

Nekovalkyrja Signaler

The *Signaler nekovalkyrja variant* was a stunted offshoot of a larger project that was the brainchild of Dr. Nobumoto Shinichiro in [YE 27](#). The research was integrated into a [Scorpio Secret Research Station](#) project through the interference of the [Daughters of Eve](#) in order to create an anti-psionic weapon that could destroy [Melisson](#) - dubbed the "Signaler" in reference to augmented features of the [Psionic Signal Controller](#).

Three variants were created:

- One was a [NH-28 Nodal Integrated Weapon System](#) which proved unsuccessful.
- The second was made on a more functional [NH-29](#) template.
- The last was created by [SARA](#) geneticist [Karl Sylvester](#) as he adapted the successful Signaler template to the [NH-29's Stealth variant](#), at the same time removing the limiters Dr. Shinichiro had placed, unlocking a suite of Anti-[NH-23](#) features. [Kotori](#) is the only one to use this body.

History

When most of the [PNUgen Corporation's](#) assets became absorbed by the [Ketsurui Zaibatsu](#) in [YE 27](#), the [Ketsurui Clan](#) enjoyed the privilege of creating its own [Nekovalkyrja](#).

One nekovalkyrja model that resulted from this was the [NH-23 Ketsurui Empress' Nodal Nekovalkyrja](#), made for the exclusive use of [Ketsurui Yui](#). The NH-23 was (and still is) the most powerful nekovalkyrja having been created, complementing a suite of powerful physical, psionic, gravimetric and hemosynthetic-based features with a mind whose presence was not exclusive to the body, but also spread throughout all of the Empire's [PANTHEON](#) nodes. Even destruction of her body

Seeing his first creation gain near-absolute power and immortality by her control of the information network the [Yamatai Star Empire](#) ran on, Nobumoto Shinichiro grew concerned that she might get out of hand and worked on contingencies. His first breakthrough came after having monitored her battle against the rogue scientist known as "Shadow" in the last mission she commanded on the [YSS Nozomi](#) when she pushed her body, displaying most of its powers and respawning capabilities.

Shinichiro was eventually able to reverse-engineer the NH-23 and created such a body for [Eve](#), though he was aware that Yui was much more entrenched by now in Yamatai's PANTHEON network, meaning that Eve would only be able to rule in her own independent network, or take over by destroying most of the PANTHEON nodes Yui's mind inhabited.

So, he toiled to create an alternative: a weapon platform that would be capable of confronting and destroying a NH-23 in combat. He had this new body match most of the NH-23's combat prowess, but made drastic improvements to the brain: a greater memory capacity, greater resilience to abuse and stress, powerful copy-protections, an independence from PANTHEON administrative control, and building into it a pirate PANTHEON node.

The concept behind it was that if a NH-23 body was destroyed in combat, the mental presence inhabiting

it would withdraw access to return to the PANTHEON cloud and then access the nearest medical facilities to respawn. The pirate PANTHEON node in Shinichiro's creation would fool the nodal digital mind into accessing it first, and then trap it at a node where it did not have administrative access.

Based on access data stolen when the cloud accessed the pirate node, the anti-NH-23 weapon would then fool the rest of the cloud into believing it was the NH-23's main point of view, its 'administrator'. From there, a data transfer would proceed, absorbing and compressing the cloud's data before entering a purge command to wipe the NH-23's digital mind's presence from all PANTHEON nodes it occupied.

Essentially, Dr. Shinichiro's new creation was made to devour Yui's mind and make all of her knowledge and access privileges his own.

However, the Doctor never really got to the point when he was ready to employ the body. Transferring his mind to it meant consigning a copy of his mind to never be able to transfer out of the body, trapping him there and making it - for all the knowledge it could have - mortal. However, the protection against Mind Transfer was necessary to counter Yui's NH-23 access capabilities so, short of further breakthroughs, he let the issue lie there.

Later, when one of Eve's Ashigari Amaya was trying to devise ways to get an upper hand on [Melisson's](#) powerful psionic capabilities, he remembered the anti-psionic features he had built into the Anti-NH-23 weapon prototype. Locking most of the other features with 'black box'-styled limiters he gifted the concept template to the [Daughters of Eve](#) for them to use.

