



SEPTEMBER 2025

THE FIGHT TO WIN



VOLUME 1
ISSUE 2 **IDENTITY**

BARKUKA

Enemy Location

Size: Unknown



In the last issue, tensions rose in the Pacific, Sergeant Stokic's fire team found themselves isolated on the island of Barkuka—the enemy had landed.

To secure their camp, the team destroyed a critical bridge, forcing the enemy to reroute through the island's exterior. But now, PFC Ibanez is missing and Specialist Moore is running out of options to defend Bantay Village.

Now, with the team on the edge of collapse, they must look beneath the surface, beyond tactics and training, to confront who they truly are when isolated, when everything is stripped away.

Can their identity reinforce their

Will to Fight?

BOOM

Eagle, this is
Wrecker One,
Bridge is down,
heading to rally
point!

Wrecker One, good
copy. Be safe and report
when you arrive...
Eagle is watching out for
the Baby Birds—to
chase away predators.

Sarge, this is
Eagle...

Haven't heard
anything in a
while...

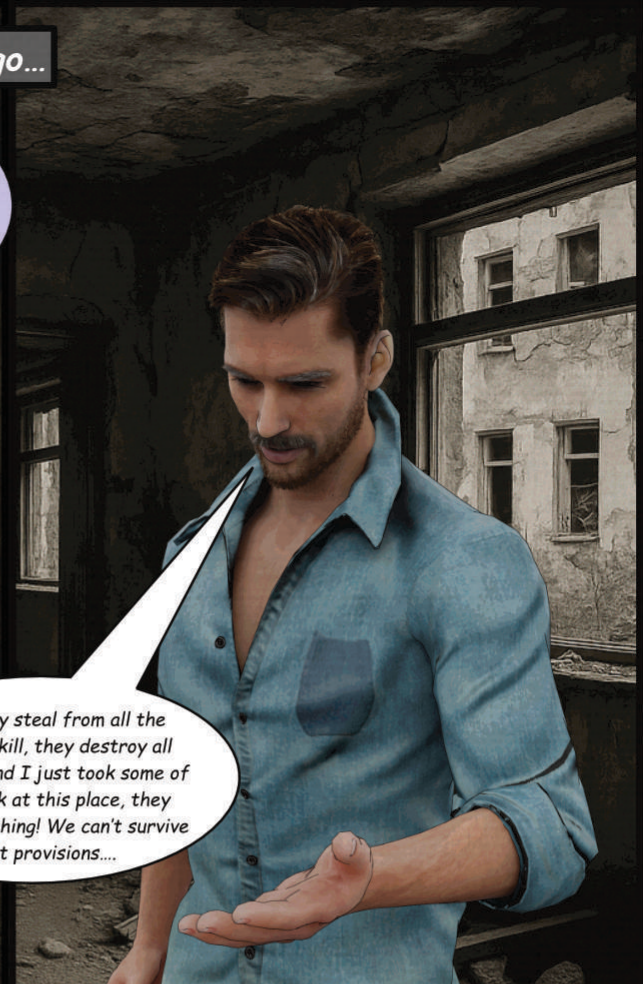
Comms check...

Sarge?..

