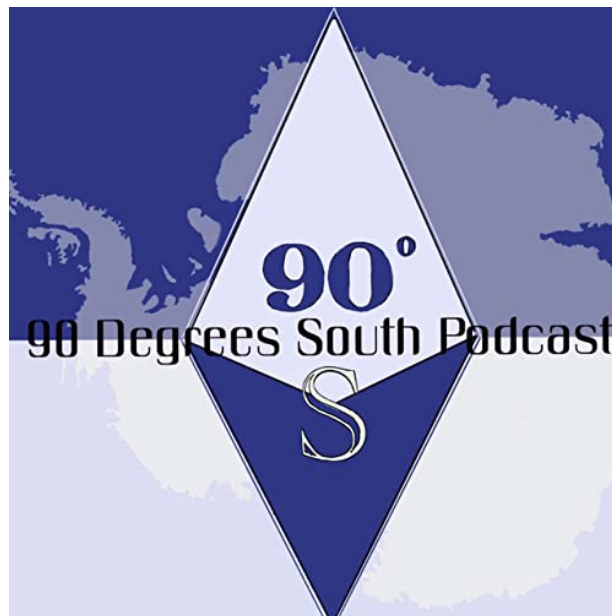


90 Degrees South

SEASON THREE
EPISODE EIGHT: McMurdo

DRAFT 1: NOV 05, 2023



by
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BMB Productions LLC

INTRO MUSIC

ACT I

BASS' RECORDER: RECORDING STARTED

WE HEAR A NEW BACKGROUND FOR THE FIRST TIME. THERE IS STILL A CONSTANT HEATER IN THE BACKGROUND, BUT WE HEAR THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF A VERY LARGE AND ACTIVE STATION. BASS HAS BEEN ASKED TO TRAVEL TO McMURDO STATION.

BASS

Thursday, Eight December 2022. Current time is oh-five-thirty hours. This is Supervisory Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow, currently reporting from McMurdo Research Station, Antarctica. New assignment requested by Marshal Murphy and in response to wanted fugitive suspected to be on station.

Arrived last night and was met by my special deputy William Culligan. Provided briefing at twenty-two hundred hours on the situation. A new DeWalt, a pipe fitter had been requested from the A.N.Z.[TWO BEAT] That's the New Zealand version of our Office of Polar Programs to replace a former contractor who had to leave Scott station due to a family medical issue.

Scott station is the New Zealand station just a mile away from McMurdo. It's smaller than McMurdo; only a fraction of the size; but they don't have the same amount of resources we do. The two stations work closely with one another over the decades. Well. . .that was until the presidential edict to restrict foreign visitors to critical U.S. infrastructure and research stations was announced. I suspect that there may be more than a few "blind eyes" turned down here after January.

The replacement, a Narek Margosian was sent under a New Zealand international subsidy program which had yet to be deactivated in preparation for the United States edict. Margosian arrived three weeks ago and has been bouncing between the two

stations. This is not unusual at all and quite common amongst the residents.

It was during updates on paperwork being filed and electronically archived that Margosian's named flagged an Interpol alert as a wanted fugitive. It appears that when he was entered into the O.P.P. systems, there was a typo in his surname, which is how he got in under the radar.

Our pipe fitter seems to also have a loose affiliation with individuals of an organized criminal element back in the motherland, as well as in Christchurch as well as West Adams; Los Angeles. There are multiple warrants and international summons on file. Once the error was made known; my presence was requested as the wanted individual has a history of violence and battery against law enforcement; also, an aspect that wasn't flagged due to the typo. Arrest is not expected to be easy.

Currently, the plan is to enter Scott station this evening, make the arrest and then prepare the prisoner for transport back to Christchurch for formal charging. I don't have jurisdiction on Scott station as it's part of New Zealand. There is a small unit of four offices set to also arrive this evening to assist with the apprehension and transport. I'm to meet with an

SHUFFEL PAPERS

Here we are; Inspector Aubrey Morrison of the A.O.S. New Zealand's Armed offenders Squad. Like our Marshals, they have special tactics training and most recently responding during the Christchurch Mosque terror attacks in 2019. We don't meet up until twenty hundred hours and then have a oh-four-thirty warrant execution.

I'm getting yet another honor by being the first US Marshal to have been . . .well I guess the best word is 'deputized' by the New Zealand police force to operate with their authority during this operation.

The paperwork actually has my name but lists a A.K.A. as "Ice Sheriff". This nickname seems to have stuck!

So, until the plane with New Zealand's finest arrive later tonight; I'm getting caught up on more routine matters.

