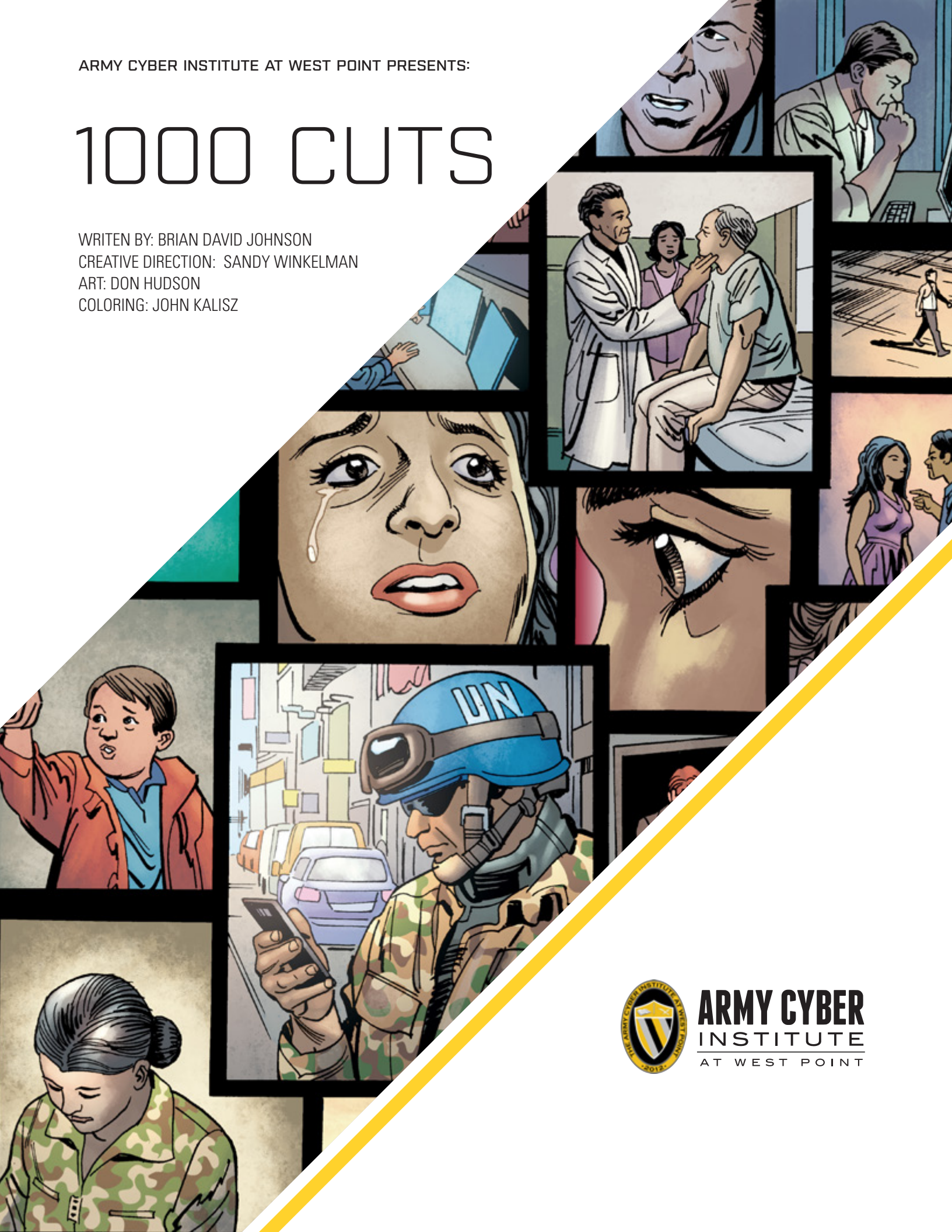


ARMY CYBER INSTITUTE AT WEST POINT PRESENTS:

1000 CUTS

WRITTEN BY: BRIAN DAVID JOHNSON
CREATIVE DIRECTION: SANDY WINKELMAN
ART: DON HUDSON
COLORING: JOHN KALISZ



**ARMY CYBER
INSTITUTE**
AT WEST POINT

BUILDING A BETTER, STRONGER AND MORE SECURE FUTURE FOR OUR ARMED FORCES

Science Fiction Prototypes are science fiction stories based on future trends, technologies, economics, and cultural change. The story you are about to read is based on threatcasting research from the Army Cyber Institute at West Point and Arizona State University's Threatcasting Lab. Our story does not shy away from a dystopian vision of tomorrow. Exploring these dark regions inspires us to build a better, stronger, and more secure future for our Armed Forces.

