

WORLD WAR HULK™

DIRECT EDITION



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MARVEL
4.com

AVENGERS THE INITIATIVE

AVENGERS THE INITIATIVE

AFTER STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT WAS DESTROYED DURING A TELEVISED FIGHT BETWEEN THE NEW WARRIORS AND A GROUP OF DANGEROUS VILLAINS, A FEDERAL SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT WAS PASSED. ALL INDIVIDUALS POSSESSING PARANORMAL ABILITIES MUST NOW REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT. TONY STARK, A.K.A. IRON MAN, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D., THE INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE. HE HAS SET IN MOTION THE INITIATIVE, A PLAN FOR TRAINING AND POLICING SUPER HEROES IN THIS BRAVE NEW WORLD, INTENDED TO POSITION A LOCAL SUPER HERO TEAM IN EACH OF AMERICA'S FIFTY STATES.

STAFF



YELLOWJACKET



JUSTICE



THE GAUNTLET



WAR MACHINE



BARON VON
BLITZSCHLAG

TRAINEES



CLOUD 9



HARDBALL



KOMODO



TRAUMA



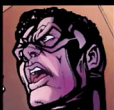
M.V.P.
(DECEASED)



RAGE



SLAPSTICK



TRIATHLON



THOR GIRL



ULTRAGIRL

When a training exercise goes awry, M.V.P.--the most promising trainee in the Initiative--is killed. All those present in the room during the accident are told the incident never happened.

While in a bar in downtown Stamford, Hardball is approached by a mysterious man who knows everything about him, including his secret identity and how he got his powers. The man asks Hardball what he knows about S.P.I.N. tech, a new technology being developed by the Initiative that can take away a person's powers--for good...

To find Marvel Comics at a local comic shop, call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

Camp Hammond.

Outside
Yellowjacket's Lab.

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THIS, BLITZSCHLAG. WHAT WE'RE DOING IN THERE, IT FEELS SO...

...WHAT'S THE WORD I'M LOOKING FOR?

"UN-AMERICAN?"

UN-AMERICAN? HOW?

E PLURIBUS UNUM, DOKTOR.

THAT IS WHAT YOU PEOPLE BELIEVE IN, ISN'T IT?

ONE OF THESE DAYS, BARON, I SWEAR...

Feh, YOU'RE ALL TALK, P.Y.M. WITHOUT MY HELP, YOUR NATION OF COWBOYS NEVER WOULD HAFF MADE IT TO THE MOON...

...LET ALONE TO THE SHORES OF THIS NEW FRONTIER.

THE SECURITY'S GOOD, AS FAR AS TOP-SECRET HEADQUARTERS GO.

COULD BE BETTER.

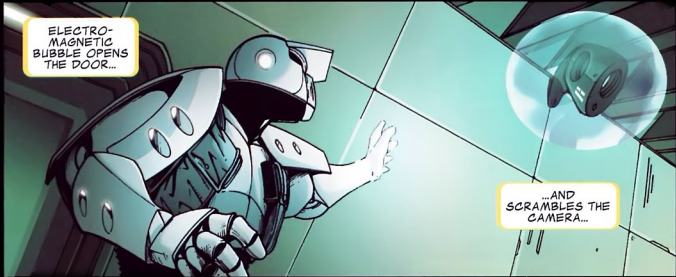
GUESS THEY FIGURE THAT WITH OVER SIXTY-TWO SUPER HEROES STATIONED HERE...

ZRAKK

...NO ONE WOULD BE STUPID ENOUGH TO TRY THIS.

PROBLEM IS, FOR ME, "DESPERATE" TRUMPS "STUPID". THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS.

HOW IT ALWAYS IS.



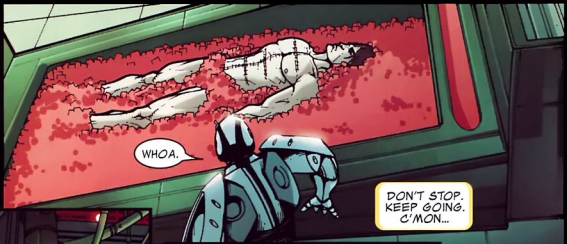
ELECTRO-MAGNETIC BUBBLE OPENS THE DOOR...

...AND SCRAMBLES THE CAMERA...



...FOR ONE FULL MINUTE.

GOTTA MAKE THIS QUICK! NO TIME TO—



WHOA.

