



HI! MY NAME IS OFEK AND THIS IS MY STORY: WHY I BECAME A HELICOPTER CADET.



19 OCTOBER 2016 - A SCHOOL CLASS FROM ASCHDOD TOOK A FIELD TRIP TO VISIT THE HISTORICAL SITES IN JERUSALEM. ALWAYS A HIGHLIGHT.



MEANWHILE, IAF APACHE PILOT DAVID IS ON HIS WAY TO WORK, ENJOYING THE WARM FALL SUN. LITTLE DID HE KNOW THAT TODAY WOULD BECOME ONE OF THE MOST EXHILARATING DAYS OF HIS FLYING CAREER.



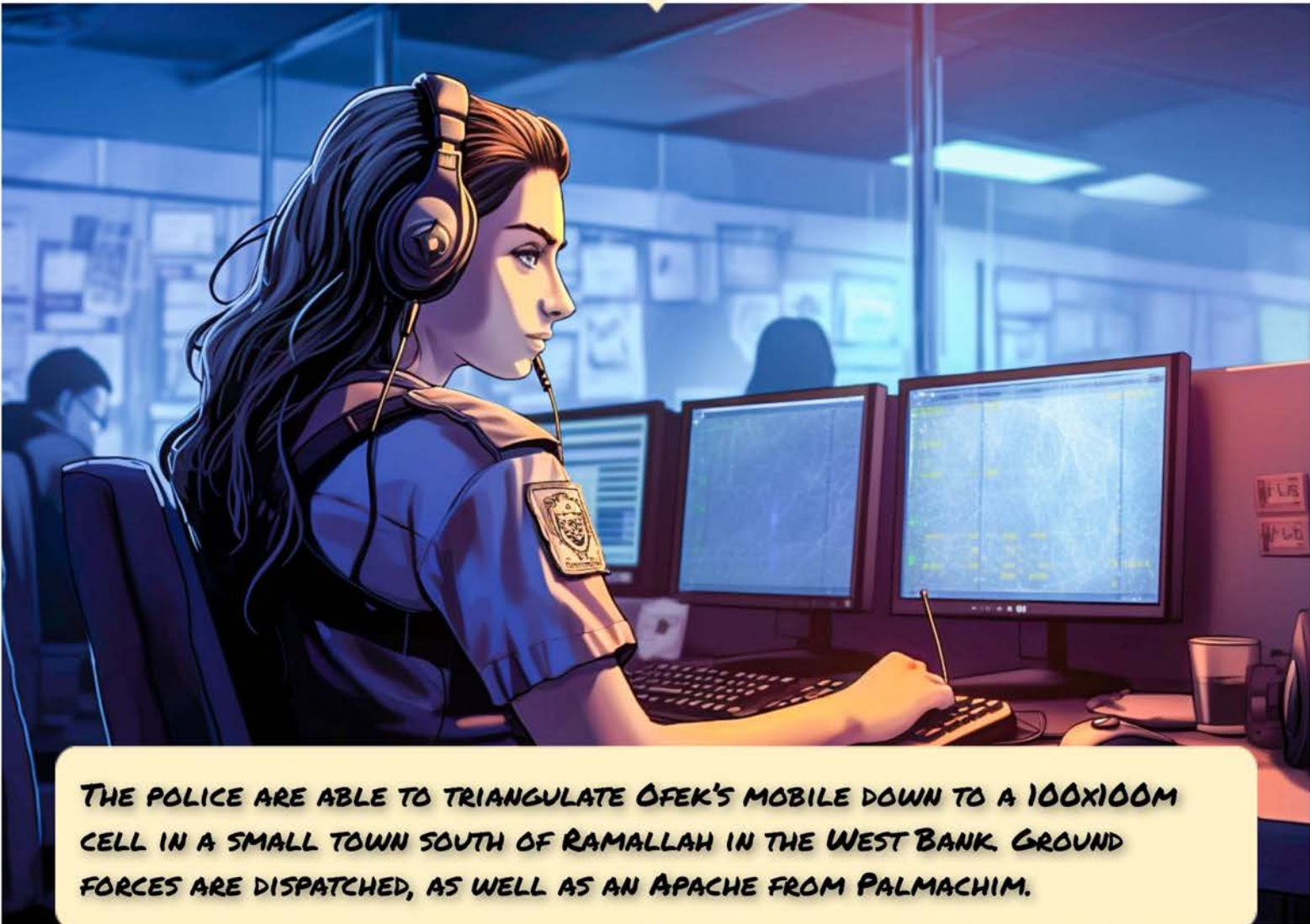
ON THEIR WAY HOME, THE BUS WITH THE ISRAELI SCHOOL CHILDREN IS FORCED TO STOP BY MASKED FIGHTERS. THE FATE OF THE CHILDREN IS INITIALLY UNKNOWN, BUT THEY ARE FEARED TO HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED.