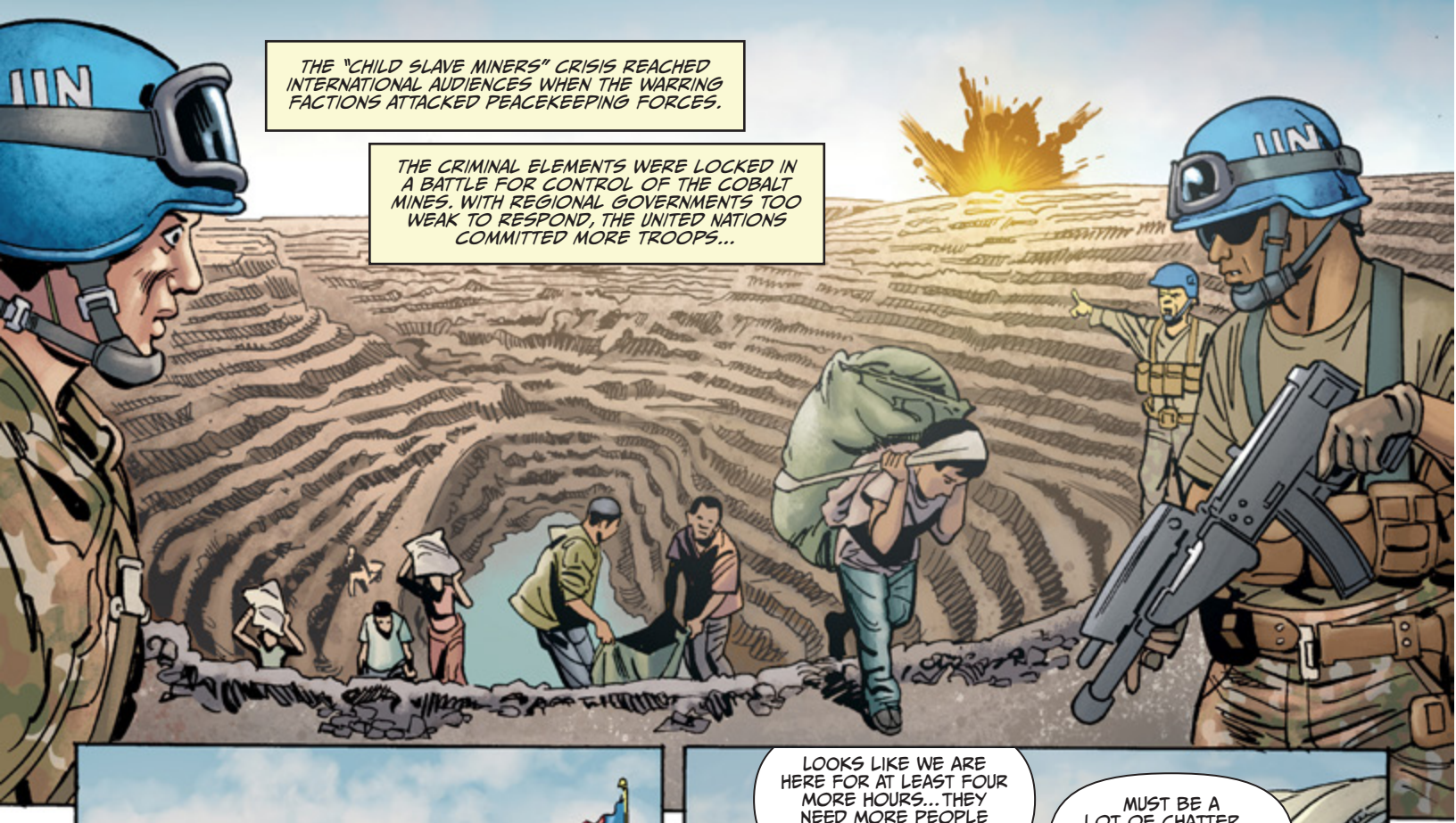
Lt. Col. Natalie Vanatta
Academy Professor
U.S. Army Cyber Institute

1000 CUTS

A foreign criminal organization has taken advantage of known vulnerabilities in network devices and online services comprising the global Internet of things. Violations of U.S. military operational security, breached network devices, and previously exposed personal information have enabled these nefarious actors to target individual members of a U.S. military unit deployed in support of U.N. peacekeeping operations. The distributed targeting of individual members of the unit has left the entire organization distracted from their military responsibilities. Subsequently, these attacks are enough to disrupt the entire unit's ability to adequately defend their base against the criminal organization's attacks. In other words, the deployed unit has suffered a death by a "1000 cuts."

THE "CHILD SLAVE MINERS" CRISIS REACHED INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCES WHEN THE WARRING FACTIONS ATTACKED PEACEKEEPING FORCES.