DON'T STOP. KEEP GOING. C'MON...



THERE IT IS.



DOING GOOD.
DOING GOOD.
DOING GOOD.

ALMOST
THERE...

HEY, FELLA. THOUGHT
I HAD WATCH TONIGHT.
WAR MACHINE ASK
YOU TO CHECK UP
ON ME?

DON'T JUST
STAND THERE. COME
ON. MOVE YOUR
DAMN MOUTH.

YEAH,
WELL. BEEN
A SLOW
NIGHT.

TELL
ME ABOUT
IT.

OKAY. I'M OUT.
I DID IT. I'M
OKAY. I'M... WHO
AM I KIDDING?

SECURITY
AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL ONLY

I'M ROGER
BROKERIDGE, A.K.A.
HARDBALL. AND I'M
FAR FROM OKAY.

"OKAY"
AIN'T EVEN ON
THE MAP.

GREEN ZONE

DAN
SLOTT
WRITER

STEFANO
CASELLI
ARTIST

DANIELE
RUDONI
COLOR ART

VC'S JOE
CARAMAGNA
LETTERER

MOLLY
LAYER
ASST. EDITOR

TOM
BREVORT
EDITOR

JOE
QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN
BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

Stamford,
Connecticut.

Thirty
Minutes
Later.

THE S.P.I.N.
TECH, ROGER.
DO YOU
HAVE IT?

THERE WAS
ONLY TIME TO
SWAP OUT ONE
DART. THAT
ENOUGH?

THAT'S OVER
TWELVE MILLION
NANOBOTS. THAT'LL
BE MORE THAN
ENOUGH.



I ASSUME
YOU USED ONE
OF YOUR ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC SPHERES
TO GET IT OFF
THE BASE?



GIVE
THE MAN
A PRIZE.



AMAZING. YOU'VE
BEEN HIDING SOME
OF YOUR POWERS
FROM THEM.

IF GYRICH ONLY KNEW,
I'M SURE HE'D HAVE
YOU ON HIS LITTLE
BLACK OPS TEAM
BY NOW.

HIS
WHAT?

OH, NOTHING
YOU NEED TO
WORRY ABOUT. YOU'VE
GOT ENOUGH ON YOUR
PLATE, DON'T YOU?



DON'T EVEN
THINK IT. THIS
WAS JUST THE ONE
JOB. NOW I'M
DONE. THAT WAS
THE DEAL.



FINE, BUT
I THINK YOU
MIGHT CHANGE YOUR
MIND WHEN YOU
DISCOVER HOW
WELL YOU'VE BEEN...
COMPENSATED.

YOUR
FAMILY'S FINANCIAL
PROBLEMS?
THEY'RE HISTORY,
ROGER.



HISTORY.

AND ALL
OVER SUCH
A TINY, LITTLE
THING...



"THAT SMALL, BUT CRUCIAL PIECE..."



"...THAT NO ONE NOTICES..."



"...UNTIL IT'S GONE."



RISE AN' SHINE, LADIES!

TIME TO DRAG THOSE SORRY SUPER-POWERED BUTTS OUTTA BED!



OH, GOD. PLEASE, JUST FIVE MINUTES. FIVE FRICKIN' MINUTES.

YOU HEARD ME, FREAKS! YOU DON'T NEED NO BEAUTY REST!

MOST A' YOU UGLY MOTHER-LOVERS WEAR MASKS ANYWAY!

WHAT THE--?! **HARDBALL?!**



DANG, SON! FULL UNIFORM! BED MADE! LOOKS LIKE WE GOT OURSELVES A SUPER-SOLDIER HERE!

HOPE ALL A' YOU NEW WARRIOR REJECTS ARE PAYIN' ATTENTION!

WHAT THE--?! **HARDBALL?!**

ALL RIGHT!
TEN MILE
RUN! NO
POWERS!

FIRST ONE
WHO PUKES,
DOES IT AGAIN!
'NUFF SAID!

THAT'S IT. I'M
DEAD. THERE'S
GOTTA BE A
WAY OUT OF THIS!
THERE HAS TO...

HEY! WHERE'S
CLOUD 9? WHY
DOESN'T SHE
HAVE TO DO
THIS CRAP?

THE SPACE
CADET? SHE TOOK
OFF SOMEWHERE
WITH JUSTICE.

