

## 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.

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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!"

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### 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.

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“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?』

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## 11. First Mission (1)

『Kwang Hwi Baek's Mission』

『Obtain the necessary medical supplies from Dongducheon General Hospital.』

『Mission Rewards: Unlock <Armored Vehicle>, 300,000 MP.』

Kwang Hwi rubbed his eyes in disbelief, but the mission reward remained unchanged. *'In addition to unlocking <Armored Vehicle>, it also gave 300,000 MP?'* Similar to the amount given when he awakened his ability, the reward for completing this quest was enormous.

“Dongducheon General Hospital?”

He knew where that was. With the ambition of becoming the largest hospital in Asia, it had only opened last year after 22 years of construction. But what he couldn't wrap his head around was why.

In the grand scheme of things, there were plenty of other places to secure. Military camps, police stations, fire departments, and the city hall were all crucial to their plans of conquest. He glanced at the whiteboard in his office. It listed their current status and future plans per Kwang Hwi and his subordinates.

**Weapons – Secured**

**Land – Secured**

**Troops – Ongoing**

**Energy – Limited**

**Supplies – Ongoing (Medical Supplies URGENT)**

For a long time, he couldn't take his eyes off of the whiteboard.

*'Could that be it...?'*

Last time, when they went to secure supplies at the L-mart, they were only able to secure basic supplies. Hygienic supplies, food, and clean water were abundant, but they were low on proper medical supplies. That, alongside with their lack of doctors and nurses meant any injuries had a serious chance of escalating. The system appeared to be reading his mind as it assigned him a mission to secure supplies from the hospital. Grabbing his walkie-talkie, he ordered Soo Min to come to his office.

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"Tell me what the minimum number of people needed to defend the base is."

While others would have been perplexed by Kwang Hwi's odd question, Soo Min didn't bat an eye and answered immediately.

"10 people."

Kwang Hwi agreed with his compatriot. In fact, 10 was a bare minimum. As they expanded further, that number would progressively increase.

"Did something happen?" asked Soo Min carefully.

"We need to secure a hospital—a reasonably large one, so I'm planning a full force expedition."

Looting every single minor hospital in their way would dig into their time. While he would prefer to go with only his subordinates, he understood that they needed to provide some semblance of protection for their base. With the substantial reward, there was danger lurking beneath the surface. Soo Min caught on to his boss' thoughts and did his best to assuage his concerns.

"Boss. I understand how you feel, but we can't keep treating them as recruits."

"...You're right."

Kwang Hwi had to accept that casualties would occur during the mission. The new recruits needed to learn in a trial by fire, but it was also too dangerous to take them to such a place. Any mission worth 300,000 MP was most certainly fraught with danger. Taking them to build experience was one thing, sending them out like lambs to the slaughter was something entirely different. Soo Min could see the moral dilemma going on in his boss' head.

"Boss, we know how much you care, but you need to believe in us and the recruits we've trained."

Kwang Hwi nodded. They weren't flowers in a greenhouse. Only through hardship would they be able to grow into capable, diligent soldiers that sneer in the face of danger.

"Form a team that will plunder the hospital by 22:00 today. You'll stay here as the temporary Commanding Officer."

Within the team, Soo Min occupied an unusual position. During regular operations, he acted as the sniper. In the absence of Kwang Hwi, he was the acting Commanding Officer. While unreliable at times, Soo Min was someone that he could trust. After he left the room, Kwang Hwi opened up the Merit Shop and made some final preparations for the mission tomorrow.

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Next morning, Kwang Hwi did a final check on the men's equipment before they headed out. For their mission, there were 8 people on the team: 4 recruits and 4 of his subordinates. Naturally, Kwang Hwi was leading them.

"Today, we'll be heading to the Dongducheon General Hospital. Our objective is to salvage medical supplies and bring them back to our base."

Some of them were surprised that they were sending such a small crew to raid the hospital, but Kwang Hwi pretended not to notice.

"Don't think that 8 people is too small. We are now the only military force around. Follow my commands and we will survive. Everybody, on board." Kwang Hwi boarded the SUV and waved the rest of his troops in. Whoever was left settled in the Medium Tactical Vehicle.

"Yes, sir!"

With a loud whirring, the SUV and Medium Tactical Vehicle lurched forward. Blades were attached to the front of the trucks—another perk from the Merit Shop. It tore apart obstacles on the road, such as stationary cars from before the incident and monsters charging at them at a breakneck pace. In less than an hour, the blades were covered in the stench of monster flesh and black blood. As the trucks screeched to a halt, Kwang Hwi ordered them to start reconnaissance.

