

World's Greatest Militia

9. Expansion (2)

Kwang Hwi and his subordinates were left focusing on the new recruits' training for the time being. The instructors drilled them harshly, teaching them obedience and mental fortitude.

In the morning, they would begin their day with physical training and shooting practice. By noon, they underwent psychological training to strengthen their resolve. The green soldiers had difficulty adapting to their new lifestyle. Years of complacency drove them to cling onto their peaceful habits. In order to subvert this, the drill sergeants took advantage of a special method: live combat.

A fierce howl thundered, sending a wave of panic through the new recruits. This was their first excursion into the outside world after being indoctrinated into Kwang Hwi's army. Although the area surrounding the base was largely cleared, dozens of monsters continued to traipse about.

The new recruits couldn't help but be nervous when faced with threats all around them. It was deeply reminiscent of their first day of the apocalypse. The screams of horror and a sense of futility washed over them as they remembered the distressed cries of their loved ones as they were mutilated and torn to shreds.

Naturally, their drill sergeant wouldn't let them indulge in the past. A single gunshot rang out, fired from the officer's rifle, snapping the recruits out of their collective daze.

"What are you doing?! These monsters killed your family! Your friends! It's time to get your revenge!"

Their eyes turned sharp. Everybody here had lost somebody. Subconsciously, they recalled the stringent training regimen that they had slogged through over the past few days. Their bodies automatically went through the motions as they prepared for battle.

They aimed their rifles and fired toward the monsters. The Keku staggered back at the incoming fire, but held their ground and shrieked at their opponents. Fortunately, the recruits remembered that the Keku's defense was exceptional and they did not panic.

In that short confrontation, they found themselves exposed to the frightening truth: the world they once knew was gone. The police and military had all gone missing and the government was in shambles. Monsters ran rampant while they were left to fend for themselves in a brand new world.

All in all, this mission was just what the doctor ordered. With most Korean men having military experience, the recruits were simply using the skills they already had. In the beginning, the men found themselves easily flustered but, over time, they grew to become capable soldiers. The camaraderie built between the recruits made them fiercely loyal to Kwang Hwi's cause.

On the final day of training, Kwang Hwi and his subordinates hosted a graduation ceremony for the new recruits and presented them each with a military uniform and badge he purchased from the Merit Shop. The 10 individuals who graduated today stood at attention as Kwang Hwi offered his congratulations. Of the 10 recruits, 8 of them were promoted to Private. The remaining two, the squad leader and deputy respectively, were promoted to Private First Class.

“Good work, everyone. As you continue to distinguish yourself in battle, your rank will rise to reflect your contributions. Over time, you will have the opportunity to ascend in rank—not just to Sergeant. With ample opportunity to rise to the occasion, you can become a military officer.”

The recruits' eyes widened.

“Keep in mind, while it's good to contribute, the most important thing you can do is survive. Let's all work hard to survive until the very end.”

“To the boss! Salute!”

The recruits raised their right hands in unison and stomped together with military poise; they all felt that their training had been worthwhile. There was no military anthem, Kwang Hwi felt there was no need for them to prove their allegiance or sing a congratulatory song like the Korean military did. After receiving the salute, he stepped down from the podium.

From here, everybody could see him face to face. Kwang Hwi made sure they understood that, even if they weren't soldiers, they couldn't sit around doing nothing. Some were assigned to cook for the soldiers, while others were tasked to search houses and factories after monsters were cleared from the area. There were even those who were sent out to survey land for expansion and construction work. Most people were assigned to the production of necessary goods that supported the Kwang Hwi Faction. Even the elderly, who had poor physical capabilities, were no exception to this rule. They could pick up garbage around the compound and do simple chores, like cleaning.

After training had concluded, Kwang Hwi headed immediately to the container yard with his new force.

“Send in the drone.”

One of the subordinates following Kwang Hwi pulled out a drone from his vest. It was a miniature drone approximately the size of a removable phone battery. He had found this in the [Communication/Reconnaissance] category of the Merit Shop. The subordinate placed the drone on the floor and spread its folded wings.

