



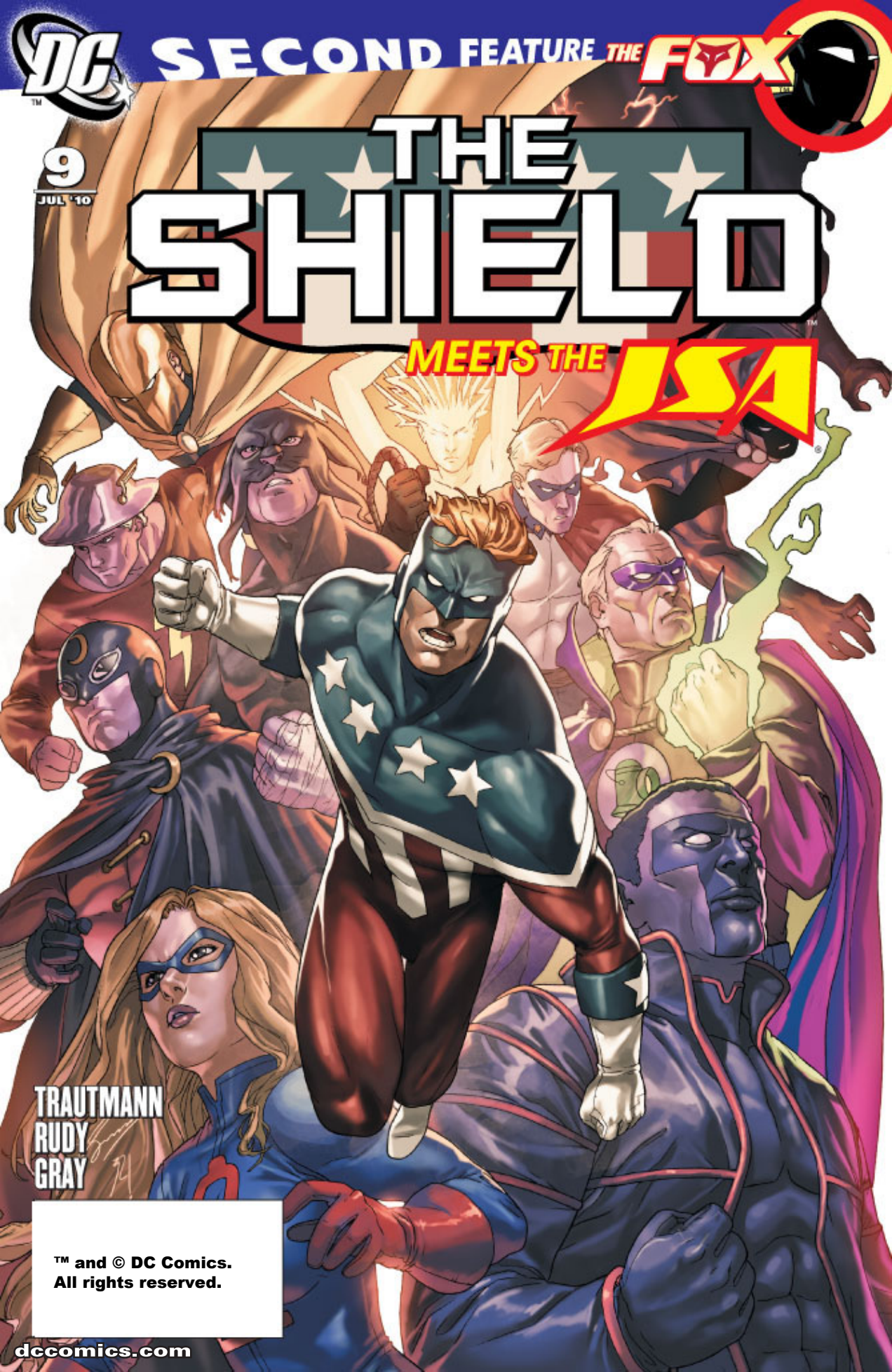
SECOND FEATURE **THE FOX**



9  
JUL '10

# THE SHIELD


MEETS THE **USA**



TRAUTMANN  
RUDY  
GRAY

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**S**OMETIMES YOU CAN JUST FEEL IT. CALL IT INSTINCT OR INTUITION.