The drone that was used last time was sent in to scout. Discarded cars littered the side of the slope leading to the hospital. As the drone got past the slope, it entered through the parking lot entrance.

Corpses were strewn across the parking lot, most likely shredded by monsters. It had been some time since they had been murdered and the corpses had been rotting for a

little while now. A dreary feeling crept up behind them. An ambulance was stuck in the lobby of the first floor, but a strange feeling washed over him.

*'Are there no monsters?'*

The drone hovered in the vicinity of the hospital for a long time, but no monsters were caught on camera.

“Carry on.”

— “Roger.”

The Medium Tactical Vehicle continued to wade through the obstacles, driving over corpses, bulldozing other cars, and paving the way for the other soldiers. Once stopped, the team exited the vehicles and fanned out to secure the perimeter. Despite the loud noises, nary a response was to be found. Without the emergency power, the only source of light in the entire hospital was the natural light coming from the windows. The deeper they headed into the hospital, the more the darkness flooded their vision and left them blind.

Kwang Hwi didn't panic and opened up the Merit Shop.

『GPNVG-18』

『Night-vision goggles used by special task forces such as the DEVGRU in the United States. Compared to the traditional dual-tube goggles, it offers a wider range of vision. Additionally, it blocks strong sources of light to prevent glare.』

“Wear these.”

Kwang Hwi distributed night vision goggles to each of his troop. Now their vision was clear, albeit tinged in blue. As they continued further into the hospital the darkness swallowed Kwang Hwi and his men, one by one.

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## 12. First Mission (2)

There was a map for the entire hospital near the entrance where they came in.

“We're heading towards the pharmacy on the first floor.”

— “Yes, sir.”

“If you see anything strange, report back immediately.”

The number of corpses increased sharply as they made their way deeper into the hospital. The recruits' grimaced as the rotting bodies reeked of decay. Without a word, Kwang Hwi hurried over to his destination.

Looking at his surroundings, he noticed a convenience store next to the pharmacy. *'More food is always good.'* Kwang Hwi gestured for Team 2 to take control of the convenience store next door. As they rummaged about and salvaged whatever they could get access to, Kwang Hwi headed for the pharmacy. The door creaked open and dozens of shelves came into sight, overflowing with medical supplies.

— “Convenience store clear. Stockpiling is underway.”

— “Pharmacy clear. Securing medical supplies.”

The men began shoving medical supplies into their backpacks and grabbing ahold of any equipment that could be easily transported back to the base. With the sheer amount of things to salvage, they would have to make multiple trips to secure everything that was available.

“Boss, everything has been loaded into the vehicles.”

“Everyone, I—“

A scream rang out from further away.

“Report.”

— “Convenient store is silent.”

— “The truck is clear!”

Kwang Hwi exited the pharmacy and reunited with the team that was looting the convenience store.

— “Boss! Movement detected on the third floor!”

“Go!”

They hurried up the stairs. Kwang Hwi, who was in the lead, suddenly threw himself to the floor. Not even a second later, something crashed into the wall behind him with a loud thud. Glancing up, he could see a fire axe embedded in the wall, still shaking from the force of the throw. Even he wouldn't survive being hit by that. One wrong move and he'd be put out of combat—permanently.

A curious monster stood at the top of the stairs. It cawed and looked down at them. It was unlike the previous monsters, bearing no resemblance to the Keku or the Black

Wolf. Instead, its face and skin looked like they were wrapped in a black membrane. On the surface, a large blister was wriggling around.

Kwang Hwi immediately showcased his disgust for the monster. He had seen his fair share of gruesome things in his past, but this was definitely near the top. As he thought about his new adversary, a few friends popped up beside the mass of black. The slew of monsters brandished makeshift weapons made of ramshackle items collected from the building. They carried levers, fire axes, and iron pipes, ready to bludgeon anybody who came close. He raised his gun and pointed it at the first monster that appeared. It didn't resemble a person, which meant that he needed to deal with the hostiles.

Gunshots rang out and the face covered in blisters popped. A small piece of crystal that lay inside shattered into pieces.

