

“Prototype”

A story treatment by
Russ Krook III
© 2003

Set in the “Aliens” movie universe.

SETTING: WEYLAND-YUTANI CORPORATION, MILITARY SCIENCE DIVISION

A SCIENTIST in a white lab coat walks down a brightly lit corridor, flanked by a MAN IN A BUSINESS SUIT and another man in the dress uniform of the COLONIAL MARINE corps.

The scientist’s voice can be heard, energetically explaining to both men as they walk...

SCIENTIST: “...this is a tremendous breakthrough in military hardware gentlemen. The latest in state of the art!

The men come to the end of the long corridor and stop before a huge steel pressure door.

The SCIENTIST pulls a magnetic door access card from his pocket and swipes the card in a slot at the side of the door. He pushes a few buttons and with a deep whine of hydraulic power, the large doors slowly lift open.

The interior of the room beyond is DARK. Suddenly rotating red beacons begin flashing in the darkness. A series of fluorescent lights sluggishly blink to life overhead revealing a large object in the center of the room, draped with a white cover.

The MARINE OFFICER looks at the BUSINESS SUIT, who smiles broadly.

The SCIENTIST grabs hold of the tarp covering the object...

SCIENTIST: “Gentlemen, I present the M-XXX Combat Armor with Natural Defensive Interface... also known as CANDI.

...and pulls the tarp free, revealing the object. The item appears like a large metal box approximately TEN FEET TALL, with a variety of odd shapes and warning decals stenciled over its surface. About halfway up the device there appears to be some sort of seat.

SUIT: Candi?

SCIENTIST (SMILES): Named it after an old girlfriend of mine.

MARINE OFFICER: Don’t get out of the lab much do you doc?

The SCIENTIST ignores the comment and walks up to the device. He climbs partway up the HUGE, MILITARY GREEN colored device, and steps into a seat/harness situated in the center of the object.

The SCIENTIST pulls down what looks like a roll cage and locks it into position. He flips a few switches on a small panel in front of him, and a small ILLUMINATED SCREEN flashes to life.

“USCM C.A.N.D.I. SYSTEM
Operating System Revision v1.01986 Online
Power System Output 100%
Operating Efficiency 100%
All systems ready.”

The SCIENTIST reaches down to TWO JOYSTICKS mounted on either side of the seat. He punches a few buttons on a number pad and the item rises from the ground!

Previously folded into the sides of the device, two arm like objects unfold on a while of hydraulics and swing to a guard position. The cockpit area raises from the ground on two massive hydraulic powered legs with oversized feet.

SCIENTIST: Gentlemen, you will of course note the obvious stylistic similarities to the standard XXXXX power loader. This is of course intentional. This device can go into almost immediate production with only a minimal retooling of the current power loader factory production lines.

The unit utilizes a slightly modified version of the common body armor sheathing based on the M3 body armor currently in use by the Colonial Marine Corps today. The armor is resistant to all small arms and most anti-armor weaponry as well. It's very light weight, coming in at a trim three tons, and has several desirable features as well as an end user configurable weapon system.

A slow SMILE crosses the face of the MARINE OFFICER.

SCIENTIST: This unit of course utilizes as many off the shelf components as possible, while gaining many new advances. The cost of retooling existing production lines will be minimal and based on the last estimates we can go from prototype concept to final production by the Weyland-Yutani Corporation in less than 90 days.

The SUIT smiles.

SCIENTIST: In addition to its combat role, as I stated, since it's based on the current production Power loader system, it can be easily refitted in the field to fulfill any civilian role needed, from heavy equipment movement to security to hazardous environment

work. All systems are modular in function and easily swappable by a field technician. It's really an all in one package.

MARINE OFFICER: What weapon systems have you included?

SCIENTIST: This prototype has a modification of the Self Targeting MXXX Smart Gun. It also has smoke emitters, chaff ejectors and 40 MM multi-role grenade launching capability. Plus it also has magnetic grapnels, plasma welder and a ceramic epoxy dispenser.

MARINE OFFICER: What if the unit is disabled?

SUIT: I assure you sir, this unit is state of the art! How could it possibly fail?

SCIENTIST: There's no way it could be disabled. It shrugs off most small arms and anti-armor weapons. It has anti-aircraft capability, self repair and system restore, full self contained AI AND a full Electronic countermeasure and intrusion detection suite.

MARINE OFFICER: You said it has an AI?

SUIT: Ah, yes... state of the art Hyperdyne Cyberbrain system. The cyberbrain helps coordinate attacks, controls the defensive package and even assumes control in the unlikely event that the pilot is rendered unconscious.

MARINE OFFICER: Are you telling me that that... THING... has an android brain?

SCIENTIST: Um, well, yeah. Is that a problem?

MARINE OFFICER: You know we include APs in every Marine unit as a safeguard and accessory unit.

SCIENTIST: A-P?

SUIT: Um, "Artificial Person."

SCIENTIST: Ah, gotcha. So what?

MARINE OFFICER: Since we never send the APs into actual combat, how do we know that the thing will actually fight, or allow the pilot to fight?

SUIT: Sir, I'm sure they've gotten around that issue... haven't they?

SCIENTIST: Sure have! Each cyberbrain of course has programming at the base level to not allow a human to come to harm. This of course doesn't apply to a designated enemy. And since all Marine elements have an integrated friend-or-foe ID transponder integrated into their gear, friendly fire incidents are non-existent.

MARINE OFFICER: Theoretically.

SCIENTIST (nods): Theoretically.

SUIT (to OFFICER): So, how many do you want?

MARINE OFFICER: Before I agree to anything, I want a practical test.

END:

The Ruined power suit lays on it's side, smoke gently floats around the battered wreckage.

The darkened instrument display flickers briefly, then comes to life.

The readout displays: "Primary Power rerouted. Operating efficiency at 34%. Weapon systems online.

Semper Fi."

THE END.