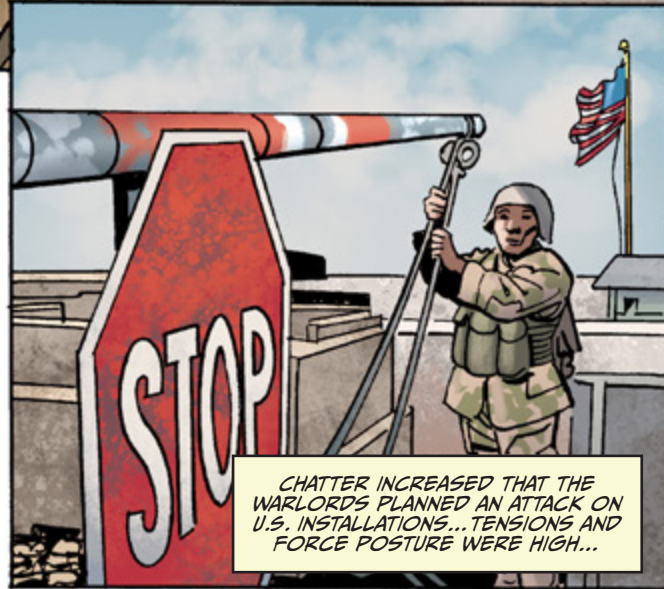
THE CRIMINAL ELEMENTS WERE LOCKED IN A BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF THE COBALT MINES. WITH REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS TOO WEAK TO RESPOND, THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTED MORE TROOPS...



LOOKS LIKE WE ARE HERE FOR AT LEAST FOUR MORE HOURS... THEY NEED MORE PEOPLE ON THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE...

MUST BE A LOT OF CHATTER... I'VE BEEN HERE TWO YEARS AND I'VE NEVER SEEN IT THIS TENSE...

PING



CHATTER INCREASED THAT THE WARLORDS PLANNED AN ATTACK ON U.S. INSTALLATIONS... TENSIONS AND FORCE POSTURE WERE HIGH...



HEY... ONE SEC... THIS IS JULIE... SHE'S BEEN HITTING ME ALL DAY... I NEED TO...

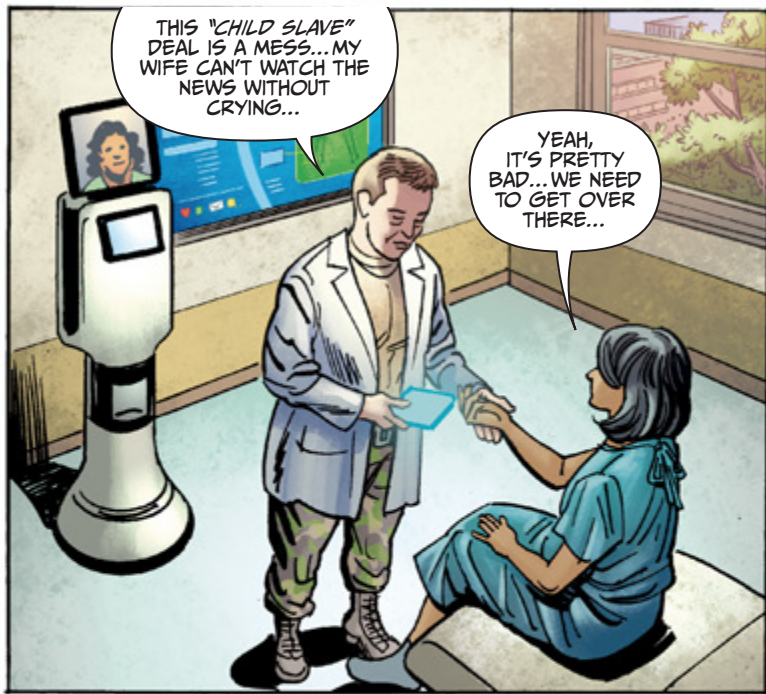
SURE. GO AHEAD.

ANSWER ME!
What happened with the mortgage?



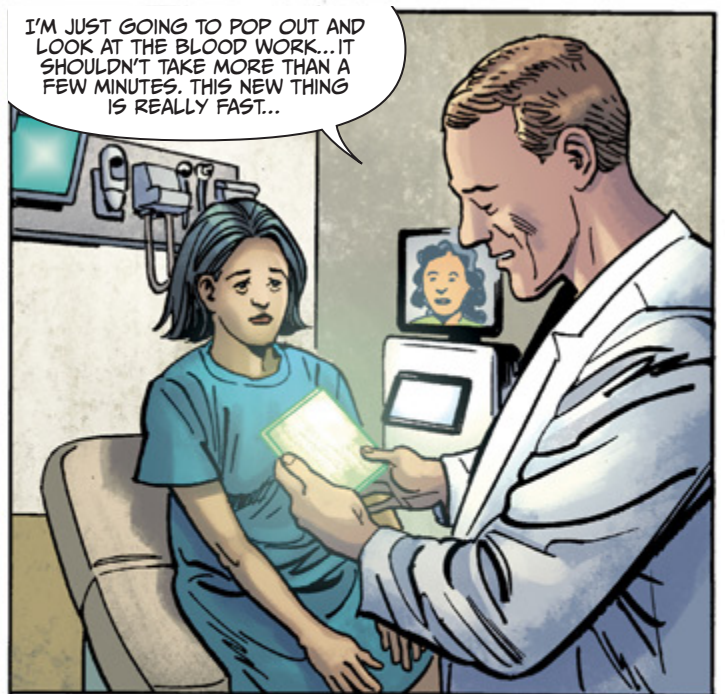
Bank says auto payments not gone thru in 4 months... saying foreclosure... WHAT????