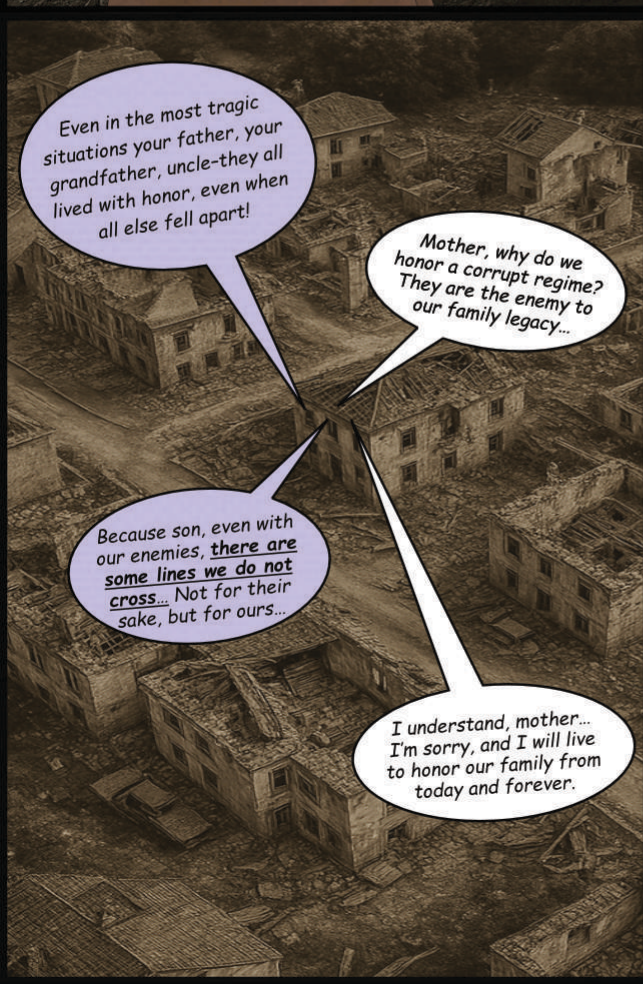
Stokic House, Bosnia — 10 years ago...



You father and grandfather would be destroyed if they saw what you did! Stealing?! That is not the Stokic name, son, we are not criminals!



Mother, they steal from all the people, they kill, they destroy all that is good, and I just took some of it back... Look at this place, they destroy everything! We can't survive without provisions....

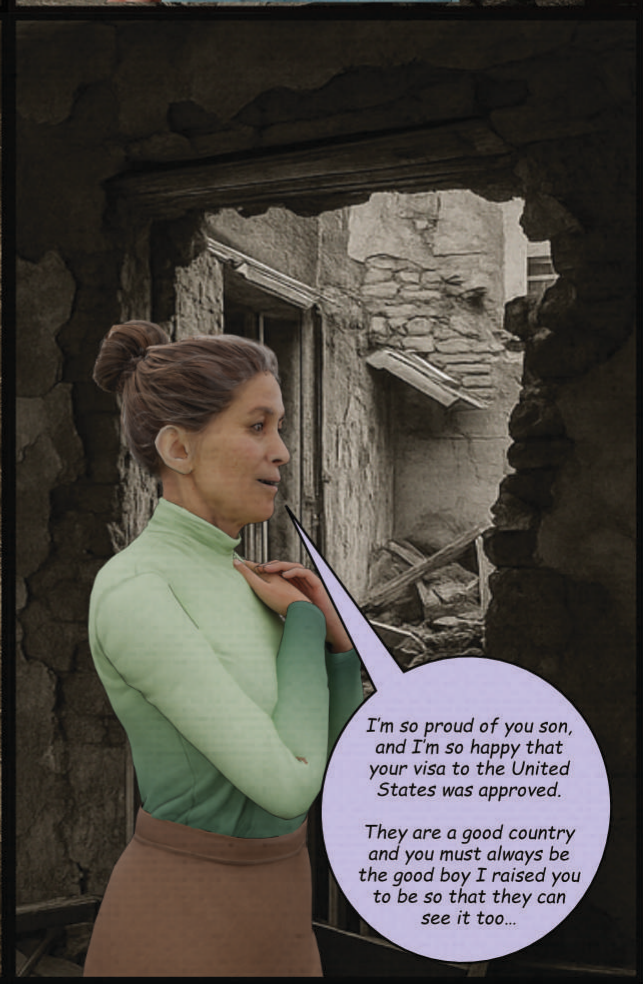


Even in the most tragic situations your father, your grandfather, uncle—they all lived with honor, even when all else fell apart!

Mother, why do we honor a corrupt regime? They are the enemy to our family legacy...

Because son, even with our enemies, there are some lines we do not cross... Not for their sake, but for ours...

I understand, mother... I'm sorry, and I will live to honor our family from today and forever.



I'm so proud of you son, and I'm so happy that your visa to the United States was approved.

They are a good country and you must always be the good boy I raised you to be so that they can see it too...