『Snipe Nano Quadrotor』

『A miniature stealth drone made by the AV Company. It was specifically designed for short-range reconnaissance and surveillance. Weighing 140g, it has a maximum speed of 36 km/h and an operational range of 1km.』

『Price: 250 MP.』

It was easy to carry around and even had access to infrared cameras. Between that and the relatively cheap cost, it was extremely convenient for Kwang Hwi’s needs. With its four rotors, the drone flew into the sky. Circling around the container yard, it provided the militia with a full view of their surroundings.

Multiple containers were neatly stacked next to each other along the far side of the yard. On the other side, trucks and cranes lay dormant—likely once used to transport the containers.

“Any sign of monsters?”

“All clear.”

“Not even one?”

“Correct.”

Kwang Hwi took his gun and fired a few candid shots outside. A still silence washed over the abandoned yard as the SUV lurched forward, escorting a Medium Tactical Vehicle.

『Medium Tactical Vehicle』

『A prototype model developed to replace the existing military transports. Per military standard, it features a bulletproof frame that can transport 28 fully armed soldiers at a time. Run-flat tires are installed to guarantee the vehicle’s mobility. Modifications can be made to the vehicle to install machine guns and other weapons in the carrier compartment.』

As always, the Merit Shop spoiled Kwang Hwi. In the carrier, soldiers who had just finished their training were awaiting further instructions. When the vehicle screeched to a halt, the soldiers quickly deployed into the surrounding area. From there, the 10

recruits split into pairs with one of Kwang Hwi's subordinates leading each of the 5 squads. Kwang Hwi stood back and waited for them to secure the perimeter.

- "Team 1. All clear."
- "Team 2, reporting. No issue!"
- "Team 3. Clear."
- "Team 4. Nothing special."
- "Same here for Team 5."

The men started transporting the containers, the handpicked soldiers claimed the vehicles and secured containers for use. Once the truck was in position, the crane moved the container in place. Aside from the crane, there was also the reach stacker, which was a specialized forklift for handling containers. As the soldiers expected, the vehicles generated a lot of noise which could attract a horde of Keku. In order to combat this, the new recruits maintained a tight perimeter around the container yard at designated patrol points to keep watch for incoming attacks.

"Everything's going smoothly."

"Boss, isn't it nice when things go as planned?"

"It is."

Kwang Hwi nodded grimly. As enticed as he was at the prospect of everything going as planned, he knew that it was extremely rare for everything to succeed without a hitch. His contentment didn't last, however, as one of his Majors soon sounded the alert.

— "Boss! A horde of Keku are approaching from 5 o'clock!"

He sighed. Of course it couldn't possibly be this easy. Grabbing the communications device, he asked for more information. "How many?"

— "It's... preliminary estimates are nearing 500!"

9. Expansion (2)

Kwang Hwi and his subordinates were left focusing on the new recruits' training for the time being. The instructors drilled them harshly, teaching them obedience and mental fortitude.

In the morning, they would begin their day with physical training and shooting practice. By noon, they underwent psychological training to strengthen their resolve. The green soldiers had difficulty adapting to their new lifestyle. Years of complacency drove them to cling onto their peaceful habits. In order to subvert this, the drill sergeants took advantage of a special method: live combat.

A fierce howl thundered, sending a wave of panic through the new recruits. This was their first excursion into the outside world after being indoctrinated into Kwang Hwi's army. Although the area surrounding the base was largely cleared, dozens of monsters continued to traipse about.

The new recruits couldn't help but be nervous when faced with threats all around them. It was deeply reminiscent of their first day of the apocalypse. The screams of horror and a sense of futility washed over them as they remembered the distressed cries of their loved ones as they were mutilated and torn to shreds.

Naturally, their drill sergeant wouldn't let them indulge in the past. A single gunshot rang out, fired from the officer's rifle, snapping the recruits out of their collective daze.

"What are you doing?! These monsters killed your family! Your friends! It's time to get your revenge!"

Their eyes turned sharp. Everybody here had lost somebody. Subconsciously, they recalled the stringent training regimen that they had slogged through over the past few days. Their bodies automatically went through the motions as they prepared for battle.

They aimed their rifles and fired toward the monsters. The Keku staggered back at the incoming fire, but held their ground and shrieked at their opponents. Fortunately, the recruits remembered that the Keku's defense was exceptional and they did not panic.

In that short confrontation, they found themselves exposed to the frightening truth: the world they once knew was gone. The police and military had all gone missing and the government was in shambles. Monsters ran rampant while they were left to fend for themselves in a brand new world.