BASS' RECORDER: RECORDING STOPPED

ACT II

FADE IN

WE'RE INSIDE THE MCMURDO DINING GALLEY IT'S EARLY MOORNING AND THERE IS A FULL HOUSE GETTING THER BREAKFAST. SOUND SHOULD BE A FULL DINING ROOM. BASS IS AT A TABLE WITH HIS EMPLOYEE, WILLIAM CULLIGAN

BASS

No, I'd say it's pretty much on par with this. I mean, don't get me wrong these crapes are delicious! All I'm saying is you put one of our Ms. Alice's breakfast side by side with your cook; and it would be a true challenge!

BILL

Only got to hit the Icebox one time a few years back. Was at Amundsen for a few days for some training. Had the meals you all get down there and if you think it's equal; your taste buds are suffering!

BASS

[CHUCKLE] Yeah, well don't let miss Alice hear you say that!

SPOONFULL OF BREAKFAST BEING CONSUMED

BASS

I can't tell you how much I missed this!

BILL

Yeah, Chef's cooking is pretty fantastic.

BASS

[ENVIOUS]

No. The noise, all the people. The. . the. .the noise outside; hell. . .I'm walking around outside without a heavy coat! This is incredible! I may have to visit Mudtown more often!

BILL

Yeah. . .have to admit of all the assignments I could have pulled a few years back. This was the last one I was thinking of. Not like we're exactly buried in paperwork all the time. But. . .I don't know. . .[DEEP BREATH] Just something about this here Ice!

BASS

Yeah. I get that a lot, it seems.

BILL

So, you all. . .

COUPLE WALK BY CHATTING.

BILL

[LOUD WHISPER]

All set for this evening. The big takedown?

BASS

Not my first time at the rodeo, Bill. I've helped to hook up several hundred bad people in the last twenty years. Not that I'm taking this individual lightly, any more than others...but I'm ready.

BILL

Narek Margosian has a temporary office in the VMF here at McMurdo. After it was discovered he was connected with organized crime, we had his workstation checked.

BASS

Not exactly due process 101, but did he have anything telling.

BILL
No. Nothing at all.

BASS
Probably best. Had it been something juicy,
without a proper warrant we. . .

BILL
No, Bass; you're not. . .literally. . there was
nothing in his station drawers. No pens, no
pencils, no breath mints or yellow sticky note;
things! It was empty.

BASS
That's just. . .spooky!

BILL
Right? Everybody has *something* in their work
drawers. This hombre, nothing!

BASS
Did he have any temp quarters in McMurdo?

BILL
No, no. Only berth he had was over in Scott.

BASS
Alright then. By chance is he working on station
today?

BILL
He's over on the N.Z. side. Wasn't supposed to be
back for another two days to help out our chief
engineer with something.

BASS
Okay then. I'm going to get some paperwork
knocked out, do a bit of walking around. Want to
grab a late lunch around thirteen hundred?

BILL
Sounds good to me. I'll meet you over at
Gallagher's Pub and I'll pay. [CHUCKLE] Going to
expense it anyway!

BASS

Still not used to having choices on where to grab meals. We just have the Galley. What do you have? Three?

BILL

Gallaghers, Southern Exposure, and the Galley. Plus, we more or less have free run of the Dining hall and Tatty Flag bar at Scott. Well, maybe not so much after January. We'll see, I guess.

BASS

What the chatter your hearing about that? The President's edict to restrict visitors.

BILL

To be blunt; dumb fucking idea! We already had security in place at major installations to deter any shenanigans taking place. No need for another law. Power facilities have guards and security measures. Military bases have soldiers, sailors and marines. As for down here. . .shit. It's not going well and granted I'm speaking to my own boss right now. . .unless you order me to; I'm not enforcing it.

BASS

I'm not a an of this either, and no. . .there won't be any orders.

BILL

Here on the Ice; there ain't two international stations closer to one another than Mactown and Scott! Distance and relationship wise. Hell, I know at least four different couples that date across station lines. This decision ain't sitting well with anybody; at EITHER station.

BASS

Common words I'm hearing. Not many like this move to isolation. [BREATH] Okay. Paperwork awaits. See you at thirteen hundred?

BILL

Burgers and Beers on me!

FADE OUT

ACT III

BASS' RECORDER: RECORDING STARTED

BASS IS WALKING DOWN MAIN STREET IN MCMURDO. WE HEAR HEAVY LOADING EQUIPMENT IN THE DISTANCE. THE WIND IS VERY LIGHT AND THERE ARE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE GOING ON ABOUT THEIR DAY. BASS GETS A FEW WHISPERS AS HE WALKS BY DUE TO HIS HAT AND DUSTER. HE WALKS TO AN OFFICE BUILDING AND ENTERS. WALKING DOWN THE HALLWAY THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

RONDA

Come on in.

