

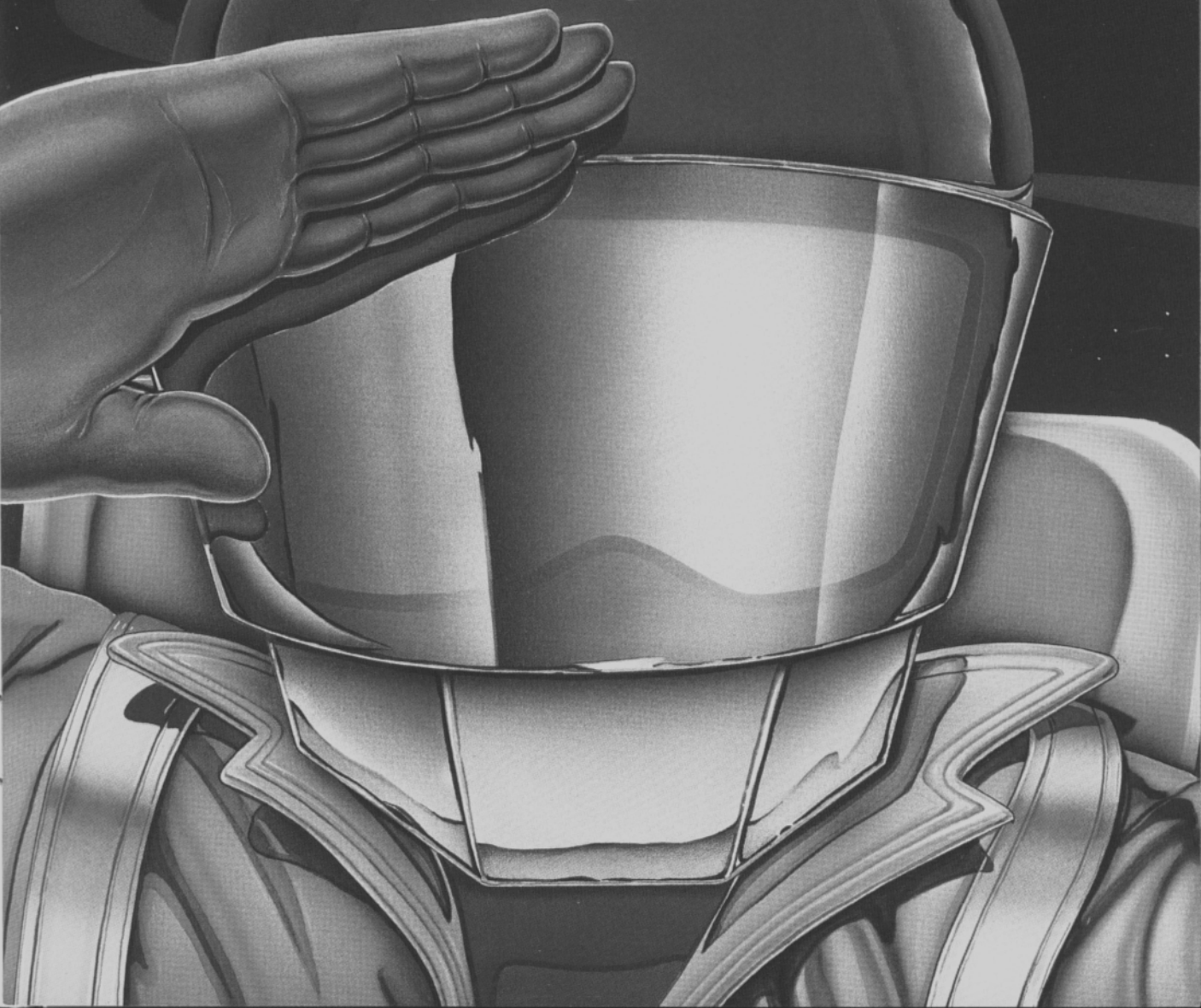
Planetfall manual

Home of the Underdogs, <http://www.the-underdogs.org/>

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# TODAY'S STELLAR PATROL

**Boldly going where angels fear to tread.**



# THE PATROL'S LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD ORGANISMS



When the Third Galactic Union was formed by the Great Treaty of 11,203 GY between the Empires of Tremain and Gallium, an order went forth from the capital on Tremain that a great armada be formed.

The greatest military and philanthropic minds in the Galaxy, including High Admiral Merescu and the Lord Beatitude Berezza, were sequestered in a brightly lit map room for a week-long intensive brainstorming session. No records were kept of this top-secret strategic summit, but out of it came the most ambitious pseudo-military unit ever conceived. The seven-day conference changed the course of intergalactic exploration and diplomacy forever.

First, blueprints for huge multipurpose starships were drawn up. Next, designers from Vandermeek, the fashion capital of the Universe, were commissioned to create the perfect uniform: functional, comfortable, and virtually indestructible. Finally, a highly sophisticated, incredibly accurate weapon prototype was assembled.

Appeals for soldiers appeared in all Third Union publications, as well as on all subspace frequencies. Almost immediately, the ranks were filled and a waiting list was established.

Thus was the Stellar Patrol born, and our mission ever since has been to explore the Galaxy, to seek out such remnants of human civilization as have managed to survive the Second Union's collapse and the Dark Age that followed – in short, to “Boldly Go Where Angels Fear to Tread.”

## **DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?**

The Stellar Patrol is like a giant, ever-growing benevolent bird: its top leaders the brain, its commanders the wings, its starships the body, its strong recruits the backbone and muscle, its discoveries the energy that makes it fly, its weak recruits the bodily waste that gets left behind. Carelessness and laziness have no place in the Stellar Patrol: recruits must be strong, brave, and resourceful. Recruits must be able to laugh in the face of death, sneer in the clutches of adversity, and eat almost anything. Loyalty to the Union must be limitless and unconditional, and dedication to a project – be it building a space pod, exploring a new planet, or shining a superior's shoes – must be absolute.

In short, if you are the kind of organism who can stare 10,000 years of darkness straight in the visual receptor without flinching – if you can stand up to the horrors of star systems descended to near-barbarism, where uncivilized beings live savagely in primitive shelters rudely constructed of coarse minerals and deceased vegetation – then you may just have what it takes to be a part of our proud tradition.

Cadet 4th Class Darrell Plintiv is a fine example of the kind of being today's Stellar Patrol produces. Let his story serve as an inspiration to all.

## **THE PATROL MADE ME INTO AN ORGANISM MY PROGENITORS CAN BE PROUD OF.**

"I'm part of a team devoted to excellence and enterprise that is the Stellar Patrol's most proud tradition," says Cadet 4th class Darrell Plintiv. "In my three years with the Patrol, I've found plenty of opportunity for advancement. And I've seen solar systems never before visited by the Third Union, some inhabited only by the crystalline-based life forms! Sure, life in the Patrol isn't always a thrill-a-millichron, but they've developed a wide range of activities to improve my mind and encourage personal growth. You have to be strong, brave and resourceful. I'm gaining invaluable experience that can lead to a high-paying civilian career in later life. And my uniform is functional, comfortable, and virtually indestructible!"

The Stellar Patrol builds character. You learn new cultures and new ways of thinking. You learn to survive hardships both mental and physical. You learn how to withstand pain – and be proud of it. If you're the type of organism we're looking for, read on.

## **LEARN VALUABLE SKILLS AND EXPLORE THE GALAXY**

Sure, you'll get paycheck in the Patrol. But 32 credits, new underwear, and a pack of chewing gum every month isn't all you'll get out of. You'll also be traveling to distant worlds you never imagined existed, earning the respect of your friends and family and acquiring outstanding technical training that can get you a good job later in life. Here are just a few of the valuable skills you can learn in the Patrol.

## HOW TO BECOME A FAST LEARNER

As a new recruit to the Stellar Patrol, you will spend your first four weeks in Intelligence Camp. There, you will be taught the most essential knowledge in the Universe using highly advanced intensive studying techniques. You'll learn to read and speak the 18 principal languages of the Galaxy fluently in three days. You'll memorize the structural formula, molecular weight, melting point, boiling point, density, and solubility of every known organic and inorganic compound in two days; thermodynamic properties (including temperature, heat and entropy of transition) of all elements and oxides in one day; and all 300 astrophysics logs tables overnight. Other areas of study will include general nuclear phenomena, isotopes, radioactivity, fusion, antimatter, the origin of life, the classification and metabolisms of organisms, energy, transportation, religion, and philosophy.