A CRISIS TEAM IS QUICKLY FORMED TO DEVISE A PLAN ON HOW TO RESCUE THE CHILDREN.



13 YEAR OLD OFEK FROM RAMLA HIDES BEHIND THE SEATS AND MANAGES TO CALL THE POLICE.



THE POLICE ARE ABLE TO TRIANGULATE OFEK'S MOBILE DOWN TO A 100X100M CELL IN A SMALL TOWN SOUTH OF RAMALLAH IN THE WEST BANK. GROUND FORCES ARE DISPATCHED, AS WELL AS AN APACHE FROM PALMACHIM.



EXPERIENCED PILOT DAVID AND HIS GUNNER DORON ARE GETTING READY FOR THEIR FLIGHT TO THE WEST BANK.



SPLITTER ONE-ONE CLEARED FOR TAKE OFF RUNWAY 21L, QNH 29.85, WIND 057 DEGREES, 6 KNOTS, DEPART VIA ECHO, LEFT TURN APPROVED. GOOD LUCK BOYS!



APACHE SPLITTER ONE-ONE IS ON ITS WAY TO THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF THE LITTLE GIRL'S CELL PHONE.



MEANWHILE IDF GROUND FORCES ARE IN POSITION NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE WEST BANK, WAITING FOR THE APACHE TO GUIDE THEM TO THE POSITION OF THE BUS.



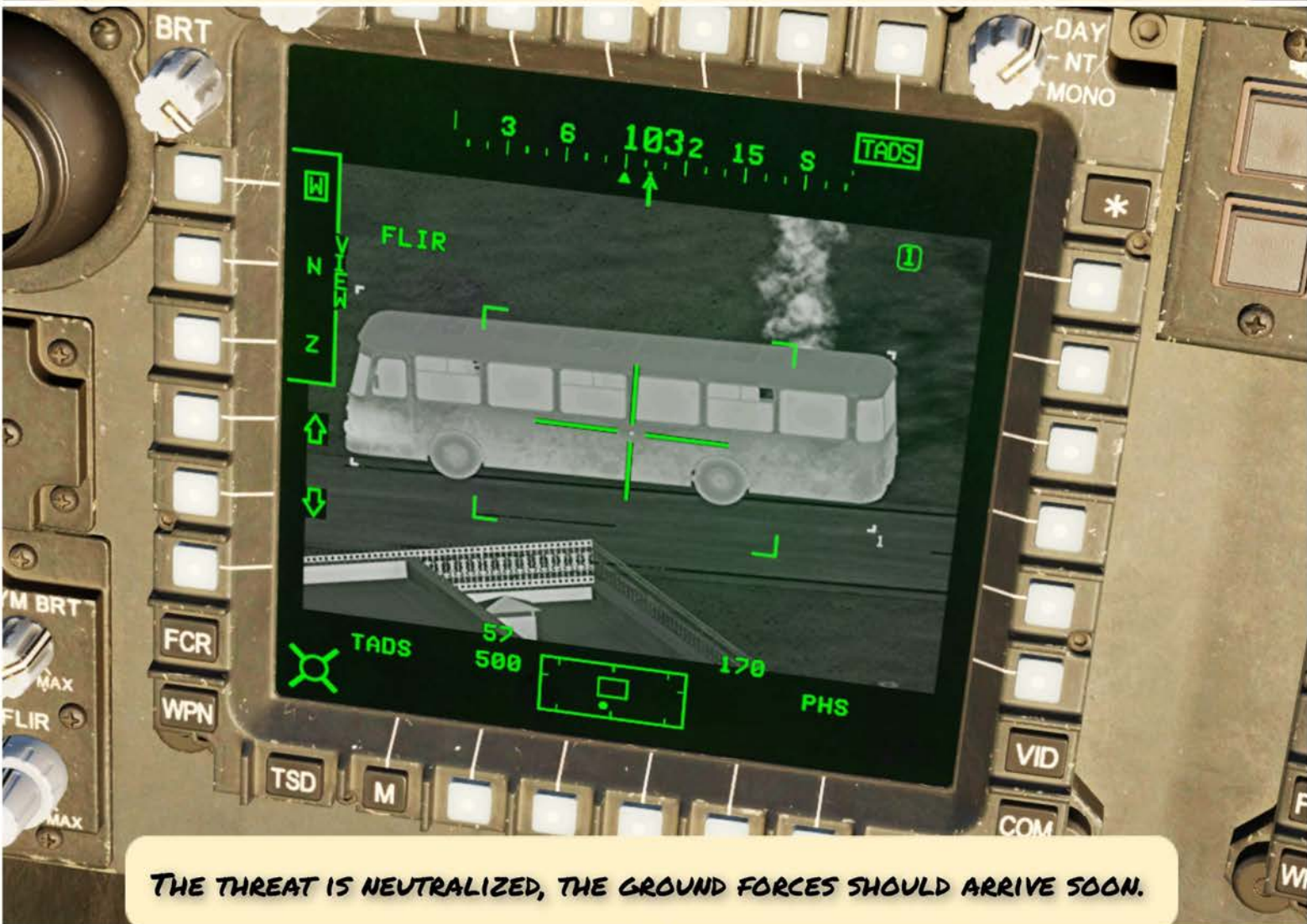
DAVID AND DORON SEARCH THE AREA WHERE OFEK'S MOBILE WAS PINPOINTED.