Barkuka, Present Day — PFC Woods

CAMERA 2134-A

DRONE:IR09

17:31:59

● REC

V
REC

ALT
1100 FT

PFC Woods, this is Eagle OP, still not getting anything from Sarge... What's your status? I heard the boom...

I heard the radio call and I've been looking for SGT Stokic and PFC Ibanez with IR09, can't see much in the thick forest...

50°

ZOO 2.0x

I need to get moving soon to meet Ibanez at the rally point, the bridge is destroyed but I lost sight of him in the river...



Banjunsun River, 1KM away — PFC Ibanez

CLICK-CLICK!

Kvalz! Kvalz!
Seg vyn ulma trijun!

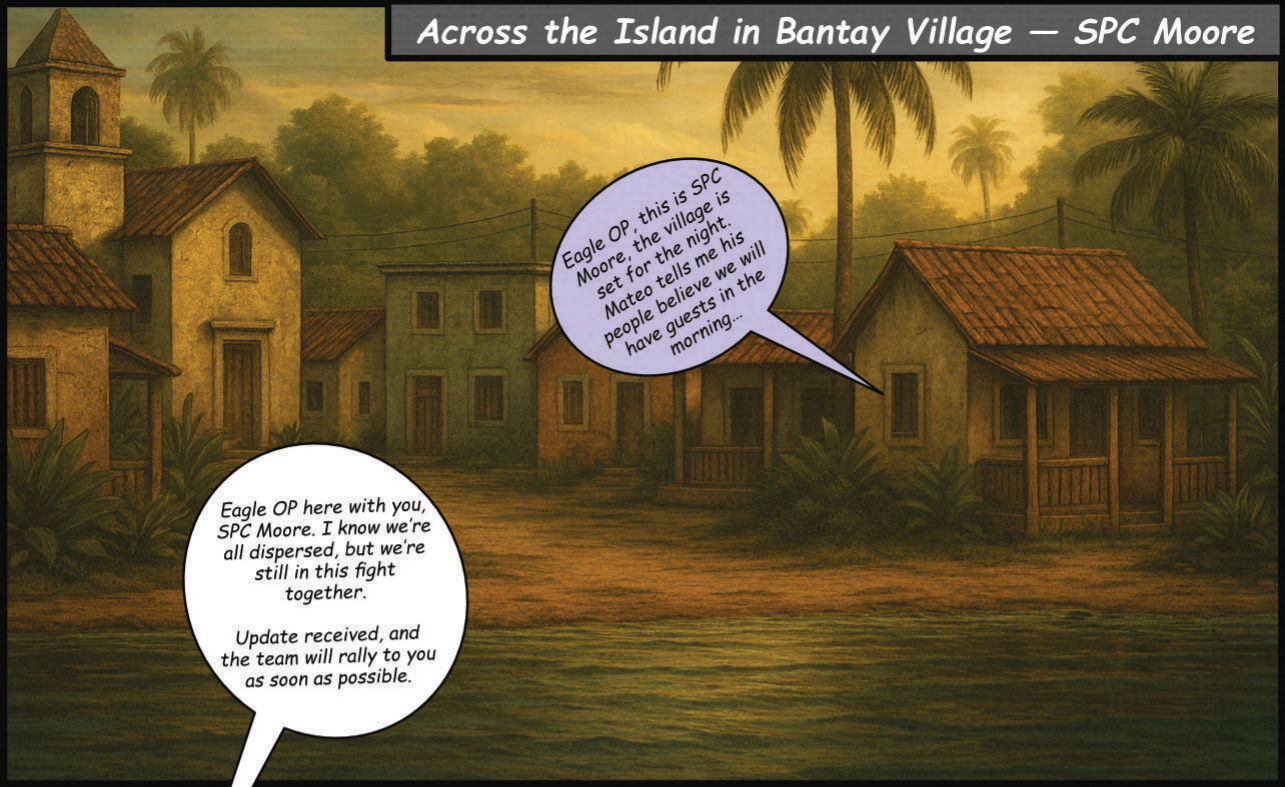
The enemy found me, it's over Hermano... Wait, who is that?..

DROP IT!

You move more than a millimeter and I'll drop you five feet below your head to this ground... We're going to have a little chat.