It might take an unenlisted civilian months, even years, to learn all this essential knowledge. But the Stellar Patrol is staffed with the Third Union's finest educators and electric shock therapists to guarantee that all recruits learn FAST.

## HOW TO BE STRONG

After Intelligence Camp, you will spend six to 10 weeks in Boot Camp. There, every muscle we can find in your body, from your frontalis to your abductor of hallux, will be stretched, trained, toned, and hardened. Scrawny recruits will become muscular powerhouses; corpulent recruits will become lithe, quick, and sinewy. Only high-protein no-fiber diets will be dished out. To build up endurance, you will be permitted little or no test time. Recreation activities will stress the importance of physical fitness; moving mounds of dirt from location to location, 20-kilometer jogs, boxing, sprinting, and 30-kilometer jogs. You will sweat your old body away and run it into the ground beyond recognition, and emerge from Boot Camp with a better-than-new physique of Gurtharkian proportions.

What a challenge!



## **HOW TO BECOME A LEADER**

Since its inception, the Stellar Patrol has always looked for individuals who shine. (We also look for celestial bodies that shine – ask for our full-color brochure entitled “Exploring Cosmic Phenomena.”)

To gain recognition and eventually serve the Patrol in a leadership capacity, you should volunteer often for the toughest assignments: front line combat, reconnaissance missions, and grotch cage cleaning detail. It takes a very special soldier to recognize the potential that can be realized from the last-mentioned line of duty.

## **HOW TO USE YOUR TIME EFFECTIVELY**

Because life in the Stellar Patrol can't always be a thrill-a-millichron, we've developed a wide range of activities to improve your mind and encourage personal growth. One of the more popular – and profitable – ways to fill time between orbit watch shifts is to enroll in the Deep Space Hero Correspondence Course. (Since the Patrol places such a high premium on education, we will match – credit for credit – all funds you set aside for schooling. Ask your recruiter for details.)

## **WE'LL TELL YOU WHERE TO GO**

For more than 140 Galactic years, Stellar Patrol ships have been visiting foreign ports and exploring exotic planets – some inhabited only by crystalline-based life forms. But the excitement doesn't stop there.

You'll explore solar systems never before visited by the Third Union. You'll teach Galalingua to children on Flemring-5. You'll teach nebulae and novas. You'll hear the haunting music of the Stringface species on Brylyn Minor. You'll watch the double sunset and triple moonrise from Legllama.

In the Patrol, you'll enjoy shore leave at exotic ports like Accardi-3. At the famed Thieves Bazaar you'll haggle for exotic placebo treasures, and at the Scavengers Market you'll find great buys on grotchbone carvings and ivory receptor shades. The multi-level swimming crater on Accardi-3 is the blindingly beautiful Refractory Wall, a 10-megameter natural formation composed of glistening crystal.

But no matter where you're stationed or on-duty in the Universe, you'll be welcomed by all life forms, because you're a member of the Third Union's Stellar Patrol, part of a team devoted to the excellence and enterprise that is the Stellar Patrol's proud tradition.



# TAKE COMMAND OF YOUR TOMORROW TODAY

You may start out at the bottom as Ensign 7th, but you won't have to stay that way for long, because there's plenty of opportunity for advancement in the Patrol for those who live up to our motto, "Boldly Going Where Angles Fear to Tread." To ensure the future of your choice, be sure to tell your recruiter about the kind of job you're interested in when you enlist. (Enlistment is conditional pending your results of the qualifications test, at the end of this brochure.) Your recruiter will do everything possible to put you in that line of duty. Occasionally a position you're interested in is temporarily filled, or will require experience in another Stellar Patrol position. If so, your recruiter can recommend your surest route to success. The following is but a sampling of the many fine ways you can serve the Patrol while gaining invaluable experience that can lead to high-paying civilian careers in later life.



**Galactoturf Farmer (GF)** – GF's are responsible for the growth and maintenance of all artificial green surfaces. When the Patrol is in orbit, all aboard-ship training is done on this material. Comparable civilian careers: lawn analyst, ground crew supervisor, and rug-maintenance manager.

**Grotch Breeder (GB)** – GB's play an important role in the very survival of the Patrol. Without the grotch, zero gravity lab experiments would have to be performed on crew members. Qualified applicants must be immune to grotch venom. One year's service as a GB counts as four credits toward an advanced degree in cosmobiology at most accredited learning centers. Comparable civilian careers: zookeeper's assistant and circus sanitation engineer.

**Hull Check Mate (HCM)** – Responsible for the upkeep of all shipboard surfaces. HCM's also instruct crew members in the operation and maintenance of sliding doors. Comparable civilian job: gravity enforcement officer and receptor technician.

**Morale Officer (MO)** – It takes an extraordinarily patient being to serve as Morale Officer. MO's offer guidance and encouragement to hundreds of crew members, and train new recruits to realize that all sickness and injury is in the mind. You must have a kindly countenance and a winning smile (since you alone will establish contact with other ships). Comparable civilian jobs: riot, control officer, suicide counselor, and Double Fanucci referee.

**Mess Service (MS)** – MS's control every aspect of the chow detail – from the ordering of supplies through the serving of well-balanced, appealing meals prepared in artificial-gravity ovens. Excellent equilibrium is necessary. Comparable civilian jobs: scrap metal recycler and faith healer.

**Military Music Maker (MMM)** – MMM's must have talent and a portable instrument to qualify for this exciting duty. Familiarity with at least three chords is essential; two chrons of daily practice will be required. When you learn to play music the Patrol way, fellow beings will stand up and take notice. Also available are positions within the Floating Band. Comparable civilian job: teacher for the deaf and Ramosian sheep herder.

**Sleep Technician (ST)** – Because crew members spend so much time in their berths, they must be kept in optimal condition. As an ST, you'll oversee complete alignment and cleaning of said sleeping quarters, and monitor the Flexbed automated system designed to prevent inactive muscles from atrophying in space. Two years' experience as a Pillow Fluffer (PF) required. Comparable civilian jobs: social adjustment worker, dry cleaner, and mortician.

**Support Systems Regulator (SSR)** – SSR's have a long and proud history in the Stellar Patrol. Duties include construction, programming, and deprogramming of all shipboard support systems. A thorough knowledge of the events leading up to the Great Collapse is necessary. Must be very detail-oriented. Advanced degree in computer psychology preferred. Comparable civilian jobs: electronics mastermind and ventriloquist.

**Yosailor (YS)** – Calls troops to meals, to attention, and to combat-ready posture (upright). Although most recruits applying for this position can yodel proficiently, beginners will be auditioned and considered for acceptance. Exceptionally versatile larynx required. Comparable civilian job: auctioneer and evangelical preacher.

Regardless of the position you hold in the Stellar Patrol, as a proud member you'll be helping to carry the Third Union's peaceful message of benevolent central bureaucratism to the thousands of worlds lost after the Great collapse. It takes grit and courage as well as wisdom to be such a messenger. For while most civilized planets can be brought into the fold via a routine ambassadorial mission, certain worlds require further explanation of the importance of 600-page tax returns and forms to be filled out in triplicate. In such cases, it's the job of the Patrol to step in, firmly plant its heel, and take charge of that situation. If you have a sharp mind, a quick wit, and the ability to guess between right and wrong, then maybe that heel could be you.

# FIND OUT IF YOU'RE STELLAR PATROL MATERIAL- TODAY!

## PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

1. Color of eyes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you need glasses or corrective surgery on your eyes?



yes



no

2. Color of hair: \_\_\_\_\_  
Present hair length: On head: \_\_\_\_\_  
Elsewhere (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you bald? ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ receding hairline

3. Height (check one):  
☐ Below 1.5 meters but willing to undergo Artificial Elongation Therapy to meet Stellar Patrol requirements  
☐ Below 1.5 meters and unwilling to undergo A.E.T.  
☐ Between 1.5 and 3 meters  
☐ Above 3 meters but willing to undergo Artificial Shrinkage Therapy to meet Stellar Patrol requirements  
☐ Above 3 meters and unwilling to undergo A.S.T.

