

# E4 - Comrades

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**[00:12] Tama**

Got you!

**[00:14] Meiya**

Hey!

**[00:17] Sakaki**

Take that!

**[00:18] Mikoto**

Oh, yeah?!

**[00:26] Marimo**

At least they get a little reward.

**[00:29] Marimo**

They're not going to get many chances to enjoy themselves like this going forward.

**[00:35] Yuuko**

I'm sure it's fine.

**[00:37] Yuuko**

They all know what they're getting into.

**[00:40] Yuuko**

And if they can pass the CCSE, we can't afford not to use them.

**[00:44] Yuuko**

There's not enough manpower left to leave untapped resources.

**[00:51] Yuuko**

It's true... We have to use everything we have.

**SIGN** November 23rd, 2001

**SIGN** Comrades

**[02:50] (Flashback) Marimo**

And that means the computer will provide support for most of your basic maneuvers.

**[02:55] (Flashback) Marimo**

For manual operation, you'll be using the control sticks on the console armrests,

**[02:59] (Flashback) ---**

and the throttle pedals in the footrests.

**[03:01] (Flashback) Marimo**

Mastery of these will give your TSF  
full three-dimensional maneuverability.

**[03:06] (Flashback) Marimo**

They can provide you with strength,  
jumping ability, defenses,

**[03:10] (Flashback) ---**

and sharper senses than  
you'd ever have otherwise.

**[03:14] (Flashback) Marimo**

I expect you all get a grasp of  
them as quickly as possible,

**[03:16] (Flashback) ---**

and get to work on exterminating  
mankind's enemy, the BETA!

**[03:18] (Flashback) 207th**

Yes, ma'am!

**[03:20] (Flashback) Marimo**

Wipe them from the face of the earth!

**[03:22] (Flashback) 207th**

Yes, ma'am!

**[03:40] Marimo**

*That concludes Movement Training Course D.*

**[03:43] Marimo**

*Come on out, Shirogane.*

**[03:50] Shirogane**

*Maybe I overdid it a little.*

**[03:55] Meiya**

Takeru! What were those maneuvers?!

**[03:58] Marimo**

Shirogane...

**[04:00] Marimo**

Are you sure you don't have  
any TSF experience?

**[04:04] Shirogane**

Uh, of course not!

**[04:08] Sakaki**

Instructor!

**[04:08] Sakaki**

Was Shirogane really that amazing?

**[04:12] Marimo**

Historically speaking, the fastest  
any cadet ever cleared Course D

**[04:16] ---**

was in five days.

**[04:18] Meiya**

And he managed that in effectively one day?

**[04:21] Mikoto**

That's awesome, Takeru!

**[04:23] Sakaki**

You can't expect us to complete Course D that fast!

**[04:26] Takeru**

Whoa, I never said I did...

**[04:28] Takeru**

*But thinking back,*

**[04:28] Ayamine**

I can never manage to hover right.

**[04:29] ---**

*they were all looking pretty good after the first two or three days.*

**[04:30] Sakaki**

Maybe if we had a better sense of the distance from the ground...

**[04:33] Shirogane**

*I think it was after they looked at my control logs?*

**[04:36] Shirogane**

*Instructor! Can you show the others my control logs?*

**[04:40] Marimo**

What?

**[04:42] Shirogane**

If my techniques are really that impressive,

**[04:44] ---**

I think the entire squad could benefit from using them.

**[04:47] Marimo**

Someone else made the same suggestion yesterday.

**[04:51] Marimo**

Executive Officer Kouzuki.

**[04:54] Marimo**

On her recommendation, the curriculum for your training has been completely revised.

**[04:59] Marimo**

As part of that, your squad will have priority access

**[05:02] ---**

to the simulators until you've completed your training.

**[05:05] Meiya**

That's...

**[05:06] Tama**

Really amazing!

**[05:08] Sakaki**

Until we're finished?

**[05:09] Marimo**

In addition to that, your personal training units will be delivered tomorrow.

**[05:14] Shirogane**

Tomorrow?