Ranciv
Kuntrik
Drevel...

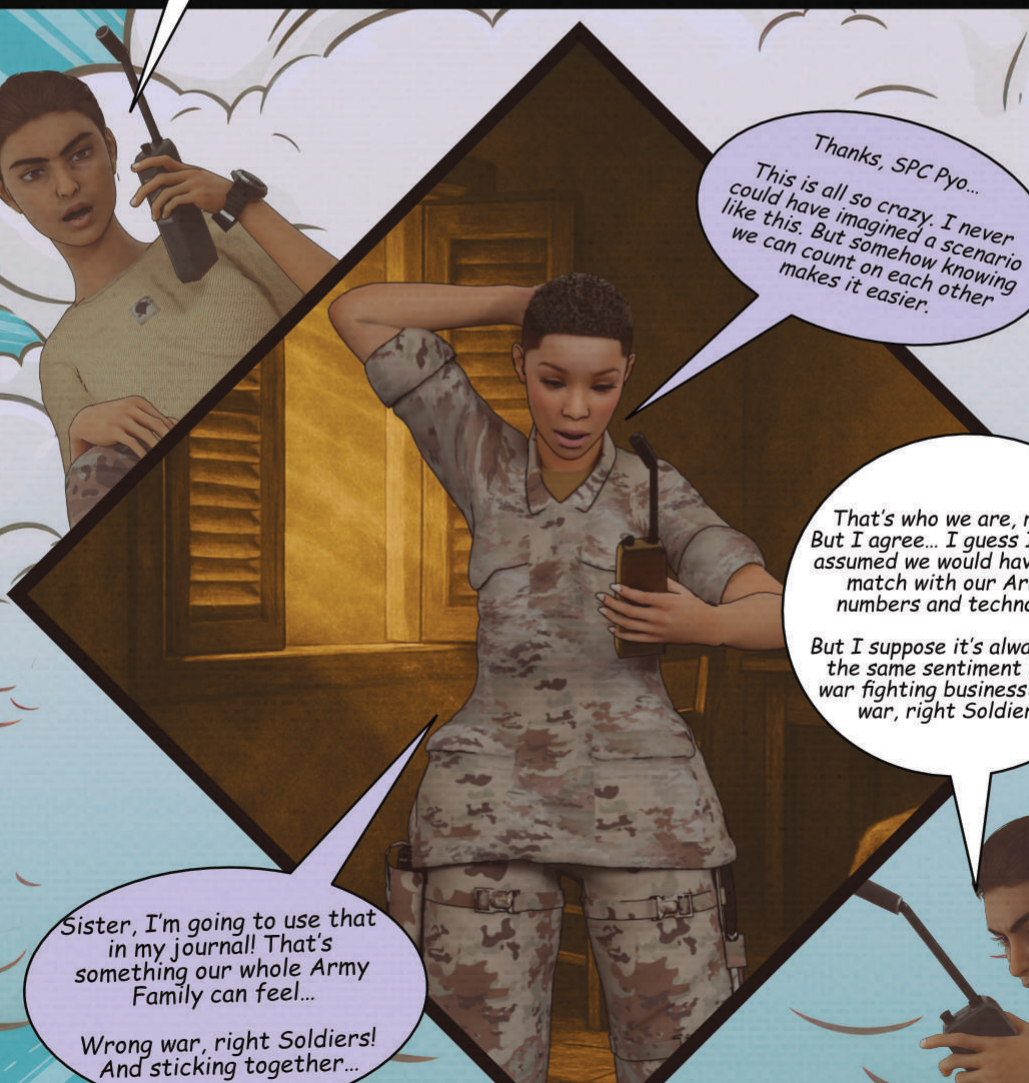




Eagle OP, this is SPC Moore, the village is set for the night. Mateo tells me his people believe we will have guests in the morning...

Eagle OP here with you, SPC Moore. I know we're all dispersed, but we're still in this fight together.

Update received, and the team will rally to you as soon as possible.



Thanks, SPC Pyo... This is all so crazy. I never could have imagined a scenario like this. But somehow knowing we can count on each other makes it easier.