DOOR OPENS AND WE HERE RADIO COMMERCIALS PLAYING IN THE BACKGROUND. WE'RE IN THE RECORDING STUDIO OF ICE F.M.

BASS

Mr. Murphy. Ma'am!

RONDA

Tall drink of water, handsome as all get out. Old cowboy duster and hat. You ABSOLUTLEY have to be Bass, the Ice Sheriff!

BASS

Pleasure to meet you ma'am. Bass Marlow. US Marshals Service.

RONDA

Nice to finally meet you Sheriff! I'm Ronda Nazar, I'm the station event coordinator and D.J. for Ice F.M.

BASS

Radio Ronda! Everybody on the ice knows you!

RONDA

Well, all the people from US and New Zealand stations. So; what brings you in here Sheriff? Any chance it's for an interview on my show? I can flip on some levels and break out cans and Mics if. . .

BASS

Oh, no ma'am, no ma'am nothing like that. Actually, I need to chat with the McMurdo area

manager, Mr. Murphy. I was told he was in the station.

MARC

Just going over upcoming station announcements with Ronda here. Making sure we get all the holiday music squared away before Santa arrives in a few weeks. Ronda said we might be getting a visit from you. Everything alright?

BASS

Hrmm? No no, everything is okay. Just needed to bend your ear for a few minutes. [PONDERERS] How. . .how were you aware I was coming?

RONDA

Okay, first. . . never said it would be the Ice Sheriff who would be visiting, just a tall man with secrets. Second; we talked about this Marc!

MARC

Oh nonsense! Ronda here just. . .knows things before they happen. Makes for interesting bits on her show. She comes for an ancient line of story tellers! At least that made for good radio during Halloween season! [Douchy laugh]

BASS

Ronda . . .Nazar. Nazar. Romani?

RONDA

[SURPRISED / HAPPY]

Wow! Didn't even go straight to the "G" word. I'm even more impressed with you Sheriff! Yes, my family tree is heavily rooted by the Romani people. An Italian here or there notwithstanding.

MARC

How about we step outside in the hall for a few Bass. You can tell me all about it. Be right back Ronda.

RONDA

[SARCASTIC]

Oh, I'll be counting the minutes.

FOOTSTEPS OUTSIDE AND A DOOR CLOSES

MARC

She is just the living end, isn't she! All sultry and mysterious!

BASS

She's. . .interesting. Anyway. . . .

MARC

Right, right! Business. What can I do ya for?

BASS

I wanted to make sure you were aware in advance. There is a fugitive which was discovered to be stationed at Scott base with occasional access to McMurdo.

MARC

[WORRIED]

On this station?

BASS

[REASSURING]

We don't suspect there is any immediate danger. This individual doesn't know we're aware of his past. There is a cross-agency effort to bring the individual in quietly and with as little disruption to Scott or McMurdo as possible.

MARC

Should we notify. . .somebody?

BASS

Like I said, there are resources already in place and will be on the ice in a matter of hours. I can't go into specifics; but as the station manager; I was asked to ensure you were aware when the time was proper. This should all be resolved relatively soon; and expected to take place on Scott station; other than transport off continent which will be from here.

MARC

Is. . .was the Scott Base manager made aware?
Does she know what's happening?

BASS

My understanding is she is being notified by her government and law enforcement officials right this moment, and again with only the details necessary for operational security purposes.

MARC

[CLARIFYING]

So. . .Danger to the station and the crew here. .

BASS

I expect to be extremely minimal to none.

MARC

[REASSURED]

Oh well then, I don't see where there should be.
. .

RADIO CHIRPS

VOICE ON RADIO

Marc? Sarah is on line fifteen. Wants to chat.

MARC

Got it Harry, thanks! On my way. Speak of the devil. I'm sure she wants to know what I know. Sarah is the Scott Base Director.

BASS

We'd like to reiterate the information is highly sensitive. Please keep it contained to just the two of you!

MARC

[HURRIED]

Of course, Marshal, of course! If you'll excuse me...

FOOTSTEPS LEADING AWAY.

BASS

Where's my. . .damn!

DOOR OPENS.

BASS

Sorry Ms. Nazar; left my hat on your desk.

RONDA
Here you [STOPS] huh.

BASS
You; alright?

RONDA
You're here to collect a man. A wanted man!

BASS
[PLAYS ALONG]
Well, as a US Marshal that is my primary job.
Finding bad guys.

RONDA
He's not a good man either. He's done, many bad
things!

BASS
We don't tend to bother with people who do good
things, so. . .if you don't. . .

RONDA
He'll run. He'll run and you chase. There are
bells. Stacked food in rows. I hear. . .a
gunshot, then blackness. Sorry. Here's your
hat. Sometimes, it just happens. The,
predictions. The Psychometry.

