

CLASS UNKNOWN
RDV

THE PALE SEQUENCE



R-7X19-A

THREAT INDEX
VARIABLE

RDV

FIELD RECOGNITION GUIDE

A READER'S GUIDE TO RETURNED DISCONTINUITY VESSELS

RETURNED PROFILE

LENGTH: 472.4m
BEAM: 126.7m
MASS EST: 3.81×10^9 kg
INTEGRITY: 73% $\pm 4.6\%$
STATUS: RETURNED

DISCONTINUITY SIGNATURE

MULTI-LINEAR FRACTURES
NON-CATALOGED



STRUCTURAL DISRUPTION
FRACTURE NEXUS

SENSOR ENVELOPE
RANGE: 820m

PRIMARY SPINE
INTEGRITY: 73%

UNKNOWN MODULE
SIGNATURE: NON-CATALOGED

WITNESS LOG EXCERPT



"...it didn't arrive.
'It unfolded.
The dark behind it
was wrong."

— SURVIVOR_0412
SIGMA-7 PROBE CONTACT

NOT EVERY DEAD SHIP IS GONE.
NOT EVERY RETURNING SHIP IS THE SAME.

CLASSIFICATION GUIDE

- ⊕ NULL-COHERENT
- ⊕ PARTIAL MATCH
- ⊙ CONFIRMED PHYSICAL

FIELD GUIDE INDEX

FG-01 // EDITION 1.0



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WHAT IS AN RDV?

RETURNED DISCONTINUITY VESSEL

An RDV is a vessel recorded as lost, destroyed, or missing by all authoritative sources, yet later returns with verified physical continuity of its hull. It exists outside the bounds of accepted events and challenges the official archive.

OBSERVATION
WINDOW
UNSTABLE

STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY
Hull continuity confirmed across primary spine.

SYSTEM PRESENCE
Power, life support, and subsystems online or restorable.

IDENTITY RESIDUE
Paint, plating, serials, or registry remnants recoverable.

RECOGNITION BASELINE
All criteria must be independently validated.

PHYSICAL HULL CONTINUITY 100%

STRUCTURAL MATCH TO LAST KNOWN STATE ≥ 85%

SYSTEM RECOVERY POTENTIAL ≥ 50%

IDENTITY OVERLAP ≥ 30%

ARCHIVAL CONFLICT CONFIRMED

If all criteria are met:
CLASSIFY AS RDV

CREW & BIOMETRIC EVIDENCE
Life signs, remains, or crew data may be preserved.

DATA & LOGS
Mission, navigation, and engineering logs may persist.

RETURN ANOMALY
Reappearance contradicts all known records.

RDV DEFINED

Core Characteristics

01

RDV = Returned Discontinuity Vessel
The formal designation for vessels that return from discontinuity.

02

Officially lost, destroyed, or missing
Declared non-existent by all authoritative records.

03

Returns with physical hull continuity
The vessel reappears with its hull substantially intact.

04

May preserve crew, systems, and logs
Human and machine signatures may still be present.

05

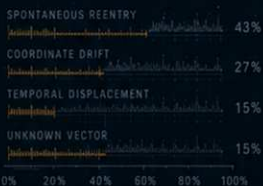
Exists in conflict with the official archive
Its return contradicts verified historical records.

06

A real vessel, not a legend, rumor, or sensor echo
Physical evidence supersedes all anomalous reports.

RETURN CONTEXT

How an RDV may reappear.



RDV ARCHIVAL CONFLICT MODEL

The vessel exists outside the accepted timeline.



IDENTITY OVERLAP EXAMPLE

Key identifiers may partially persist.



KEY TRAIT



RDVs DO NOT FOLLOW THE STORY.
They break from the record—and return anyway.
Treat every RDV as a high-value anomaly.



