What are some similarities between the new “happy pills” and the combat conditioning that UNEF used at the beginning of the war?

What are some differences?

From the perspective of the UNEF military, do you think Mandella’s fighting has done any good at all? Why or why not?

List as many costs as you can of Mandella’s fighting to himself.

Do you think that UNEF considers the mental health of soldiers important? Why or why not?

What are some differences between the Table of Organization for Strike Force Gamma in chapter 28 and the one for Strike Force Alpha in chapter 16?

What do you think we can infer about the war from these changes?

What do you think of the chance of survival that Mandella talks about in chapter 29? Why do you think UNEF is willing to sacrifice so many soldiers?

Do you think that there is a point at which so many soldiers have been sacrificed that fighting the war is no longer worth it? Why? If so, how many would be too many, and why?

Do you think it’s stranger that the ship has a cat in space, or that Mandella hasn’t run into pets before now? Why?

Could the war have been avoided? How? (Remember that the humans and Taurans didn’t know how to communicate.)

Should the government do something for the surviving soldiers? If so, what should they do? If not, why not?