BASS
Very impressive. Makes me wish I had heard the
Halloween stuff Mr. Murphy mentioned.

RONDA
That? Oh that was just for the show. Basic
observations, educated and targeted guesses,
stuff you'll find being offered on any US
boardwalk for the tourists or rubes. No. What I
just did; that's different.

BASS
Bit on the nose, isn't it? A stereotype? The
Romani fortune teller?

RONDA

I'm no fortune teller. No psychic. I just; see things that will happen. I don't know. . .more like fate teller, or future viewer in fuzzy and cloudy glimpses? My Grandma had this thing to. Supposedly it skips generations.

BASS

Fascinating, as this all is. . .I apologize for being abrupt but I'm on something of a timetable.

RONDA

My offer still stands deputy! You want to come back for an interview with Radio Ronda; my door is open. My on-air light on!

BASS

Appreciated! Ma'am.

DOOR CLOSSES AS BOOTSTEPS HEAD BACK OUTSIDE.

FADE OUT

ACT IV

FADE IN

ITS 11PM. STILL DAYLIGHT OUTSIDE BUT INSIDE THE SOUTHERN EXPOSURE CLUB IT IS DARK WITH NO WINDOWS. A BAND PLAYS AND PEOPLE ARE DANCING AND DRINKING ALL AROUND. A NIGHT CLUB. BASS IS SITTING AT A TABLE ENJOYING A CLUB SODA.

AUBREY

Ice Sheriff Marlow?

CHAIR SLIDE BACK

BASS

U.S. Supervisory Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow. 'Ice Sheriff' is more an . . .honorary title. Inspector Aubrey Morrissey I presume? Please, join me?

AUBREY

Thank you! Very. . .lively for a science research station!

BASS

They do enjoy their recreation time. I'm primarily based at the South Pole station, and we have nothing like this! I figured for the initial meeting, our chatting in an informal setting would draw less. . .attention and speculation.

AUBREY

Prudent, albeit a bit on the reckless side. You yanks always this. . .inventive?

BASS

When the situation necessitates it. You need to hug me!

AUBREY

[TAKEN ABACK]

Beg pardon?

BASS

Need to keep up the charade. Have everybody think we've known one another for a while, not meeting for the first time. Just smile big and stand. I'll hug you and it will look like we're old chums.

CHAIR SLIDES BACK AND WE HEAR FABRIC RUBBING ON THE MIC.

CHAIRS SLIDE BACK IN.

WAITRESS

Sheriff? Can I get you and your friend drinks?

BASS

I'll have another club soda and Aubrey? What are you drinking tonight?

AUBREY

You always were a lightweight Bass! Give me a pint of bitters and a set of BALLS for the old man here!

BASS

Oh! We doing this again. Two pints Molly!

WAITRESS

Two pints of bitters, right away.

THREE BEAT

AUBREY

How was that?

BASS

Excellent! The target may still be inside Scott Base, but we don't know who his friends might be, even here at McMurdo! Best to not make it like two agents are converging.

AUBREY

Which explains. . .

BASS

Why I said to come in civilian clothes. I'm marked as the law. You aren't! Far as anybody around here knows. . .

AUBREY

Just two old mates catching up.

BASS

Precisely! You have three others with you?

AUBREY

Correct. Two have the target under surveillance. The other is getting rest before the go. Our target is enjoying the dining hall at Scott. Having several drinks of his own.

TRAY SET ON TABLE

WAITRESS

Here's your drinks Sheriff.

BASS

Thanks Molly. Can I get more of these pretzels? No rush or anything, just next time you come by to check on us?

AUBREY

And a menu luv!

WAITRESS

No problem. See you all in a jiff.

AUBREY

The food they gave us on Air N.Z. was pure rubbish. Your yank food may taste like chemicals and shoe leather; but it's a step up! No offense meant.

BASS

So back to the target?

AUBREY

We go at oh-four-thirty station time. Flash bang the room and extract. Walls on Scott base are super thin, so live rounds are secondary and only in emergency. We brought rubber rounds.

BASS

Sim-union Op?

AUBREY

Two of my lads will have beanbag rounds. Rest of us will have tasers, chem-sprays and batons. Things go wonky right bad. . .live rounds. You kitted proper?

BASS

Fully stocked.

AUBREY

Look. . .just so we're clear from the start. . .

BASS

This is your op. I'm a guest. You call the shots, and I answer to you. I won't have a problem with any of that!

AUBREY

Just wanted to get that out of the way, early on yeah! Okay, as Scott base is under New Zealand law and jurisdiction, I have here with me, an official Letter from the Assistant Commissioner Samuel Hoyle; Granting Bass Marlow temporary commission as a Senior Constable with the New Zealand police for the duration of the operation and ensuring he is properly empowered by law to be able to assist.