SAID IT
WAS PART OF HER
"COUNSELING," BUT
IF YOU ASK ME I
THINK THE TWO OF
'EM ARE--

NO
TALKING!
NOW MOVE IT!
MOVE IT!
**MOVE
IT!!!**

The Van Patrick Farm.

Liberty, Kentucky.

JUSTICE? I'M STILL NOT SURE ABOUT THIS.

YOU NEED CLOSURE, ABBY. AND I THINK THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO START.

AS SUPERHUMANS, WE'VE BEEN GIVEN GREAT GIFTS...

...BUT WITH THEM COME GREAT HARDSHIPS. AND GREAT LOSS.

I LOST A MENTOR AND ROLE MODEL WHEN CAP WAS SHOT...

...AND MY BEST FRIENDS, NITA AND DWAYNE, IN THE STAMFORD DISASTER. AND DO YOU KNOW HOW I GO ON?

HOW?

BY HONORING THEIR MEMORIES. BY BEING A MENTOR TO NEW, YOUNG HEROES. LIKE YOU.

MVP GAVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE YOURS, ABBY. LET HIS LOVED ONES KNOW THAT YOU'RE GOING TO HONOR HIM...

...BY LIVING UP TO HIS EXAMPLE, AND BEING THE KIND OF HERO HE'D BE PROUD OF.

MR. VAN PATRICK? HELLO?

CAN I HELP YOU?

KNOCK KNOCK



MVP?!

MICHAEL?
MICHAEL VAN PATRICK?!
HOW ON--

BZZZ!
BZZZ!



WHAT?! I'M
A LITTLE BUSY
RIGHT--SATELLITES
TRACKED
WHAT?

NO, I--
WE'RE ON OUR
WAY, CLOUD 9,
WE HAVE
TO GO.



BUT
THAT'S MVP!
HE'S--

WE'LL DEAL
WITH THIS LATER.
EVERYONE'S BEEN
CALLED BACK
TO BASE.

BUT--

THERE'S AN
OMEGA LEVEL
THREAT! YOU EITHER
FLY BACK TO CAMP
WITH ME...

...OR I DRAG YOU
TELEKINETICALLY.
UNDERSTOOD?!



NOBODY,
DAD.

MICHAEL?
WHO WAS
THAT AT THE
DOOR?



THEN GET
IN HERE, YOU
HAVE TO
SEE THIS!

WHAT
IS IT?

SHHH!
LISTEN.

...COMING TO
YOU LIVE FROM
TIMES SQUARE.
WE REPEAT,
A SPACECRAFT,
AN ENORMOUS,
STONE SHIP...

...IS LANDING
HERE, IN THE
HEART OF
MANHATTAN!



THE SHIP'S FIRING A BEAM!

CONFIRMED! IT'S A HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION--

SIR, IT'S THE HULK! SCRAMBLE! SCRAMBLE!

HE'S PATCHED INTO GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS!

PUNY HUMANS, I'VE COME TO SMASH.

AND YOU SHOULD KNOW WHO'S TO BLAME.

QUIET!

The War Room,
Camp Hammond.



LET'S HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.

YOU CALL THEM HEROES. I CALL THEM MONSTERS.

LISTEN TO WHAT THEY TOLD ME BEFORE THEY TRIED TO KILL ME--



I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF US AS FRIENDS, BRUCE. SO I AM TRULY, GENUINELY SORRY.

BUT FOR YOUR SAKE AND OURS, WE'RE SENDING YOU AWAY. IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN BE SURE.

IRON MAN, MR. FANTASTIC, DOCTOR STRANGE, BLACK BOLT. THEY SHOT ME INTO SPACE.



WHAT? STARK DID THAT?

RHODES, DID YOU--?

I-I HAD NO IDEA.





S.P.I.N. TECH?

YOU HAVE POWER-INHIBITING NANITES THAT CAN TAKE OUT THE HULK?

Tony Stark's Armory, Long Island, New York.

THIS IS WHY I DESIGNED S.P.I.N. IN THE FIRST PLACE.

COULD YOU PASS ME ONE OF THOSE, JIM? THE ARM ASSEMBLY'S READY.

THAT'S SOME PRETTY BIG HULKBUSTER ARMOR.

THANKS, I'VE GOT A SMALLER ONE FOR TAKING OUT ANT-MAN.

I MEAN YOU'VE BEEN PLANNING THIS, TONY, FOR SOME TIME.

AND?

YOU'VE LEFT ME OUT OF THE LOOP, AGAIN.



JAMES RUPERT RHODES, MY GOOD FRIEND...