4. Respiratory functions: Can you breathe through your:  
☐ nose  
☐ mouth  
☐ both nose and mouth  
☐ neither nose and mouth  
☐ none of the above

Do you smoke?

- ☐ often  
☐ sometimes  
☐ never  
☐ never looked



5. How would you describe your overall physical health?

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Notify my next of kin immediately

## EDUCATION/PERSONAL BACKGROUND

6. Have you finished high school or do you know someone who has?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no
- ☐ not sure

7. I am able to communicate with others:

- ☐ in Galalingua
- ☐ in monosyllabic grunts
- ☐ via Astronmet's Universal Sign Language
- ☐ not at all

8. Do you have any experience:

- a. using a megaplenoscope? ☐ yes ☐ no
- b. operating a Schistosoma detector? ☐ yes ☐ no
- c. actuating a seroepidemiological cyclodiathermy laser? ☐ yes ☐ no
- d. doing laundry? ☐ yes ☐ no
- e. other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

9. What are your interests and hobbies? (Check up to three)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jogging   | <input type="checkbox"/> Thinking                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traveling                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Thinking out loud/talking to yourself |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing Double Fanucci                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Filling out questionnaires            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moving mounds of dirt from location to location | <input type="checkbox"/> Drooling                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing trees                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Scratching                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing walls                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Being miserable                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing manuals                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Apologizing                           |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading manuals                       |

10. In ten words or less, describe the very reason for your existence:

---

---

## PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE

11. Which of the following would you be willing to do for your Union?

- ☐ die
- ☐ die slowly
- ☐ die slowly and painfully
- ☐ read an Infocom instruction material
- ☐ none of the above

12. I am most attracted to:

- ☐ beings who are superior to myself in rank
- ☐ beings of the opposite sex
- ☐ beings of the same sex
- ☐ beings of no sex
- ☐ myself

13. Do you suffer from any mental disorders that would prevent you from participating in laboratory experiments?

- ☐ it doesn't matter; I'll do whatever I am told
- ☐ no
- ☐ definitely not

14. My favorite form of recreation is:

- ☐ mopping up after slimy beings who are superior to myself in rank
- ☐ dueling with laser bazookas at two paces
- ☐ forcing people to read Infocom manuals

15. Do you enjoy working with:

- |                |                              |                             |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| people?        | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| animals?       | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| plants?        | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| aliens?        | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| finger paints? | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |

16. Patience factor: Stand in a corner of the room facing the wall for as long as you can. Don't continue reading until you stop. Now, write here how long you stood: \_\_\_\_\_ (in days)

17. Hydrophobia factor: Chain yourself to a rock underwater for as long as you can. Don't continue reading until you stop. Now write here how long you held your breath: \_\_\_\_\_ (in days)

18. Monotony factor: Repeat number 17 above as many times as you can. Don't continue reading until you stop. Now, write here whether you were really gullible enough to repeat number 17: \_\_\_\_\_

## LOGICAL REASONING ABILITIES

19. FOOT is to SHOE as FINGER is to

- a. Nose
- b. Eye
- c. Ear
- d. Mouse
- e. Donut
- f. Honesty

20. RAIN is to SNOW as GROTCH is to:

- a. Leopard
- b. Hurricane
- c. Amoeba
- d. Cage
- e. a and b, and maybe c and d
- f. 3.14159

21. HULL is to SPACESHIP as SKIN is to:

- a. Glove
- b. Cat
- c. Thermonuclear fusion
- d. Titanium
- e. Burn
- f. Muffin

22. In what year was the Intergalactic Commerce Act passed?

---

23. Who invented light deceleration process known as slow glass?

---

24. Name the act passed in 11,205 GY to strengthen the Planetary Commerce Act.

---

25. Name the year in which Arnold Guunuf invented slow glass.

---

26. The intergalactic Commerece Act, passed in 11,205 GY, strengthened what earlier act?

---

27. In 11,210, a glazier named Arnold Guunuf invented a light deceleration process. Name it.

---

28. What is the answer to this question?

29. Three couples (the Phariixes, the Boorbs, and the Keqrees) were seated at a circular table playing Partnership Fanucci. They were a cosmobiologist, a gravity engineer, a sleep technician, an ambassador, a fusion supervisor, and an editor; and they were originally from Gallium, Legllama, Granjil-6, Storvbay, Ansill, and Jaaggo. Each male sat between two females, and no one sat next to their spouse.

From the following information, determine where each person sat, what profession each had, and what planet each came from.

- a. The Ansillan sat between cosmobiologist and one of the Keqrees.
- b. The female Phariix was seated across the table from the gravity engineer.
- c. The male on the fusion supervisor's left sat across from the person from Granjil-6.
- d. The ambassador was seated between the Jaaggoian and the editor. One of these three was the male Boorb.
- e. The Storvbayite sat on the right of the Galliumian. Neither of them was a Keqree.
- f. The sleep technician sat across from the Legllaman. One of them sat next to fusion supervisor.

30. Four robotic satellites were designed to do the following: YA3 to find drifting garbage, JP7 to transport the garbage, SEM6 to turn the garbage into energy, and MD8 to distribute the energy. As Destiny would have it, however, YA3 found more drifting garbage than the other three satellites could process. Based on the following clues, determine who designed the satellites.

- a. YA3 did not understand signals transmitted in Galalinguan.
- b. JP7 made no distinction between garbage and energy.
- c. SEM6 made no distinction between garbage and YA3.
- d. MD8 transmitted signals to YA3 only in Galalinguan.

Submit this completed questionnaire to a Stellar Patrol recruiter. If you qualify for the Patrol, you will be notified within two chrons.

# Instruction Manual for PLANETFALL

After the fall of the Second Galactic Union in 1716 GY, a ten-thousand-year dark age settled upon the galaxy. Interstellar travel was non-existent, and many star systems descended into a near-barbaric state, burning coal and gas for energy, and growing food directly from the exposed topsoil.

In 11,203 GY, a treaty between the Empires of Tremain and Gallium formed the Third Galactic Union. Ships of the Stellar Patrol (a pseudo-military wing of the Union government on Tremain) began exploring the galaxy, searching for the human civilizations that are the remnants of the Second Union.

You are a native of the planet Gallium. Although it is one of the most politically powerful worlds in the Union, Gallium is no garden spot. In fact, the Gallium Chamber of Commerce brochure entitled “Ten Great Reasons to Visit Gallium” ends on page 3. The author ran out of reasons after listing just two.

For five generations, your family has served in the Stellar Patrol. Your great-great-grandfather was a High Admiral and one of the founding officers of the Patrol. It was taken for granted that when you came of age you would join up.

Now, more than a year after signing up, and two months after being transferred to the S.P.S. Feinstein, you are still only ranked Ensign Seventh Class. Your superior officer, Ensign First Class Blather, has been making your life miserable. You’re beginning to wonder if you’re really cut out for the Stellar Patrol...

If you’re experienced with Infocom’s interactive fiction, you may not feel like reading this entire manual. However, you should at least read about time and turns (on page 12) and look at the appendix of recognized verbs (on page 19).

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## An Overview

Interactive fiction is a story in which *you* are the main character. Your own thinking and imagination determine the actions of that character and guide the story from start to finish.

Each work of Infocom's interactive fiction, such as PLANETFALL, presents you with a series of locations, items, characters, and events. You can interact with these in a variety of ways.

To move from place to place, type the direction you want to go. When you find yourself in a new location, it's a good idea to become familiar with your surroundings by exploring the nearby rooms and reading each description carefully. (You may notice that PLANETFALL occasionally refers to a location as a "room," even if you are outdoors.) As you explore, it is helpful to make a map of the geography.

An important element of interactive fiction is puzzle-solving. You should think of a locked door or a ferocious beast not as a permanent obstacle, but merely as a puzzle to be tackled. Solving puzzles will frequently involve bringing a certain item with you, and then using it in the proper way.

