

## Kikimi Crash Zone

Three days ago, something that officially was **not** an invading starship officially did **not** engage in orbital combat with a fleet that officially does **not** operate under the jurisdiction of the North American Orbital Navy (which itself does **not** exist). After that battle did **not** happen, the invader absolutely did **not** crash land about thirty miles north and west of Kikimi, a village in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Because of that, *obviously* there have been no actions by forces loyal to either what passes for the DRC's government, or the People's Republic of China (which is doing its level best to turn the DRC into a mining colony), in order to secure the crash site.

OK, that last part perhaps should not be read with quite the same level of deniable sarcasm. Either the DRC and/or the PRC *haven't* actually taken action yet; or else they tried, only to have their rapid-reaction teams disappear without a trace, with not even one last single, panicked scream on the radio to remember them by. Without having boots on the ground, it's hard to say which scenario is more likely.

So, yes, time for boots on the ground. Salvaged alien technology is always worth taking some trouble over, even when it's crashed into the ground from orbit; and these particular aliens are sufficiently nasty that nobody really wants them romping around in central Africa. A full expeditionary force is, naturally, impossible at the present time, but a small team can go in, do a quick and dirty check of the site, and determine whether the crash zone needs to have a few tungsten-iron bars dropped on it from orbit. There's nothing like a Crowbar From God for sanitizing a black ops site.

Oh, and keep an eye out for whoever the Chinese may have sent. Who knows? If they exist, they might be grateful for rescue, because certainly their own government seems disinclined to send a follow-up team. And you never can tell when a good deed in a cruel, uncaring world might end up paying dividends later.

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