AS THEY FIND THE BUS, THEIR SENSORS INDICATE THAT IT IS SURROUNDED BY HEAVILY ARMED ENEMY FIGHTERS. THERE IS IMMINENT DANGER - SPLITTER IS CLEARED TO ENGAGE.



AT THE SAME TIME THE GROUND FORCES, CALLSIGN BARAK, ENTER THE WEST BANK.



THE THREAT IS NEUTRALIZED, THE GROUND FORCES SHOULD ARRIVE SOON.



WHEN THE SOLDIERS ARRIVE, ALL THEY FIND IS AN ABANDONED BUS. NO SIGN OF THE CHILDREN.



A DARK MOOD PREVAILS, AS NEITHER THE CRISIS TEAM NOR THE SOLDIERS ON SCENE WERE PREPARED FOR THIS TURN OF EVENTS.



DAVID IS INEVITABLY REMINDED OF HIS OWN DAUGHTER YAEL...



...WHO IS ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS THOSE SCHOOL CHILDREN.





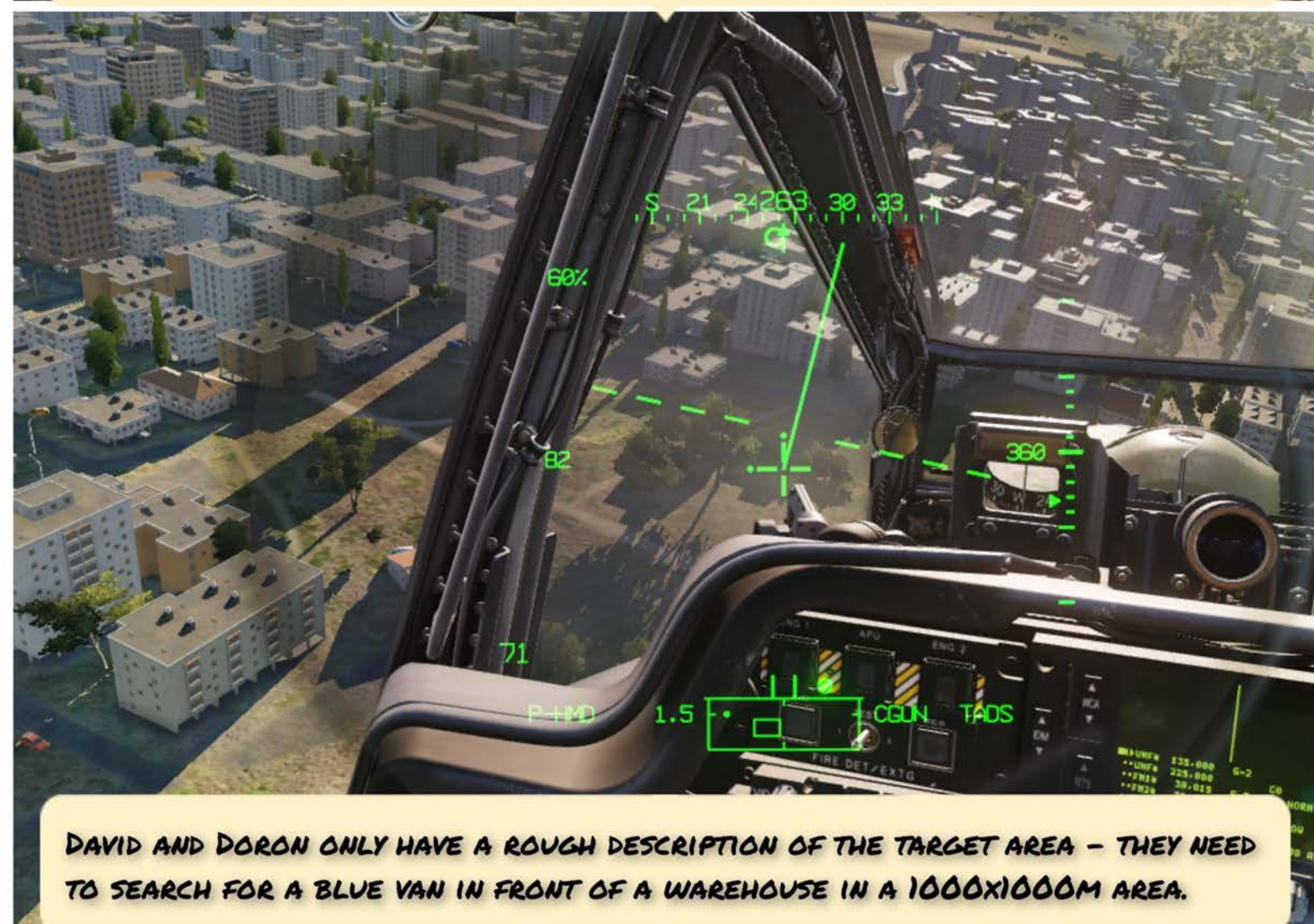
COMMAND QUICKLY FORWARDS THE NEW COORDINATES TO THE APACHE CREW.



OFEK'S CALL WAS TOO SHORT TO PINPOINT HER, BUT AT LEAST DAVID AND DORON KNOW THAT THEY NEED TO SEARCH FOR A BLUE VAN IN RAMALLAH.



WITHOUT HESITATING, THEY TURN NORTH TO RAMALLAH, DETERMINED TO FIND THE VAN.