In PLANETFALL, time passes only in response to your input. You might imagine a clock that ticks each time you type a sentence, and the story progresses only at each tick. Nothing happens until you type a sentence and press the RETURN (or ENTER) key, so you can plan your turns as slowly and carefully as you want.

The standard unit of time used in the galaxy these days is the millichron. One thousand millichrons make up one chron, and the standard galactic day is divided into ten chrons, so even Ensign Seventh Class who flunked Astrogation could deduce that there are ten thousand millichrons in a day. (The standard galactic day, by the way, is equivalent to the time it takes for the planet Earth to make one rotation. Earth, a backwater world in the Sol System, is generally believed to be the birthplace of humanity.) Early morning occurs around 2500 and late evening comes at 8500 or so. In some old-fashioned parts of the galaxy, 5000 is called "noon." And on the administrative moons of Tremain, most bureaucrats hold "3500-to-7000 jobs."

In PLANETFALL, different actions will take different amounts of time. For example, picking up an object will take less time than walking down a long hall.

To measure your progress, PLANETFALL keeps track of your score. You may get points for solving puzzles, performing certain actions, or visiting certain locations. Until you can complete the story with a perfect score of 80 points, you might as well resign yourself to holding a bureaucratic 3500-to-7000 job on one of the administrative moons of Tremain.



## Tips for Novices

1. Draw a map. It should include each location, the directions connecting it to adjoining locations, and any interesting objects there. (See the small sample map that goes along with the sample transcript on page 21.) Note that there are 10 possible directions, plus IN and OUT.

2. Most objects in the story that you can pick up are important for solving one or more of the puzzles you'll run into.

3. Save your place often. That way, if you mess up or get "killed," you won't have to start over from the beginning. See page 16 for instructions.

4. Read the story carefully. There are often clues in the descriptions of locations and objects, as well as in labels, engravings, books, and so on. Even strange or dangerous actions may provide clues, and might prove to be fun! You can always save your position first if you want. Here's a silly example:

> SHOW THE RANSOM NOTE TO THE ALIEN

The alien shrugs. "Sorry, I don't read Galalingua." It begins walking away from your landing craft.

You've just learned something about the alien's reading ability. Perhaps there's some other object (like the photo of the alien's mate in chains) that would convince it to follow you into your landing craft.

5. Unlike other "adventure games" that you may have played, there are many possible routes to the end of PLANETFALL. Some puzzles have more than one solution; other puzzles don't need to be solved at all. Sometimes you will have to solve one puzzle in order to obtain the item(s) or information you need to solve another puzzle.

6. You may find it helpful to go through PLANETFALL with another person. As the dual-brained worm beasts of Nebulon are fond of saying, "Two heads are better than one."\*

7. If you really have difficulty, you can order a hint booklet and a complete map using the order form in your package. You don't *need* this booklet to enjoy the story, but it will make solving the puzzles easier.

8. Read the sample transcript on page 21 to get a feel for how Infocom's interactive fiction works.

9. You can word a command in many different ways. For example, to clean the deck of the spaceship, you could use any of the following:

CLEAN FLOOR

SWAB THE DECK

SCRUB THE GROUND

BRUSH THE FLOOR WITH THE SCRUB BRUSH

Notice that since the brush is the only item you're carrying that's useful for cleaning, PLANETFALL assumes that it is the item with which you want to clean. But more about that in the next section...

\*The dual-brained worm beasts of Nebulon are a fascinating bunch, with a head on either end of their long worm-like bodies which can often grow to a length of fourteen kiloblops. One legend among spacefarers claims that the two ends of the same worm beast once fell in love and got married. It wasn't until they had a big fight and one head decided to go back home to mother that they realized what had happened.

## Communicating With PLANETFALL

In PLANETFALL, you type your sentence in Galalinguan (still referred to as plain English in certain regions of the galaxy) each time you see the prompt (>). PLANETFALL usually acts as if your sentence begins "I want to . . .," although you shouldn't actually type those words. You can use words like THE if you want, and you can use capital letters if you want; PLANETFALL doesn't care either way.

When you have finished typing a sentence, press the RETURN (or ENTER) key and PLANETFALL will process your request. PLANETFALL will respond, telling you whether your request is possible at this point in the story, and what happened as a result.

PLANETFALL recognizes your words by their first six letters, and all subsequent letters are ignored. Therefore, FINGER, FINGERs, FINGERprint, and FINGERnail would all be treated as the same word by PLANETFALL.

To move around, just type the desired direction. You can use the eight compass directions: NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST, NORTHEAST, NORTHWEST, SOUTHEAST, and SOUTHWEST. You can abbreviate these to N, S, E, W, NE, NW, SE, and SW, respectively. You can use UP (or U) and DOWN (or D). IN and OUT will also work in certain places. On board a ship, you'll want to use the directions PORT (or P), STARBOARD (or SB), FORE (or F), and AFT.

PLANETFALL understands many different kinds of sentences. Here are some examples. (Note that some of these objects or situations don't actually appear in PLANETFALL.)

WALK NORTH  
DOWN  
NE  
GO AFT  
U  
PUSH BUTTON  
TAKE THE SPACESUIT  
PUT ON THE SPACESUIT  
DROP THE CONCAVE LENS  
EXAMINE THE LARGE RED MACHINE  
LOOK THROUGH THE BROKEN TELESCOPE  
LOOK UNDER THE TIME MACHINE  
READ THE TIME MACHINE INSTRUCTIONS  
ENTER THE TELEPHONE BOOTH  
DROP THE FURRY ALIEN INTO THE BASKET  
SHOOT THE FLASHING BUTTON WITH THE RAY GUN

You can use multiple objects with certain verbs if you separate them by the word AND or by a comma. Some examples:

TAKE SILVER WIRE, COPPER WIRE, GOLD WIRE  
DROP THE SMALL METEOR, THE BROKEN  
TELESCOPE, AND THE HAMMER  
PUT THE PLANT AND THE RODENT IN THE CAGE

The word ALL refers to every visible object except those inside something else. If there were an apple on the ground and an orange inside a cabinet, TAKE ALL would take the apple but not the orange.

TAKE ALL  
TAKE ALL THE POWER CELLS  
TAKE ALL FROM THE SURVIVAL KIT  
GIVE ALL BUT THE PENCIL TO THE ROBOT  
DROP ALL EXCEPT THE TORN TOWEL

You can include several sentences on one input line if you separate them by the word THEN or by a period. (Note that each sentence will still count as a period.) You don't need a period at the end of the input line. For example, you could type all of the following at once, before pressing the RETURN (or ENTER) key:

TAKE THE RAY GUN. RECHARGE IT. NE. SHOOT THE LOCK WITH THE RAY GUN THEN OPEN THE DOOR

If PLANETFALL doesn't understand one of the sentences in your input line, or if something unusual happens, it will ignore the rest of your input line (see "PLANETFALL Complaints" on page 20).

There are only two kinds of questions that PLANETFALL understands: the first is WHAT IS (something), and the other is WHERE IS (something). For example:

WHAT IS A GRUE?

WHERE IS THE MALFUNCTIONING HOVERCRAFT?

You will meet other people and creatures in PLANETFALL. You can "talk" to some of these beings by typing their name, then a comma, then whatever you want them to do. Here are some examples:

DOCTOR, GIVE ME THE ARTIFICIAL LEG

ADMIRAL, FOLLOW ME

MIKE, KILL THE ALIEN THEN GO NORTH

GURTHARK, OPEN THE CONTROL BOX. FIRE THE ROCKETS

Notice that in the last two examples, you are giving a person more than one command on the same input line.

PLANETFALL tries to guess what you really mean when you don't give enough information. For example, if you say that you want to do something, but not what you want to do it to or with, PLANETFALL will sometimes decide that there is only one possible object that you could mean. When it does so, it will tell you. For example:

> UNLOCK THE DOOR

(with the key)

The door is now unlocked.

or

> GIVE THE PLIERS

(to the robot)

The robot thanks you, uses the pliers to repair the super-computer, and together they take over the world.