Using their ties with [SAINT's Black Spiral](#) double-agents, the [Daughters of Eve](#) gained access to the laboratories at the [Scorpio Secret Research Station](#) to research the template further under what they dubbed was the "Signaler Project".

Their first attempt, given the Mind Transfer limitations of the design, was to put the features on a body that was disposable - so the first test-case was a modification of the [NH-28 Nodal Integrated Weapon System](#). However, due to the very computerized mind of the unit, its solid-state brain and its lack of analog fight-or-flight instincts it proved to be of poor performance when testing it; nothing more than a mobile ship-grade [Psionic Signal Controller](#)... and they already knew that [Melisson](#) could defeat those.

Further tests were done, and they finally got promising results out of the nekovalkyrja-type that was just on the verge of emerging from development, the [NH-29 Nekovalkyrja](#).

Then, they only needed to find high-profile individuals whom were likely to meet Melisson in the future - the senior officers of the [YSS Sakura](#), whom were like Melisson very active around the [Lor Nebula](#), seemed ideal. All that was needed was to engineer circumstances that would threaten one of their lives and motivate a mental transfer to a newer NH-29 body with someone that could supply a custom variant (either human-looking, or stealth) that would motivate not pulling the freely available normal NH-29 body from the [Sakura's](#) computer banks.

They coerced a [SARA](#) geneticist whom had been implicated in the creation of the [NH-29](#) and [NH-29](#) variants, [Karl Sylvester](#), through threats to his family to have him handle the next step. It started by adapting the Signaler template to the two variants he had been involved with (likely picks for Commanding Officer Ketsurui Hanako, and Executive Officer Kotori). These two variants, not widely available for ship production due to their newness, would allow him the excuse to go on-site and supervise their construction and transfer.

In the days he had to prepare before the [YE 29](#) raid on the [PNUgen Corporation's](#) headquarters, Sylvester defiantly attempted to get back at his tormentors by doing some extra research and modification on the material they put at his disposal - he had even greater motivation in that Hanako's bodyguard [Kôsuka](#) and the Executive Officer [Kotori](#) were both people he knew and trusted.

Sylvester managed to find the limiters Shinichiro had left and though the difference in intended body-type meant he couldn't unlock its full combat prowess, he was able to restore most of the brain to original specifications.

So, when [Kotori](#) was the only one to come back to the [Sakura](#) with her NH-22M body crippled by extensive burns, he created a "NH-29 Signaler Limiter-less copy" of her and copied her mind into it.

The "Signaler Kotori" then moved on to captain her own ship, the [YSS Miharuru](#), and used her abilities to both protect her crew from the predations of psionic, but also to give an assured death. During her mission she defeated/absorbed into herself the NH-23s she encountered, including [Eve](#) herself, as well as fulfilling her intended purpose of thwarting [Melisson's](#) psionic capabilities and so allowing her crew to defeat her.

While Kotori is a possible threat to Taisho Yui, the latter has seemed fine with allowing her continued existence despite the threat she might pose her.

Quotes

NH-29 Signaler Nekovalkyrja, Log Entries: Kotori

These were penned by Ashigari Amaya, a [Daughters of Eve](#) executive.

Log: Kotori Entry #1

"Eve has interrogated Hanako and Sydney's XO, Kotori. Both appear likely candidates to use the new NH-29 body seeing their recent involvement with Scorpio base. Seeing that the Sakura is a high-profile figurehead vessel with ties to Lor, it seems likely they might eventually stumble into Melisson.

If we could have either one of them - preferably Hanako - jump into the Signaler variant they've concocted in the SARA, we could possibly get rid of Melisson while keeping our hands clean."

Log: Kotori Entry #2

"Third candidate found. A Ketsurui samurai, Kôsuka. What's more, this samurai and Kotori - apparently her youngling daughter - have ties to a SARA bioengineer.