YOU JUST SENSE IT. SOMETHING'S CHANGING.

SPAGHETTI-HEAD BETTER GET A MOVE ON, LIEUTENANT.

OVERWATCH SAYS THE GENDARMES'LL BE HERE IN A COUPLE MINUTES.

ROGER THAT, SARN'T STRINGER.

EVERYTHING YOU TOOK FOR GRANTED IS ALTERED.

FINISH UP THE DATA MINING AND GET THE BOYS TOPSIDE, MORTENSON.

ON OUR WAY, SARGE.

YOU'RE LEFT WITH UNCERTAINTY, FACING SOMETHING UGLY.

YOU HEARD HIM. WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME LEFT.



**A**ND YOU KNOW, DEEP DOWN, THAT THE COUNTDOWN TO SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS STARTED.

NOT LONG NOW.

>>METAHUMAN DETECTED: FILE: MALIK AL-THAKA [TRANSLATION: "BRAIN EMPEROR"]

GGGK!

>>MISSION OBJECTIVE: CAPTURE OF BLACK SEVEN OPERATIVE "BURGOS, VIKTOR." >>STATUS: COMPLETED

BURGOS IS A WEAPONNER FOR THE BLACK SEVEN ARMS CARTEL.

BIOWEAPONS, LIKE UGLY HERE, ARE HIS SPECIALTY.

>>METAHUMAN ENHANCILE: PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN >>RECORDED TO DATABASE, CODENAMED "ALPHA." >>STATUS: NEUTRALIZED

MY WARSUIT IS STILL REPAIRING THE PUNISHMENT THIS THING DISHED OUT. LUNGS DAMAGED, RIBS SHATTERED.

HURTS LIKE HELL.

IF BURGOS HAS ANY MORE SURPRISES LURKING DOWN HERE, WE NEED TO KNOW NOW. BEFORE MY MEN - OR THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES, ALREADY EN ROUTE - STUMBLE ONTO THEM.

DONT FIGHT ME, DOCTOR BURGOS.

IT'LL JUST HURT MORE.

IT'S A NECESSARY EVIL, BUT I HATE DOING IT.

I'VE BEEN ON THE RECEIVING END OF THE BRAIN EMPEROR'S POWERS. UNPLEASANT DOESN'T BEGIN TO COVER IT.

AND WE WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO SUFFER, NOW WOULD WE?