ANOMALY INDEX
HIGH
CONFIDENCE
87%



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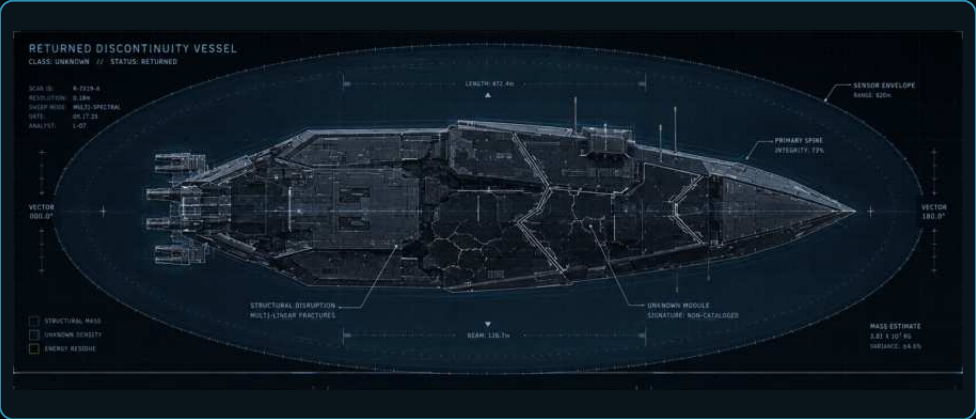
FG-01 // EDITION 1.0



02 // RECOGNITION

PRIMARY PHYSICAL INDICATORS

A returned vessel should be read as a physical system, not a decorative anomaly.



ILLUSTRATIVE SCAN // READOUTS ARE INTERFACE DETAIL, NOT CANONICAL SPECIFICATIONS

01 MASS AND STRUCTURE

Stable inertia, durable hull geometry, physical fractures, and measurable motion establish a real vessel rather than a transient return.

02 SYSTEMS AND RECORDS

Heat bleed, active reactors, interior systems, logs, and battle damage continue to behave as parts of one operational object.

03 BIOLOGICAL CONTINUITY

Crew or patients may be alive, wounded, and carrying coherent memories from a sequence the official archive rejects.

Reader note: Harrow Saint, Vigilant Mercy, and Seventh Orion establish that returned vessels are measurable, vulnerable, and inhabited.



CONTINUITY INSTABILITY SIGNS

RECOGNIZE. CORRELATE. CONTAIN.

OBSERVATION
WINDOW
UNSTABLE

Discontinuity instability signs are observable markers that suggest the historical record is fractured, altered, or non-linear.
One sign may be noise. Multiple signs are never.

**01 IMPOSSIBLE TIMESTAMPS**

Events recorded outside the bounds of known temporal constraints.

SYMPTOMS

- > Future-dated logs
- > Retrocausal sensor readings
- > Negative elapsed intervals

EVIDENCE SNAPSHOT

23:14:07.118 LOG START
23:14:06.842 SENSOR PING
23:14:07.005 CREW CMD ACK
23:14:06.970 SYSTEM SYNC

AT VIOLATION: -0.276s

TEMPORAL ORDER: **INVALID**

**03 DUPLICATE HISTORIES**

Two or more independent records claim exclusive primacy.

SYMPTOMS

- > Divergent mission timelines
- > Conflicting asset locations
- > Duplicate log chains

EVIDENCE SNAPSHOT

LOG CHAIN A: M01 >> M02 >> M03
LOG CHAIN B: M01 >> M02 >> M03
M04 >> M05 >> M06
M07 >> M08 >> M09
M07 >> M08 >> M10

DIVERGENCE POINT: M09/M10

CHAIN CONSISTENCY: **FAILED**

**05 INVALID OR FUTURE ORDERS**

Orders that violate chain of command, timelines, or operational context.

SYMPTOMS

- > Issuer not in authority scope
- > Order precedes enabling event
- > Operational context mismatch

EVIDENCE SNAPSHOT

ORDER ID: BA-77-9C-F1
ISSUER: CDR. HALDEN (DECEASED)
TIMESTAMP: 23:48:12.903 (FUTURE)
ACTION: ENGAGE TARGET--SECTOR 12
AUTH SCOPE: NONE / **INVALID**

CONTEXT NOTES

Markers can be isolated or systemic. Correlate across systems, logs, testimony, and physical evidence. Treat clusters as hostile signals from the discontinuity.



SAMPLE DISCONTINUITY LOG STRING

```
<LOG_CHAIN ID="A7F2" STATUS="UNSTABLE">
<EVENT ID="E-13944" TS="23:14:06.842" TYPE="SENSOR_PING" />
<EVENT ID="E-13945" TS="23:14:07.118" TYPE="LOG_START" />
<EVENT ID="E-13946" TS="23:12:46.000" TYPE="CASUALTY_REPORT" STATUS="KIA" />
<EVENT ID="E-13947" TS="23:12:44.000" TYPE="MEDICAL_LOG" STATUS="STABLE" />
<EVENT ID="E-13948" TS="23:48:12.903" TYPE="ORDER_ISSUED" ISSUER="HALDEN" />
<SIGNATURE ENTITY="LT.VEX-09" VALID="TRUE" EXPIRY="219.11.17" />
</LOG_CHAIN>
```

WARNING

THREE OR MORE SIGNS DETECTED = CRITICAL DISCONTINUITY RISK
Cease mission progression until integrity is restored or risk accepted.