Karl Sylvester seems difficult to replace with a double-agent because of his family, but they could equally prove useful as hostages. Will observe."

Log: Kotori Entry #3

"Hanako, Kotori and Kôsuka headed into the PNUGen complex. Team sent in to insure their elimination.

Karl Sylvester successfully coerced - all we've needed were very recent visual captures of his family members from up close to get his silence and cooperation. Seeing he's closely involved in the NH-29 design project, this is extremely convenient.

Once their deaths have been announced, he will be able to provide for the newer body type under the excuse of respawning them from their ST Backups. We've arranged access to a shuttle for him and altered orders via PANTHEON: one of Yui's flag aides ought to do nicely - they sign in Yui's name already so no one should suspect anything of his comings and goings."

Log: Kotori Entry #4

"Damnation!

All three managed to survive despite our efforts. Hanako was barely alive, but ended up in a well guarded hospital. Kôsuka was at death's door, but the NH-27 body once again proved its superiority.

Sylvester ended up only managing to swap bodies, narrowly so thanks to that annoying Nep scientist (hasn't it been three times we've tried to kill him so far? What's the hold up?!). Kotori's now a Signaler."

Log: Kotori Entry #5

"Arranged events. Melisson is now poised over Lor, negotiating with them. The presence of a copy of Kotori so obviously in sight should sooner or later bring in the Sakura's XO. with Melisson's habit to invite playmates on board, it should be easy to put Kotori back into 5 kilometers of the Infection Queen. Once that happens, having those Lorath turkeys around close to Melisson's main body with the interpreter compromised should give them an honest chance to kill her off for good."

Log: Kotori Entry #6

"Things didn't work out.

Hanako ended up stupidly putting herself into the lion's maw, again. This unfortunately left the XO Kotori a long way from ever being within five clicks.

I wasn't sure I could believe it when I heard of it. Whatever do they teach in officer school about the chain of command these days? I thought the War College was supposed to be prestigious and teach COs not to go and risk getting themselves killed. Wasn't Hanako, for all her antics, supposed to be the cream of the crop? It's a wonder the Star Army can even run itself with captains like these!

We should never have left Melisson with so much control over the NH-18. She squandered most of the

good it might have had truly done, and instead she used it in some grand play-battle against the Sakura's crew in the typical evil-twin presentation.

All that's left now is to arrange for a next time. At least Project Scorpion's intended goals were a success, even if we could've achieved so much more."

Log: Kotori Entry #7

"We've convinced Melisson to take interest in Hanako and raise her to be a bridge between Yamatai and the Mishhuvurthyar to help fulfill the requirements of this Doctrine of Retribution Melisson keeps harping about.

This should hopefully bring Kotori into the five clicks range and arrange a second try. No more Lorath barbarians around, but at least now Hanako has rich incentive to kill Melisson if she has an opening."

Log: Kotori Entry #8

"Bad news.

Kotori decided to get into her head that she wanted revenge for what happened to Hanako and she during their interrogation. She's ended up getting her own ship command... which means she's been transferred out.

...which means she won't be there when Hanako meets Melisson.

We've kept Sylvester alive so far. I've contacted our team there to get some insights into whom we could pull into the Signaler procedure... but we've been getting squant reports on that end."

Log: Kotori Entry #8

"I've just learned that Kotori's Miharu was present on Taiie when Melisson decided to go postal on the fifth Expeditionary Fleet.

Too bad she never came close enough to Melisson. That would've been convenient."

Log: Kotori Entry #8

"Miharu's begun actively hunting for us. Unfortunately, Kotori seems halfway decent at doing her job - she's managed to capture one of our own, the Meng Po.

This is problematic. We hoped the Signaler could burn itself up against Melisson to insure mutual elimination... not that it would actually turn out to really do the job it was designed to do: fight psykers on better footing.

Were far ahead of the Gate plans, though, so we could just as well not bother with her. there are enough Mishhuvurthyar about so to insure her quaint little ship will eventually get blown up (or blow itself up - I understand its performance has occasionally been less than stellar).

They've made her into a Ketsurui, I hear. Imagine that - I guess the ruling clan needed some new blood to get out of the gutter."