I TRUSTED YOU WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT PART: BUILDING MY ARMY.

THE INITIATIVE? AGAINST THE HULK? THEY WON'T BE ENOUGH.


I KNOW...



"I'VE BEEN
IN CONTACT
WITH DOCTOR
STRANGE..."


"HE'S ASTRAL-
PROJECTING HIMSELF
TO THE ENTIRE
SUPERHUMAN
COMMUNITY..."

"...CONSPIRING
SHE-HULK,
SPIDER-MAN,
EVERYONE WHO'S
NOT ALREADY
WITH US."



"IMAGINE IT,
JIM! AFTER ALL
THE PAIN AND
LOSS OF THE
CIVIL WAR..."

"...THIS COULD
BE THE ONE
COMMON FOE,
THE CAUSE THAT
FINALLY UNITES
US AGAIN!"



"DAMN. THEY
OUGHT TO CHANGE
YOUR NAME TO
BRASS MAN. HOW
CAN YOU EVEN WALK
WITH THOSE?"

"YOU
REALLY EXPECT
THEM TO--"

"YOU TOOK
SHE-HULK'S
POWERS
AWAY!"



"AND THEY'RE
BACK ON.
FOR NOW."

"YOU HAD US
TRY TO DEPOWER
PARKER TOO!"

"THAT
DIDN'T GO
WELL."

"WE'RE NOT
READY. NOT
FOR THIS."

"EXACTLY."

"THE INITIATIVE WILL DO ITS PART IN THIS CONFLICT, BUT LET ME MAKE THIS CRYSTAL CLEAR TO YOU, 'DIRECTOR STARK'..."

"...MY RECRUITS STAY OUT OF THE COMBAT THEATER!"

THOR GIRL, ULTRA GIRL, YOU'RE ON MASS EVACUATION!

SLAPSTICK, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF MORALE.



CLOUD 9, KEEP AN EYE ON THE ROOFTOPS. LOOK FOR ANY STRAGGLERS.



RAGE, HARBALL, LET'S KEEP THOSE MOTORISTS AND PEDESTRIANS MOVING.

NICE AND ORDERLY, PEOPLE!



C'MON, TRIATHLON! WE'VE GOT FRICKIN' SUPER POWERS!

WHAT'RE WE DOING IN BROOKLYN? PLAYING 'TRAFFIC COP'? WE SHOULD BE MIXING IT UP!







FINALLY!
SOMETHING
TO PUNCH!

DON'T BE
A PUNK, KID.
THIS AIN'T ABOUT
HAVIN' FUN. IT'S
ABOUT TEACHING
THESE GUYS
A LESSON.

WAP

BOINK

FWAK

YEAH! I
MEAN, STEALING
TVS DURING THE
SUMMER?

WHAT ARE
YOU, NUTS?
WE'RE IN RE-RUNS!
THERE'S
ABSOLUTELY...



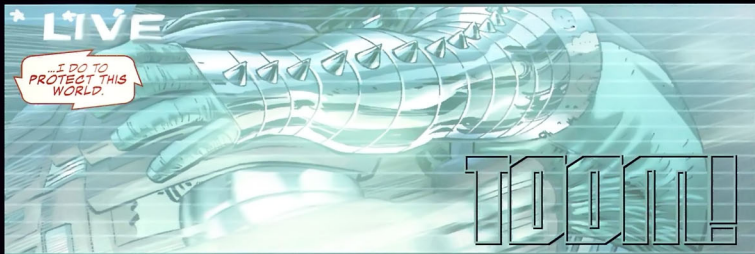
...NOTHING
ON?

...CHANNEL 5
LIVE! WITH
IRON MAN'S
BATTLE AGAINST
THE HULK!

WAIT! IRON MAN
IS PATCHING INTO
OUR SIGNAL!

...BUT EVERYTHING
I'VE DONE...
EVERYTHING I'LL
DO TODAY...

...EVERYTHING
I'LL EVER DO...



LIVE

...I DO TO PROTECT THIS WORLD.

TOO!!!



ALL RIGHT!

NOT BAD, SHELL-HEAD.

SWEET!

GOOOOAL!



WHOA, WHAT'S STARK PULLIN' OUT?

SHIT

THAT, ELVIN, IS THE SUPER WEAPON:

ADAMANTIUM-TIPPED, S.P.I.N. TECH!