BASS

Can I keep this letter? Would kinda like to get it framed after this!

AUBREY

All yours luv!

BASS

Plan still to have him transported out of McMurdo and to C-Church?

AUBREY

Rodger that! Like you said, we can't be sure our bloke doesn't have chums on base. Best to have him flown out Yank-side.

BASS

We're ready. I know the pilot who'll be making the run. Taggert. Ace flyer. Good man. Plays cards for shit, so. . .

AUBREY

Ohhhh! A right pigeon then?

BASS

Young man adds very nicely to my retirement fund!

BOTH LAUGH

AUBREY

We all meet at 0h-three thirty in berth 327 which we're using as a temp C&C. We'll review the plan; make sure everybody is clear and then deploy for the four-thirty execution.

BASS

After we're done here, I'll grab my gear bag and we'll hold up until it's time.

WAITRESS

Okay, here's your pretzels and a menu. Seeing as how you're Kiwi-side; our chef back there can prepare you a very excellent meat pie! Get's lots of complements!

AUBREY

I'm so hungry right now that everything looks good. Let's go with that Meat pie!

WAITRESS

You got it! Back in a flash.

AUBREY

Mind me asking about the body cam?

BASS

Hrm? Oh. . .so used to it I sometimes forget it's there. Yeah, when I first got assigned to Amundsen-Scott it was in connection with Beauregard-Lowing. I had to wear this to document everything. It became almost like part of a uniform really. Even though I'm not required to wear it any longer. . .I don't know it just feels. . .right. Not like anything I do down here is exciting, and I doubt **anybody** would ever be interested in listening to it.

AUBREY

We'll all have them for the operation later on; so you won't be alone in that. How are we doing on time?

BASS

Um, twenty-three fifteen. Service is pretty good here. We should be able to head back by quarter midnight.

AUBREY

Well then, a toast. To a successful operation and despite your president. . .continued international cooperation!

BASS

Absolutely drink to that!

CLINKING OF BEER GLASSES AND THEN FADE OUT

ACT V

BASS' RECORDER: RECORDING STARTED. BLUETOOTH PAIRED.

IT'S 4:29AM. WE'RE IN A VERY QUIET HALLWAY. THE TACTICAL TEAM IS NOW UNDERWAY AND HEADING DOWN THE STAIRS TO THE HALLWAY WHERE MARGOSIAN'S BEARTH IS LOCATED. WE HEAR THE MILITARY CHATTER THROUGH EAR BUDS AND THROAT MICS. TENSE MUSIC PLAYS.

AUBREY

[ON COMMS, LOW VOICE]

Alpha one on point. No foot traffic. Doors secured. Proceeding to stairwell. [TWO BEAT] Entry. Proceed down to level two.

AOS 2

[ON COMMS, LOW VOICE]

Copy

AOS 3

[ON COMMS, LOW VOICE]

Copy

BASS

[ON COMMS, LOW VOICE]

Copy

AOS 4

[ON COMMS, LOW VOICE]

Copy.

WE HEAR BOOTS QUIETLY HEADING DOWN THE CONCRETE STAIRS.

AUBREY

[ON COMMS, LOW VOICE]

Alpha one on point. Entering main hallway. [TWO BEAT] We're clear. Proceeding down to door one-one-niner. Remember all. We have civies aplenty and walls as thin as the protection Baxley uses. So it's date night everybody, rubber rounds unless I clear you.

VARIOUS LOW CHUCKLES ON COMMS.

AOS 3
[ON COMMS, LOW VOICE]
Rodger that, inspector.

BASS
[ON COMMS, LOW VOICE]
Copy

AOS 4
[ON COMMS, LOW VOICE]
Alpha 4 copies.

**FOOTSTEPS QUIETLY PROCEED DOWN THE HALL. THE MUSIC IS TENSE
AND WE HEAR THE BOOTSTEPS SLOW.**

AUBREY
[ON COMMS, LOW VOICE]
Alpha one on point. At target door. Stack and
hold for my signal.

**THE TEAMS CLOSES IN. QUIET SHUFFELING AND AFTER A PAUSE, WE
HEAR 'TAP' ON THE SHOULDERS OF EACH PERSON IN FRONT OF THE
NEXT, SIGNALING ALL-READY. MUSIC TENSE.**

AUBREY
[ON COMMS, LOW VOICE]
Alpha one on point. At target door. All signals
are go. We breach & clear in three...two...one. .
.go!

DOOR IS KICKED OPEN AND POLICE IS SHOUTED.

AOS 3
[ON COMMS]
CHECK UNDER THE BED!