Log: Kotori Entry #8

"The Signaler's usefulness has run to a probable end. We've learned that the Miharu recently joined with a deep space repair vessel to refit after a long search for us in the Southern Nebula.

She's getting too close. We aren't quite done with Bowhordia and we've too many psionics amongst us to risk confronting her. Even with the untrained Signaler's probable weakness against burst telepathy, few of us except maybe myself and Eve could meet her in any number without it becoming a slaughter for us. We made her good enough to kill Melisson, which means she's too good when it comes to us.

Perhaps more importantly, SARA made the Signaler compatible with high-bandwidth PANTHEON transmissions back when it was still for a NH-28 nodal weapon. That usually protects it from ST-device tampering and copies and we didn't have the time to edit that out; but with the five clicks range it could prove highly detrimental to Eve's NH-23 body. If Eve ends up in that range and dies, there's no telling what will happen to the PANTHEON terminals she has ready to self-respawn herself.

Best case scenario is to send a non-psyker, or just blow up her ship with the usual means. That has been arranged.

I've contacted and hired Kikyo to do the job. The SAINT bitch's prices were steep, but she's dependable and - ironically enough - has practice killing two Ketsurui already. Kotori is still a little known princess with barely any bodyguards so whenever she decides her crew and ship needs some R&R again, Kikyo should have matters arranged: Kotori and her officers first, then the Sylvesters."

Excerpt of Melisson being interrogated

Melisson's conjecture on Kotori's abilities

Melisson's nose curled in disgust. "It's normal to consider that Shinichiro would have never let that prized creation, the first nekovalkyrja, ever quite escape his control. When Yui ascended to the Nodal Empress body manufactured in-house by the Ketsurui, he had *contingencies*."

"You must understand. A way to police such a powerful creature. A way to corner her and halt her functions."

"In that time, psionic power was much more prevalent, so it came in with features for that as well. The Elysians and their constructs also had psionics at their command. Even the Nepleslians experimented with those. If Yamataians ever strive to do anything, it is to not be outdone. Shinichiro was no different,

even when what could threaten was Yui.”

“You know the cover story for the Signaler body was that it was a NIWS variant that didn't quite work out; and you also know that it was Amaya that planted that asset and made it available to her blackmailed double-agent. but neither Amaya, nor anyone amongst the Daughters of Eve had the expertise to craft something that could threaten an Empress Nodal Nekovalkyrja.”

“No one, but Eve's sponsor. Shinichiro Nobumoto.” Melisson almost growled out the entire name, her loathing evident.

“I assume that what Kotori ended up with was a dumbed down version that was never meant to be able to hurt Eve's own NH-23 imitation - Shinichiro would've desired the full scope of those abilities to be his only. I assume that somehow, the template Amaya had been given had been altered to remove the limiters on it.”

“Kotori is Shinichiro's monster.” Melisson precised. “A creation that does deflects and reshape psionic potential, yes. More importantly, a creation that is in fact a false node that draws a PANTHEON mind to it, and *assimilates* it.”

“That woman you stopped from killing herself is internalizing the minds of two defunct NH-23s. She may be part-Kotori, part-Eve, part-Yui.”

Yukari's mind stalled on that.

Surprise was the culprit. Yukari remembered when Kotori said she stopped the NH-23 Kotori from finding a new home elsewhere, but the “how” was never explained. Perhaps Kotori did not even know. Eve's demise was on purpose, but that too was not explained.

Now there was an answer. But to what question, and could she even trust the answer? Yukari thought she could. Misdirection was well within Melisson's capability, but this rang of truth.

Capabilities

NH-28 NIWS Signaler

In addition to the default [NH-28](#) abilities, the Signaler NIWS variant adds:

- **Psionic Signal Controller:** The unit functions just like a ship-grade [Psionic Signal Controller](#), boasting incredible coverage for a humanoid-sized unit.

