

Chapter 26 Delay of Game Notice Day 6, 7, and 8

Day 6: Friday

Shortly after 0730 hours the next day Jane raps on the apartments' adjoining suite door. Mark greets Jane with overnight analysis from the Spook Tower of the Daisy 3 audio recordings.

"Do you want to wait until after breakfast or do you want read the report before we go?" asks Mark.

"How about a two minute summary of what you have read so far," compromises Jane.

"Okay. What we have is a Ramesh Patel who is working on the inside of the Operations Building attempting to bargain with someone for sale of the application and a 'How-To User Manual'. We do not know who the buyer is or how far along in negotiation they have pushed. We do know that Ramesh is the Director of Development for the Sunfish effort. He apparently recognizes a business opportunity when he sees one. The Spook Tower is checking Ramesh Patel background. But the name 'Ramesh Patel' is probably the number one name in India. So the spooks may need to go very deep to find a profile on him.

"But it definitely puts an additional spin on our mission."

"So you are hinting Homeland Security level not just voter fraud?"

"Yep. Lets go to breakfast so we are out of the Daisy listeners hair."

Jane informs Mark that the DorsalFin duty-officer messaged her earlier this morning to confirm that the Spinnaker Executive Project Team arrived in the early hours today at the Venice airport. Their arrival in Ulcinj is anticipated to be on schedule.

Jane and Mark wander over to the Eneida for yogurt, smoke salmon slice, fresh fruit, and fresh baked bread, again. They also have an excellent view back toward the Liman II Beach and the van. After finishing breakfast they ascend to the Eneida surveillance room. There they confer with the concrete penetration listening section chief. The chief explains that they have an array of four sensors slightly embedded in the surface of the parking deck plus two spares. Yesterday they confirmed the audio recording that the Daisy 4 was transmitting. The audio collected was just last minute tweaking of equipment and finalization of presentation one would expect from a software development team.

"Bottom-line, we can backup Daisy 4 if that device should fail at anytime. With the Marines on-watch we do not foresee disruptions due to intrusions or theft," finalizes the section chief.

Before departing Mark collects the camera photographs of individuals going up and down the external staircase of the Compound. He wants to 'trap' every frame that might have Ramesh Patel in it.. Walking back towards the Hotel, Mark devilishly toss a couple of small stones at the van. That draws a brief response from one of the occupants van as well as from two young men who had been kicking the soccer football on the nearby beach. Mark waves and everyone returns to the status quo.

“Quit jockeying around and let’s go talk to Brian,” playfully mocks Jane. “I need his take on Ramesh Patel.

“I also need to know the status of the Sunfish executive review team and the status of the Urdu and Hindi linguist.”

Jane and Mark return to the Hotel. Brian and Randy seem to have everything under control. The Daisy listening posts have not capture anything of major interest other than noting the Sunfish executive status review team left Marco Polo at 0617 hours and are on the ground at Tivat and have met their ground transportation. They are expected to arrive in Ulcinj around 1100 hours.

Mark introduces the Hindi and Urdu linguist, Anna Chen. She is a Taiwanese-American stationed in Mumbai. She comes highly recommended for her language skills. She demurringly accepts the praise. Jane takes charge of help Anna settle into the ‘ladies’ side of the adjoining room suites.

“Both the Daisy and concrete penetrating listening technologies seem to be working in mutual validation of the audio,” reports Brian

“The big question at this point is who is Ramesh Patel and what is his game within the big game. The Zikic apartment has been cleared and is now occupied by assets that may be necessary for any future rendition operation.

“It might be wise to forget that you and Jane ever visited the Zikic properties.”

“Okay,” echoes Mark.

“I am going to sit down with Anna to start reviewing the Daisy 3 audio before lunch,” adds Mark. “That will give her a good ear for Ramesh’s voice and speech patterns.”

As Anna and Jane reappear, Mark says, “Brian and Anna have some business to take-up before lunch. How about you and I take a look at the van operation and lunch a little early so we can be ready for the start of the Sunfish status meeting.

“Brian, please let us know if the meeting scheduled is pushed back significantly. Other than that Jane and I will see you about 1300 hr.

Mark and Jane walk to the Eneida. Along the way they give a slight nod to the on-watch Marines enjoying the sun and breeze. Since they are early for lunch they request the same table take looks back toward the Liman II beach and parking deck.

“Wait, wait, wait.” laments Jane after the waiter leaves with their food and beverage order.

“That’s why they pay you the big money.”

Brian sends Mark the message, “Eneida owl indicates first of the fresh fish are being delivered now to Pikes Place Market as you read this note.”

“Jane, if you look left back toward the Compound you may see the Sunfish executive team arriving. We are too close to the start of the Sunfish meeting to traipse up to the Eneida apartment to observe the arrivals. So let’s just eat and book-book back to the Hotel.”

“Roger that.”

Jane and Mark rush lunch just enough not to appear in a hurry but enough to expedite their return to the Hotel before 1300 hours.

Brian now has an easel displaying the coverage and assigned Daisy listening team.