AOS 4
[ON COMMS]
NOTHING IN THE CLOSET. WINDOW IS OPEN!

RAPID FOOTSTEPS OVER

AUBREY

FUCK! He knew we were coming! WE HAVE A RABBIT
LADS!

BOOTSTEPS EXITING THE ROOM. THE OTHER RESIDENTS IN THE HALL
ARE PEAKING OUT THEIR DOORS. NERVOUS CHATTERING, A FEW
GASPS AND PANIC NOISES. THE A.O.S. TEAM EXIT THE BUILDING
AND WE HEAR BOOTS ON GRAVEL AND ICE.

AOS 3
ANYTHING?

BASS
I GOT NOTHING!

AUBREY
SHIT! Alright. Baxley, Lewis. Head that
direction and look for any signs. Ice Sheriff
and I will go this way. Jims; head back up to
C&C and radio in the situation.

BOOTSTEPS HEADING OUT. WE FOLLOW BASS AND AUBREY
AS THEY HEAD DOWN A STREET.

BASS
Here, here! Tracks. Their fresh and barefooted.
Nobody around here would be barefoot unless they
had to run, quick! Heading over to that
building. Says food storage.

BEEP OF A RADIO

AUBREY
[ON COMMS]
Possible contact. Prints found. Heading to Cargo
storage building D.

AO 3
[ON COMMS]
Say. . . .[STATIC]. . . .no copy no. . .
.[STATIC]

BEEP OF A RADIO

BASS
[ON COMMS]
Alpha Team, do you copy?

AO 3
[ON COMMS]
Say. . . .[STATIC]. . . .Not. . . .[STATIC]

AUBREY
Your ten feet away and your signal's choppy for
me too. What the hell?

BASS
I swear we're being jammed.

AUBREY
By whom? Who would have. . .

BASS
[SUDDEN, EXCITED]
Got him! Just saw him peak out a window. He's in
there.

AUBREY
Damn it! [BREATH] entry with less than half the
team?

BASS
Is something no commander or trainer would
advise. [BEAT] I'm in if you are. Your call
inspector!

AUBREY
[FRUSTRATED]
Comms completely down now. [BREATH] ok. I'm on
point.

BASS
On your six.

**FOOTSTEPS TO THE BUILDING AND A DOOR SLOWLY OPENS, CREEKING
LOUDLY.**

BASS
Ready.

**THERE IS FAINT CHRISTMAS MUSIC COMING FROM INSIDE. A RADIO
LEFT ON AND SITTING ON THE DESK OF ONE OF THE WORKERS.
CAROL OF THE BELLS CHRISTMAS SONG. QUIET BOOTSTEPS AS BASS
HEADS TO WHERE HE SAW HIM.**

AUBREY
[LOW VOICE]
Contact. Ten meters ahead, on the left. Near the
shelves.

**QUIET FOOTSTEPS AND APPROACHING THE BAD GUY. MUSIC GETS
SLIGHTLY LOUDER AS THEY NEAR THE OFFICE.**

BASS
GET DOWN!

**THREE GUNSHOTS! WE HEAR A NOISE OF AUBREY BEING PUSHED OUT OF
THE WAY AS THE TWO SCRAMBLE.**

BASS
COVER! COVER! [QUICK BREATH OUT] I'm hit!

AUBREY
[WORRIED]
What? Where? WHY'D YOU DO THAT?

BASS
[DEEP BREATH]
Had a bead, your head. Would have [COUGH] Oh
man, it's my Chest. It. .it. hit the vest.
Armor. I'm fine. I'm good [DEEP BREATH]
Motherfucker!

AUBREY
Like hell you are you twat! We're out of here!

RADIO BEEP

AUBREY
CONTACT.SHOTS FIRED - OFFICER DOWN! [STATIC]
FUCK! Stay with me Marlow!

BASS
Oh, I have enough adrenaline pumping right now to
keep me active. [DEEP BREATH]

ANOTHER GUNSHOT FROM THE DISTANCE

AUBREY
Go to live rounds.

**SOUND OF MAGS BEING EJECTED, ROUND EJECTED AND NEW MAGS
LOADED. SLIDES RACKED**

AUBREY
TIME TO GIVE IT UP MARGOSIAN!

MARGOSIAN
FUCK YOU PIGS!

ANOTHER SHOT!

AUBREY
FIRE AT WILL.

**CLOSE BY 3-ROUND BURSTS.
WE HEAR A BODY THUMP AND THEN SILENCE, JUST THE RADIO.**

RADIO BEEP

AUBREY
Alpha team! Alpha Team! How copy?
[STATIC]

BASS
No way they didn't hear the gunshots. They should
be inbound! [DEEP EXHAILE]

AUBREY
How you doing Ice Sheriff? Still playing the hero
over there?