『You are the first person in the world to defeat a 'Blister.'』

『You have obtained 500 MP.』

As soon as the first one died, the other monster shrieked at the sight of his comrade dying. Blisters began arriving from all around the pharmacy and they charged directly at Kwang Hwi and his men. Kwang Hwi, however, had his men get into position and begin gunning down the opposition. Soon after, he received another notification:

『You have defeated 10 Blisters faster than anybody else in the world.』

『You have obtained 1,000 MP.』

Despite taking down 10 in an instant via baptism by ballistics, more and more continued appearing. The number of Blisters was increasing far too quickly, and soon became overwhelming. In response, Kwang Hwi took out his own treasured weapon: the M32A1 Grenade Launcher.

『M32A1 MSGL』

『A revolving grenade launcher used in the American and South Korean military bases. It can carry up to six 40mm rounds at once.』

Unlike the automatic grenade launcher that he had used prior, the M32A1 was designed to be portable so he could stay on the move. He pointed the barrel towards the horde of Blisters and fired.

The round exploded directly in front of a Blister and it burst into hundreds of pieces, launching its crystal against a wall, where it shattered. If someone else saw the crystal without knowing anything, they would have mistaken it for a beautiful jewel. Kwang Hwi fired his remaining 5 rounds at the Blisters and they burst apart. Walls were blown out and the railings on the stairs were nowhere to be found. After checking to make sure that the cylinder was empty, Kwang Hwi reloaded and raised his launcher again.

“All clear!”

As his soldiers let out sighs of relief, he noticed something in the corner of his eye and broke into a sprint. A woman covered in gore was trying to catch her breath as red blood gushed out of her stomach. Kwang Hwi could see that she didn't have much time left. He reached out and grabbed her hand, providing what little comfort he could to this dying woman.

"Rescue... team?"

"Are there any survivors?"

"1... 1501."

The woman's hand went limp as her eyes glazed over. It was tragic—they had lost her just on the cusp of rescue. Kwang Hwi closed her eyes and left her to her eternal rest.

*'15th floor.'*

Based on the map at the entrance, the 15th floor was a VIP Hospital Room.

"We're going up. This has turned into a rescue mission. Search for and destroy all threats on the way to the 15th floor."

Kwang Hwi and his team rapidly ascended straight up the stairs. They didn't have time to scour each and every single floor. There were innocent lives on the line. Monsters frequently appeared and ambushed the men as they passed by. Kwang Hwi received a notification that their kill count just passed 100 Blisters as they reached the 13th floor.

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Unlike the other floors, a locked door blocked the entrance to the 15th floor. Motioning for his men to fall back, he fired a grenade at the door and blew it off its hinges. Kwang Hwi's team stormed the entrance, lasers swept through the darkness.

"Clear!"

The interior of the 15th floor was quite luxurious. Leather couches lined the waiting area and both an expensive coffee machine and a Smart TV sat on an avant-garde bookshelf beside the entrance. Unlike the other floors where bloodstains and corpses painted the background, the 15th floor was sterile. As they neared Room 1501, the militia were glued to the walls, ready to respond at a moment's notice. Kwang Hwi battered the door down and stepped into the room.

They stormed the room and found themselves in a room very out-of-place in the hospital. A 1780 sqft VIP Hospital Room was furnished like a luxury apartment. In the center of the room, there were people tied up with rope on the floor. The sound of the door made them turn their heads and widen their eyes in surprise. The people struggled

and Kwang Hwi could hear their muffled screams asking for help. He commanded his men to release them from their bindings. The hostages soothed their wrists, where red welts covered their skin.

“Is this every—“

“Hey you!” said one of the captives. He was a middle aged man whose hairline receded with a furious look on his face. “What the hell do you think you’re doing, arriving so late? It’s been a week! You dare show up now?”

Kwang Hwi shook his head. He had never seen this man before. Just in case, Kwang Hwi looked over at his men, but they shrugged their shoulders. They didn’t know him either.

“Who are you?” said Kwang Hwi with a frown.

“What?” He was enraged. “Who am I? You dare to talk back... to me? Son of a bitch! What military unit are you from?”

Kwang Hwi turned away from the bitter old man and spoke to another person in the room wearing a white gown. He looked like a doctor.

“Who is this person?”

“I-I don’t know, but he says he’s a General Officer in the Army.” The doctor was evidently very nervous.

“A general?” Kwang Hwi smiled. Now it all made sense. He believed that Kwang Hwi and his team were here to save him. “You’re a General Officer?”

“What is your unit and rank!” The old man bellowed at Kwang Hwi, going red in the face.

Kwang Hwi pointed his gun towards the elderly general, whose eyes were tinged with red. He fired a single shot and blood dripped from the man’s cheek. As the man began to understand the current situation, his eyes opened wide and his words were stuck in his mouth.