I don't know anything about it... makes no sense... what can I do????

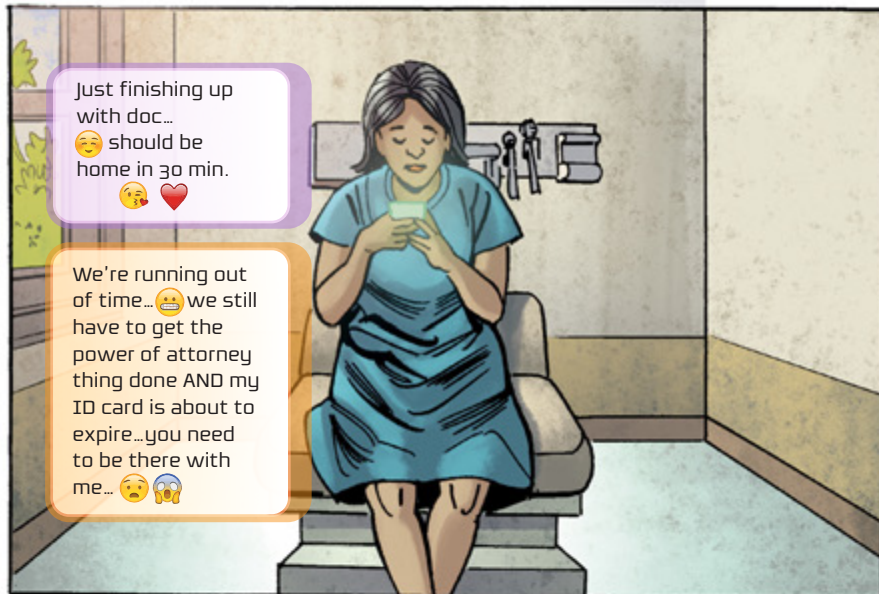


THIS "CHILD SLAVE"
DEAL IS A MESS...MY
WIFE CAN'T WATCH THE
NEWS WITHOUT
CRYING...

YEAH,
IT'S PRETTY
BAD...WE NEED
TO GET OVER
THERE...



I'M JUST GOING TO POP OUT AND
LOOK AT THE BLOOD WORK...IT
SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN A
FEW MINUTES. THIS NEW THING
IS REALLY FAST...



Just finishing up
with doc...
😓 should be
home in 30 min.
😓❤️

We're running out
of time...😓 we still
have to get the
power of attorney
thing done AND my
ID card is about to
expire...you need
to be there with
me...😓😓