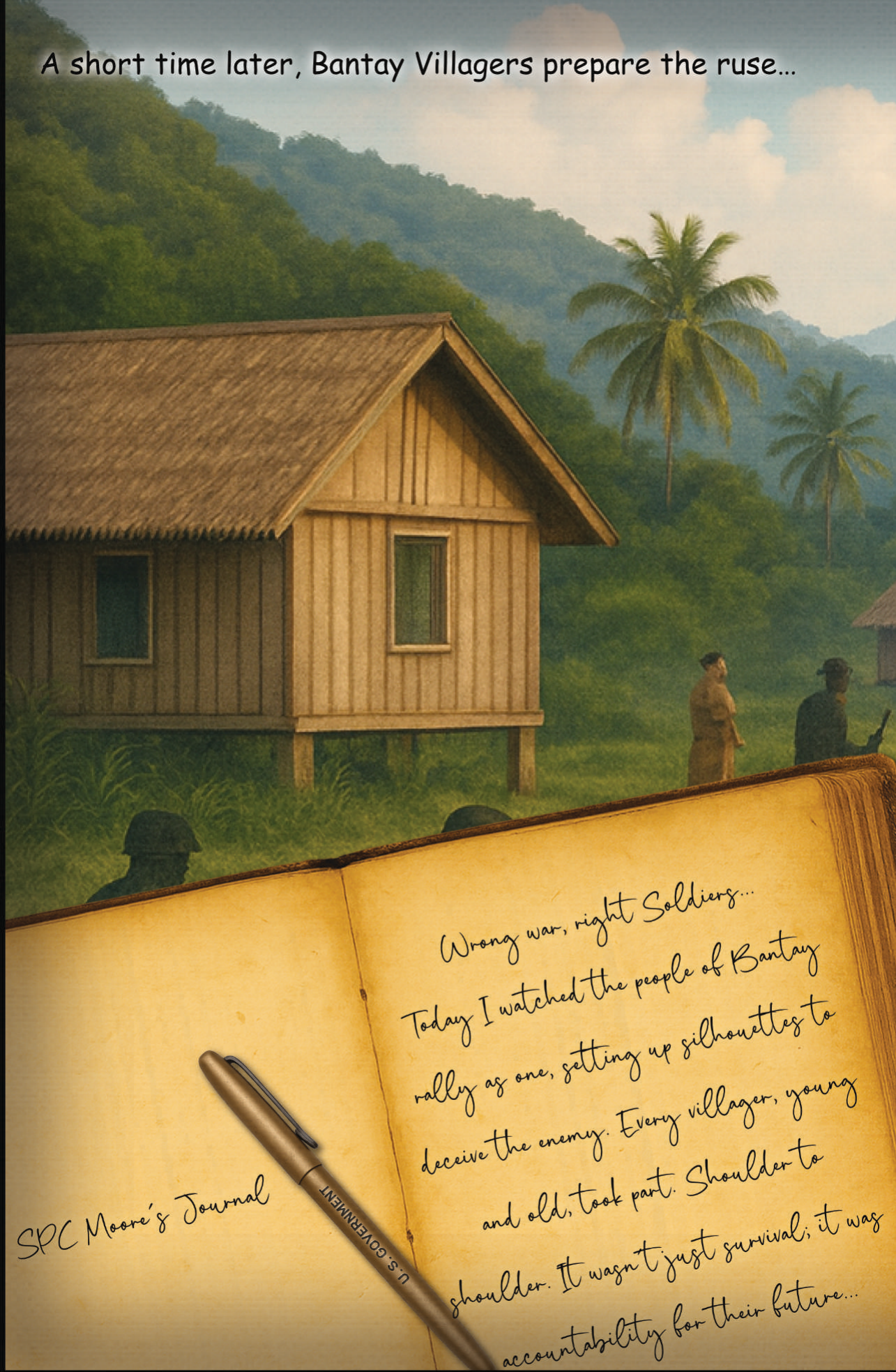
That's who we are, right? But I agree... I guess I always assumed we would have overmatch with our Army's numbers and technology.

But I suppose it's always been the same sentiment in this war fighting business: wrong war, right Soldiers...