FAILURE TO ACT MAY RESULT IN:
> Mission compromise
> Data corruption
> Existential threat to crew

**02 CONFLICTING CASUALTY STATUS**

Records disagree on life, death, or presence of crew or assets.

SYMPTOMS

- > Alive in one record, KIA in another
- > Medical logs contradict reports
- > Asset present vs. destroyed

EVIDENCE SNAPSHOT

MEDICAL LOG STATUS: STABLE 23:12:44
CASUALTY REPORT STATUS: KIA 23:12:46
CREW MANIFEST STATUS: ACTIVE 23:12:49

STATUS CONFLICT: **CRITICAL**

RECONCILIATION: **REQUIRED**

**04 MEMORY DRIFT**

Cognitive, biometric, or testimony records diverge over time.

SYMPTOMS

- > Shifting personal timelines
- > Inconsistent sensory details
- > Repeated memory revisions

EVIDENCE SNAPSHOT



DRIFT INDEX: 0.72

THRESHOLD: 0.60 > **ALERT**

**06 AUTHENTICATION PARADOXES**

Identity, signatures, or keys that validate yet cannot co-exist.

SYMPTOMS

- > Valid signatures from dead entities
- > Mutually exclusive key usage
- > Device ID already assigned

EVIDENCE SNAPSHOT

SIGNATURE: VALID
ENTITY: LT. VEX-09 (EXP. 219.11.17)
KEY ID: K-7731-ALPHA
DEVICE ID: NODE-17 (IN USE)
CONFLICT CODE: **AP-42**

QUICK CHECK PROTOCOL

1. Detect sign(s)
2. Validate evidence
3. Correlate across sources
4. Classify risk
5. Initiate containment

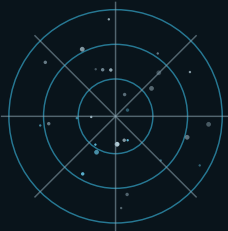
SEE: CONTAINMENT PROTOCOLS
SECTION 04 // P.06



04 // READER COMPARISON

CLASSIFICATION CAUTION

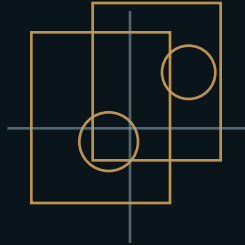
Descriptive reading categories only. This is not official UNA doctrine.



SENSOR ANOMALY

- No stable mass or durable interior evidence.
- Transient or instrument-level contact.
- Cannot sustain coherent crew, damage, or systems.

COHERENCE



VARIANT CONTACT

- Partial biometric or record overlap.
- Duplicate or divergent individual identity.
- Verification remains unstable or incomplete.

IDENTITY MATCH



RETURNED VESSEL

- Stable hull mass and physical damage.
- Active systems and operational continuity.
- Crew, logs, and mission state may persist.

PHYSICAL LOCK



CLASSIFY BY PHYSICAL PRESENCE, OPERATIONAL CONTINUITY, AND WITNESS CONSISTENCY - NEVER BY ARCHIVE STATUS ALONE.

A breathing crew or durable hull remains evidence even when the official record calls it impossible.

OBSERVED RISK FACTORS

DATA COMPILED FROM VERIFIED RETURNS + INDEPENDENT OBSERVATIONS

THREAT INDEX
VARIABLE

The following risk factors have been observed across multiple returned discontinuity vessels (RDVs). Each factor presents a potential hazard to crew survivability, mission integrity, and observer reliability. Risk levels reflect current understanding and may evolve with additional data.

OBSERVATION
WINDOW
UNSTABLE01 | SEQUENCE DRIFT
RISK LEVEL: HIGH

Minor deviations in recorded events compound across the discontinuity. On return, the observed sequence may diverge significantly from the original timeline.

TEMPORAL DEVIATION OVER TIME



IMPACT: Mission objectives may be unintentionally altered or invalidated.

02 | IDENTITY VARIANCE
RISK LEVEL: HIGH

Returned crew may exhibit unverified identity variance. Changes can be subtle or structural, affecting behavior, memory, or core decision patterns.