A dark smile appeared on Kwang Hwi’s face.

“It appears you are mistaken. We’re not from the Army.”

“I...but...then are you from the Navy? The Air Force?”

“Isn’t this guy a little slow?” Kwang Hwi’s subordinates burst into laughter. The new recruits watched with a complicated look on their face. They didn’t know how to react.

“Sir, which unit do you belong to?”

The general began speaking to Kwang Hwi politely, but by now, Kwang Hwi went to speak with the other survivors.

“My name is Kwang Hwi Baek. I am the leader of the militia in Dongducheon.”

“Militia?”

Kwang Hwi nodded solemnly.

“As you may know, since the monsters have appeared, the world has become a mess. The army, which was supposed to be the first line of defense, has become powerless. We have not seen any sign of either the police or the military in a long time.”

“So it’s true, what they were saying on the TV?”

“Yes. For the past week, we haven’t encountered any armed soldiers. Additionally, we have confirmed that firearms have rusted out and have been rendered unusable.”

Here and there, the survivors let out a sigh. The general in particular was taking the news harder than most. He had doubts, but he didn’t think that the military had completely caved.

“Fortunately, we were able to secure an armory of functional guns and ammunition. With it, we’ve been getting by, doing our best to survive.” Kwang Hwi wouldn’t mention just yet that they were doing better than surviving with his newfound ability. That was news for when the time was right.

“I’ll get to the point—we are looking for people to join us, particularly doctors and nurses. We are lacking in people with medical expertise.”

Kwang Hwi looked at the crowd. There were roughly three people who looked like they worked for the hospital. Excluding the pompous old man, there were five people left.

“Is anybody interested?”

Looking at each other, everybody raised their hands at the same time. Kwang Hwi grinned in satisfaction.

“Good.”

13. First Mission (3)

“Let’s head out.”

Having secured medical supplies and practitioners, there was no reason to stay here any longer. The team nodded and led the way out of room 1501.

Kwang Hwi extended his arms. "Wait."

"W-what's wrong?" The restrained general looked at Kwang Hwi with puzzlement.

"You can't come with us," replied Kwang Hwi. A high ranking official was both useless and risky. "I'm the leader," Kwang Hwi continued. "I don't know who you are, but I can't let you go around acting like some kind of big shot."

"W-who said I'd do that?!" His flustered reaction gave away his intention to do so. From the general's point of view, the sky was the limit with an armed force such as the one in front of him. Unfortunately, due to Kwang Hwi's unique relationship with his militia, it was painfully obvious to everyone that his chances of success were slim to none.

"Either way, you can't come with us."

Kwang Hwi walked away and the general's face paled.

*'W-what should I do?'* He bit his lip—he couldn't have begun to imagine how poorly this situation had gone. He had hoped that his men would eventually come save him, but given the current circumstances, he had to cling onto the man in front of him to survive.

"Wait! Let's make a deal!"

Kwang Hwi stopped and turned to the general. He fiddled with his gun and played with his finger dangerously close to the trigger.

"...A deal?"

"If you can ensure my safety, I can promise you something useful."

"Something useful?"

"A Heron."

Kwang Hwi furrowed his brow. *'Does he mean...?'*

"Are you talking about the UAV Heron?" he asked.

"What other Heron could I be talking about?" The general sighed with relief. The general wagered that the leader of a militia group would be interested in military equipment.

*'A Heron...'* Kwang Hwi's expression belied his interest. The Heron was a medium-altitude UAV manufactured by Israel's IAI. It was extremely popular in South Korea, able

to operate continuously up to 52 hours at a time with a range of 3,300 km—enough to scout both China and Japan from South Korea. While it wasn't needed right this moment, it was a necessary component to grow by leaps and bounds in the future.

He paused. He was willing to accept the offer, but what if it turned out like the guns? He rationalized to himself that it wasn't a firearm. While some UAVs had weapons attached, the Heron was fundamentally a reconnaissance vehicle.

『IAI UAV Heron』

『Price: 1,000,000 MP.』

『Would you like to purchase?』

Under [Communications/Reconnaissance], the Heron cost an astronomical 1,000,000 MP. When Kwang Hwi thought about the paltry 190,000 MP he had gained so far, he was flabbergasted.

*'I guess it's worth the risk.'* If he only had to save one person, it was worth the trouble. Plus, if his hypothesis was correct, there was an opportunity under the surface.

“Alright, deal. But ...” His apathetic eyes bore down on the general. “If you try anything funny...”