If your sentence is ambiguous, PLANETFALL will ask what you really mean. You can answer most of these questions briefly by supplying the missing information, rather than typing the entire input again. You can do this only at the very next prompt. Some examples:

> TURN THE AIRLOCK CONTROL

What do you want to turn the airlock control with?

> THE CROWBAR

The airlock door opens.

or

> SHOOT THE ALIEN WITH THE RAY GUN

Which ray gun do you mean, The Arcturian ray gun or the Rigellian ray gun?

> RIGELLIAN

The rays bounce harmlessly off the alien's Rigellian-ray-proof vest.

PLANETFALL uses many words in its descriptions that it will not recognize in your sentences. For example, you might read, "Through the viewport you can see rocky cliffs above the ocean." However, if PLANETFALL doesn't recognize the words OCEAN or CLIFFS in your input, you can assume that they aren't important to your completion of the story, except to provide you with a more vivid description of where you are or what is going on. PLANETFALL recognizes over 600 words, nearly all that you are likely to use in your sentences. If PLANETFALL doesn't know a word you used, or any of its common synonyms, you are almost certainly trying something that is not important in continuing your adventure.

Note that PLANETFALL will not accept words typed in the corrupt or dialectical Galalinguan found on the more distant planets. You must use only standard Galalinguan. For example, a Ramosian farmer playing PLANETFALL (an unlikely occurrence) might type "Handen meef demmer ive-ree-keez," but PLANETFALL would only understand "Give me the piano."

## Starting and Stopping

*Starting the Story:* Now that you know what to expect in PLANETFALL, it's time for you to "boot" your disk. To load PLANETFALL, follow the instructions on the Reference Card in your package.

The copyright notice and the release number of the story will appear, followed by a brief introductory passage. You will then see the description of the opening location of the story. Finally, the prompt (>) will appear, indicating that PLANETFALL is awaiting your input.

Here is a quick exercise to help you get accustomed to interacting with PLANETFALL. Try typing the following next to the prompt (>):

CLEAN THE DECK

Then press the RETURN (or ENTER) key. PLANETFALL will respond with:

The floor is a bit shinier now.

Now try typing:

CLIMB THE STAIRWAY

After you press the RETURN (or ENTER) key, PLANETFALL will respond:

Gangway

This is a steep metal gangway connecting Deck Eight, above, with Deck Nine, below.

*Saving and Restoring:* It will probably take you many days to complete PLANETFALL. Using the SAVE feature, you can continue at a later time without having to start over from the beginning, just as you can place a bookmark in a book you are reading. SAVE puts a "snapshot" of your place in the story onto another disk. If you are cautious, you may want to save your place before (or after) trying something dangerous or tricky. That way, you can go back to that position later, even if you have gotten lost or "killed" since then.

To save your place in the story, type SAVE at the prompt (>), and then press the RETURN (or ENTER) key. Then follow the instructions for saving and restoring on your Reference Card. Some computers require a blank disk, initialized and formatted, for saves. Using a disk with data on it (not counting other PLANETFALL saves) may result in the loss of that data, depending on your computer.

You can restore a saved position any time you want. To do so, type RESTORE at the prompt (>), and press the RETURN (or ENTER) key. Then follow the instructions on your Reference Card. You can then continue the story from the point where you used the SAVE command. You can type LOOK for a description of where you are.

*Quitting and Restarting:* If you want to start over from the beginning, type RESTART and press the RETURN (or ENTER) key. (This is usually faster than re-booting.) Just to make sure, PLANETFALL will ask if you really want to start over. If you do, type Y or YES and press the RETURN (or ENTER) key.

If you want to stop entirely, type QUIT and press the RETURN (or ENTER) key. Once again, PLANETFALL will ask if this is really what you want to do.

Remember when you RESTART or QUIT: if you want to be able to return to your current position, you must first do a SAVE.

## Appendix A

### Quick Reference Guide

1. To start the story ("boot up"), see the separate Reference Card in your PLANETFALL package.

2. When you see the prompt (>) on your screen, PLANETFALL is waiting for your input. There are four kinds of sentences or commands that PLANETFALL understands:

A. Direction commands: To move from place to place, just type the direction you want to go: N (or NORTH), E, S, W, NE, SE, NW, SW, U (or UP), D, IN, OUT, P (or PORT), SB, F, or AFT.

B. Actions: Just type whatever you want to do. Some examples: READ THE BOOK or OPEN THE DOOR or LOOK THROUGH THE WINDOW. Once you're familiar with simple commands, you'll want to use more complex ones as described in "Communicating with PLANETFALL" on page 14.

C. Commands given to people: To talk to characters in the story, type their name, then a comma, then what you want to say to them. For example: FLOYD, GIVE ME THE AXE or OLD MAN, GO NORTH.

D. Special one-word commands: Some one-word commands, such as INVENTORY or DIAGNOSE, give you specific information or affect your output. A list of these appears in the "Important Commands" appendix on page 18.

3. Important! After typing your sentence or command, you must press the RETURN (or ENTER) key before PLANETFALL will respond.

4. On most computers, your screen will have a special line called the status line. It tells you the name of your current location, the number of turns you have taken, and the time in the story.

5. You can pick up and carry many of the items you'll find in the story. For example, if you type TAKE THE FLASK, you will be carrying it. Type INVENTORY to see a list of the items you are carrying.

6. When you want to stop, save your place for later, or start over, read the "Starting and Stopping" section on page 16.

7. If you have trouble, refer to the specific section of the manual for more detailed instructions.



## Appendix B

### Important Commands

There are a number of one-word commands which you can type instead of a sentence. You can use them over and over as needed. Some count as a turn, others do not. Type the command after the prompt (>) and hit the RETURN (or ENTER) key.

**AGAIN**—PLANETFALL will usually respond as if you had repeated your previous sentence. Among the cases where AGAIN will not work is if you were just talking to another character. You can abbreviate AGAIN to G.

**BRIEF**—This tells PLANETFALL to give you the full description of a location only the first time you enter it. On subsequent visits, PLANETFALL will tell you only the name of the location and the objects present. This is how PLANETFALL will normally act, unless you tell it otherwise using the VERBOSE or SUPERBRIEF commands.

**DIAGNOSE**—PLANETFALL will give you a medical report of your physical condition, and will tell you whether you're tired or hungry.

**INVENTORY**—PLANETFALL will list what you are carrying. You can abbreviate INVENTORY to I.

**LOOK**—This tells PLANETFALL to describe your location in full detail. You can abbreviate LOOK to L.

**QUIT**—This lets you stop. If you want to save your position before quitting, follow the instructions in the "Starting and Stopping" section on page 16. You can abbreviate QUIT to Q.

**RESTART**—This stops the story and starts over from the beginning.

**RESTORE**—This restores a position made using the SAVE command. See "Starting and Stopping" on page 16 for more details.

**SAVE**—This makes a "snapshot" of your current position onto your storage disk. You can return to a saved position in the future using the RESTORE command. See "Starting and Stopping" on page 16 for more details.

**SCORE**—PLANETFALL will show your current score and a ranking which is based on that score. You will also be told the current Galactic Standard Time, and how many standard galactic days have elapsed since your adventure began.

**SCRIPT**—This command tells your printer to begin making a transcript of the story as you venture onwards. A transcript may aid your memory but is not necessary. It will work only on certain computers; read your Reference Card for details.

**SUPERBRIEF**—This commands PLANETFALL to display only the name of a place you have entered, even if you have never been there before. In this mode, PLANETFALL will not even mention which objects are present. Of course, you can always get a description of your location, and the items there, by typing LOOK. In SUPERBRIEF mode, the blank line between turns will be eliminated. This mode is meant for players who are already very familiar with the geography. Also see VERBOSE and BRIEF.

**TIME**—This will give you the current time within the story. It is useful for those versions which have no status line, and can be shortened to T.

**UNSCRIPT**—This commands your printer to stop making a transcript.

**VERBOSE**—This tells PLANETFALL that you want a complete description of each location, and the objects in it, every time you enter a location, even if you've been there before. Also see BRIEF and SUPERBRIEF.

**VERSION**—PLANETFALL responds by showing you the release number and the serial number of your copy of the story. Please include this information if you ever report a "bug" in the story.