Daisy 1	Office:	Brian, Linguist1
Daisy 2	AWOL, not activated	
Daisy 3	Ramesh Patel's Desk:	Anna
Daisy 4	Conference Room:	Randy, Joe
Daisy 5	Sofia's Desk:	Ron, Linguist2
Daisy 6	Removed from Building, no longer activated	
Daisy 7	Office:	Brian, Linguist1
Daisy 8	Marsha's Desk:	Brian, Linguist1
Daisy 9	AWOL, not activated	
Daisy 10	AWOL, not activated	
Daisy 11	Office:	Brian, Linguist1
Daisy 12	Sarah's Desk:	Ron, Linguist2

“While you were out Anna, Randy, and I prioritized the Daisy listening posts,” greets Brian. We kept one of the technicians from the laser sections. He is creating a switch box for the Daisy listening posts for my station and Ron's station that will permit the station to rotate through the three Daises assigned to each station or switch to the ones of interest. Plus he has setup a 'GO' light that indicates an active audio event. For Ramesh and the Conference Room he has setup a 'GO' light but no switch selection. That should help keep us fresh and focused.

“All we need now is a 'Sunfish meeting' in the conference room. We are ready.”

Shortly after 1400 hours Ulcinj time, Randy detects unexpected movement in the conference room. He begins to anticipate that the Operations Building conference room is about to be a site of an impromptu meeting. Shortly he hears a discussion among Operations Vice President, Director of Operations, and Director of Security with an unknown number of additional participants.

“The visiting Catalina Executive Team is putting a modest wrinkle in the schedule. They will be departing Venice shortly after 1300 hours our time Sunday. They should arrive in the Ulcinj area around 1700 hours. Rather than begin billeting the first night in our residential quarters at the Apartments Eneida their group will be staying overnight at the olive grove estate that one of the executives owns. They have asked to start the meeting Monday morning at 1000 hours.

“Are we set and ready for them?” questions the Operations Vice President throwing the thumbs-up sign and surveying the corresponding thumbs-up from the primary participants.

“Any questions or concerns?” he asks.

Surveying the attendees for questions, the Operational Vice President states, “Then let's get back to work. Thanks for helping prepare for the Americans.

“I do not want anyone in the building over the weekend without my permission. Enjoy the weekend.”

“We have a minor wrinkle to address,” interjects Randy disrupting the discussion Brian is having with Jane and Mark. Delivering a summary of what he heard, Randy backs-out of the group.

“That’s good news and bad news,” notes Jane. “We now have the exact starting time for the meeting. It give us confirmation that we truly have another day to work the Ramesh Patel question before we need to take action.

“I think we are safe to ‘stand-down’ to a skeleton crew corresponding to the ‘weekend mode’ consistent with the Operations Building level of activity

“What do you think Mark, Brian?”

“I would like to know where the olive groove estate is located,” laments Brian. “We have no visibility into it now or listening sensors.

“Until now I thought we had a tight cordon thrown around the Sunfish Operations in Montenegro. Now I feel vulnerable.

“I will see if it is possible to have a surveillance tracking team follow the Catalina Executive Project Team to the ‘olive groove estate’. It is too fluid to consider active surveillance at the estate. But we can at least locate the estate and setup trippers to let us know when they begin to leave the estate Monday.”

“My thoughts exactly,” affirms Mark.

That discussion ends with Brian having the action items to coordinate a set of surveillance tracking teams from the Embassy assets. Then the work day smoothly continues towards a quiet close of business. Brian schedules a supervisors meeting for 1900 hours with the concrete penetrating listening team section chief, the ranking Marine, Jane, Mark, Anna, Randy, Ron, and Joe.

The supervisors gather for Brian’s meeting as requested.

“Fellow Ulcinj tourist we have an opportunity to enjoy a stand-down of sorts,” begins Brian. “The Operational Building activity is expected to be in a weekend mode for all of Saturday and Sunday until 1700 hours. We want to run a minimum ‘staff’. By that I mean the Eneida listening post will be shuttered during that period. The Marines and the van listening section must maintain vigilance of the van. Sgt Murhy, please work with the section chief, Alice, to set up a duty rooster for security. With the exception of the Albanian linguist the rooster should include the Marines and the listening section personnel.

We will limit Daisy listening post activity to just station 3 and 4. We need to refrain from contact with any of the Operations Building crew, staff, and locals. During the ‘stand-down’ period Jane, Mark, and I will split the “duty-office” role. I believe we have seven Albanian certified speakers on the team. A duty rooster will be published which assigns those individuals to Daisy 3 or Daisy 4. Anna will co-man Daisy 3 from 1630 hours until certain Patel is not transmitting. With the exception of Anna tour of duty one linguist should be able to monitor both Daisy 3 and Daisy 4. This monitoring needs to be 24 hours a day. I just do not trust Ramesh Patel to not attempt unsanctioned communication with our “unknown” entity.

“All members of our team must monitor their issued cell phone for “mayday” message from the duty officer. All team members are to stay within twenty minutes of walking distance of this Hotel room.

“I will have the duty officer and Daisy duty roosters ready by 2000 hour today.

“All team members need to report to their normal stations at 1700 hours Sunday 2/06/2022.

“Questions?”

The sounds of crickets chirping greet Brian's request for questions.

After publishing the duty roster later in the evening, Brian joins Jane and Mark on the balcony for a bit of Pinot Noir and friendly conversation to pass the evening of Day 6.

Day 7 and Day 8

Saturday, Day 7 passes quietly into Sunday, Day 8. About 1830 hour Brian receives a photo on his cell phone from a caller Badger from the Embassy's surveillance tracking team. Brian instructs Badger to set pressure pad to capture vehicle egress and motion sensitive camera monitor. The Badger must break-off surveillance and return to the dugout.

Using the grid coordinates from the photo's mega data Brian locates the olive grove estate at which the Catalina Executive Team is overnighing. Brian brings Jane and Mark up to speed on the location of the olive grove estate.

Before retiring for the day Brian, Jane, and Mark verify that all members of the team are present at their stations of billet.