“I—I know!” The general choked out the words and failed to meet Kwang Hwi's eyes.

The two of them were the last to leave the VIP hospital room. Without warning, a Blister ambushed them. The general recoiled in shock, but Kwang Hwi casually aimed his gun at the Blister and stepped in the way of the Blister and its prey. Until Kwang Hwi claimed possession of the Heron, he would treat the general as a VIP.

The Blister's abdomen burst apart from the spray of bullets and it collapsed.

“Please give me a gun...” the general pleaded.

“No.” Kwang Hwi's sharp glance made the general curb his avarice.

The team and the survivors were already waiting in vehicles.

“Alright, we'll be going back to base.”

The line of vehicles turned around and left the hospital. Unlike when they arrived, Kwang Hwi's SUV led the way, while the Medium Tactical Vehicle carrying survivors and supplies brought up the rear.

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The Blister Lord watched the men depart from his perch. He had been curious as to what humans would approach him so recklessly and had chosen to simply observe from afar for the time being. He quickly realized he had made the right choice—these humans slaughtered countless of his minions in the hospital. For now, there was nothing to do but bide his time.

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“To the boss! Salute!”

The patrol guards hurriedly raised their hands to salute their commander. He noted with satisfaction that the exterior walls of the containers had been painted black, making them even more daunting than before.

As soon as he entered the base, notifications popped into view.

『Mission Complete』

『Secured the necessary medical supplies from Dongducheon General Hospital.』

『You have obtained 300,000 MP as a reward.』

『Unlocked Armored Vehicle category.』

“Keep an eye on him around the clock. He is not allowed out of sight.”

“W-what! I said I wouldn’t do anything strange!” The protest was in vain.

After commanding his subordinates to keep the general under heavy military surveillance, Kwang Hwi headed to his office. Soo Min, who was talking to the other soldiers, stopped and greeted him warmly.

“You’re back, boss! Did you get what you needed?”

Wordlessly, Kwang Hwi went to the whiteboard.

### **Supplies – On Demand (Secured Medical Supplies)**

“This time, I brought doctors and nurses from the hospital. Establish a medical system around them.”

“Understood!”

Satisfied, Kwang Hwi entered the Merit Shop, and selected the [Armored Vehicle] category.

『IFV K-21』

『IFV BMP-3』

『IFV LAV-25』  
『IAV Stryker』  
『APC BTR-90』

The category started off with all kinds of armored vehicles used in Korea, the USA, Russia, and so on.

『K1A1 Tank』  
『K2 Black Panther』  
『M1A2 Abrams』  
『AMX-56 Leclerc』  
『Merkava Mk. 4』  
『Leopard 2』  
『T-90』  
『Type 99』

As he went through the list, it even progressed to tanks. Hundreds of vehicles were listed. Vehicles with a big and beautiful cannon, a sturdy looking armored plate, and a continuous track that looked like it could crush anything in its path. With great reluctance, Kwang Hwi tore his glance away from the tanks in front of him. *'Not yet.'* A tank certainly had its appeal, but he needed to prioritize transforming his team into mechanized infantry.

He paused, as his eyes lit up as he scrolled through the APCs.

『APC Namer』

『A heavy armored personnel carrier developed in Israel. Shares the same body frame as the Merkava Mk. 4. Widely considered to have the most superior defense amongst APCs.』

Kwang Hwi had heard of this vehicle before. It was an APC from Israel designed to protect the relatively small Israeli armed forces. The more he thought about it, the more he realized his situation was similar to Israel's. He was short on combat personnel. Naturally, he couldn't stop looking at the Namer. *'Do I even have enough?'*

『Price: 320,000 MP』  
『Would you like to purchase?』

After his latest mission, Kwang Hwi now had 490,000 MP. He resolved himself and purchased it.

『Purchase complete.』  
『Please confirm the location to deploy vehicle.』

A red rectangle appeared in front of Kwang Hwi. He focused the rectangle to the parking lot in front of the house. A Namer appeared on the gravel out of thin air. Its body was painted in khaki, and a machine gun and a 30mm autocannon were mounted. Inside, a RCWS system was installed to remotely control the autocannon. The people standing nearby jumped back in surprise. Soo Min stared blankly at the APC, and then back at Kwang Hwi.

“Boss, is this also your ability...?”

Kwang Hwi nodded resolutely. “Who do we have that can operate an APC?”

“Including Jackson, 3 people.”

“That’s more than enough.”