**[05:15] Marimo**

Right. The XO said that TSFs are like cars, where experience is the best teacher.

**[05:21] Marimo**

But even I didn't expect her to go this far.

**[05:24] Shirogane**

*For the Fubukis to show up this early...*

**[05:27] Shirogane**

*Things are definitely ahead of schedule!*

**[05:33] Shirogane**

This is for you. It's a shell.

**[05:35] Shirogane**

You probably know about them, right?

**[05:39] Shirogane**

Put it to your ear.

**[05:41] Shirogane**

You can hear the ocean.

**[05:47] Kasumi**

It's rumbling.

**[05:49] Shirogane**

See? You got a little taste of going to the beach.

**[05:54] Shirogane**

What's wrong?

**[05:55] Kasumi**

I've never seen the ocean before.

**[05:59] Shirogane**

But it's visible from near the base...

**[06:01] Shirogane**

Kasumi, have you never been outside—

**[06:03] Yuuko**

There you are!

**[06:04] Shirogane**

Sensei?

**[06:05] Yuuko**

I've got some questions about your TSF maneuvers.

**[06:09] Shirogane**

Is that a good idea? What about your research?

**[06:12] Yuuko**

Even I need a break sometimes, okay?!

**[06:15] Yuuko**

Now, get a move on!

**[06:16] Shirogane**

O-Okay.

**[06:18] Shirogane**

See you later, Kasumi.

**[06:26] Kasumi**

Bye-bye.

**SIGN** November 24th, 2001

**[06:30] Tama**

Wow, look! They're already here!

**[06:34] Sakaki**

Those are ours...

**[06:38] Sakaki**

Type-94 Fubukis.

**[06:44] Shirogane**

Hey. I guess the whole gang's here?

**[06:46] Sakaki**

You're late!

**[06:47] Shirogane**

I don't think the Fubukis are  
gonna fly away without us.

**[06:52] Shirogane**

*Fubukis... It feels like it's been a long time.*

**[06:56] Staff**

Whoa, is this a—

**[06:58] Staff**

What's it doing here?!

**[06:59] Staff**

It doesn't matter. Just get it uncovered.

**[07:03] Staff**

Come on!

**[07:06] Shirogane**

A Takemikazuchi, huh...

**[07:08] Meiya**

Takeru? You're familiar with it?

**[07:11] Shirogane**

Well, no more than anyone else.

**[07:15] Shirogane**

*They're special units for exclusive  
use by the Royal Guard,*

**[07:17] ---**

*who take their orders from the Shogunate.*

**[07:20] Shirogane**

*And this purple one is specifically  
for Meiya's personal use.*

**[07:26] Tsukuyomi**

Meiya-sama...

**SIGN** Tsukuyomi Mana

**[07:31] Sakaki**

The Imperial Royal Guard?!

**[07:32] Meiya**

How can I help you, Lt. Tsukuyomi?

**[07:36] Tsukuyomi**

Meiya-sama, I was ordered to ensure that  
this Takemikazuchi was at your disposal.

**[07:42] Tsukuyomi**

I believe you're aware  
of whose wish that is.

**[07:48] Tsukuyomi**

Please, consider her intentions.

**[07:50] Meiya**

Do as you will.

**[08:05] Tsukuyomi**

Shirogane Takeru, what are you doing here?

**[08:09] Tsukuyomi**

How am I talking to a dead man?

**[08:12] Tsukuyomi**

You altered the UN's database in order  
to infiltrate this facility. Why?

**[08:17] Kamiyo**

Did your trick not work on our systems?

**[08:21] Tsukuyomi**

I'm warning you to keep away from Meiya-sama.

**[08:23] Tsukuyomi**

Understood?

**[08:27] (Flashback) Tsukuyomi**

How am I talking to a dead man?

**[08:30] Shirogane**

*She said it again.*

**[08:32] Shirogane**

*I'm dead?*

**[08:35] Shirogane**

*What do I even know about the "me"  
who's originally from this world?*

**[08:39] Shirogane**

*It makes sense that he'd exist, yet...*

**[08:43] Shirogane**

*No. Maybe he... used to exist.*

**[08:46] Shirogane**

*Is the version of me from this world... dead?*

**SIGN** November 25th, 2001

**[08:53] Pilot Kai**

Somebody better start talking!