BASS
Starting to feel my chest thumping, So adrenaline
is slowing. Should we flash and go?

AUBREY
No. Wait for the others.

A FEW MINUTES AND THE SAME DOOR SQUEEKS. WE HEAR TAP.
TAP TAP from A DISTANCE. THEN SAME TAP + 1 FROM
CLOSEBY.

AUBREY

That's the team. They're heading over.

WE HEAR SOFT BOOTPRINTS APPROACHING.

AOS3

Comms jammed Inspector!

AUBREY

Master of the bloody obvi! Marlow took a round to the chest. Vest stopped it. Lewis, check him out; get him prepped to see the doc. Baxley, on me. . .he may be down. Then again, he may be having a go. Live rounds! Prep for flash and clear.

BASS

I'm okay. I'm coming with. . .

AUBREY

Remember our chat earlier Sheriff? You already took one that was meant for me. Whose in charge again . . .constable?

BASS

[SLIGHT MOAN]

You are inspector.

AUBREY

Too right! Alright Lewis. Get him prepped. We'll deal with this.

BOOTSTEPS HEADING OUT.

BASS

What was that?

A04

Just something to help you relax Marlow.

BASS

SEDATION? Oh no way! I'm. . .can't afford.

A04

This is what we do mate, and we're real good at it. You just go beddy bye now!

BASS

[PASSING DARK]
Going to. . .going to. . . .you're getting a
punch . . .everything going dark, next to the
food. . .just like she said. . .

FROM A DISTANCE WE HEAR

AUBREY
[DISTANCE]
MARGOSIAN! THROW THE WEAPON AWAY!

TWO BEAT

AOS3
[DISTANCE]
No movement. No breathing I see. Blood pooling.

AUBREY
Move in and secure the weapon. IF YOU MOVE MARGOSIAN, YOU WILL
BE SHOT!

FOOTSTEPS AND THEN JUST RADIO.

RONDA
[OVER THE RADIO]
Folks, we're getting reports of gunfire coming from Scott base. For your
safety Deputy Culligan is ordering everybody to shelter in place for now
and stay tuned to ICE FM for updates.

AOS3
CLEAR! TARGET HAS BEEN NULLIFIED. CLEAR!

RONDA
[OVER THE RADIO]
Again, we don't know the situation, we can only hope that everybody
over there is alright. I have it on good authority the Ice Sheriff is over
there and on scene. Can't speak for the rest of you out there; but that
makes me feel better. If anyone can handle business. . .It's our Ice Sheriff.

AUBREY
OKAY, SCENE IS SECURE! Phones are still working. I'm calling for medical
teams now. HOW'S HE DOING LEWIS?

A04

He's a tough ol' cuss! Vest stopped the round, but he's going to have some nice bruising on the ribs. He's sedated and breathing normally. He'll live! Gonna go ahead and stop his. . .

BASS' RECORDER: RECORDING STOPPED.

ACT VI

DIGITAL RECORDER STARTED

BASS IS SITTING ON A PLANE TAXING ON THE ICEWAY. LIGHT ENGINE RUNNING. BASS STARTED HIS RECORDER WHILE FINISHING UP A CALL. MUSIC FROM ICE FM PLAYING LIGHTLY.

BASS

Promise! I'm fine. Sore as hell, but I'm okay sweetie!

KENDRA

[ON SPEAKER, UPSET]

Is it too much to ask that you try to NOT get killed every season down here?

BASS

We didn't expect things to go that sideways. Didn't intend for this to get that. . . complicated.

KENDRA

[ON SPEAKER, UPSET]

Yet, here we are. . . AGAIN! You having a close brush with. . . [DEEP BREATH]. Just, come home to me baby. Safe. Healthy. That's all I want this Christmas. Is you, here with me.

BASS

I'm literally sitting on the plane home right now. Using the seat phone on Trager's new plane. I've been cleared by the station's doctor. I took my pain meds fifteen minutes ago. Going dictate my last report on station now, and then most likely sleep the entire flight back home.

KENDRA

[ON SPEAKER]

Good! Just. . .take it easy. Rest up and I'll see you in a few hours when you land. I love you sweetie.

BASS

I love you too. See you soon.

PHONE HANGS UP.

BASS

Okay. Sorry about that. . .[CLEAR THROAT] This is Supervisory US Deputy Marshal Bass Marlow. It's Ten December 2022 and the time is thirteen hundred hours. Special detached duty of fugitive Narek Margosian apprehension concluding. Currently on a flight back to Amundsen-Scott.

During mission to apprehend and detain, suspect somehow was notified of our intentions and fled out his window. Subsequent investigation showed Margosian received a call on his Berth landline only minutes before we breached. The call originated in the same food Cargo storage station where he ultimately was killed after attempting to murder the arresting officers. Suffered two rounds to his heart in gunfire exchange. Death was immediate.