All in all, this mission was just what the doctor ordered. With most Korean men having military experience, the recruits were simply using the skills they already had. In the beginning, the men found themselves easily flustered but, over time, they grew to become capable soldiers. The camaraderie built between the recruits made them fiercely loyal to Kwang Hwi's cause.

On the final day of training, Kwang Hwi and his subordinates hosted a graduation ceremony for the new recruits and presented them each with a military uniform and badge he purchased from the Merit Shop. The 10 individuals who graduated today stood at attention as Kwang Hwi offered his congratulations. Of the 10 recruits, 8 of them were promoted to Private. The remaining two, the squad leader and deputy respectively, were promoted to Private First Class.

"Good work, everyone. As you continue to distinguish yourself in battle, your rank will rise to reflect your contributions. Over time, you will have the opportunity to ascend in rank—not just to Sergeant. With ample opportunity to rise to the occasion, you can become a military officer."

The recruits' eyes widened.

“Keep in mind, while it's good to contribute, the most important thing you can do is survive. Let's all work hard to survive until the very end.”

“To the boss! Salute!”

The recruits raised their right hands in unison and stomped together with military poise; they all felt that their training had been worthwhile. There was no military anthem, Kwang Hwi felt there was no need for them to prove their allegiance or sing a congratulatory song like the Korean military did. After receiving the salute, he stepped down from the podium.

From here, everybody could see him face to face. Kwang Hwi made sure they understood that, even if they weren't soldiers, they couldn't sit around doing nothing. Some were assigned to cook for the soldiers, while others were tasked to search houses and factories after monsters were cleared from the area. There were even those who were sent out to survey land for expansion and construction work. Most people were assigned to the production of necessary goods that supported the Kwang Hwi Faction. Even the elderly, who had poor physical capabilities, were no exception to this rule. They could pick up garbage around the compound and do simple chores, like cleaning.

After training had concluded, Kwang Hwi headed immediately to the container yard with his new force.

“Send in the drone.”

One of the subordinates following Kwang Hwi pulled out a drone from his vest. It was a miniature drone approximately the size of a removable phone battery. He had found this in the [Communication/Reconnaissance] category of the Merit Shop. The subordinate placed the drone on the floor and spread its folded wings.

『Snipe Nano Quadrotor』

『A miniature stealth drone made by the AV Company. It was specifically designed for short-range reconnaissance and surveillance. Weighing 140g, it has a maximum speed of 36 km/h and an operational range of 1km.』

『Price: 250 MP.』

It was easy to carry around and even had access to infrared cameras. Between that and the relatively cheap cost, it was extremely convenient for Kwang Hwi's needs. With its four rotors, the drone flew into the sky. Circling around the container yard, it provided the militia with a full view of their surroundings.

Multiple containers were neatly stacked next to each other along the far side of the yard. On the other side, trucks and cranes lay dormant—likely once used to transport the containers.

“Any sign of monsters?”

“All clear.”

“Not even one?”

“Correct.”

Kwang Hwi took his gun and fired a few candid shots outside. A still silence washed over the abandoned yard as the SUV lurched forward, escorting a Medium Tactical Vehicle.

『Medium Tactical Vehicle』

『A prototype model developed to replace the existing military transports. Per military standard, it features a bulletproof frame that can transport 28 fully armed soldiers at a time. Run-flat tires are installed to guarantee the vehicle’s mobility. Modifications can be made to the vehicle to install machine guns and other weapons in the carrier compartment.』

As always, the Merit Shop spoiled Kwang Hwi. In the carrier, soldiers who had just finished their training were awaiting further instructions. When the vehicle screeched to a halt, the soldiers quickly deployed into the surrounding area. From there, the 10 recruits split into pairs with one of Kwang Hwi’s subordinates leading each of the 5 squads. Kwang Hwi stood back and waited for them to secure the perimeter.

— “Team 1. All clear.”

— “Team 2, reporting. No issue!”

— “Team 3. Clear.”

— “Team 4. Nothing special.”

— “Same here for Team 5.”

The men started transporting the containers, the handpicked soldiers claimed the vehicles and secured containers for use. Once the truck was in position, the crane moved the container in place. Aside from the crane, there was also the reach stacker, which was a specialized forklift for handling containers. As the soldiers expected, the vehicles generated a lot of noise which could attract a horde of Keku. In order to combat this, the new recruits maintained a tight perimeter around the container yard at designated patrol points to keep watch for incoming attacks.