Sister, I'm going to use that in my journal! That's something our whole Army Family can feel...

Wrong war, right Soldiers! And sticking together...

A short time later, Bantay Villagers prepare the ruse...



SPC Moore's Journal

Wrong war, right Soldiers...
Today I watched the people of Bantay
rally as one, setting up silhouettes to
deceive the enemy. Every villager, young
and old, took part. Shoulder to
shoulder. It wasn't just survival; it was
accountability for their future...



I must have blacked out... where am I? Is that SGT Stokic's voice?
I need to get up



Bantay?... Bantay!
The bridge, the island! I remember!
I should listen...

Why is SGT Stokic talking to the enemy?



SGT Stokic

...So your commander can't be swayed from heading to Bantay Village?

Enemy Scout

Unfortunately, no... He's is of the old thinking...

Of the old thinking?

Yes, he believes conquering the village honors the supreme leader

And you don't see it that way?

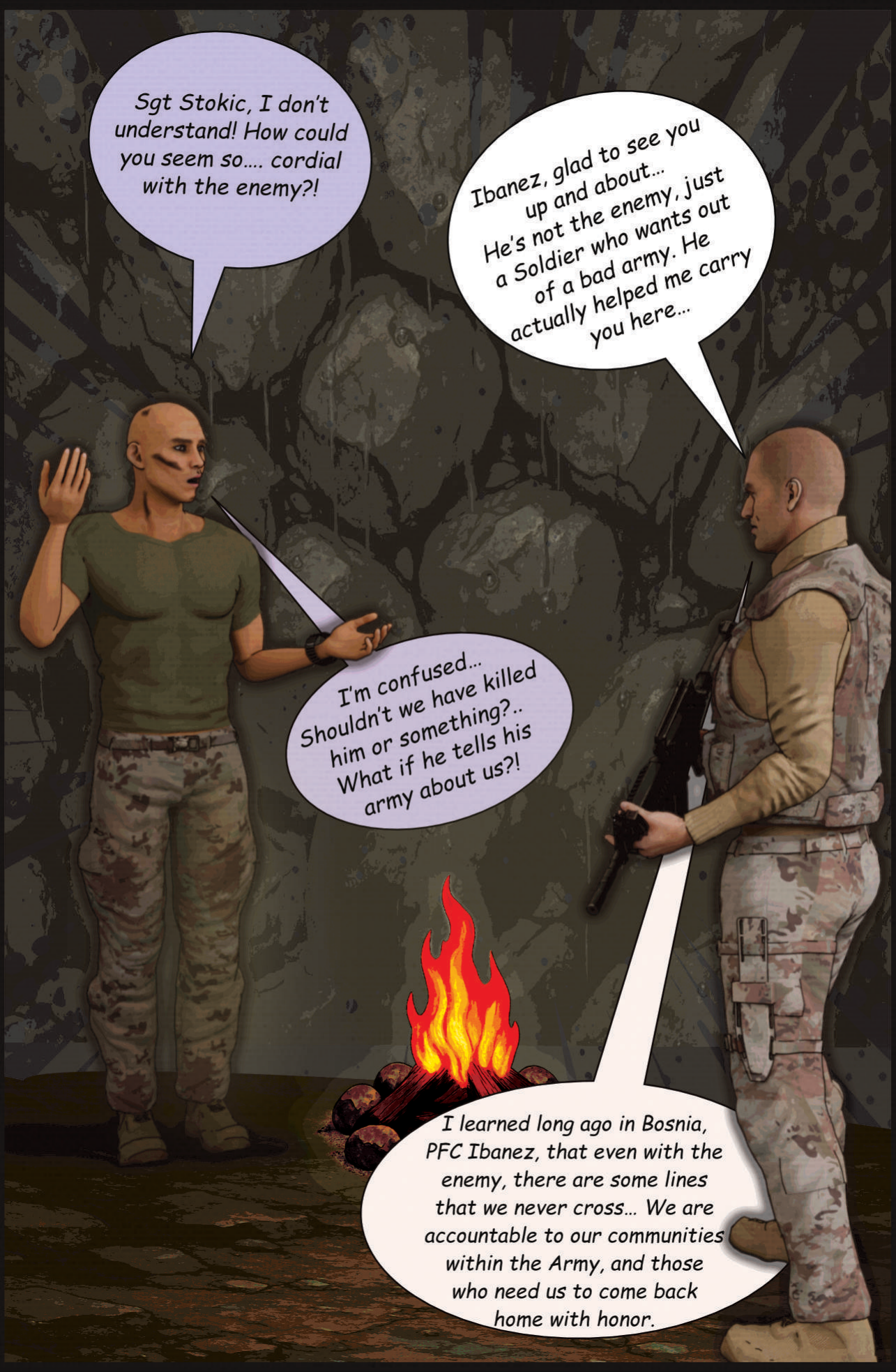
No, many do not... but we don't have freedom how you understand it.