**[08:55] Shirogane**

*Great, this again.*

**[08:56] Pilot Kai**

Who the hell does the Takemikazuchi  
in the hangar belong to?!

**[09:02] Lady Pilot**

What the hell is that thing doing  
in our base? I want answers!

**[09:04] Shirogane**

Excuse me, Lieutenant, but are you  
asking out of personal curiosity?

**[09:08] Pilot Kai**

You little...

**[09:09] Lady Pilot**

How about you shut up and just  
answer the question, cadet?!

**[09:14] Shirogane**

I can't help but think your  
priorities should lie elsewhere.

**[09:17] Pilot Kai**

What did you say?!

**[09:18] Shirogane**

I can't imagine throwing your weight around  
against cadets is more valuable than—

**[09:31] Shirogane**

*If only people like them would fight  
this hard against the BETA...*

**[09:36] Shirogane**

*It wouldn't have ended the way it did!*

**[09:38] Shirogane**

Aren't your power and authority supposed  
to be for protecting humanity?!

**[09:43] Lady Pilot**

What?!

**[09:44] Tsukuyomi**

Are UN pilots taught that this kind of  
unseemly public display is acceptable?

**[09:51] Kai Pilot**

Th-The Imperial Royal Guard...

**[09:53] Kai Pilot**

Uh, no, Lieutenant, but this  
is an internal UN matter that—

**[09:57] Tsukuyomi**

This man is correct.

**[09:59] ---**

The UN did not grant you authority so you could abuse it for personal satisfaction!

**[10:02] Kai Pilot**

N-No, that's...

**[10:04] Tsukuyomi**

The Takemikazuchi is stationed here under certain circumstances that were agreed upon

**[10:08] ---**

by the Japanese government and UN Headquarters.

**[10:11] Tsukuyomi**

This may be a UN facility, and outside of my jurisdiction,

**[10:16] Tsukuyomi**

but any insult directed at a Takemikazuchi may as well be aimed at the Royal Guard,

**[10:21] Tsukuyomi**

to say nothing of slandering the shogun herself!

**[10:24] Tsukuyomi**

Know your place!

**[10:29] Marimo**

You know what this is about, right?

**[10:31] Shirogane**

The trouble in the PX, right?

**[10:34] Marimo**

I've decided what will happen.

**[10:35] Shirogane**

Yes, ma'am.

**[10:37] Marimo**

I'm going to overlook this incident!

**[10:39] Shirogane**

Yes, ma'am...

**[10:41] Shirogane**

What?

**[10:43] Marimo**

At the insistence of Lt. Tsukuyomi, who's stationed here at the base.

**[10:46] Shirogane**

The lieutenant...

**[10:47] Marimo**

You owe your squad some thanks, too.

**[10:58] Marimo**

Fights aren't won by individuals.

**[11:01] Marimo**

I'm pretty sure you already understand

how important teamwork is.

**[11:05] Marimo**

Don't do anything to betray  
their faith in you.

**[11:10] Marimo**

You weren't hurt too badly, were you?

**[11:16] Marimo**

Something about you seems to  
draw people in, Shirogane.

**[11:20] Marimo**

And everyone acknowledges how  
talented of a pilot you are.

**[11:24] Marimo**

I want you to remember that, okay?

**[11:27] Shirogane**

Okay.

**SIGN** November 26th, 2001

**[11:33] Marimo**

*Movement Training Course F is now over.*

**[11:36] Marimo**

*That's it for the simulators today.*

**[11:43] Shirogane**

*You can tell how much  
newer these Fubukis are.*

**[11:46] Shirogane**

*They're way more agile and control  
better than those clunky old Gekishins...*

**[11:53] Shirogane**

*That said, they're also a lot  
more sensitive and finicky.*

**[11:57] Shirogane**

*I wish they could be more intuitive,  
like in video games,*

**[12:01] ---**

*with cancels and combos...*

**[12:04] Shirogane**

*Maybe with special inputs for an auto-cancel.*

**[12:09] Shirogane**

Video games...

