

PLNB PRIORITY TRANSMISSION [CLASSIFIED]
ENCRYPTION CODE: [CLASSIFIED]
PUBLIC KEY: N/A

FROM: CODENAME SURGEON
TO: CODENAME COALMINER

CLASSIFICATION: ELEVENTH HOUR [3/5]
SUBJECT: THE NEW SOLDIER

/FILE EXTRACTION-RECONSTITUTION COMPLETE/
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Realistically, the pervasiveness of the modern soldier will never be on the decline, at least not in our time. But ubiquity and numbers don't always guarantee operational success, something Naval Intelligence recognized long ago. Rather than drown out our enemies in an avalanche of bodies, we saw the value intrinsic in the specialization and refinement of a very select number of soldiers - a remarkably select number, actually.

This is how the Spartan branch came to be.

By reverting back to ORION protocols, the sins of the previous administrations have been averted this time around. Unlike SPARTAN-II and SPARTAN-III, which will likely face severe ethical scrutiny in the years to come, the SPARTAN-IV project was centered on properly screened recruits, both career military veterans and young soldiers who showed significant promise. After passing a rigorous series of tests, admission to the program was a matter of discretion, not compulsion.

From a psychological perspective, the coalescent solidarity of these men and women has been nothing short of astonishing, particularly over a relatively short period of time. Many have even adopted some of the colloquial pejoratives used by S-II operatives years ago [i.e. 'alpha bravo' ('alien bastard')]. Behavioral shifts like these have and will continue to differentiate S-IVs from the others who serve alongside them. It clearly suggests that the Spartan branch has rapidly and unapologetically become its own thing... almost overnight.

But what value is a warrior without a war? What good is weapon without a threat to give it purpose? You know as well as I that these are the very questions that were asked just before the beginning of the last civil conflict we faced and these are the same questions that are being asked now - asked by those who feel they have the most to lose.

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