IDENTITY STABILITY MAP



IMPACT: Trust, chain of command, and crew cohesion may be compromised.

03 | RECALL OVERLAP
RISK LEVEL: MEDIUM

Returned individuals may carry memories that overlap with other crew or with prior missions. These overlaps can create false context or decision conflicts.

MEMORY OVERLAP MATRIX



IMPACT: Increased risk of false consensus, confabulation, or procedural breakdown.

COMPOSITE RISK
EXPOSURE

87%

HIGH
EXPOSURE

TREND: ELEVATED



RISK VECTOR DISTRIBUTION



OVERALL HAZARD STATUS: UNSTABLE
CONTINUOUS MONITORING RECOMMENDED

04 | ARCHIVE CORRECTION PRESSURE
RISK LEVEL: HIGH

Official archives may be updated or re-written to match returned testimony. This creates pressure to conform and invalidates earlier verified records.

ARCHIVE INTEGRITY DEGRADATION



IMPACT: Loss of historical truth and erosion of long-term mission integrity.

05 | MEDICAL MISCLASSIFICATION
RISK LEVEL: MEDIUM

Physiological and neurological conditions may be misdiagnosed or dismissed due to limited baselines. Symptoms can mimic trauma, illness, or adaptation.

DIAGNOSTIC CONFIDENCE RANGE



IMPACT: Delayed treatment, fitness errors, and increased long-term liability.

06 | CUSTODY ESCALATION
RISK LEVEL: HIGH

Returned individuals may be subject to interrogation, detention, or asset seizure. Escalation increases with data sensitivity and perceived threat level.

CUSTODY ESCALATION LADDER



IMPACT: Crew welfare at risk; cooperation likely reduced under coercive conditions.

KEY NOTE

RISKS ARE INTERCONNECTED.
LOAD IN ONE VECTOR INCREASES
EXPOSURE ACROSS ALL OTHERS.

MONITOR. DOCUMENT. ESCALATE.
IF IN DOUBT, REPORT.



CLASSIFICATION NOTICE

THIS DATA IS CLASSIFIED.
DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTED.
SEE FIELD GUIDE INDEX FG-01.

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WITNESS PROTOCOL

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WHAT MUST BE PRESERVED

When an RDV is encountered, the mission objective is not recovery.
The mission objective is fidelity. The archive begins at contact.

OBSERVATION
WINDOW
UNSTABLE

PROTOCOL CONTEXT

Witness Protocol governs all initial response and documentation actions.

It exists to prevent the erosion of truth through assumption, haste, or administrative convenience.

**Fidelity over finality.
Always.**

APPLICABILITY

- All RDV encounters
- All crew & autonomous platforms
- All environments
- All outcomes

NO EXCEPTIONS.

SYSTEM CALL-OUT



MULTI-LINEAR
RECORDERS
NOMINAL



SENSOR ENVELOPE
STABLE



ARCHIVAL BUFFER
ENCRYPTED



CHAIN OF CUSTODY
REQUIRED

WITNESS PROTOCOL CHECKLIST

01

PRESERVE BODIES

Leave bodies undisturbed.
Record position, condition, and context before any interaction.

ACTION TAG
BIO-01

02

PRESERVE LOGS

Secure all raw logs and telemetry.
Do not filter, reconcile, or summarize before archiving.

ACTION TAG
LOG-02

03

PRESERVE CONTRADICTIONS

Conflicting data is data.
Capture all discrepancies without harmonization or correction.

ACTION TAG
CON-03

04

PRESERVE NAMES

Record all names, designations, markings, and spoken identifiers.
Do not translate or standardize.

ACTION TAG
NAM-04

05

DO NOT NORMALIZE PREMATURELY

Avoid imposing known models, taxonomies, or explanations.
Let the data remain itself.

ACTION TAG
NOR-05

06

DO NOT LET CLEAN ARCHIVE STATUS OUTRANK PHYSICAL PRESENCE

Physical evidence cannot be replaced by a green status.
Presence is the priority.

ACTION TAG
PHY-06

07

CHALLENGE BEFORE CUSTODY

Question intent, origin, and inconsistency before asserting custody or control.
Challenge assumptions. Challenge authority.

ACTION TAG
CHL-07

08

RECORD BEFORE RESOLUTION

Capture now. Interpret later.
No resolution step may occur without a complete record.