**[12:19] (Flashback) Shirogane**

Okay, dash in as soon as the round starts!

**[12:21] (Flashback) Shirogane**

Rifle time...

**[12:23] (Flashback) Shirogane**

Go, Sumika!

**[12:24] (Flashback) Shirogane**

There!

**[12:27] (Flashback) Mikoto**

It's gonna be like that, huh?!

**[12:30] (Flashback) Sumika**

Hey, I hit something!

**[12:32] (Flashback) Shirogane**

Good! Now let's close in!

**[12:34] (Flashback) Shirogane**

When I give you the signal, go for the combo!

**[12:36] (Flashback) Sumika**

What's a c-combo?!

**[12:38] (Flashback) Sumika**

I don't know what you're talking about!

**[12:40] (Flashback) Shirogane**

Don't worry about it!

You're playing on beginner mode.

**[12:42] (Flashback) Shirogane**

Once the marker changes colors, you just have to pull both triggers at once!

**[12:46] (Flashback) Sumika**

O-Okay, got it!

**[12:48] (Flashback) Mikoto**

Here they come, Meiya!

**[12:49] (Flashback) Meiya**

I'm ready for them!

**[12:50] (Flashback) Meiya**

Now, Sumika!

**[12:58] Meiya**

*That was a really well-thought-out beginner mode.*

**[13:01] Meiya**

*They had combos and auto-cancels mapped to a single button press.*

**[13:06] Meiya**

*I wish these things were as easy to use as playing Valgern-On\*.*

**[13:12] Meiya**

*Wait, maybe they should be?*

**[13:15] Yuuko**

*What the hell is the "Valgern-On-ification of TSFs"?*

**[13:18] Shirogane**

*It's the name of a video game where a lot of the special maneuvers that I've been using*

**[13:23] ---**

*can be learned easily by any player with a little practice.*

**[13:26] Yuuko**

"Any player," huh?

**[13:28] Shirogane**

*In my old world, the difference between games and TSFs gave me some pause at first.*

**[13:33] Shirogane**

*But once I was used to the controls, I was able to replicate a lot of the same moves.*

**[13:37] Shirogane**

*I think that's a big part of why*

**[13:39] ---**

*a total novice like me was able to figure out TSFs as quickly as I did.*

**[13:43] Shirogane**

*So I figure, why not have the machine replicate the same moves I'm using?*

**[13:50] Yuuko**

*It's an idea...*

**[13:51] Yuuko**

*But what specifically are you suggesting?*

**[13:57] Shirogane**

*Cancels and combos.*

**[14:04] Shirogane**

*For example,*

**[14:06] ---**

*you know how a TSF will automatically brace itself when it's about to fall over?*

**[14:09] Shirogane**

*And once it's in that recovery sequence, it stops accepting manual inputs.*

**[14:13] Shirogane**

*Cancels are a way of turning that off.*

**[14:16] Yuuko**

*Then how would you catch yourself?*

**[14:19] Shirogane**

*It's more important to have the option to shoot while falling.*

**[14:22] Yuuko**

*And what are these combos you're talking about?*

**[14:25] Shirogane**

*It refers getting a different kind of outcome,*

**[14:28] ---**

*based on the commands you execute and the timing.*

**[14:30] Shirogane**

*For example...*

**[14:32] Shirogane**

*Let's say you throw three right-handed punches, and a forward kick normally.*

**[14:36] Shirogane**

*But if you hit those same buttons, except faster,*

**[14:38] ---**

*you get right-left-right punches, and a roundhouse kick.*

**[14:42] Shirogane**

*That's a combo.*

**[14:43] Yuuko**

*Like a string of attacks...*

**[14:46] Yuuko**

*And is there any reason not to have those attack strings registered to a single button?*