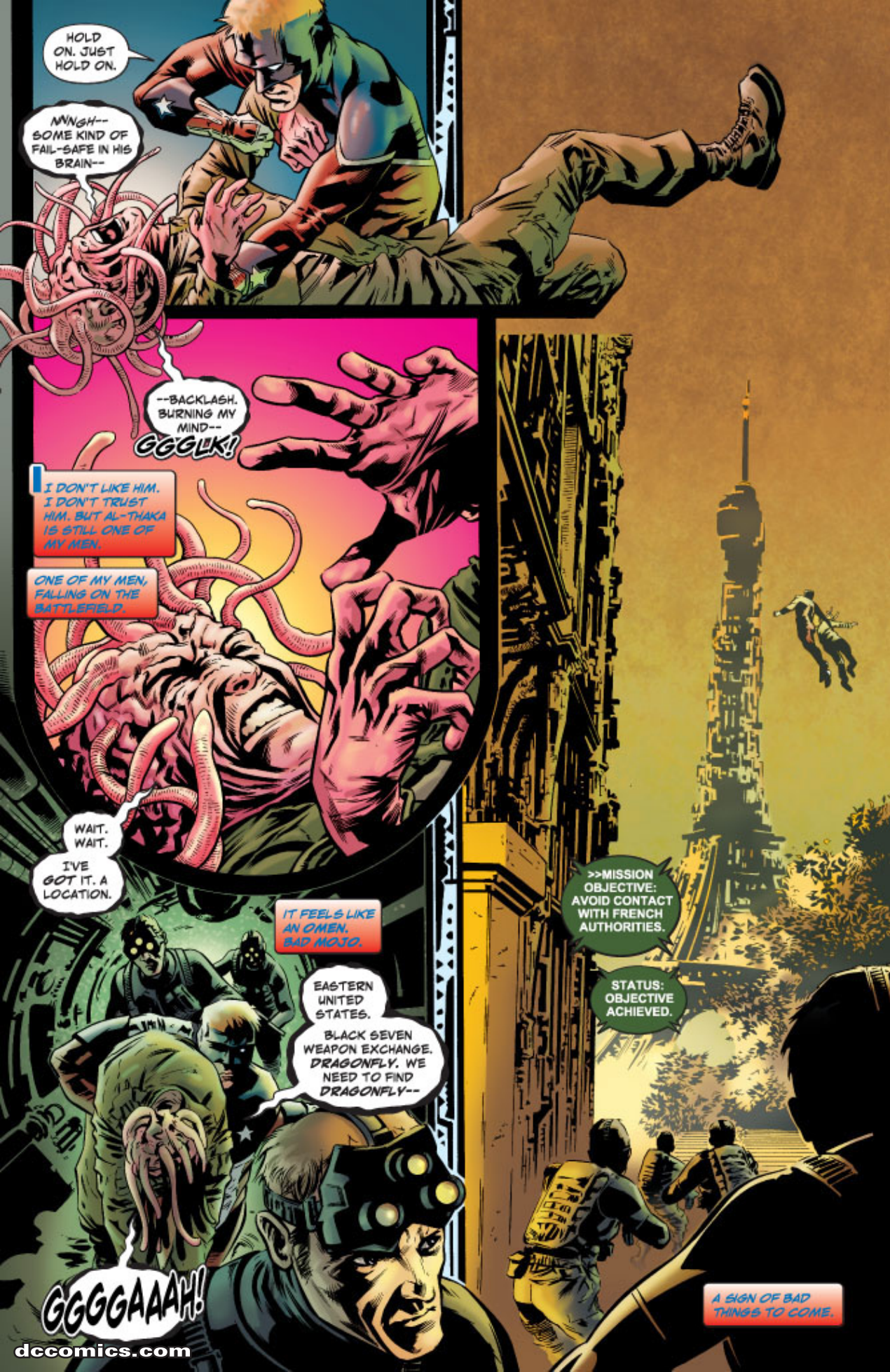
ALMOST THERE, ALMOST THERE NOW--

ANOMALOUS EKG RECORDING: WARNING! WARNING!









HOLD ON. JUST HOLD ON.

MNNGH-- SOME KIND OF FAIL-SAFE IN HIS BRAIN--

--BACKLASH. BURNING MY MIND--  
**GGGLK!**

I DON'T LIKE HIM. I DON'T TRUST HIM. BUT AL-THAKA IS STILL ONE OF MY MEN.

ONE OF MY MEN, FALLING ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

WAIT. WAIT. I'VE GOT IT. A LOCATION.

IT FEELS LIKE AN OMEN. BAD MOJO.

EASTERN UNITED STATES.

BLACK SEVEN WEAPON EXCHANGE. DRAGONFLY. WE NEED TO FIND DRAGONFLY--

**GGGGAAAH!**

>>MISSION OBJECTIVE: AVOID CONTACT WITH FRENCH AUTHORITIES.

STATUS: OBJECTIVE ACHIEVED.

A SIGN OF BAD THINGS TO COME.



HAPPY HARBOR,  
RHODE ISLAND  
POPULATION: 812

GOOD LORD.  
WAS THIS PLACE  
PAINTED BY NORMAN  
ROCKWELL?

MORNIN', MR.  
STERLING.

THANKS FOR  
THE PAPER. TELL  
YOUR FOLKS I SAID  
HI. I'LL SEE 'EM IN  
CHURCH, COME  
SUNDAY.

THIS STREET  
WILL DO. PREPARE  
THE ASSAULT SQUADS  
TO SECURE THE  
PERIMETER.

'BYE, MR.  
STERLING!

PREP THE  
CHARGES FOR  
DEPLOYMENT.

IF ANYONE  
GIVES YOU TROUBLE,  
ORDER YOUR MEN TO  
KILL THEM WHERE  
THEY STAND.

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