

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

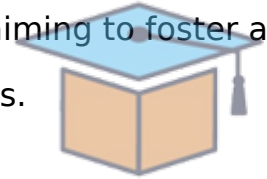
The chapter opens with a formal military commendation for Mira Sorrengail, highlighting her bravery during the battle of Strythmore, where she not only destroyed an enemy battery but also saved an entire infantry company. This recognition underscores her valor and the importance of her actions in the ongoing conflict. The recommendation for her to receive the Star of Navarre reflects her exceptional service, though there is an acknowledgment that even if she falls short of the highest honor, a lesser award would still be fitting. This sets a tone of respect for her combat achievements and foreshadows her rising prominence within the military hierarchy.

The scene shifts to a briefing room where Mira leads a training exercise with her squad. Ridoc's casual attitude contrasts with Mira's authoritative demeanor as she instructs the group on strategic thinking and battlefield improvisation. The squad is divided into two groups, each undertaking different activities—one studying past battles and the other on patrol. The environment is tense yet focused, with characters displaying varying degrees of distraction and curiosity, especially around Xaden, whose presence seems to influence the dynamics and energy in the room. Mira emphasizes the importance of anticipating how situations can go wrong, moving beyond theoretical knowledge to practical preparedness.

Mira introduces a simulated scenario involving a newly fortified enemy outpost, encouraging the squad to think critically about their objectives and tactics. The conversation reveals skepticism about the realism of such quick fortification, but Mira insists on considering all possibilities, including the likelihood of a well-established fortress. The dialogue exposes differences in experience and understanding among the characters, with some questioning protocol and others contemplating the unpredictability of combat. Mira's goal is to teach her squad resilience and adaptability, preparing them for real-world challenges that often diverge from textbook

scenarios.

The chapter concludes with Mira using physical models to illustrate teamwork and strategic coordination. She emphasizes that real combat is unpredictable and that each rider's unique skills must be harnessed collectively. The scene also touches on the broader context of military service, with some characters expressing frustration about the timing of their deployment and the realities of wartime call-ups. Mira's leadership style combines practical exercises with candid discussions about the harsh truths of warfare, aiming to foster a mindset of flexibility, resilience, and unity among her squad members.



Summaryer