retrieval the experts have come to the following possible scenario:

As it turns out “Miguel” decided to examine some of the famous



Img. courtesy TCN Cpt. Howard Day.

Argentinian Tobacco but during the procedure something went wrong and the cargo bay took fire. It is also known that in the non legitimate kind of cargo businesses the captains are used to shut down the AEESY(automated emergency extinguish safety system) for cases like this one where they could save any part of the cargo intact and reduce the loss that they might suffer. The captain failed to act quickly and the inevitable happened. More than 2.85 tons of tobacco and 149 kilos of ultimate were entirely burned.

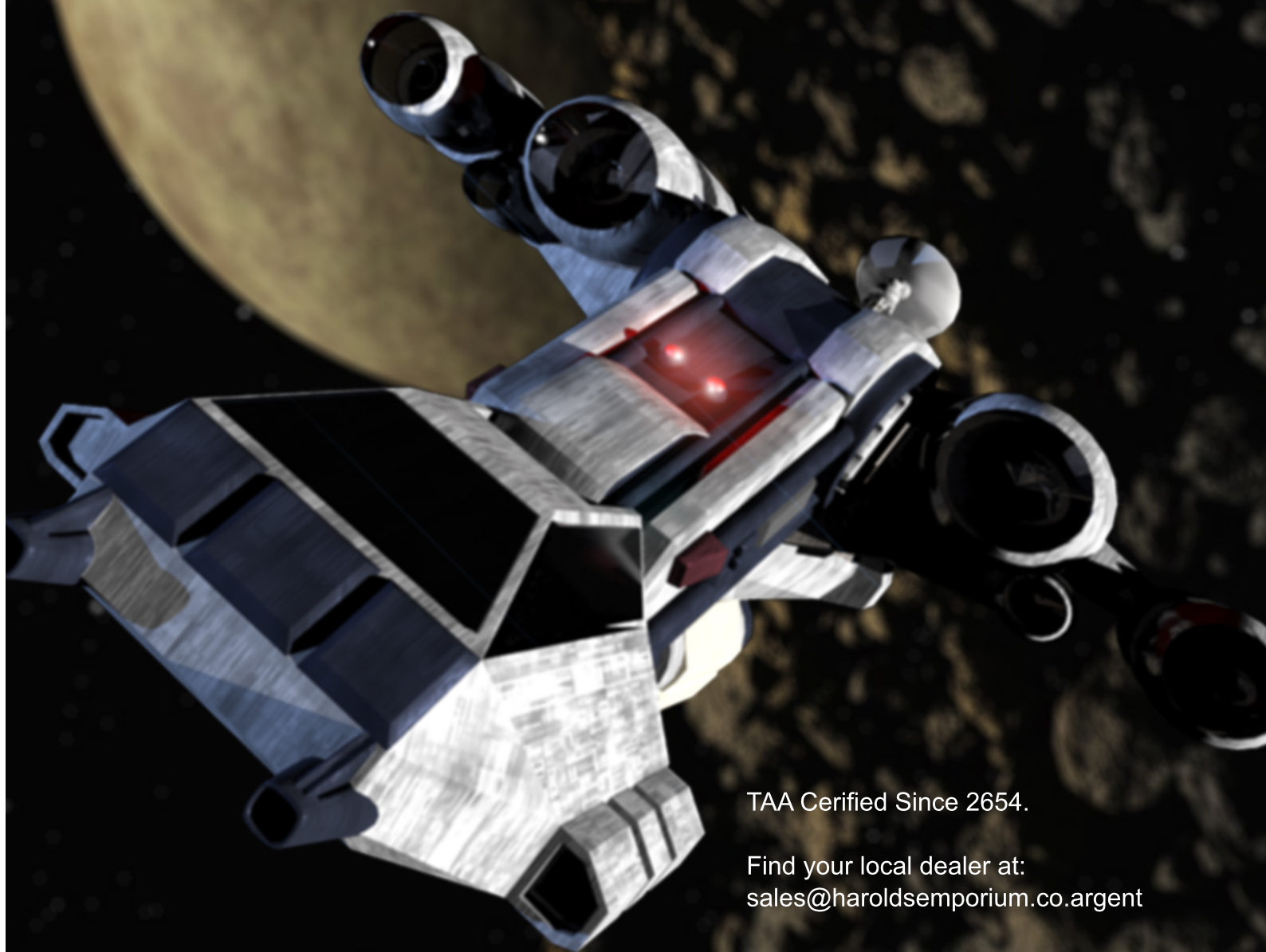
The reasons that the ships AI changed it's course from the original destination to the Rygannon Mining Base in Gemini are still unknown. AI's log in the ship's database is a bit confusing. The following line is repeated in several records:

“Mama said to get back home early today.”

The captains acquisition papers of CCS “Freddy” state that the ship was bought from a trader on Rygannon System, Fariss Quadrant, Gemini Sector. As for the 1 kilo of missing ultimate we can only guess what happened.



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Space News

QUINE 5500C ROLLS OUT

Once more Quine managed to impress us with their new 5500C model. This top-of-the-line equipment debuted together with the latest Sha'Kar III Kilrathi Freighter. It is the first time in the history of space aviation that a Kilrathi constructor chooses as their main navigation system a non domestic product. Up until its 4th version we knew that Quine would work fairly as an auxiliary navigation system and will be the perfect hand-buddy for every privateer out there but it never occurred to us that it would attempt to fully replace the reliability of the old favorite NavCom.

Quine, guarantees that their latest

model is capable of readjusting the jump route of your vessel in less than 12 atto seconds than the most modern NavCom revision. Another serious disadvantage that most hand-buddies used to have including the 4450X model was the headache of calibration. For that matter Quine stated with confidence that their latest model is capable of handling more than 300 jumps in a row without the need of recalibration from an external source. With 167 different languages (including Kilrathi and Firekkan traditional) and a continuous expanding database due to the embedded WC CIC / LP 2677 protocol this detachable hand-buddy is a promising copilot for most of the professional and amateur pilots out there. Needless to say

that another interesting new feature is, additional to touch, the paw and feather sensitive display. If this new feature really works then avionics unification becomes a reality. Quine is comfortable that, before the end of the 80s, the 5500 series will dominate the market of space aviation. We wish them good luck!



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