

NKOSI

One fail vs seventy-two mission
successes.
Your body churn is substantial.

PINE

Wins matter.

NKOSI

Wars are resolved in ways
indifferent to mission success.

Pine bristles. Maximillian sees this, steps forward.

MAXIMILLIAN

Blist'n Jovian Wolf. Nothing but
terrorist rabble.

NKOSI

By every measure, he's winning the
economic strategy. Each of our
'wins' as you call them, deplete
our resources while his support
seems to be growing like wildfire.

Pine straight-faces.

NKOSI

We've also detected an alarming
trend. We think he's targeting our
highest performing fire teams.

Nkosi's gaze intensifies on Pine. Pine's jaw clenches.

NKOSI

Do you know anything about that?

PINE

No, Sir.

NKOSI

There's a correlation when you and
the fifty-first are down. Attacks
drop a quarter.

Pine's breathing increases, nostrils flare.

PINE

I don't know about that, Sir.

Nkosi smiles victoriously.

NKOSI

Let's test a theory. Move you to
the sixty-second.

PINE

Me and the fifty-first have a
century of experience--

MAXIMILLIAN

Your reassignment has already gone
through.

Pine's eyes are the only part that reacts.