

USS Hermes - Beginnings

by Captain Loriaarra

One of the most interesting and perhaps also most frustrating things involved with sim features is tracking down the sim's history, or more specifically its beginning. While I had the privilege of interviewing several ex-USFers that I might otherwise not have ever talked to, now and then I simply can't pull enough strings to find the actual creator of the sim and pick his/her brain.

Unfortunately, that happened this time. All my information sources and connections weren't able to get me in contact with the USS *Hermes*' creator, Captain Rick Semino.

Fortunately, though, several of my usual sources have come to my rescue and divulged whatever they knew about the *Hermes*' past. First and foremost among them was Captain Rosanna Severine, who by the way is a great fountain of knowledge for a lot of the USF's past. Sort of a "technological pack rat", she was able to give me files on rosters, bios, ship specs, and the launching sim ceremony!

With the help of Commodore Shane Booker, Fleet Captain Carissa Hunter, and a few others I was able to confirm pretty much everything I managed to dig up during my research.

Beginnings and Launch in a Nutshell:

The *Hermes*' first sim took place on SD 9608.04. It included a ceremony in which the ship's CO, Captain Rick Semino, was introduced, and he in turn introduced his XO, Cmdr. Matt Solo. It appears the USF was growing quite rapidly back then and was in need of more sims. Semino went from the USS *Federation* straight to the creation of the USS *Hermes*, sending out ship specs on SD 9607.27 and an initial roster on SD 9608.02 in preparation of the launch.

According to that data, the USS *Hermes* was a Mercury Class refit, a multi-role Science and Reconnaissance vessel, with the registry number NCC-4501-B. And it evidently had a sun roof! Haha. (Ok, ok, not quite. That was a joke Semino cracked at the first sim. I just had to share it.)

Several of the initial crew members had followed Semino to the *Hermes* from the USS *Federation*, and some of those that quickly filling up other position in the weeks following the launch were actually second characters created by people the *Hermes* crew new from the USS *Lothlorien*.

Succession of CO's and XO's:

Creator Captain Rick Semino was the first CO of the ship, with his XO being Cmdr. Matt Solo. Solo didn't stay all that long and was soon replaced by Cmdr. David Chid, who according to the roster of SD 9705.29 was even acting CO for a short while. Eventually, Chid was listed as CO on a roster from SD 9708.05, and his XO was Cmdr. Leetanzia Grant-Storm. By April 98, then Captain, Grant had become CO and Cmdr. Jason Storm served as her XO.

In the beginning of 1999 it gets a little murky, but the mission brief of SD 9904.13 showed Cmdr. Koric Hawkins as XO, and six months later he wrote a Captain's Log, SD 9910.22, about the successful change of command. By January of 2000, Cmdr. Sabrina DuCant became his XO.

A different chapter began for the *Hermes* at the end of 2001. The roster, SD 200111.05, showed a combined crew of the USS *Hermes* and the USS *Halifax*, lovingly called the *Hermifax*. Then Captain, Booker, CO of the *Halifax*, actually shed some light on this for me. He told me that both sim were simming at the same time and had done several plots together, so they decided to combine the sims for a long-term plot. That plot actually lasted some two years or more, until Booker retired, and the *Halifax*'s crew transferred permanently to the *Hermes*.

In March 2005, Captain Carissa Hunter was CO, and Cmdr. James Kirk, Jr., was her XO. Some two years later, in April 2007, Captain Joe Tremblay became CO, joined by his XO, Lt. Cmdr. Sirch Nogal about two months later. By the end of 2007, Commodore Jason Storm took over the command of the *Hermes* for a while.

Current Captain, Jerrid Billings, has been in the CO seat since November of 2008. Cmdr. James Kirk, Jr., served as his XO from March 2009 until Cmdr. Ken Kennesaw replaced him in September 2009.