Well thank you for your cooperation the last two hours... You are free to go.

With respect, thank you, SGT Stokic.

Did Sarge just let him go?!





Sgt Stokic, I don't understand! How could you seem so.... cordial with the enemy?!

Ibanez, glad to see you up and about... He's not the enemy, just a Soldier who wants out of a bad army. He actually helped me carry you here...

I'm confused... Shouldn't we have killed him or something?... What if he tells his army about us?!

I learned long ago in Bosnia, PFC Ibanez, that even with the enemy, there are some lines that we never cross... We are accountable to our communities within the Army, and those who need us to come back home with honor.

PYO'S TACTICAL PAUSE

What is your Identity?

I'm SPC Pyo, and I want to pause for just a minute to talk about your Identity. Identity is a critical aspect of winning in war and in life. It encapsulates both who we are and how others perceive us. While some genetic traits contribute to our identity, many aspects are shaped by the people we surround ourselves with throughout life. We call these groups:

"Communities of Accountability."

A Community of Accountability can be your squad or team, a social group, Family, faith group, or many other examples. The key is that you allow the group to shape you and keep you accountable to the community's values.

There are several ways to confirm you belong to a community:

1. You are regularly committed to the community.
2. You allow it to shape you in a positive way.
3. The community keeps you accountable to its values.

Help Me Assess:

- What are some communities of accountability you've seen associated with our team in Barkuka so far?
- How does SGT Stokic's mother and his family heritage shape his identity?
- Is Bantay Village one of SPC Moore's communities of accountability? If so, how?

Reflection:

What communities of accountability are you a part of?
How do you know? How are they shaping you today?



General Patton was a West Point graduate, had fellow general officer peers, the Soldiers he commanded, the charitable organizations he supported to honor war orphans, and the larger Army with its ethos.

Each of these shaped who he was as evidenced by his actions, whether charging a machine gun nest in France or collecting money for orphans of the war. Each community created a better Soldier.

Community of Accountability Holistic Health Inventory

1. List one community of accountability you are a part of:
- _____
2. Circle the ten strongest attributes/values below that your chosen community inspires you to adhere to through your actions. In other words, because of the community, you live by the value whether in the group, or even when no one is watching:

Integrity	Respect	Learning	Courage
Trust	Humility	Wisdom	Perseverance
Loyalty	Compassion	Mentorship	Excellence
Honor	Kindness	Curiosity	Resilience
Responsibility	Service	Reflection	Balance
Discipline	Generosity	Understanding	Hope
Commitment	Stewardship	Worth	Renewal
Selflessness	Sacrifice	Insight	Holistic Health

3. Add up your tallies by color and record them in the boxes below. The goal is to have enough meaningful connections so that you are shaped in all four areas of spiritual fitness: **Identity, Purpose, Meaning, and Source of Strength**. Across all your communities, aim to have at least one that provides five points in each category: an Identity community, a Purpose community, a Meaning community, and a Source of Strength community.

Points_____	Points_____	Points_____	Points_____
<u>Community of Identity</u>	<u>Community of Purpose</u>	<u>Community of Meaning</u>	<u>Community of Strength</u>
Five points in this color signifies a community that grounds you in who you are, instilling integrity, accountability, and character that remain true even when no one is watching.	Five points in this color signifies a community that gives you direction, shaping why you act, inspiring compassion, respect, and service to others.	Five points in this color signifies a community that helps you grow and give value to your experiences, fostering wisdom, curiosity, reflection, and insight so that life holds deeper significance.	Five points in this color signifies a community that serves as a source of strength, giving you an ability to endure, building courage, resilience, hope, and health that carry you through adversity.