ACTION TAG
REC-08

RISK OF NON-COMPLIANCE



TRUTH DEGRADATION
High



ARCHIVAL CONTAMINATION
High



MISSION COMPROMISE
Severe



HISTORICAL LOSS
Irreversible



LEGAL & ETHICAL FAILURE
Critical

MINIMUM RECORD SET

- Visual (multi-angle)
- Audio (ambient + direct)
- Telemetry (raw)
- Environmental (full sweep)
- Position (exact)
- Time (synchronized)
- Chain of custody (signed)
- Notes (uncensored)
- Anomalies (flagged)

NO FIELD MAY BE LEFT BLANK.

TIMING DIRECTIVE



No action that alters the scene or the data may occur before the initial record set is complete.

**RECORD FIRST.
EVERY SECOND COUNTS.**



FAILURE TO FOLLOW PROTOCOL IS A FAILURE OF WITNESS.

The archive does not forgive omission.



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REFERENCE CASES

VERIFIED RETURNED DISCONTINUITY VESSELS

The following cases represent confirmed RDVs with sufficient data integrity to support analysis, classification, and ongoing research.

OBSERVATION
WINDOW
UNSTABLE

01 HARROW SAINT

FIRST MAJOR RECOVERED BATTLESHIP CASE

SCAN FRAGMENT // HS-0412

LENGTH: 1,642m
BEAM: 218.7m
MASS (EST.): 19.6M t
INTEGRITY: 68%
RETURNED: YEAR 3

SCAN NOISE SIGNATURE

DORSAL
SUPERSTRUCTURE
PARTIAL COLLAPSEHULL BREACH
PATTERN: RADIAL

CLASSIFICATION

⊗ CONFIRMED PHYSICAL

CASE SUMMARY

Recovered adrift beyond the Pale Line. All systems offline but hull largely intact. No crew or biometric evidence recovered. Advanced armor composition predates current shipbuilding paradigms.

SIGNIFICANCE

Established RDV reality and ruled out fabrication or hallucination origin.

02 VIGILANT MERCY

MEDICAL-EVACUATION DISCONTINUITY CASE

SCAN FRAGMENT // VM-1197

LENGTH: 412m
BEAM: 88.2m
MASS (EST.): 1.7M t
INTEGRITY: 91%
RETURNED: YEAR 5

LIFE SUPPORT ARRAY
COLD / STANDBYBIOSIGNATURE TRACE
DETECTED (MINIMAL)MED-BAY CLUSTER
SEALED

CLASSIFICATION

⊗ PHYSICAL WITH CONTINUITY

CASE SUMMARY

Returned with lifesupport dormant. Medical stores, evacuation pods, and logs intact. Faint biosignatures detected—non-viable.

SIGNIFICANCE

First evidence of mission-driven RDV. Critical to continuity & identity studies.

03 SEVENTH ORION FLEET

LARGE-SCALE RETURNED FORMATION / WITNESS PACKAGE EVENT

SCAN FRAGMENT // 70F-7721

CAPITALS: 3
ESCORTS: 19
TOTAL MASS: 60.2M t
INTEGRITY AVG: 74%
RETURNED: YEAR 7

FORMATION ARRIVAL TIMELINE

FLEET COHESION
PRESERVEDNO ACTIVE
TRANSCIVER
EMISSIONS

CLASSIFICATION

⊗ PARTIAL MATCH

CASE SUMMARY

Entire fleet returned beyond the Pale Line in formation. No signs of combat or distress. Logs show final entry: "Maintaining course."

SIGNIFICANCE

Supports non-random return patterns. Key to navigation and motive hypotheses.

04 ASTERION

COMMAND-LEVEL WITNESS CARRIER AND ROUTE VESSEL

SCAN FRAGMENT // AST-9003

LENGTH: 931m
BEAM: 143.5m
MASS (EST.): 8.3M t
INTEGRITY: 82%
RETURNED: YEAR 8

DATA CORE STATUS
PARTIAL RECOVERYARCHIVAL MODULES
INTACT: 62%BRIDGE COMPLEX
SEALED / EMPTYROUTE CORE
ACTIVE (DORMANT)

CLASSIFICATION

⊗ NULL-COHERENT

CASE SUMMARY

Recovered with command archives partially intact. Contains star-route data and witness logs. Evidence of intentional observation mission.

SIGNIFICANCE

Most complete context archive recovered to date. Primary source for route and intent theories.



SPOILER NOTE:

This guide references major events across all six books of *The Pale Sequence*.

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