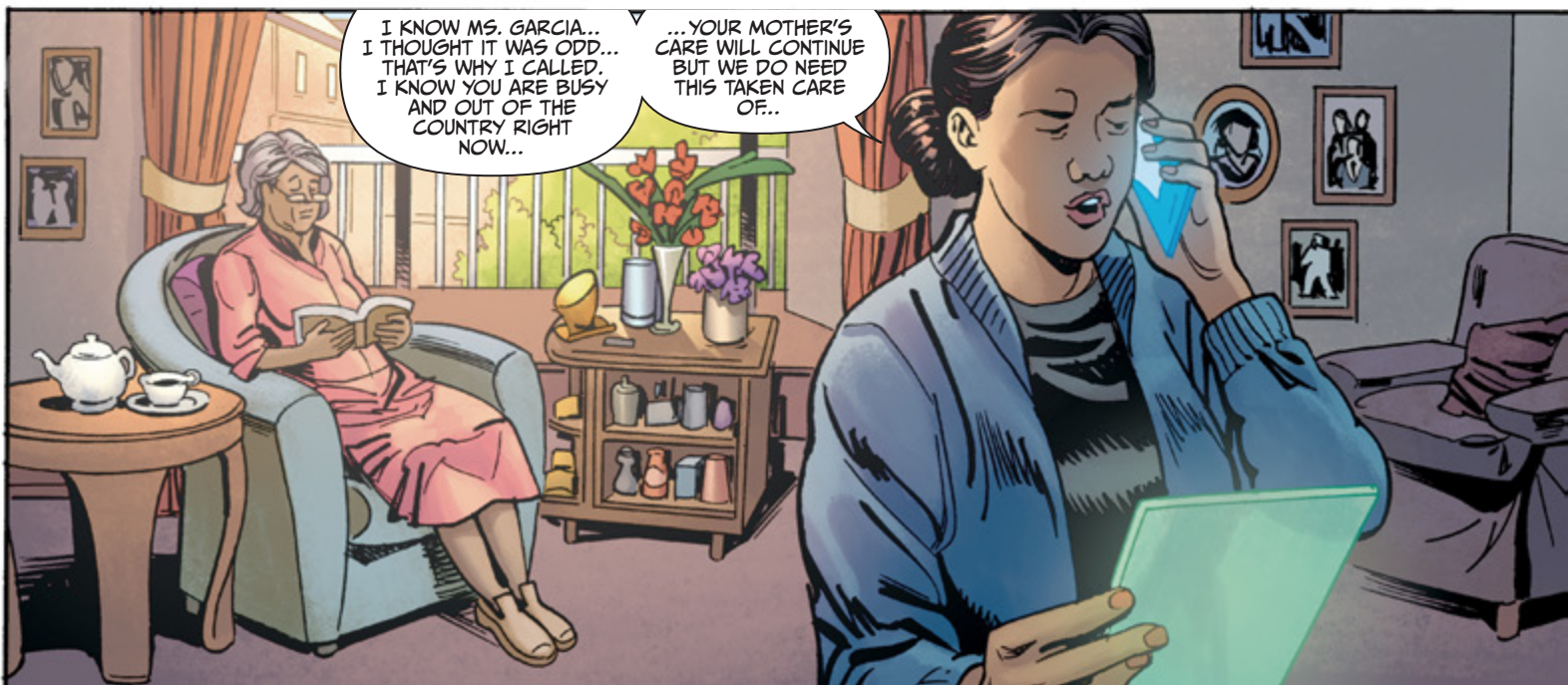


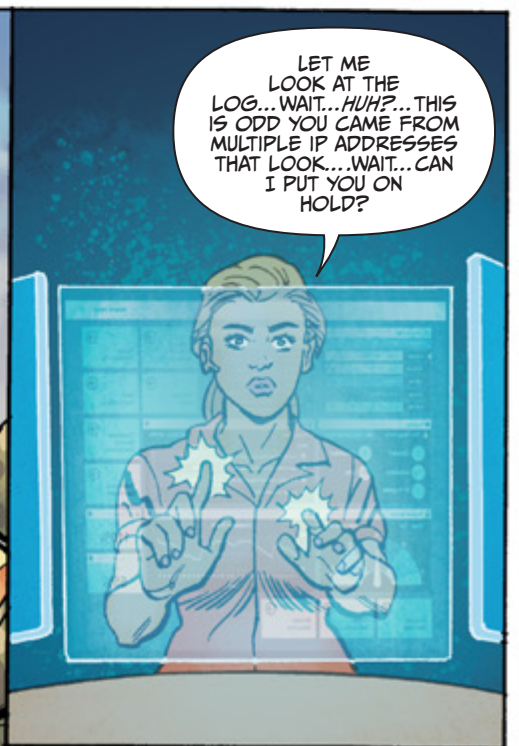
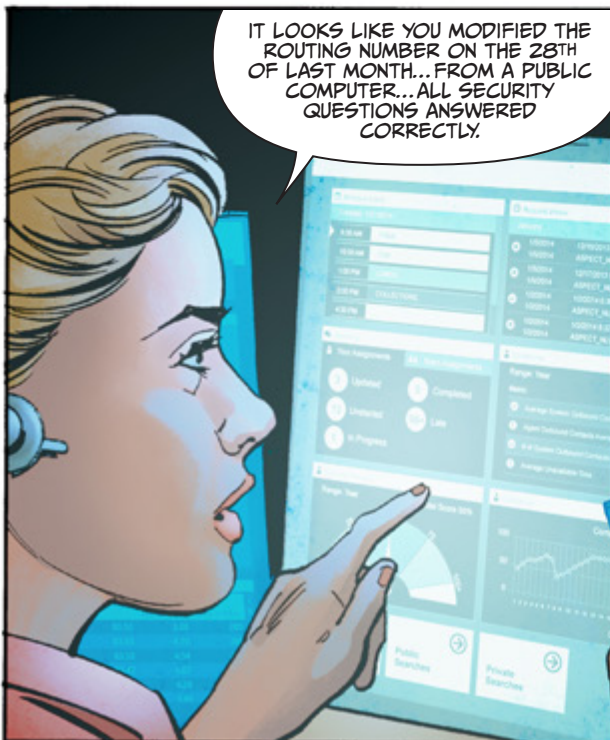
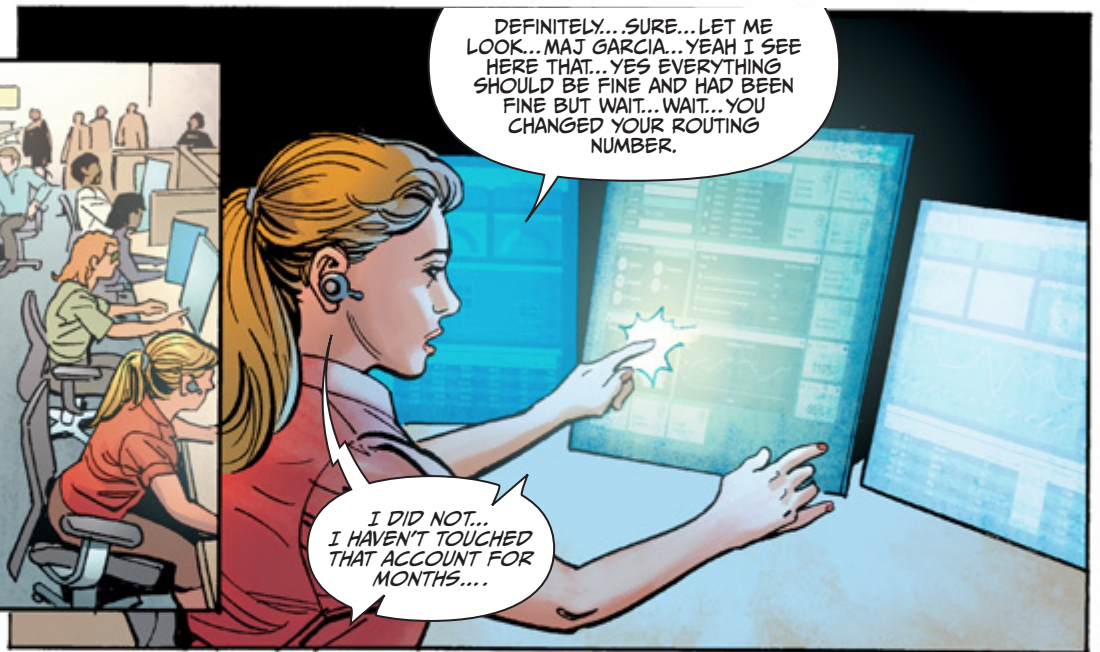
YOUR
WHITE BLOOD CELL
COUNT IS HIGH...HAVE
YOU HAD ANY RECENT
INFECTIONS? WHAT DO
YOU HAVE GOING ON
TODAY...I'LL NEED YOU
TO RUN A FEW MORE
TESTS...WHEN ARE
YOU SCHEDULED TO
DEPLOY?