[YAWN]

Sorry. Meds kicking in. um. . .Search of fugitive's berth after his shooting revealed some interesting items. None of them are reassuring.

Maps and notes were found of both Scott base and McMurdo. Identifying building functions and locations of critical infrastructure, including power generation, communications, and flight operations. It appears he was performing some sort of advanced reconnaissance. At both stations. Photos of his notes and maps were sent back to Wellington for translation as they were all in Armenian.

He was armed with a Sar-Nine. Turkish manufactured pistol and several mags on his person. He had a go bag with him with a set of clothes, currency from multiple countries and. .a small metal box about the size of a deck of cards.

The same exact box Josh Nichols had when. . .when I confronted him on Mount Markham after the crash. Margosian had it in his bag and it took a round during the exchange. It was heavily damaged but what was left is being sent back to the states for analysis.

Erm. Man, these are GREAT pills. Okay. Best hurry up here.

Finally, last item of concern. Was a floorplan for Amundsen Scott, and a head shot photo. Of me. Seems concern over my part in the Chinese dream wax interdiction may not have gone unnoticed after all. Inspector Morrissey. .Arbury said she'd have her government look for any ties between Margosian and the Chinese. Government, Corporate, Underworld. .anything they could find and share it with the U.S.

[CHUCKLE]

Dian. . .[CLEAR THROAT] I hate popularity. No, more specific. I hate. . .MY popularity. After the chase and death of Margosian, word spread quickly. Of how I took a round meant for Inspector Morrissey. Seems the AOS team made sure it was known. Both at Scott and especially in McMurdo. Tales of the Ice Sheriff and the Armenian mobster have now made it's way to almost every station on the ice I'm told. Tales go from me taking a bullet and then running Margosian down and wrestling him by hand, to pulling the entire AOS team out of a burning building after having been shot and killing the Armenian.

[YAWN]

I'm. . .uh. . . .after being held in McMurdo medical for twenty-four hour observation, I

discharged myself, as usual! And after seeing Aubrey and Team safely off McMurdo late last night, I slept. Oh! Yeah. . .DESPITE my protests to the contrary, I'm being submitted by the AOS team for a royal bravery award. For my actions in protecting the team and taking a round in the process while a formal New Zealand constable.

I'm never going to be able to shake this nickname now. Forever. . .[YAWN] Ice Sheriff.

Picked up all the Christmas presents I ordered for Kendra. For Zeke and Thomas. The others. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly Reno can get all these things down here. Going to be a great holiday season. . .this year.

.Um. .Bill Culligan came to help me pack and pour me into this seat. Bill's an okay guy. . .just need to toughen him up a bit.

Alright, that's. Pain medicine. . .whoo. Just got rest. . .my eyes.

SNORING STARTS, AS THE MUSIC FINISHES AND WE HEAR RADIO RONDA.

RHONDA
[ON THE RADIO]

Number fifteen on the Antarctica top pop list, it's Morning Always Comes by Sajan Nauriyal. It's just past 1PM, HERE. . .at ICE FM. .

(CHEESY PROMO)

104.5 FM. McMurdo's own Radio station.
McMurdo's ONLY radio station!
Today's forecast: COLD! Tomorrow's forecast:
COLD! 10-Day outlook. . .COLD AS ICE!
104.5. . .the ICEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

RHONDA

[ON THE RADIO]

Still no word as to the damage cause in the wild shootout at Scott Base. Early sources say several sections of wall will need to be replaced and over two dozen cans of green beans were destroyed by gunfire. Other than the patches necessary for the wall, locals call the loss of Green beans, a sacrifice they are willing to live with.

Everybody will be happy to know that our Ice Sheriff was thoroughly checked by several unmarried single members the stations' medical team; lucky ducks and he was given a clean bill of health. Reports say he hopped a plane back to Amundsen and was flying off into the sunset.

You've earned that catnap Sheriff! Based upon that hat and what I saw coming. . .you'll need all the rest you can get!

Okay deep freezers; It's time for your 'back in civilization' news brief:

From independent sources on Capitol Hill. While not yet fully verified, there is word that President Campbell will be announcing a new set of bi-lateral initiatives designed to reprioritize US investments and attention to strengthen US's military presence and reach globally.

BEGIN FADE OUT

A long proponent of a strong military, you may recall it was one of his primary campaign promises to revitalize our defensive capabilities and ensure a much more secure nation against threats, which he labeled as both foreign, but ALSO domestic, a controversial statement at the time, but one which awarded him votes and a pathway to the White House.

OUTRO AND CREDITS