**WAIT**—This will cause time in the story to pass. Normally, between turns, nothing happens in the story. You could leave your computer, take a nap, and return to the story to find that nothing has changed. You can use WAIT to make time pass in the story without doing anything. For example, if you encounter an alien being, you could WAIT to see what it will do. Or, if you are in a moving vehicle, you could WAIT to see where it will go. You can abbreviate WAIT to Z.

## Appendix C

### Some Recognized Verbs

This is only a partial list of the verbs that PLANETFALL understands. There are many more. Remember that you can use a variety of prepositions with them. For example, LOOK can become LOOK INSIDE, LOOK BEHIND, LOOK UNDER, LOOK THROUGH, LOOK AT and so on.

BOARD	GO	PLAY	SLIDE
CLIMB	HELP	POINT	SMELL
CLOSE	HOLD	POUR	STAND
DESTROY	JUMP	PULL	STEP
DISEMBARK	KICK	PUSH	SWIM
DRINK	KILL	PUT	TAKE
DROP	KISS	READ	TELL
EAT	KNOCK	REMOVE	THROW
ENTER	LEAVE	SCRUB	TOUCH
EXAMINE	LISTEN	SEARCH	TURN
EXIT	LOCK	SHAKE	TYPE
EXTEND	LOOK	SHOOT	UNLOCK
FOLLOW	MOVE	SHOW	WALK
GET	OPEN	SIT	WEAR
GIVE	PICK	SLEEP	YELL

## Appendix D

### PLANETFALL Complaints

PLANETFALL will complain if you type a sentence that confuses it completely. PLANETFALL will then ignore the rest of the input line. (Unusual events, such as being attacked, may also cause PLANETFALL to ignore the rest of the sentences you typed, since the event may have changed your situation drastically.) Some of PLANETFALL's complaints:

**I DON'T KNOW THE WORD "(your word)".** The word you typed is not in the story's vocabulary. Sometimes using a synonym or rephrasing will help. If not, PLANETFALL probably doesn't know the idea you were trying to get across.

**I CAN'T USE THE WORD "(your word)" HERE.** PLANETFALL knows the word you typed, but couldn't use it in that sense. Usually this is because PLANETFALL knows the word as a different part of speech. For example, if you typed **TURN ON THE LIGHT**, you are using **LIGHT** as a noun, but PLANETFALL might know **LIGHT** only as a verb, as in **LIGHT THE LAMP**.

**I CAN'T FIND A VERB IN THAT SENTENCE!** Unless you are answering a question, each sentence must have a verb (or a command) in it somewhere.

**I COULDN'T FIND A NOUN IN THAT SENTENCE!** This usually means that your sentence was incomplete, such as **EAT THE BLUE**.

**I FOUND TOO MANY NOUNS IN THAT SENTENCE.** An example is **PUT THE SOUP IN THE BOWL WITH THE LADLE**, which has three noun "phrases," one more than PLANETFALL can digest in a single action.

**I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT SENTENCE.** The sentence you typed may have been gibberish, such as **GIVE COMPUTER WITH ROBOT**. Or, you may have typed a reasonable sentence but used a syntax that PLANETFALL does not recognize, such as **SMELL UNDER THE ROCK**. Try rephrasing the sentence.

**I CAN'T USE MULTIPLE (IN)DIRECT OBJECTS WITH "(your verb)".** You can refer to several items at the same time only with certain verbs. Among the more useful of these verbs are **TAKE**, **DROP**, and **PUT**. This restriction also applies to the use of **ALL**, as in **DROP ALL**. For example, **ATTACK** will not work with multiple objects; you couldn't say **ATTACK ALL** or **ATTACK THE BEAST AND THE ROBOT**.

**I DON'T SEE WHAT YOU ARE REFERRING TO.** You used **IT**, **HIM**, or **HER**, but PLANETFALL wasn't sure what object or person you meant. Try it again using the name of the object or person. (For example, **READ THE BOOK** instead of **READ IT**.)

**YOU CAN'T SEE ANY "(object)" HERE!** The object you referred to was not accessible to you. It may be somewhere else, inside a closed container, and so on.

**THE OTHER OBJECT(S) THAT YOU MENTIONED ISN'T (AREN'T) HERE.** You referred to several objects in your sentence, but some of them weren't present or visible.

**IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE!** There wasn't enough light to perform your action. Try moving to a lit area or looking for a light source.

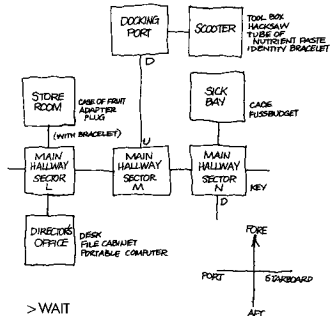
**YOU CAN'T GO THAT WAY.** You tried to move, but there is no exit in your intended direction.

**I BEG YOUR PARDON?** You pressed the **RETURN** (or **ENTER**) key without typing anything.

## Appendix E

### Sample Transcript and Map

This transcript is not from PLANETFALL, but it does show most of the usual things you can do in the story. It contains several simple puzzles and their solutions, and it will give you a good idea of how Infocom's interactive fiction works. The player's sentences are represented in capital letters after each prompt (>). The map represents the terrain in the sample transcript as you might have drawn it.



> WAIT

Time passes...

The one-man space scooter glides into the station's docking port. The retro-thrusters fire automatically, and the scooter glides to a halt. The space door closes, the docking port fills with air, and the scooter's hatch opens.

> LOOK

Scooter, in the pilot's couch

You are in a cramped one-man space scooter. Through the viewport, you see the docking port of Space Station BG-12. The scooter's hatch is open, leading to port.

There is a toolbox here. (outside the pilot's couch)

> OPEN THE TOOLBOX

You can't reach it from the couch.

> PORT

You'll have to stand before you can leave.

> GET OUT OF THE COUCH

You are standing again.

> OPEN THE TOOLBOX

It's locked.

> PORT

Docking Port

This is the huge docking port of the space station. Only one ship is here at the moment, a one-man scooter, so the docking port seems unusually empty. A tube leads down toward the heart of the station.

> DOWN

Main Hallway, Sector M

This is the station's main corridor, which continues to port and starboard. A tube leads up toward the docking port.

> STARBOARD

Main Hallway, Sector N

This is the station's main corridor, which continues to port and starboard. A room lies to fore, and a tube leads down to the next level of the station. Lying near the wall is a key.

> TAKE THE KEY

Taken.

> EXAMINE IT

The key looks like one of those new all-purpose keys that molds itself to any lock. A typical example of Garfoogian ingenuity.

> FORE

Sick Bay

Like the rest of the station, the medical facility looks deserted. This is odd, for regulations require that the sick bay be staffed around the clock, ten chrons a day! The only exit is aft.

At the far end of the room, inside a steel cage, is a Thoo-sian Fussbudget, apparently asleep.

**> WAKE THE FUSSBUDGET**

It jumps to its feet, all twelve of them. "Hey what's going on? Who are you? Lemme outta here!"

**> OPEN THE CAGE**

The cage is locked.

"Open the cage!" begs the Fussbudget, clawing at the bars. "I'm claustrophobic! I'll starve to death! I wanna go jogging!"

**> UNLOCK THE CAGE WITH THE KEY**

The lock seems to be one of those new sophisticated all-purpose key-proof locks.

"Break the bars! Get an acetylene torch! Find a teleporter! I've got an appointment with my lawyer in five minutes! I'm allergic to cages!" The Fussbudget begins sneezing wildly.

**> AFT.PORT.UP.STARBOARD.UNLOCK THE TOOLBOX WITH THE KEY**

Main Hallway, Sector N

Main Hallway, Sector M

You are beginning to get hungry.

Docking Port

Scooter

The toolbox is now unlocked.

**> OPEN THE TOOLBOX**

I don't know the word "toolbox."

**> OPEN THE TOOLBOX**

Opening the toolbox reveals an identity bracelet, a hacksaw, and a tube of nutrient paste.

