

*Station log, stardate 70598.1:*

*With repairs to the alternate reality USS Enterprise complete, it is time for Captain Kirk and his crew to return to their own universe. While I have enjoyed the talks we shared, the stories this Jim Kirk imparted have only emphasized that he is not the same James T. Kirk I grew up idolizing and wanting to follow in the footsteps of. But as young as he is, perhaps this Jim Kirk still has a legendary career to look forward to? Only time will tell, and it is unlikely that we will ever know.*

*In the meantime, in the weeks since Starbase 719 reappeared in the Typhon Sector, the crew and residents of the base have started to return from their exile on planets like Vorte and Bel-Terra, and repairs to the station are ongoing.*

*That now only leaves the question; With 719 back in place and returning to operational status, what is to become of Starbase Typhon-Bravo and how will it change the mission of the Federation Fifth Fleet?*

*Kale, commanding Starbase Typhon-Bravo, out.*

On the main viewscreen overlooking Ops aboard the Buckingham-class *Starbase Typhon-Bravo*, the crew of the *USS Enterprise* were offering their thanks and salutations before returning to their original reality – probably for the final time.

“My ship is as good as new, and perhaps even faster and more powerful than originally designed,” Jim Kirk was saying with a smile. “There are going to be several Starfleet captains who are going to be jealous. Please pass on my best wishes and gratitude to Captain Pearson’s shipyard staff, Admiral.”

“I will, Captain. It was good to meet you. I wish you the best of luck,” Vice Admiral Kalin Kale replied from where he was standing on his office ‘porch.’

“We will be in position to make our transition in the next five minutes,” Kirk reported. “Transition back to our own reality will commence as soon as we reach the designated coordinates. If all goes well, this means farewell. Kirk, out.”

The viewscreen blinked from the bridge view to an exterior view, where the unusual-looking starship – close enough in appearance to be recognizable as a Federation starship but different enough to make anyone unfamiliar with it question its origin – slowly moved away from *Starbase 719* to a position almost halfway between the two Federation space stations.

The *Enterprise* came to a halt, and soon an unusual glow began to appear around it.

“Energy levels aboard the *Enterprise* are peaking,” Lieutenant Asley Tyrrell reported.

As the crew in Starbase Ops watched, the glow engulfed the starship, then appeared to burst outward, looking much like an explosion, part of the reason Starfleet was convinced *Starbase 719* had been destroyed after undergoing a similar transition the previous year. When the light faded, the *Enterprise* was gone. No evidence the vessel had ever existed remained.

“Good luck, Captain,” Kale muttered. He then started to turn to enter his office when one of the starbase staff spoke.

“Admiral Kale,” the Chief Operations Officer Lt Commander B’Elanna Torres said, looking over to where Kale was still standing on the step of his office door. “Admiral Fil just beamed aboard the station and wants to meet with you in your office.”

“Good! I’ve been waiting for this meeting. I think Penji finally got word of what’s going to be happening in the Typhon Sector and AOR in the next few months.” Kale again started to turn to enter his small office as he added, “Show the Admiral into my office when he arrives.”

Space, the Final Frontier...

## Star Trek: Fifth Fleet

### “The Reformation of the Fleet” By PJK

#### A Typhon Sector Crisis Story

##### Vignette A – Starbase Typhon-Bravo

A short time later, the Catullan Vice Admiral Penji Fil, who was in overall charge of the Federation Fifth Fleet and maintained his flag aboard the starship *Dauntless*, was sitting across the desk from Kalin Kale. Kale handed his fellow admiral a hot beverage before sitting in his own seat and asking, “What news have you received, Penji?”

“We’re in for a major shake-up, Kalin,” Fil replied after taking a sip of his drink. “Unlike any the fleet has seen since it was first re-commissioned back in ‘86!”

“Please don’t tell me Starfleet Command intends to decommission and dismantle *Starbase 719* in favor of keeping this doll house out here in its place!” Kale said, looking around his enclosed space. “The only thing that allowed me to keep functioning here during the past year was the hope that it was only temporary and we would eventually have something larger and more in line with the fleet’s mission in place soon.”

“You can rest easy, Kalin,” Fil assured. “You’ll be back in your own office aboard *719* again soon enough. Starfleet has determined that *719* did not sustain enough damage to warrant decommissioning. Initial surveys proved most of what damage we can see is cosmetic in nature, not functional. The alternate Starfleet did their best to make sure they were getting a working starbase when they stole it from us. But what occurred here in the Typhon Sector has presented an opportunity some of the admirals back in San Francisco have been looking for for years!”

“What sort of opportunity?” Kale asked.

“When the Fifth Fleet was placed back into commission, many at the Admiralty looked at it as the start of a new Golden Age of Exploration,” Fil explained. “Turning Starfleet away from being a military organization, which it seemed to be becoming in the wake of the Dominion War, and back to being an organization of science, peace, exploration, and diplomacy. In many ways, that goal has been met here in the Typhon Sector, and those admirals would like to expand on the fleet’s success.” Fil paused to let the anticipation of what he was about to say grow. “Starfleet Command has authorized the opening of ten new sectors in the Alpha Quadrant to exploration by the Fifth Fleet, with more to follow in the coming years!”