“Everything’s going smoothly.”

“Boss, isn’t it nice when things go as planned?”

“It is.”

Kwang Hwi nodded grimly. As enticed as he was at the prospect of everything going as planned, he knew that it was extremely rare for everything to succeed without a hitch. His contentment didn't last, however, as one of his Majors soon sounded the alert.

— “Boss! A horde of Keku are approaching from 5 o'clock!”

He sighed. Of course it couldn't possibly be this easy. Grabbing the communications device, he asked for more information. “How many?”

— “It's... preliminary estimates are nearing 500!”

10. Expansion (3)

Kwang Hwi didn't panic at the newly discovered information. He prioritized checking on the status of the containers.

“How many containers are left?”

— “10 left, but we have to wait for the trucks to return before proceeding.”

The civilian that Kwang Hwi brought from base spoke with a cracked voice. From his position, he could clearly see the onslaught of monsters coming to tear them limb from limb. Kwang Hwi sneered. To an untrained individual, 500 Keku was enough to wipe out their defenses.

“I guess we'll have to deal with them.”

There was no reason to avoid the monsters—they would have to be killed eventually. With their ample firepower, these monsters would have little to no effect on his forces. Kwang Hwi issued his orders in a calm and collected voice. The commander cannot panic, for his actions affect the morale of the entire troop.

“Carry on working. Teams 1 and 3 will hold their positions and defend the perimeter. As for the rest, rendezvous at the entrance of the container yard.”

Kwang Hwi waved down the vehicle and reconvened with the other teams at the front of the container yard. They had parked the Medium Tactical Vehicle so that it was blockading the entrance as a suitable way to provide suppression fire and cover. For Kwang Hwi's subordinates, who had followed him through thick and thin, they showed no signs of fatigue. The same could not be said for the new recruits, who were panting in exhaustion. Kwang Hwi quietly clicked his tongue. He made a mental note to double down on physical training when they got back to the camp. This level of fitness was unacceptable.

“Dispatch the troops to that office.”

“Yes, sir!”

As a deep rumbling grew ever closer, each commander drove the recruits waiting inside the containers. A horde of Keku reared their ugly heads and the dispatched troops drew their guns in response. Kwang Hwi held onto the handle of the grenade launcher in preparation for the upcoming melee. He applauded his foresight in unlocking [Support/Crew Weaponry] beforehand.

『Mk 47 Striker ALGL』

『A 40mm automatic grenade launcher with a built-in laser rangefinder and ballistic computer technology for calculating trajectory. Compared to the Mk 19 GMG, it has a lower peak recoil and is easier to carry around. It can fire up to 225 – 300 rounds a minute.』

Kwang Hwi’s love of the weapon was two-fold. It demonstrated all of the conveniences of a high-speed automatic grenade launcher in a streamlined design meant for accessibility. The intuitive nature of the Mk 47 was put on full display as he used its sights to calculate the perfect trajectory for maximum impact on the incoming horde.

He braced his knees for the recoil. The fixed grenade launcher shook the vehicle violently as he let loose a few preliminary shots at the Keku. The most aggressive monsters were turned into mincemeat and the battlefield rapidly degenerated into a meat grinder. Black blood and entrails pockmarked the ground and saggy bits of flesh left the new recruits retching at the sight. No matter how durable a Keku claimed to be, it couldn’t survive a direct hit from a grenade launcher. Kwang Hwi lowered his grenade launcher and surveyed the sight in front of him.

A trail of white smoke bellowed out of the barrel of the Mk 47 and a slew of explosions erupted from the center of the horde. The packed army of monsters was torn to pieces in the aftermath of the explosion. The damage was done—after 3-4 rounds of fire, the Keku were finished. Before the soldiers had a chance to fire a single shot, only a handful of Keku remained. At this point, he put away the Mk 47 and left the soldiers to clean up the scraps.

Some of the Keku that managed to get close threw their weapons to no avail. The gunshots echoed in the container as Kwang Hwi noticed a familiar text box flashing in front of his peripheral.