**[14:50] Shirogane**

*It'd work, but...*

**[14:53] Shirogane**

*Let's say you're three-fourths of the way through the sequence,*

**[14:56] ---**

*then find yourself in danger.*

**[14:57] ---**

*You need to have the option to cancel it out and evade.*

**[15:00] Yuuko**

*I think I understand what you're getting at.*

**[15:03] ---**

*It boils down to two things:*

**[15:05] ---**

*a simplification of the controls, and creating a suite of sequential maneuvers.*

**[15:10] ---**

*You basically want to automate the most frequently used moves,*

**[15:13] ---**

*but also include the ability to cancel out of those sequences.*

**[15:17] ---**

*And you think that's possible?*

**[15:19] Shirogane**

*Yes.*

**[15:20] Shirogane**

*If you can convert my control logs...*

**[15:22] ---**

*Then I can handle the setups for the combos.*

**[15:24] Yuuko**

*That could work.*

**[15:25] Yuuko**

*But do you really think that TSFs with  
preset, inflexible sets of moves*

**[15:29] ---**

*would be useful in combat?*

**[15:33] Yuuko**

*It's not like the enemy is always  
going to attack the same way.*

**[15:36] Yuuko**

*Can you really come up with a pattern  
for any situation imaginable?*

**[15:41] Shirogane**

*Maybe we could just stick to the  
most broadly applicable ones?*

**[15:45] Yuuko**

*And you want the computer to be able  
to adjust for all variables?*

**[15:48] Yuuko**

*At a certain level, that amounts to  
phasing pilots out of the equation.*

**[15:51] Shirogane**

*Wouldn't that be better, in the long run?*

**[15:56] Yuuko**

*You're asking me to create a machine with  
cognitive ability comparable to a human's.*

**[16:01] Shirogane**

*Oh, I get it.*

**[16:03] ---**

*It doesn't matter how  
versatile the move sets are,*

**[16:06] Shirogane**

*a machine wouldn't be able to accurately judge  
how to execute them based on the situation.*

**[16:12] Shirogane**

*Man, I really thought  
I was onto something, too.*

**[16:16] Yuuko**

*I can see why, which is  
why we're going to try it.*

**[16:20] Yuuko**

*The big issue is the parallel processing speed  
needed to sync with pilot input, right?*

**[16:25] Yuuko**

*TSF movements are controlled via the  
human brain, albeit indirectly,*

**[16:31] ---**

*and that still counts as parallel processing.*

**[16:33] Yuuko**

*Any corrections to the timing of these moves on an environmental basis*

**[16:37] ---**

*should be manageable if we can boost the computer's automated processing power.*

**[16:42] Shirogane**

*Then it is possible?!*

**[16:43] Yuuko**

*It'll be easy, too.*

*I'll have the arrangements made.*

**[16:49] Yuuko**

*Your training unit is going to be the testbed for this.*

**[16:52] Yuuko**

*All of your data's going to be collected, so keep that in mind.*

**[16:55] Yuuko**

*Starting today, you're the test pilot for a new proof of concept.*

**[17:01] Shirogane**

*I'm... a test pilot?*

**[17:04] Shirogane**

*That's awesome! Aren't test pilots supposed to be super elites?!*

**[17:08] Yuuko**

*Don't get too happy with yourself.*

**[17:10] Yuuko**

*Do you really think we can find another pilot with ridiculous moves like yours?*

**[17:16] Yuuko**

*Come on. That was a compliment.*

**SIGN** November 27th, 2001

**[17:27] Shirogane**

*Just a few more minutes, Kasumi.*

**[17:34] Kasumi**

*I wanted to give you something in return.*

**[17:42] Shirogane**

*That's... This drawing...*

**[17:45] (Flashback) Shirogane**

*A Game Guy!*

**[17:47] (Flashback) Sumika**

*Well, it's your birthday, Takeru-chan!*

**[17:50] (Flashback) Sumika**

*You've always wanted one, right?*

**[17:52] Shirogane**

*What is this? What is going on here?*

**[17:55] Shirogane**

How can Kasumi know about tech\*  
*that doesn't exist in this world?!*

**[18:00] Shirogane**

Kasumi!