“Ten new sectors!” Kale repeated. “That’s great, but it’s going to spread our fleet a little thin, don’t you think? As it is, it takes more than a month to travel between the station and the Persephone colony at warp 8! And with only five starships assigned to exploratory duty and another three assigned to the fleet for defensive purposes, how does Starfleet expect us to make much progress if they all have to keep coming back here to the Typhon Sector for replenishment and crew rotations?”

“Well, to answer your first concern, *719* isn’t going to be the only starbase in the AOR anymore,” Fil said. “Rather than return this starbase back to Federation space, the Admiralty has decided they’re going to move it further out to act as a friendly port and support base for our fleet assets out in Sector 50111, and will be re-designated by number.”

“That will be quite an undertaking,” Kale remarked.

“We’ll have some help in the form of several new starships being assigned to the fleet, including – from what I understand – a second Odyssey-class starship currently under construction and nearing completion. There is also the possibility of a third starbase being established somewhere in 50106 overlooking Elehu and the Rihannsu eventually, so logistics shouldn’t be much of an issue given time.”

“All this sounds great, Penji,” Kale remarked. “But it also sounds like it’s going to be a lot of work. It took nearly two years to build and make *Starbase 719* operational before the fleet moved out here. Establishing a new starbase, staffing, training, and bringing the entire fleet up to speed is going to take time. Months at least!”

“I agree, which is why I think the sooner we start, the better,” Fil said. “I want to schedule a meeting between the two of us and the commanding officers of all Fifth Fleet assets within 48 hours. Since *Starbase 719* isn’t officially back in operation yet, we’re going to have to do it here aboard *Typhon-Bravo*.”

“Penji, you do realize that the largest lounge aboard this station is little bigger than the briefing room was aboard the original *Arcturus*, don’t you?” Kale said with a groan.

“Yes, which is why I only want the commanders in attendance,” Fil replied. “They can pass the word of what will happen in the AOR to their own crews in turn.”

“I’ll have my yeoman make the arrangements and send out the notifications to every ship commander in the fleet,” Kale said, marking relevant information into a padd on his desk.

“And I’ll contact Cathryn aboard *719*,” Fil added, finishing the last of his drink.

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*Stardate 70601.2*

*Main Officer’s Lounge*

Starbase Typhon-Bravo

The officer’s lounge had been set up with numerous seats all facing a small table at the far end, behind which two addition seats were located. Already mingling around the room were Fleet Captain Peter J. Koester of the *USS Dauntless* – the Fifth Fleet flagship, Captain Jo Ann Parker of the *USS Sarek*, Captain William MacLeod of the *USS Besiege*, Captain K’danz of the *USS Bellerophon*, Captain Amanda Tomkins of the *USS Triton*, and Captain K’Lith Baber of the *USS Sun Tzu*.

Absent from the gathering, besides the two most senior officers – Fil and Kale – was Captain Cathryn Pearson of *Starbase 719*. Unlike her starship counterparts, Pearson had to make use of a shuttle to reach the newer starbase instead of beaming over due to all transporters aboard her base being shut down prior to a much-needed overhaul. Also missing was Captain Jason Shown of the *USS Arizona*, whose starship was currently assigned to a mission along the Trade Route in the area of space between the two Romulan colonies of Vorte and Elehu and could not be present.

“Any idea what this meeting is about?” (Carrie) K’danz asked her friend and mentor, Peter Koester.

“I can only assume Starfleet has made a decision on what is to happen with the fleet now that *Starbase 719* is back,” Koester replied. “We’ll find out soon enough I suppose.”

“I guess so. How’s Michelle doing? It must seem strange having her back after nearly a year of thinking she was dead,” K’danz remarked, referring to Koester’s wife, the chief of security aboard *Starbase 719*.

“Michelle calls it her revenge for the ten months I was in Min captivity on Capria IV and everyone thought I was dead,” Koester answered with a snicker. “Otherwise, she’s doing surprisingly well. She modeled the uniform the station crew were wearing while they were trapped in the other universe. I have to say I approve of how she looks in the micro-miniskirt.”

K’danz’s response was interrupted by the lounge door swishing open and Captain Pearson stepping in and moving to join Koester and K’danz as she looked around.

“Where is everyone?” Pearson asked.

“What do you mean?” K’danz replied, looking at those gathered.

“Aside from the two Admirals, you were the last officer we were expecting,” Koester added.

Pearson looked around the lounge again and said, “Most briefings of this sort typically included first officers and – in the case of your two ships at least – the senior enlisted representative. But I guess the size of this room limited how many we could have here. This is my first time aboard *Typhon-Bravo*.” She looked around one

more time before adding, “How the heck did Kalin deal with such a small station for a year? We’re going to need a shoehorn for when the Admirals arrive!”

