

Everyone speaks of freedom when they think of the virtues held most dear by the United States. But freedom means nothing if the people lack the safety in their daily lives to take advantage of it. You understand what is required for there to be true civil order. Even more than feeling free, the people need security in the knowledge that their government is strong and can protect them against any threat. They need to feel like, no matter what situation may arise, the government has everything under control. You have given them this, having worked your way up through the ranks of the military, ensuring the defense of the United States against any and all outside threats. In return for that security, you have been entrusted by President Carroll with the position of National Security Advisor to the President, and with it the authority to enact those measures you deem necessary. It is a great burden to shoulder, but someone must understand the necessity of security.

At first you heard only in passing of this Resonance Project, the development of a retrovirus intended to eliminate the disruptive behaviors exhibited by autistics. At the time the project's only end was medical, and so many of your less imaginative colleagues were inclined to think no more of it. You, however, saw that there could be even further-reaching applications to this tool. If it could be used to enable autistic children to have more proper forms of social interaction, perhaps it had the potential to counteract other antisocial behaviors as well. You consulted with some of your colleagues, and the direction to take the project soon became clear— you would have the virus further engineered so that the application could suppress the violent urges of any aggressive body and end them as a threat.

The idea was genius, and immediately funding was issued to continue development. But you were not content to leave your brainchild there. You immediately began to look even farther into the possibilities of the future. If things proved effective on small-scale crowd control, who knew how far the application could be expanded? It was possible that you had the means to neutralize entire armies. You would go down in history as the visionary that developed the means to nonviolently subdue any conceivable human threat. You could be known as the one who found the way to end war. Or, at the very least, who ended all possible threats to the security of the United States.

Who You Know:

President Carroll - You were the one who first brought Project Resonance to the Carroll's attention, and it was in large part on your recommendation that the president allowed it to proceed.

General Rosen - The head of the military presence involved in Project Resonance. You can tell Rosen has little patience for overseeing science experiments, and is anxious for when the military can get their hands on the finished weapon that can be taken into the battlefield.

Manager Edwards - In charge of Resonance's business affairs and public relations. Edwards translates the scientific findings into marketable information, as well as makes sure the project always puts forward a good public face.

Director Sullivan - The head of the National Security Agency, who has been pushing the agency in the direction of more research. Has a lot of interesting ideas about how Resonance could be applied to espionage uses.

Secretary Highmore - The secretary of defense is someone you get along with; Highmore is very much aligned to your way of thinking, seeing possibilities and plotting ahead.

Vice President Richardson - The vice president is too full of fears and softhearted concerns to be of much use to your making progress with Resonance.

Secretary Stern - You have a lot in common with the Secretary of Homeland Security. Stern understands that there can be no freedom without safety, and you approve of a zero-tolerance approach to fighting terrorist threat.

Director Mercer - The new director of the FBI has been working to whip the bureau back into shape after several years of decline and disorder. Hasn't yet built a solid reputation, so needs all the support anyone will give.

Dr. Elder - Your personal point of contact on the Resonance research team. Elder is very confident about the work and has given you almost uniformly positive reports on progress towards the weapon.

Corporal Breckinridge - A guard assigned to security detail at the Resonance laboratory facility. Breckinridge is often your escort when you tour the lab on your regular inspections.