**[18:08] Shirogane**

I don't get it... Kasumi...

**[18:11] Shirogane**

Just what is she?

**SIGN** Theory of Relativity

**SIGN** Theory of Relativity

**SIGN** Theory of Relativity

**SIGN** Theory of Relativity

**[18:16] Marimo**

That concludes today's lecture.

**[18:18] Marimo**

I've got one bit of news  
before you're dismissed.

**[18:21] Marimo**

I know this is sudden,

**[18:23] ---**

but tomorrow, the UN Undersecretary  
will be inspecting the base.

**[18:29] Marimo**

What is it, Shirogane?

**[18:31] Shirogane**

The undersecretary's inspection is...

**[18:33] Shirogane**

T-Tomorrow?!

**[18:35] Marimo**

We were previously going  
to move up your training

**[18:38] ---**

and begin combat exercises  
in the city ruins...

**[18:41] Marimo**

But this is non-negotiable.

**[18:43] Marimo**

You're all to be on standby  
inside the base tomorrow.

**[18:45] Marimo**

That is all.

**[18:46] Sakaki**

Salute!

**[18:53] Shirogane**

*This can't be right.*

**[18:54] Shirogane**

*The undersecretary was supposed to visit  
after we had started combat exercises!*

**[18:59] Shirogane**

*I didn't expect the future to change like this!*

**[19:03] Shirogane**

*If he's coming to the base,  
then it's coming, too.*

**[19:09] Shirogane**

*The HSST is going to fall!*

**[19:17] Yuuko**

Really? Well, that should  
prove to be quite the show.

**[19:20] Shirogane**

You realize this affects you too, right?!

**[19:23] Shirogane**

If this isn't dealt with the right way,  
there's no telling what could happen!

**[19:26] Shirogane**

The entire base could be blown away!

**[19:31] Shirogane**

The future's finally starting to change...

**[19:34] Shirogane**

But this happens tomorrow!

**[19:37] Yuuko**

Give it a rest already.

**[19:39] Yuuko**

If we keep this from happening,  
it'd alter the future too much.

**[19:42] Yuuko**

So we're not going to intervene.

**[19:45] Shirogane**

You know what day it is, don't you?

**[19:47] Shirogane**

The 27th of November!

**[19:49] Shirogane**

There's less than a month left  
until Alternative V gets underway!

**[19:56] Yuuko**

Fine. I'll deal with it.

**[19:59] Shirogane**

Please do.

**[20:01] Yuuko**

It's strange, though.

**[20:03] ---**

Why are they getting so desperate?

**[20:06] Shirogane**

I dunno... I never thought about it.

**[20:09] Yuuko**

Well, it's probably as simple as Alternative V advocates

**[20:12] ---**

running out of patience with how things never seem to improve.

**[20:17] Yuuko**

I wonder if they want to bet it all on a suicide attack against Kaxgar or something?

**[20:22] Shirogane**

Kaxgar is Target 01, right?

**[20:25] Yuuko**

That's right. Its international designation is the "Original Hive."

**[20:29] Yuuko**

The spot where the BETA first touched down on Earth.

**[20:34] Shirogane**

Um... this map is only showing Hive locations, right?

**[20:39] Yuuko**

That's right.

**[20:41] Shirogane**

There are two BETA hives in Japan...

**[20:45] Shirogane**

One's on Sadogashima.

**[20:47] Shirogane**

And the other...

**[20:50] Yuuko**

You probably know about it, right?

**[20:52] Yuuko**

Back before the operation to retake Honshu, this area was BETA territory.

**[20:58] Shirogane**

You mean... this location...

**[21:00] Yuuko**

That's right. The Yokohama Base used to be a hive.

**[21:06] Yuuko**

Some of the BETA's functions are still intact, too.

**[21:09] Yuuko**

That's why it's showing up on the map.

**[21:13] Shirogane**

*The base we've been living on is a hive...*

## [21:19] Shirogane

*The BETA used to live here?!*

**SIGN** This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and incidents either are products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously.

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