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COMPUTERS

'Command & Conquer' delivers strategic challenge to players

By Joshua Olson
 Online Editor

Command & Conquer (PC CD-ROM) takes place in Earth's future, where the Global Defense Initiative (GDI) and a multinational terrorist group called the Brotherhood of Nod are engaged in a worldwide battle for money and power.

An extraterrestrial substance called Tiberium, which was delivered to Earth by a stray meteor, has become more sought-after than gold because of its unusual and valuable properties. Tiberium grows in the soil, leeching precious metals and gems from underground and depositing them in crystals on the surface, ready to be mined.

In *Command & Conquer*, you control the forces of the GDI or the Brotherhood in their struggle for global dominance. Mining Tiberium deposits for cash supply, you build up technology and an army and try to conquer the opponent.

When playing against the computer, you confront a series of strategic combat missions to win the game. Missions are assigned by live-actor video clips of your commander, which develop their plots between missions. When playing Nod, keep in mind that you're working for terrorists!



Command & Conquer
 Virgin Interactive Entertainment

★★★★

Playing the same side twice doesn't mean you'll play the same missions. Each assignment offers you a choice of regions to attack, so each time you play the missions should be different.

Each mission has a unique goal, which varies from commando raids to stealing technology to all-out annihilation of the enemy. As the game progresses, you gain technology to build more advanced buildings, troops and vehicles.

Once you get bored beating the computer, gather one to three of your closest friends (or enemies) and trounce them in a

network or modem game.

Command & Conquer comes with two CDs (one each for GDI and Nod) so you can give one to a friend and play head-to-head without buying two copies of the game.

In addition to the challenge of playing against real people, multiplayer games allow you to set a number of options, such as technology level and world size.

Unfortunately, *Command & Conquer* doesn't support random levels in single-player mode. If you don't have any friends, you'll have to work your way up to the advanced technology missions.

Probably the most common criticism of *Command & Conquer* is its lack of SuperVGA graphics. The game could certainly benefit from higher-resolution graphics but is still quite playable without them.

Command & Conquer will appeal to fans of such games as *Dune II* and *Warcraft*. Its strategic game play will keep you challenged, and its wide array of technology will keep you interested.

Command & Conquer's greatest appeal is probably in its multiplayer functionality after the computer missions are exhausted. Anyone for a campus C&C league?

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WORLD AIDS DAY ACTIVITIES

Shared Rights and Shared Responsibilities

December 1

Information Table: 10am to 2 pm, EMU lobby.

Long sleeve t-shirts and red-ribbons will be on sale.

Panel Discussion: 2-3:00pm, Ben Linder room, EMU.

Panelists include: Person living with AIDS, international activists in Africa and Asia, and health educators.

What Can You Do?

- 🎗️ Get tested for HIV at the Student Health Center. Services are **CONFIDENTIAL**, can be **ANONYMOUS**, and are **LOW-COST** (\$12-\$31). Call 346-2770 to make an appointment
- 🎗️ Train to be a volunteer on the speakers bureau of the **HIV Alliance** or volunteer at **Acorn House**, a hospice for people with AIDS. Call 342-5088.
- 🎗️ Make a tax-deductible contribution of money, clothing, or food to the HIV Alliance. Call 342-5088.
- 🎗️ Prevent the further spread of HIV by practicing safer sex and not sharing needles
- 🎗️ Wear and distribute to others a red ribbon as a symbol of hope.

For more information about the AIDS pandemic and World AIDS Day activities, please call Health Education at the Student Health Center at 346-4456



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 Dec. 5th for an ODE
 special edition.