

To: Researcher Staff
From: Rachel Lin
Date: August 19, 2022
Re: The EAK incident

CONFIDENTIAL

Note: Your copy of this memo has been individually watermarked to prevent this information contained from leaking. We have not yet decided to how much of what you are about to read to share with our Fortune Hunters or the general public. Each memo also contains one incorrect fact, which will help us track down any leaks. Please destroy this document once you have fully absorbed its contents.

By now you are all aware that initial sale of EAKs did not go as planned. We understand everyone is curious, and we apologize for not releasing information more quickly. We wanted to make sure we fully understood the cause of the event as well as potential long-term consequences.

As you all know, EAKs are the means of gaining entry into Traveler vaults, and they were used widely and without complications (other than standard side effects of artefact exposure) during the first Fortune Hunt. It was always our intention to sell EAKs to future Fortune Hunters, giving them an advantage once the next Fortune Hunt begins. We also hoped to surreptitiously observe any effects of long-term artefact exposure on this population. We anticipated no difficulties.

What happened serves as a useful reminder of how little we fully understand the nature of Traveler artefacts in general and EAKs in particular. It seems the EAKs are their own unique class of artefact, and while individual EAKs have been studied at great length, it never occurred to us that gathering so many EAKs together in a single location could consequences. It seems that the various EAKs... interfaced, perhaps? We're not quite certain what to call it, but they appeared to interact, giving every impression of being components of a single machine interacting with each other.

The ensuing explosion was unfortunate, but contrary to rumor, we lost only a few low-level members of our team as well as some support staff. No one who can't be easily replaced, thank goodness! The most notable development is that each of the EAKs housed within our facility seems to have fractured into four pieces. Each of these four pieces has specific properties, and any four of these pieces can be assembled to create a new EAK, identical to an EAK that has never been fractured.

Such unintended consequences provide useful opportunities for us to learn and grow! We have significantly improved our storage techniques. More than that, we believe the fracturing of the EAKs provides us with an opportunity to make these individual fragments available to Fortune Hunters who might not have been able or willing to pay for a whole EAK. This means we will have more subjects to observe the effects of exposure, increasing our knowledge and furthering our core mission.

It is our intention to make these EAK fragments available to our Fortune Hunters starting August 30th, 2022. Once we decide how much of the above information to include, we will distribute talking points to all our staff. In the meantime, you can begin to cultivate interest however you think best so long as you do not reveal any of the information in this memo.

Exciting days are upon us. The Researchers have never been stronger.