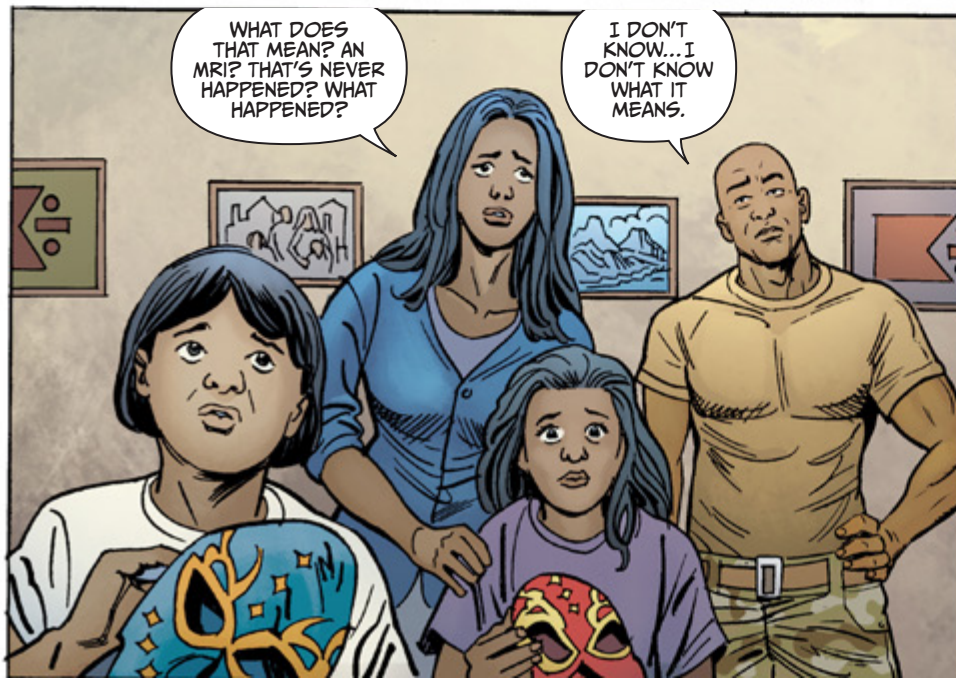
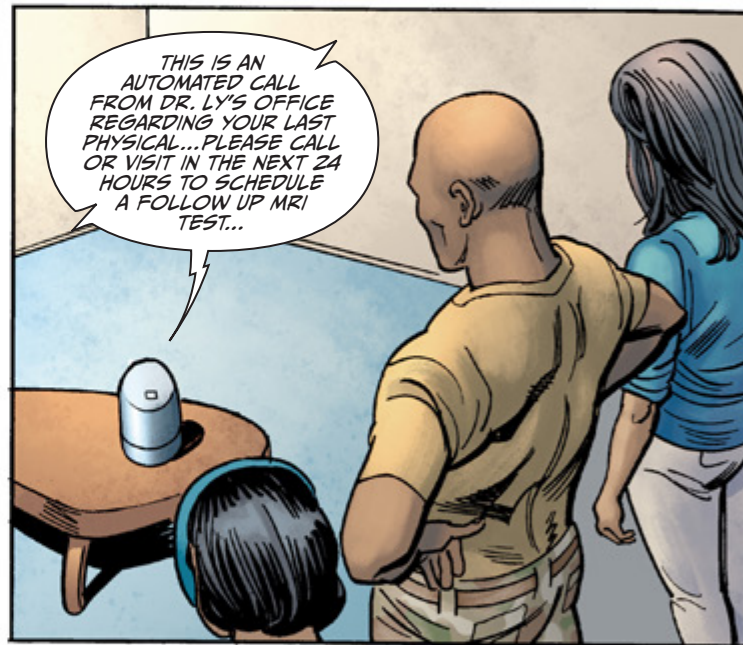
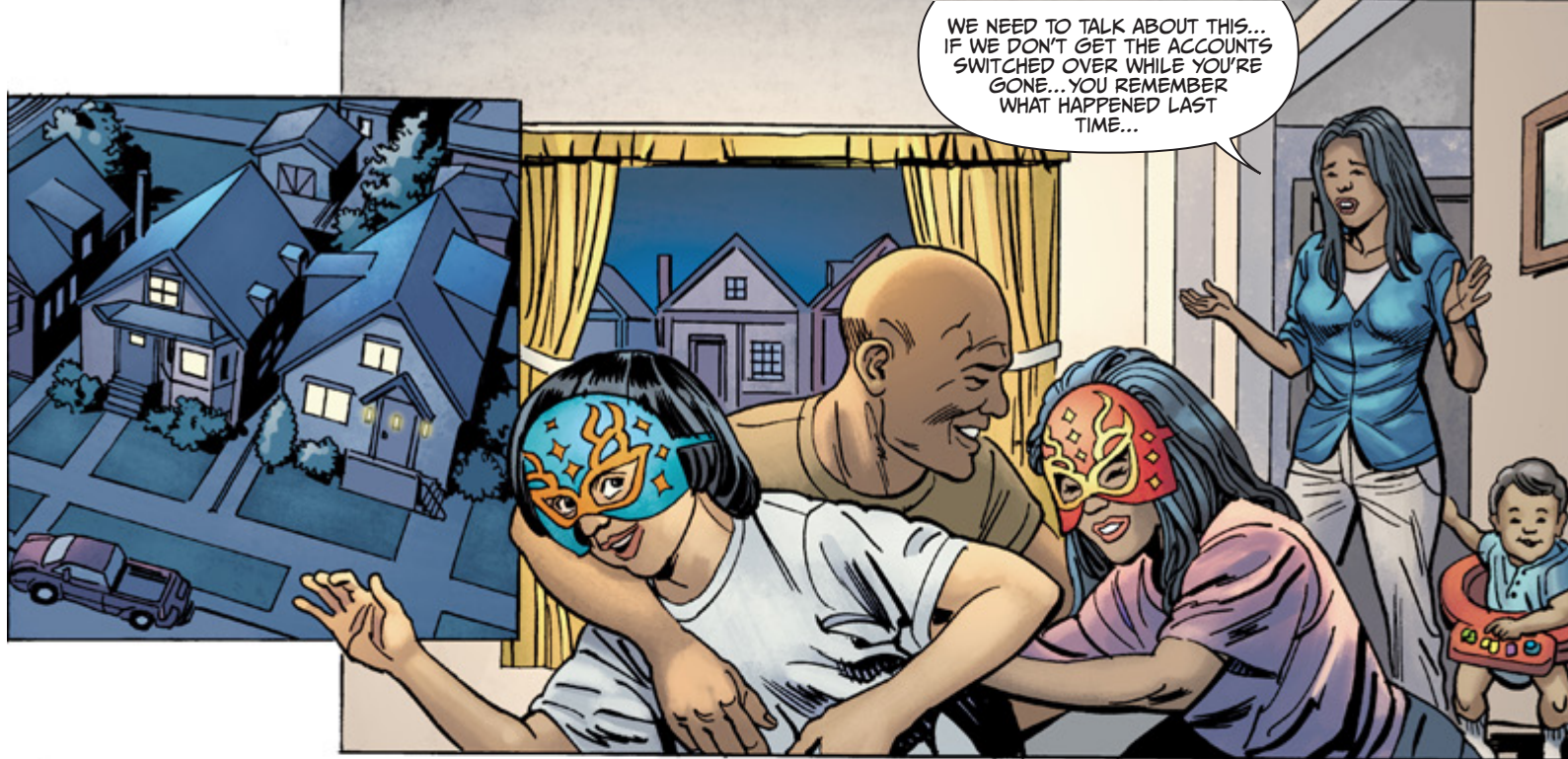