DAVID AND DORON ONLY HAVE A ROUGH DESCRIPTION OF THE TARGET AREA - THEY NEED TO SEARCH FOR A BLUE VAN IN FRONT OF A WAREHOUSE IN A 1000X1000M AREA.



FINALLY DORON SPOTS TWO BLUE VANS. SOME ARMED PICKUPS NEARBY, ARE A TELLTALE SIGN THIS IS THE HIDEOUT OF THE PPPF TERRORISTS.



THE KIDNAPPERS ARE STARTLED BY THE SOUND OF THE HELICOPTER OVERHEAD.



AS SOON AS THE ARMED PICKUPS TRY TO FLEE FROM THE SCENE, THE APACHE CREW DOES NOT HESITATE TO ENGAGE THEM.



THE THREAT IS QUICKLY ANNIHILATED.



SPLITTER AND THE GROUND FORCES ARE ABLE TO NEUTRALIZE THE KIDNAPPERS. THE CHILDREN ARE ALIVE AND WELL.



OFEK IS TREATED BY IDF MEDICS. SHE IS BEING RELEASED THE SAME DAY.



SPLITTER ONE-ONE IS BACK AT PALMACHIM AFTER A SUCCESSFUL RESCUE MISSION.



WEEKS AFTER THE INCIDENT, OFEK VISITS DAVID, DORON AND THEIR APACHE. HER PLANS FOR THE FUTURE ARE SET - SHE WANTS TO BECOME A HELICOPTER PILOT - LIKE HER SAVIORS.