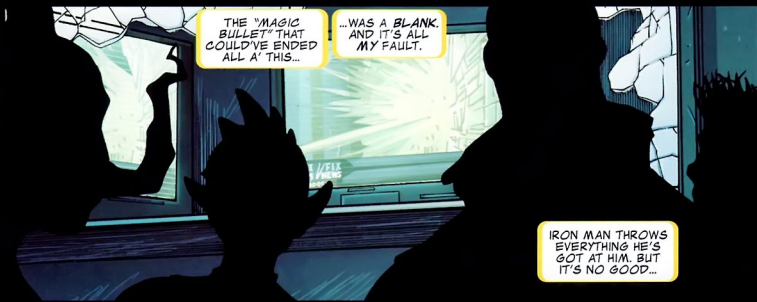
ONE SHOT OF THAT AND IT'S GAME OVER! WE WIN!

FIX // FIX
NEWS NEWS



AW, CRAP.

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I JUST SCREWED OVER THE ENTIRE WORLD.



THE "MAGIC BULLET" THAT COULDN'T ENDED ALL A' THIS...

...WAS A BLANK. AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

IRON MAN THROWS EVERYTHING HE'S GOT AT HIM, BUT IT'S NO GOOD...



HULK'S GETTING UP.

OH @#%*!

OW!

WAIT, HE'S KNOCKING HIM TOWARDS...

THUNDER



...AVENGERS TOWER.





RWARRE!

TO HELL WITH THIS! TO HELL WITH THE RULES!



I'M GOING! I'M GOING TO HELP IRON MAN! I'M GOING TO FIGHT WITH THE AVENGERS!

WHO'S WITH ME?!

RAGE? ELVIN, THAT'S CRAZY, WE COULD DIE.

THEN WE DIE WITH HONOR. THAT'S WHAT HEROES DO, CLOUD 9.

NO! WAR MACHINE TOLD US TO--

LOOK, I'M THE INSTRUCTOR-IN-TRAINING HERE. I'VE GOT AVENGERS SENIORITY, AND I SAY--



AVENGERS SENIORITY?! LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND SAY THAT AGAIN, DELROY!

...



I'VE BEEN A REAL AVENGER LONGER THAN ANYONE HERE! AND I KNOW WHAT AVENGERS ARE SUPPOSED TO DO...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

STOP IT! WE HAVE OUR ORDERS!

KOMODO'S RIGHT. WE DON'T HAVE ALL THE FACTS HERE.



WHAT'RE YOU SAYING, HARDBALL? YOU KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T?

NO.



GOOD! THEN LET'S GO!

GYRICH!



TRIATHLON?
WHAT'S THE
SITUATION?

BAD, SIR.
SIX OF MY
CADETS HAVE
BROKEN OFF.

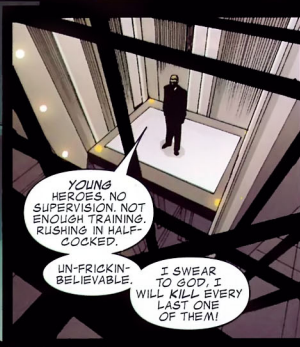
THEY'RE
HEADING INTO
THE COMBAT ZONE.
AND, SIR, THEY
INTEND TO ENGAGE
THE ENEMY.



SON OF A
@##\$%!

ATTENTION,
SHADOW
INITIATIVE,
FALL IN!

THIS IS
NOT A DRILL!
I REPEAT,
THIS IS NOT
A DRILL!



YOUNG
HEROES, NO
SUPERVISION, NO
ENOUGH TRAINING.
RUSHING IN HALF-
COCKED.

UN-FRICKIN-
BELIEVABLE.

I SWEAR
TO GOD, I
WILL KILL EVERY
LAST ONE OF
THEM!



BUT
FIRST...

...FIRST
WE'VE
GOTTA GO
SAVE 'EM.

GENTLEMEN,
MA'AM, SHOULD
YOU CHOOSE TO
ACCEPT IT, I HAVE
YOUR FIRST
MISSION--

ON SECOND
THOUGHT,
SCREW THAT.
YOU'RE DOING
IT ANYWAY...



...LIKE
ANY OF YOU
HAVE A
CHOICE.





HULK, LOOK!
MORE "SUPER
HEROES" OR ARE
THESE "PUNY
SOLDIERS"?

BOTH,
EITHER, DOESN'T
MATTER.

JUST MORE
FOR US TO
SMASH!

To Be Continued...