**> TAKE ALL FROM THE TOOLBOX**

identity bracelet: Taken.

hacksaw: Your load is too heavy.

tube of nutrient paste: Your load is too heavy.

**> INVENTORY**

You are carrying:

an identity bracelet

a key

a box of radioactive isotopes

a tri-video cassette

**> DROP ALL BUT THE IDENTITY BRACELET THEN TAKE THE HACKSAW AND THE TUBE**

key: Dropped.

box of radioactive isotopes: Dropped.

tri-video cassette: Dropped.

You are now quite hungry.

hacksaw: Taken.

tube of nutrient paste: Taken.

**> PUT ON THE IDENTITY BRACELET**

You are now wearing the identity bracelet.

**> INVENTORY**

You are carrying:

a tube of nutrient paste

a hacksaw

an identity bracelet (being worn)

**> EAT THE NUTRIENT PASTE**

Mmmm... one of your favorites... anchovies and peanut butter. You empty the entire tube, and your hunger dissipates.

**> PORT.DOWN.STARBOARD.FORE**

Docking Port

Main Hallway, Sector M

Main Hallway, Sector N

Sick Bay

"It's about time you got back. You think it's fun being locked in a cage? What if there were a fire?"

**> CUT THE BARS WITH THE HACKSAW**

You cut through one bar of the cage. The Fussbudget sticks its head through the gap. "Come on, cut some more! I'm almost out... do you think these edges where you cut the bars are sharp?"

**> AGAIN**

You cut through another bar. The Fussbudget squeezes through and leaps to the floor. "Thanks, bud. By the way, I'm a Fussbudget." It hops across the room, and pokes four or five eye stalks cautiously through the doorway. "Where is everyone? Hey, that looks like a tube of nutrient paste you've got there."

**> GIVE TUBE TO FUSSBUDGET**

The Fussbudget grabs the tube, wildly squeezes it with all six hands, and then throws it to the deck. "It's empty. I'm hungry. If I don't eat I'll get sick."



> AFT  
Main Hallway, Sector N  
The Fussbudget bounds after you.

> PORT  
Main Hallway, Sector M  
The Fussbudget bounds after you.

> PORT  
Main Hallway, Sector L  
This is sector L of the station's main corridor. The corridor continues to port and starboard. Rooms lie fore and aft. The Fussbudget bounds after you.

The Fussbudget suddenly notices your identity bracelet. "Hey, a bracelet. If you gimme it, I can get us lotsa food, whaddya say, huh?"

> GIVE BRACELET TO FUSSBUDGET  
The Fussbudget grabs the bracelet and dashes forward.

> FORE  
You bounce off an invisible barrier. A recording says "Restricted area—identification required." Within, you can see the Fussbudget, wearing the identity bracelet, greedily devouring a whole crate of Mondoweed Fruits.

> FUSSBUDGET, GIVE ME THE BRACELET  
The Fussbudget, without looking up or pausing for a moment, tosses you the bracelet.

> PUT IT ON  
You are now wearing the identity bracelet.

> FORE  
Store Room  
This is a small storage room of some sort. A hallway lies aft. There is an adapter plug here.

The Fussbudget is just devouring the last few fruits. "All the food is gone," it says with its mouth full. "Where am I gonna sleep tonight?"

> AFT.AFT  
Main Hallway, Sector L  
The Fussbudget bounds after you.

Director's Office  
This is the office of the station manager. There is a file cabinet standing next to a desk.

Sitting on the desk is:  
a portable computer  
The Fussbudget bounds after you.

> TURN ON THE PORTABLE COMPUTER  
Nothing happens.

The Fussbudget shivers. "Does it seem chilly in here? I hate drafty places." A look of concern crosses its face. "Do you think the heating units have failed?"

> EXAMINE IT  
The portable computer has a keyboard, a screen, and a power cord. The screen is blank.

> LOOK BEHIND THE FILE CABINET  
There is nothing behind the file cabinet.

The Fussbudget fretfully rubs most of its hands together. "If I don't get some sleep I'll catch a cold. See ya." It bounds away.

> LOOK UNDER THE DESK  
There is a power socket under the desk.

> PLUG THE PORTABLE COMPUTER INTO THE POWER SOCKET  
The cord ends in a nine-prong plug, but the power socket looks like it will only accept five-prong plugs.

> FORE.FORE  
Main Hallway, Sector L  
The Fussbudget is snoring loudly in the corner.

Store Room  
There is an adapter plug here.

> TAKE  
(adapter plug)  
Taken.

> EXAMINE IT  
The adapter seems designed to fit nine-prong plugs in five-prong outlets.

> AFT.AFT.PLUG THE COMPUTER INTO THE ADAPTER  
Main Hallway, Sector L  
The Fussbudget is snoring loudly in the corner.

Director's Office  
Sitting on the desk is:  
a portable computer  
Done.

> PLUG THE ADAPTER INTO THE WALL SOCKET.  
Done.

> TURN ON THE COMPUTER  
The computer beeps. The screen lights up, saying  
"Please type password."

> OPEN THE DESK  
Opening the desk reveals a slip of paper.

> READ THE SLIP OF PAPER  
(Taking the slip of paper first)  
"Buy milk. Dentist at 3300. New password is 133."

> TYPE 133  
The screen says "Password accepted. Type 7 for memo  
pad, 11 for correspondence file."

> TYPE 8  
The computer merely beeps.

> TYPE 7  
The last page of the memo pad appears on the screen:  
"22-Bozbar. All personnel have teleported down to  
the planet. I will be joining them in a chron or two, but  
I wanted to say goodbye to this old station; it's too  
bad the engineers couldn't stop that reactor build-up.  
By the way, the latest reading for Critical is 6900."

> TIME  
Adjusted to Galactic Standard Time, it's exactly 6897.

> FORE  
Main Hallway, Sector L

The Fussbudget is snoring loudly in the corner.  
Suddenly, a giant thermo-fusion ion fireball engulfs the  
entire station.

\*\*\*\* You have died. \*\*\*\*

Your score is 9 points out of a total of 80 in 92 moves.  
This gives you the rank of pot scrubber.

## Appendix F We're Never Satisfied

Here at Infocom, we take great pride in the quality  
of our stories, spending month after month honing  
and perfecting, scrutinizing them for bugs, forcing  
them on terrorized product testers, and chanting  
the death scene from "Carmen."

Even after the marketing division storms the  
building, gasses the development offices, and tears  
the disks from our fingers, we continue striving for  
perfection.

Your input is important. If you find a bug, or if you  
think a certain puzzle was too hard or too easy, or if  
you have some other suggestion, or if you'd just like  
to tell us your opinion of the story, drop us a note!  
We love every excuse to stop working, and a letter  
from you is just such an excuse! Write to:

INFOCOM, INC.  
55 Wheeler Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
Attn: FLOYD

## Appendix G If You Have Technical Problems

You can call the Infocom Technical Support Team to  
report bugs and technical problems, but *not* for hints  
to solve puzzles, at (617) 576-3190. If your disk de-  
velops a problem within ninety (90) days after pur-  
chase, we will replace it at no charge. Otherwise,  
there is a replacement fee of \$5.00 (U.S. currency).  
If you call to report a bug, please provide your  
release number, which you can find by typing  
VERSION. Please return your registration card if  
you'd like to be on our mailing list and receive our  
newsletter, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*.

## Appendix H About the Author

**Steve Meretzky.** Steve Meretzky was born in mid-1957, frightening the Soviet Union into the early launching of its Sputnik satellite. Meretzky's gestalt was shaped by a number of painful childhood experiences, including rooting for the New York Mets. He blames his interactive fiction on a combination of growing up in Yonkers and studying at MIT. (We use "studying" in the most general sense.) Meretzky has never been a rutabaga farmer, and believes that eating granola is a decision that should be left to the individual's conscience. Meretzky now lives near Boston, and has been working for Infocom since 1982 as an experimental alternative lifestyle to unemployment. He apologizes for PLANETFALL™ and SORCERER™.

## Appendix I Copyright and Warranty Information

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*but no inhabitants? How does one gain entry to the secret recesses of the vast scientific installations? And who is that little fellow who keeps following you around?* (It is, in fact, Floyd, a multi-purpose robot who has the personality of an eight-year-old and whose memory banks may hold the secrets of this strange planet. In short, the ideal companion with whom to brave your new world as you explore its secrets and dare its dangers.)