“Well, admittedly, it was a couple of months after you and the station disappeared before Starfleet moved this starbase out here...,” Koester was starting to explain when the door swished open again and both Fil and Kale walked in.

“Attention on deck!” someone shouted out, and everyone not already standing jumped to their feet.

“As you were,” Fil said, moving behind the table and sitting down with Kale. Everyone else in the room likewise took a seat, their attention on the two men in front.

“This meeting is being held to get ahead of any rumors that may start about what the Fifth Fleet should expect in the near future,” Fil said without preamble. “A year ago, after *Starbase 719* disappeared and was believed destroyed, it looked like the fleet would be withdrawn and reassigned. Today we have a bright future ahead of us. I have been involved in extensive talks with Starfleet Command over the last few weeks, and I believe what I have been told is good news for all of us.” Fil addressed his next remarks directly to Captain Pearson as he said, “Cathryn, it has been decided that *Starbase 719* will be brought back to fully operational status and resume the duties as the primary command base of the Fifth Fleet AOR in the Typhon Sector.” A look of extreme relief appeared on Pearson’s face, as deep down she believed the meeting had been called to inform everyone that her base was to be shut down and dismantled in favor of the newer starbase in the sector. “You’re going to have to fill out your command staff in the coming weeks, as you already lost a few key officers in the weeks prior to the whole crisis, not to mention those lost during your recent adventures in the alternate reality.”

“I’m already working on moving dependable officers into key positions, Penji,” Pearson replied.

“Admiral,” called out the Captain Baber. “If *Starbase 719* is returning to service in the near future, what will happen to this starbase?” The half-Klingon man looked around at the walls of the small room.

“This starbase is going to open new doors of opportunity, Captain,” Admiral Kale replied. “Once *719* is verified to be fully operational again, this starbase will be towed out to Sector 50111, where it will act as a port of call and support base for fleet starships operating at the far reaches of the AOR. Of course, that means we will need an almost entire crew to command and man the base. I’ve been running *Typhon-Bravo* in the absence of *Starbase 719* only because the turmoil of the larger starbase’s disappearance coupled with recent conflicts with the Rihanssu prevented Starfleet from being able to assign the normal crew in a timely manner. But I will be resuming my primary duties as Sector Coordinator and returning my flag to *Starbase 719* as soon as possible.”

“There goes my planned office upgrade,” Pearson remarked to those sitting around her, prompting laughter.

“Please put out to your crew the need to fully man both this starbase and *719*, should there be anyone contemplating a transfer, perhaps even a promotion to higher duties,” Fil informed the gathering.

“When will the move occur?” K’danz asked.

Fil again looked at Pearson and asked, “Cathryn, do you have an estimate on when repairs to your station will be complete?”

“The Corps of Engineers has estimated three to four months,” Pearson replied. “I’m giving them six.”

“There’s your timeframe, Captain,” Fil said to K’danz. “In conjunction with the relocation of this space station, Starfleet Command has also authorized the opening of ten new sectors within the Alpha Quadrant to exploration by the Fifth Fleet.” As the admiral spoke, a holographic display of the star chart of the Fleet AOR appeared between the table and the first row of seats, with the sectors above the Kairn Empire highlighted. “Our business is exploration, and business is good!”

Captain MacLeod appeared ready to ask another question when Kale cut in. “I know what you all are thinking. I had the same questions myself. How are the number of starships assigned to the fleet going to provide adequate coverage of the AOR? The answer should be obvious. Starfleet will be assigning several new starships to the Fifth Fleet. Which in turn will open even more new opportunities for growth among our crews.”

There was a murmur among the captains present as the possibilities occurred to them.

“Of course, it’s going to take several weeks before any of this starts to become a reality,” said Fil. “But we want you to pass this information on to your individual crews. Those new starships, this new base, will all need

experienced officers. I can think of no better resource to fill those slots than our own crew. Are there any other questions?”

There were several others, mainly in regards to whether any of the new starships being assigned to the fleet would fill the same sector defense role that the *Besiege*, *Corsair*, and *Arizona* currently filled except assigned to the new starbase and how soon Starfleet could be expected to replace any crew members who volunteered to fill new assignments. The discussion then turned to the topic of the events that had occurred over the past year, allowing Pearson to once again relate her crew’s adventure in the alternate reality and the rest of the fleet commanders to fill her in on the events that had occurred in their own reality – particularly in regard to the Rihanssu activities in the AOR. After nearly ninety minutes, Admiral Fil again asked if there were any further questions regarding the fleet’s future. When none of the captains asked any new questions, Fil finally said, “Thank you all for coming. Keep me and Admiral Kale apprised of any transfer requests among your crew. I hope you are all as excited about what is coming as I am. Dismissed.”

As the fleet commanders all started out the door of the lounge, Kale looked at Fil and asked, “Any feelings on what will happen?”

“Like I said when we first met on this topic, we’re in for a major shakeup,” Fil replied. “I cannot say exactly what will happen, but there will be major changes in store.”

*To Be Continued...*