NH-29 Signaler

In addition to the default [NH-29](#) abilities, the Signaler NH-29 variant adds:

- **Copy-Protection:** The beneficent consistently responds to any effect which would tamper with her

mind, consciousness and operating system. The effect can be directed through conscious effort; but a backlash, even when undirected, will occur: this will cause the failure of electronics inside devices such as the ST Recorder assemblies and the NH-29 Restraints.

- **Psionic Signal Reversal:** The Signaler projects a 5-kilometer radius zone in which she can tamper with the psionic power generated, or targeted there. The Signaler can block, interfere and possibly reshape any psionic potential unleashed within this area depending on source and the Signaler's concentration.

Against Persistent Psionics

Any psionic effect which is persistent, in effect, or in continuous use that remains within the Nekoalkyrja's telepathic range will find itself subject to the reversal and may find itself unraveled as it is generated, with equivalent power being supplied to the Signaler to counter if she so wishes.

Against Burst Psionics

Any effect generated instantaneously (no charge/warm up period, in burst) will not be subject to the signal reversal effect unless the beneficent is awaiting such an attack/effect, in which case she can freely consider it in a fashion similar to the paragraph above.

Sustained usage

The Psionic Signaler Reversal requires effort and stamina to put to use, which may come to severely drain even the very resilient [NH-29](#) body. In some cases, the effort required may prevent the Signaler from countering a psionic effect and just settle for nullifying it - seeing that the signal reversal is a function which is always active, the beneficent has no choice but to keep nullifying effect within her range. This strain may go over the energy management function of a NH-29 body and prove lethal over prolonged, exhaustive usage.

NH-29 Signaler (without Limiter)

This variant was created by Karl Sylvester and is unique to [Kotori](#). It was also nicknamed *Shinichiro's Monster* by Melisson.

This model combines the [NH-29S Stealth Nekoalkyrja](#) stealth features (*Skin-based holographic optic camouflage* and *Light sensitive tactile sensors*) with the above NH-29 Signaler variant's Psionic Signal Reversal capabilities with the following additions:

- **False PANTHEON node:** the body serves as a PANTHEON node which supercedes administrative priority of any PANTHEON-OS based system, communication or access within a 5-kilometer range. This feature was expressly created to easily unlock computer access, decrypt and even interdict nekoalkyrja telepathic-style communication; and assume control of any NH-23-style cloud consciousnesses it touches (especially if one of the NH-23 mind's nodes expires while within range)

for the purpose of assimilation.

- **Enhanced Data Storage:** the brain has been configured to carry quantum computer-levels of data suitable for storing the compressed information equivalent to a PANTHEON-wide digital mind. Information stored from captured cloud-data is not freely available, but particular topic can be efficiently searched and decompressed for access on a need-to-know basis (quick progress can be made on instinctive queries, making the process adequate for combat to 'borrow' another's fighting style).
- **Enhanced Brain Resilience:** the nekoalkyrja's braincase was greatly reinforced in order to put up with the abuse and strain expected from computing large amounts of data, excess heat and other factors of the body's operation.
- **Internal Hemosynthesis Capabilities:** can recover from severe physical trauma thanks to a host of nanomachines whom saturate the bloodstream. This allows the body to regenerate wounds, restore organs and even regrow limbs; the process taking as long as 36 hours to restore the body when crippled. The body does however lack external hemosynthesis capability.
- **Perspiration:** equipped with sweat glands, which allows the body to better maintain optimum operating temperature when subjected to elevated temperatures or workload (such as active Signal Reversal activity).
- **Energy Manipulation:** possesses the ability to manipulate gravitational, electrostatic and magnetic forces throughout and slightly beyond their body to an extent equal to the NH-23.

Notes

Player characters are discouraged from using the Signaler variant for their nekoalkyrja characters since the copy-protection protecting them from invasive access also prevents [Soul Transfer](#)-style technology from working on them, preventing characters involved in risky plots from recovering from death.

The Limiter-less version was made for a GM NPC, in order to give the [YSS Miharū](#) plot a tool that would bring about a credible way of defending against the psionics in the Daughters of Eve and finding a way to permanently kill Eve and credibly fish out any alternate mental backups she could've had stored in hiding.

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