『You have defeated 300 Keku faster than anybody else in the world.』

『You have obtained 2500 MP.』

『You have defeated 400 Keku faster than anybody else in the world.』

『You have obtained 3000 MP.』

『You have defeated 500 Keku faster than anybody else in the world.』

『You have obtained 3500 MP.』

『You have defeated 600 Keku faster than anybody else in the world.』

『You have obtained 4000 MP.』

“Don’t tell me,” someone said sarcastically. “Are the new recruits still scared?”

Kwang Hwi could hear his subordinates snickering on the other side of the walkie-talkie. Even the new recruits could hear it. All of the soldiers had gear surpassing that of the average Korean soldier. He made sure that all of his men had state of the art gear to preserve his allies.

— “Did you hear the boss? Report!”

— “Yes, sir! We heard him!”

Kwang Hwi asked for a status report from the team leaders. Sporadic gunshots sprouted from all over the container yard as the last vestiges of the Keku were eliminated.

— Kill confirmed.

“Boss. It’s all done.”

The last fully loaded truck left the container yard. What was originally filled with dozens of shipping containers was now an urban wasteland. Kwang Hwi and his soldiers were the last to leave.

In the few hours that they were away, their base had a complete makeover. The base expanded and, with the container walls, a defensible perimeter was formed to keep a lookout. Patrol points were designated across the territory and weapons were mounted at intervals to stop monsters from advancing. Seeing Kwang Hwi return, Soo Min and Jackson rendezvoused with him at the entrance.

“How’s the expansion?” asked Kwang Hwi.

“As you can see, we have finished dispatching containers to create the outer wall. Afterwards, we’re going to fill them with as much sand and garbage as possible to secure their foundations.”

When they were done, it would be strong enough to withstand a truck hurtling into it at full speed.

“Thankfully, we have a few containers left, which we can use to decorate the interior and provide living quarters.”

The containers were repurposed as dormitories for the civilians—suitable for living, if only just. Another set of containers were converted into barracks for the militia right beside Kwang Hwi’s house. The raw materials that were brought from nearby factories were piled up beside Kwang Hwi’s house.

“For now, the boss’ house will be our temporary base. It shouldn’t take too much time to assemble the prefab house. In the meantime, they’ll be living in tents. It shouldn’t be all that bad in this weather.”

It was currently springtime, which proved to be ideal for their current situation. Were it the Summer or Winter, the weather wouldn’t have been suitable for their soldiers to live in a tent. Kwang Hwi knew he needed to treat them with respect and build the loyalty of his militia. Giving them the ideal living environment was just the first step towards that. As the men who were on the front lines, fighting to protect their haven from imminent threats, Kwang Hwi gave them preferential treatment as thanks for their service.

Kwang Hwi reviewed the defensible locations and designated patrol points across the camp, travelling to each location personally and ensuring that everything met his standards. He made some minor adjustments to the blueprints and proceeded to purchase machine guns and ammo from the Merit Shop.

As he entered the Merit Shop, he found himself overwhelmed by the sheer number of options available to him. Models from all over the world were offered to Kwang Hwi and he took a few painstaking moments before he decided on his purchase.

『STK Ultimax 100』

『Weighing 4.9kg without the magazine, it is one of the lightest machine guns in production. Due to its unique design, its recoil is dampened.』

Whilst it was unfortunate that it used an exclusive drum magazine, modifications to the gun would allow them to use the NATO magazine, which Kwang Hwi preferred. Most importantly, the weapon was portable and very newbie-friendly. The plan was to install the machine guns in place and use the monsters for shooting practice. With this, they had taken the first step towards setting up the foundations of their military base. Kwang Hwi glanced back at the Merit Shop.

『Armored Vehicle』

『This category is currently locked. It can be unlocked after completing a mission.』

Now all he would need is an armored vehicle in order to safely transport his soldiers. Right now, they were stuck with regular vehicles and a single bulletproof transport truck he purchased on the Merit Shop, but its limitations were becoming more and more

apparent. None of their current vehicles could take a direct hit from a Keku and hope to remain in one piece.

Kwang Hwi knew that his most valuable resource was manpower. With limited human resources available, he could not afford to waste them. He needed armored vehicles to protect his assets. The ability to run over monsters was an added bonus. Up until now, he postponed the mission to ensure that they laid the foundation for their base of operations. But now, it couldn't be delayed any further.

『This category can be unlocked after completing a mission.』

『Would you like to accept the mission?』

— Ω —