Laughs, thrills, tears and triumph. You'll find it all in PLANET-FALL. Have a swell trip, and don't forget to drop us a postcard!



## WANTS YOU!

The Table of Contents for the manual is on page 11. Read it to find out what you need to know before you start the story.



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## STELLAR PATROL OF THE THIRD GALACTIC UNION

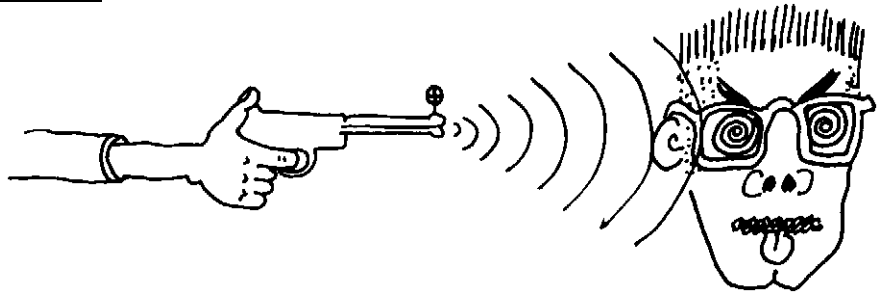
11,344 July 22 – Transferred from S.P.S. Trilobite to S.P.S. Feinstein for the third of my four tours of duty. I'm truly going to miss my commander, Ensign First Class Lim. He was a friend in every respect – someone you could always go to with a problem, someone I could really look up to. We would sometimes talk long into the night. He would tell me about his home world of Ash-down Five, and I would talk about growing up on Gallium. I'd get pretty homesick sometimes, even though Gallium is not exactly one of the garden spots of the universe. I just hope my new commander is half as nice as Lim.

This new ship seems pretty swell. I'm in a cabin with only five other ensigns, and I've got one-and-a-half cubic meters of locker space!

11,344 July 23 – Met my new commander today – Ensign Cadet First Class Blather. He seems like a real krip. (Excuse the language, diary.) But that might just be a bad first impression.

11,344 July 25 – One of my cabin mates, Gorund, organized a Double Fanucci tournament among all the Ensigns Seventh Class. We were playing during the 150-millichron rec period after lunch, and Blather burst in and confiscated the sets and told us playing war games was a violation of patrol regulations. But ensign Whirp, who's studying to be a patrol lawyer, said she couldn't find anything about it in regulations anywhere.

BLATHER IS REALLY A TOTAL MEGAKRIP!



[drawing of hand holding some kind of wave gun shooting at human head that obviously must be Blather's, a jerk with military haircut and really thick glasses and an evil stare]

11,344 July 28 – I went to see the personnel officer today to find out what my new duties would involve. He showed me a list of all the open assignments, and I decided to put in for grotch-feeding detail. We picked up a few grotches when we were on Crassus, and we are taking them to the zoology labs on Tremain so that maybe they can figure out how an animal can produce 47 times its weight in trot every day.

11,344 Bozbar 7 – Everyone from the P.O. to ship's cook has approved my application for the grotch-feeding detail – except Blather. I have an appointment to see him tomorrow. Wish me luck.

11,344 – Bozbar 8 – TROT!! Blather rejected my application! And to make it worse, he said that since I

seem to love grotches so much, he's assigning me to clean out their cages. TROT AND DOUBLE TROT!!

11,344 Bozbar 26 – I haven't had time to write in this diary lately, because Blather's been watching us all like Teleran bird. Also, last week he found the diary during a surprise inspection, gave me 200 demerits, and told me diaries were ## against regulations. But I'll be frobbed if I am going to stop. I've started hiding the diary inside my official documents file, and I keep that hidden in the air duct. From now on I'll have to sneak away somewhere when I'm writing.

11,344 – Bozbar 27 – Greetings from the deck four supply closet of the S.P.S. Feinstein. I hope I'm not tempting fate, sneaking around with my diary this way. I used to be as much of a disbeliever in destiny as the next guy, but not anymore. Not since my mom warned my dad not to tempt fate by walking across astral plains after dark, when computerized analysis shower 43% chance of resulting injury. My dad, stubborn as always, just laughed at her and vent right on taking his nightly strolls. **The very next summer he went walking at night on the plains and stumbled over a crater and bruised his knee.** Gosh!

11,344 Bozbar 28 – We entered planetary orbit today, a non-human world named Accardi-3 (although natives call it something like Blow'k-bibben-gordo). They're not officially part of the union. The rumors say that we're picking up a special ambassador to take back to Tremain for negotiations on joining the union. Tomorrow we have to put on our dress uniforms for some special welcoming ceremony.

11,344 August 2 – I caught a glimpse of the alien ambassador during the welcoming ceremonies yesterday. He looks like a cross between a tree trunk and a melting ice cream cone. But anyway, the ceremony got me out of cleaning the grotch cages today.

11,344 August 7 – Went to the mandatory patrol informational tri-vision triple feature last night. We saw "Treatment For Space Lice Infestation," "Shoreleave Shirley: How to Guard Against Contracting Alien Diseases," and "The Oxygen Tank: Your Galvanized Buddy in the Vacuum." Blather confined half the ensigns to quarters for hooting during the second feature. (The other half had fallen asleep during the first feature.)

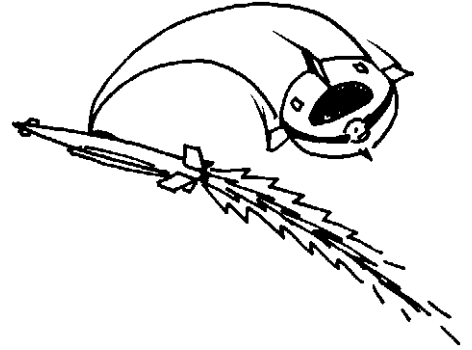


11,344 August 24 – TROT THAT TROTting KRIP! I applied for astrophysics training for the next quarter, but Blather says my work for the special assignment task force hasn't been good enough, so not only did he reject my astrophysics application, but he says I'll have to take remedial scrubbing next quarter. WHAT A TROTting KRIP!

You know, for the first time I am beginning to have doubts about whether I am really cut out for the patrol. When I was growing up at Gallium, it was always taken for granted that I would join up when I came of age. My family has served in the patrol for five generations. In fact, my great-great-grandfather was a high admiral and one of the founding fathers of the patrol! But I seem to be permanently stuck at ensign 7<sup>th</sup>, and Blather is making my life miserable...

11,344 Septem 4 – We left hyperspace today at about 7600; weren't scheduled to for another two weeks. The grapevine says we have special orders to investigate a planetary system here. Apparently, some of the archaeologists back on Varshon think it might have been a part of second union. I can't imagine why anyone would settle out here in this remote corner of the galaxy.

11,344 Septem 5 – That krip has done it again! I missed two little pellets of trot when I was cleaning out the grotch cages yesterday, and Blather gave me 100 demerits and assigned me to two extra shifts of deck scrubbing – including deck nine, the filthiest deck on the ship! I am considering asking for a transfer – or if things get worse, I might even abandon ship!





*Greetings from*

**RECORD 13**

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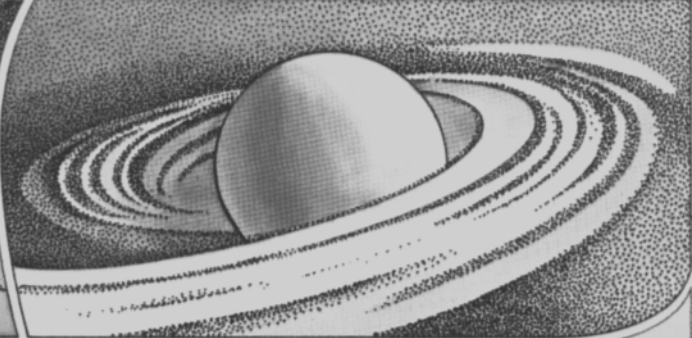
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