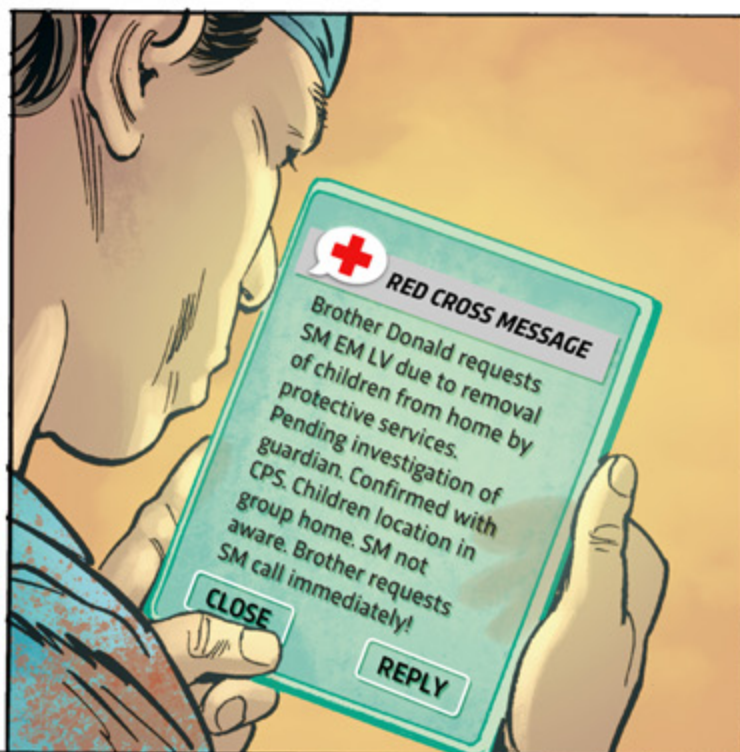
There's a problem...
something about
white blood cell
count...more tests...

