

Covenant Activity on Vandros-7

Recent Intelligence and Covenant Interests

Recent intelligence reports suggest that **Covenant interest in Vandros-7** has escalated significantly. The planet's history as a salvage and scrap hub for damaged ships has made it a potential target for Covenant forces, particularly due to **Forerunner artifacts** believed to be buried beneath the surface. While there is no confirmed presence of active Covenant military units on the planet prior to this invasion, **recent Covenant movements** have raised concerns among both the UEG and ONI.

Initial Sightings and Engagements

The earliest reported Covenant activity on Vandros-7 dates back to [REDACTED], when several **Covenant scout vessels** were sighted in low orbit, probing the surface for signs of Forerunner structures. UNSC forces engaged in a brief skirmish with a **Covenant Phantom**, resulting in the downing of one ship. Although the engagement was minor, it marked the first sign of a **growing Covenant interest** in the planet's strategic value.

Subsequent reports from **local intelligence** indicate sightings of **Covenant anomalies** in the vicinity of **the southern archipelago**. These anomalies, believed to be **advanced Covenant scanning devices**, have been focused on areas historically linked to **Forerunner activity**. **The Iron Star Union**, which currently controls the area, has refused to provide details on their findings, adding to the tension between them and the UNSC.

Suspected Interest in Salvaged Technology

Vandros-7's extensive salvage operations have long included the recovery of **Covenant wreckage** from nearby battlefields. Intelligence suggests that Covenant remnants are particularly concerned with **Forerunner relics** and the **reverse-engineering of Covenant technology** by local factions. It is believed that **pirate factions** and other insurgent groups on Vandros-7 have attempted to **reverse-engineer energy weapons**, possibly recovered from dismantled Covenant vehicles and weaponry.

ONI has flagged this activity as a significant threat, fearing that **continued experimentation with Covenant tech** could attract a larger-scale Covenant incursion if left unchecked. **The Silent Path**, a covert ONI front organization, is attempting to monitor and mitigate these threats but is struggling to counter **widespread salvage operations** in the region.

Covenant Deployment of Scarab Mining Platforms

Recent UNSC reconnaissance has confirmed that the **Covenant have deployed Scarab mining platforms** at several strategic locations on Vandros-7. These massive, walking mining platforms are believed to be **targeting areas rich in Forerunner relics** and valuable resources. The Scarabs are capable of **rapid excavation and destruction**, and their deployment signals a major escalation in the Covenant's efforts to dominate the planet's resources.

The **initial invasion force size remains unknown**, but current estimates suggest that Covenant forces are **near-peer** in strength to our current deployment. The Covenant likely underestimated our size and ability to quickly deploy more UNSC assets to the area. This underestimation provides a potential window of opportunity to disrupt their operations before they fully consolidate their positions.

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