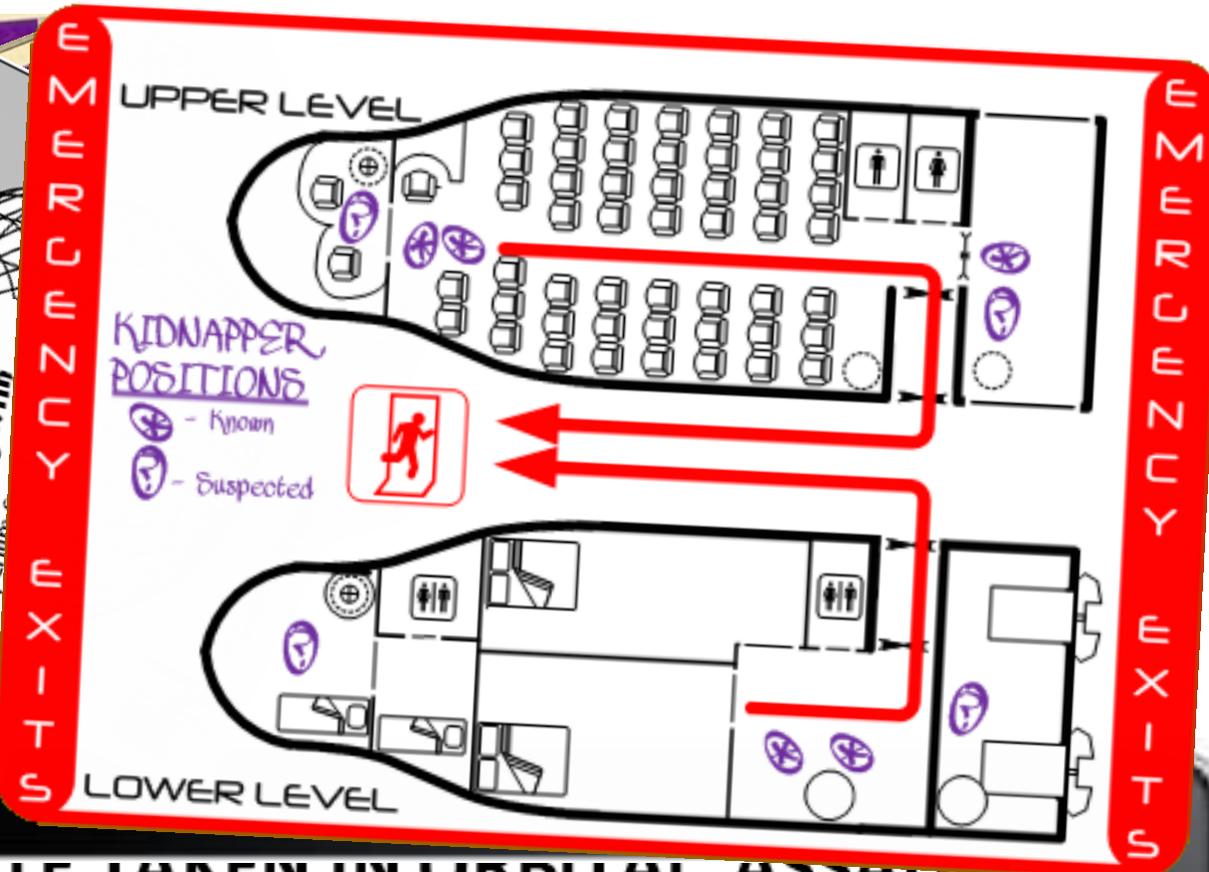


THE LANISHA CRISIS

One Page Dungeon Contest 2012
by Roland Volz



SHUTTLE TAKEN IN ORBITAL ASSAULT

Criminals have seized a shuttle which took off from Orison Starport in the early evening today.

The *Lanisha*, which carries four crew and fifty passengers, reported engine trouble six hours after liftoff. StarPort Authority has released a statement indicating that at least eight individuals wearing armored suits and bearing military-grade weaponry have seized the craft and are demanding a five million Credit ransom for the release of their hostages. Among those held on-board are the Marchioness Katrin Baliin and her immediate family, and JNS Sports correspondent Sharik Shiraam and her crew, cameraman Tomero Welty and producer Lynn Lopex.

"We believe the group to be well-trained, possibly including ex-military personnel," said SPA representative Haskell Flagg. "Their motivation seems purely economic. No terrorist cells are thought to be involved." He speculated that the gang may have secreted one or more of their number in the cargo hold, which connects to the engine room, during boarding procedures. He also reported the kidnappers deployed rescue balls, likely with hostages aboard, around the shuttle to prevent easy access by SPA security forces.

The Marchioness' father, speaking from his retirement villa in Baliin Dorsai, said he did not believe the kidnappers to be politically motivated. This ends speculation that the incident is part of the Baliin family's long-running feud with corporate rival Tukera family, which ended some two years ago. He went on to express full confidence in the ability of SPA security forces to resolve the crisis.

JNS Sports' Sharik Shiraam was on the *Lanisha*, en-route to the Belt to cover the start of Grav-Ball season. She was able to communicate briefly with the JNS News team during the incident.

"The grav plates have stopped working," she said. "They've been off for almost half an hour and two strange men won't let anyone into the drive room."

She then reported a low explosion coming from the bridge, located forward of the main passenger compartment.

"There's something happening!" she shouted. After this a loud clang could be heard coming through the communicator. In low tones, Sharik told JNS that four men in armored EVA suits and armed with Gauss rifles had seized the steward from her station next to the door. One of the hostage-takers could be heard commanding all passengers to keep to their seats with their hands up. Shortly

INFOBOX	
<u>The Lanisha</u>	
Size:	50 displacement tons
Crew:	4 – pilot, engineer, and two stewards
Cargo:	5 displacement tons
Passengers:	50 business-class seats, plus two small cabins
Purpose:	In-System Transport
Engines:	2 Gen. Products 2D34 Type 3-G fusion drives
Power:	Drachenfeuer EverLight 5030 fusionPlus plant
Range:	240 million miles / 12 hours
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thereafter, all communication with the shuttle was lost.

Independent sources have reported to JNS News that a small craft bore in on the *Lanisha* while she was floating depowered, apparently bringing the gang's reinforcements.

The StarPort Authority is reportedly negotiating for the release of the hostages as we go to press.

- NEWSFLASH - UPDATE - NEWSFLASH -

Moments ago, witnesses reported to JNS News that a rescue seems to be underway to free the hostages. They described