WAIT...what...what's
wrong...😓 call me
are you OK?













Hack compromises millions of US employee and military personnel records.

Four recent breaches of U.S. government databases containing personnel data exposed sensitive information of millions, authorities say...

News World

SPECIALISTS CONTINUE TO PREPARE DURING DELAYED UPCOMING DEPLOYMENT.

WAITING TO DEPLOY, SPC. ELLIS, AN EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE SPECIALIST HELPS DEACTIVATE AN IMPROVED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DURING A SIMULATED SCENARIO.

BANKS NEED TO DO BETTER PROTECTING MILITARY FAMILIES, RECENT INCIDENTS SHOW.

MILITARY MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FACE UNIQUE CHALLENGES WITH BANKS. ON DEPLOYMENT, AN ERROR WITH SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS A DIRECT DEPOSIT OR AUTOMATIC PAYMENT CAN MEAN HOURS OF WORK TO FIX.

FINC ✱

US troop deployments to "Child Slave Miners" crisis delayed again.

U.S. military assistance for the Child Slave Miners relief efforts has been delayed the Pentagon said on Thursday.



14:15

W
LIVE

THEY BREACHED THE FRONT GATE. THE DEFENSE FORCES ARE WEAKER THAN WE ORIGINALLY THOUGHT. IT SEEMS TO BE WORKING.

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN RAMP UP THE ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTHWEST OF THE US. THERE'S MORE ACTIVITY THERE... LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS...



AFTERWORD

As the number of personal devices connected to the Internet of things proliferates throughout the world, it causes the amount of personal information contained in this network to grow exponentially. The adoption of mobile networked devices by the global population promises to provide users with ubiquitous and efficient access to an increasing number of convenient online services. These services will require individuals to expose more of their personal information across potentially vulnerable networks in the future.

As illustrated in this story, the rapid growth and use of the Internet of things not only exposes individual members of society to attacks by subversive actors or groups, but presents an existential threat to entire organizations.

Could the U.S. military have prevented the attack presented in this scenario? If so, how? How do military organizations, as well as academic and commercial enterprises, implement policies, procedures, and technologies that educate their members and prevent these sorts of attacks in the near future?



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