Later that night - PFC Woods at the Rally Point

Who's there?!
Ibanez?...
Show yourself,
now!

SNAP!

On, no! That
sounds BIG...
Don't freeze...

SWOOSH

SNAP

SNAP

A black cat is standing in a dark, dense jungle at night. The cat is looking towards the viewer. The background is filled with dark silhouettes of trees and foliage. There are three speech bubbles and sound effects scattered around the cat.

I said show
yourself!

SWOOSH

SNAP

Last chance!
I will FIRE!

Meow

Woods' Residence, Chicago Suburbs



Mee-Mee, I don't know why you go to that church! The gossip is crazy!

Three years ago...

You be careful, Mr. Woods, that sounds like the very gossip you're complaining about...

You're right, Mee-Mee... I just don't like when people come at my family - you're all I have left...

Heh! Well, we better just pray you get a cat then! I'm on the back end of this life.

As long as a cat can make your dumplings [Sigh]...

LORD... Don't let this one suffer when I go! [Chuckles]

Now, I just don't believe this! God, Mee-Mee, I know this isn't a coincidence!
[Relieved laugh]

Come here, little guy!

I'm glad that you're not a squad of enemy infantry!..
What should I call you...

Oh, I know! How about, Dumpling!

Sunrise over fish dehydrating huts, next day



Bantay Village

Sorry for the crude map, SPC Moore, but it's the best we have...



Church & Meeting Hut —Mateo and SPC Moore

The fishermen tell me that they saw a large enemy force approaching, 1km away...

Eagle OP told me the same thing, 12-18 armed enemy combatants



Let's get your people to the North end of the village, near the fish-drying huts. My team will be here...

I love the confidence you have in your team, I admire it.

Just like your village, we are accountable to each other. We have an ethos and profession that we all commit to - they will be here...

TO BE CONTINUED...

AFTER ACTION REVIEW

"Debriefing the Mission: Issue #2"

1. What was supposed to happen?

Our fire team was on a quest to reunite with each other. They knew the enemy was circling the island toward Bantay Village-devilish motives were assumed.

2. What actually happened?

SGT Stokic was distracted following an enemy scout, but it fortunately led him to PFC Ibanez. The scout's wavering loyalty gave them unexpected intelligence.

SPC Moore remained in the village waiting on the team to rejoin her. The issue concluded with the enemy about 1km away!

3. What went well?

The entire team honored the communities of accountability that shape and guard their identity.

- SGT Stokic honored his mother's advice to not allow a circumstance to make him cross a line he can't uncross.
- PFC Woods remembered Mee-Mee and his faith, keeping him executing his mission with determination and hope.
- SPC Moore rallied her new community of accountability, Bantay Village, to set a ruse to keep the enemy at bay over night.

4. What can we improve?

- The team allowed themselves to become separated, which risked their mission and their lives.
- Communication systems broke down. Waiting in isolation left Soldiers vulnerable to doubt and distraction.

5. **Your turn:** You've seen the mission. You've heard our stories. But this isn't just about us:

- What is your identity? What are the communities of accountability that you belong to?
- How do your communities shape you?
- How do they keep you accountable?
- How can your communities guard you, even when you're away from them?

SGT Stokic Standard
"A Soldier in a community returns from the worst places—because the community's values never leave them. It keeps them grounded in who they are."

Identity is a crucial pillar of spiritual fitness. Make sure that you resolve the question of who you are - it may be too-late once you're in a battle! See you back in Barkuka!



In This Issue...

*The fire team scattered.
An enemy drawing near.
A village caught in the balance.*

*Separated in the jungle, each Soldier fights isolation and
must rely on the one thing that never leaves: the values
of the communities they belong to.*

*Communities of accountability shape their identity and
guard them from crossing lines a Soldier should never
cross.*

