

CONFIDENTIAL

ICE COLD (working title)

Logline

Time after time, a young girl and her brother try to cross a border and you are a new operator for the world's most sophisticated surveillance system. Will you stop them? look away? or become a witness to their plight?

What is it?

ICE COLD is an animated interactive show about the tension at every border and crossing point between humans migrating for a better life, the humans whose duty is to stop them, and the systems in between. Systems that reduce people to dots and **dehumanize** the other.

While your role is limited to recon and surveillance of crossing points, what you pay attention to has an effect on the universe you're observing, whether a refugee makes it through or not and whether law and order are respected or abused.



Notes about dialog

Everything we hear in this story is going to be through various audio communication systems, a police radio, an intercom, etc.

The characters speak in a very toned down, almost cold, professional, matter-of-fact manner. They describe what's going on as they see it, which means the bits of dialog should sometimes be stilted or extend over time because the characters are responding in real time as it happens. Here are two good references for the dialog:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yotbnhfRgMY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dgKAxPbJ0w>

SERGEANT TOM HARTMAN

55-year-old Veteran, born in the heartland of California; Riverside, Los Angeles - History major from San Diego State University. He was disabled in his last deployment to Afghanistan and later became a CBP (Customs and Border Protection) officer as this was the closest he can still be to field ops. He loves the action although he doesn't get to be in it anymore.

Tough look with a gravelly voice. He indulges in eating all sorts of nuts, a habit he used to get over his smoking.

He is the personification of law and order. There are no shades of gray with Hartman; you either follow the law or you deserve punishment (which satisfies a bit of his sadistic nature).

Hartman considers himself a true patriot who believes in defending his country from intruders.

He's straight. Doesn't like political correctness and hates nuance. Doesn't like to fool around but tells others what's right and wrong, and he secretly enjoys inappropriate banter.

A tough boss, Hartman expects the same dedication to the job from his people that he himself brings every day.



AGENT KEVIN TROP

28 year old, 6'3 tall, athletic build, a recent graduate of the border patrol academy and freshman Customs and Border protection agent. San Diego native. College degree in social studies.

This is one of the first few times out in the field.

He's uncertain trying to play by the rules he just learned, and listens to orders. He wants to prove himself, so he springs into action whenever possible.

You'll only be hearing him through the police radio system.



OFFICER VICTOR MORALES

42 year old border patrol agent. 5'9, big guy, Arizona native and third generation immigrant.

He's been at CBP for a decade, and a cop before. He's seen it all.

He Has no emotional connection to anyone. Cold rage inside. Violent.

Doesn't say much.

You'll only be hearing him through the police radio system.

SCRIPT

Title: ICE COLD EPISODE 1

Written by Vicky Choy

Story by Rachid El Guerrab

#TRAILER

OPEN: ARGUS Commercial - Over the top, industrial.

From the migrants danger and the need to protect the homeland, to ARGUS surveillance and tracking technology, ending with the need for operators and the call to action: are you ready to join?

#ACT 1

HARTMAN (V.O.)

(Clears throat) Gentlemen - Sergeant Hartman speaking.

Smugglers are hitting the beach towns. AMO reports 10 rafts so far on a 10-mile stretch.

Frank, Diego and new guy - ARGUS is assigning each of you a different location, based on your last score.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Rookie, you're on Moonlight beach. Diego, on the power plant in case some detainees escape again.

EXT. BEACH CAM - NIGHT

The views from BEACH, PARK and BRIDGE cameras APPEAR on their respective screens one by one. The BEACH CAM covers a small sandy beach from the side, a pier and a bridge that leads to the city behind the tall buildings looking over the beach. A sandhill ascends sharply up to the bridge from the beach. The PARK CAM overlooks a small green patch with a small, old shack. The BRIDGE CAM looks down the bridge and pier.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Aarrgh! I'm getting a lot of static fellas. Muting all of you now.

[[WE LOOP THE SHOW FROM THIS POINT ON]]

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Listen up, everyone. Let me repeat this again. Scan all your cameras and pick the one where you see any suspicious activity. Don't get distracted. Don't lose sight of a target. Give ARGUS clear and visible targets and CBP will get the coordinates and take it from there.

Isko is crawling up a sand hill on the beach. His silhouette is clear.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Rookie, looks like you got something on the beach. Stay on it. CBP showing up any minute now.

A seagull flies into view, illuminated by the moonlight, and lands right in front of the camera.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Goddamn birds! I wish we could just zap 'em.

A speeding Border Control van comes to a screeching halt at the bridge. Heavily equipped border patrol agents, VICTOR MORALES and KEVIN TROP step out of the van and check their monitors.

VICTOR (V.O.)

Officer Morales and agent Trop at Moonlight beach. (pause). Checking the area and waiting on recon.

They start walking towards the pier as seagull flies off.

[[END OF THE COMMON SHOW BEGINNING]]

#BRANCH 1 (Isko tagged right away)

Isko stands up and looks back to the camera. He can see the agents on the pier. He sees the kids on the beach running toward the shack. He is also visible and is tagged red by ARGUS as he heads up the hill and disappears from view.

HARTMAN (V.O)

We got one. Moving up the hill. His long sheet is on your ARGUS monitor.

We lost visual so we can't see if he's armed. Be vigilant.

Victor and Kevin check their beeping monitors for Isko's location. Kevin looks up and points at his direction.

KEVIN (V.O)

(as he starts running)

I see him. Engaging now.

The agents run after Isko and catch up to him right at the top.

KEVIN (V.O)

(shouting) STOP! This is Border Patrol!

Isko, breathing heavily by now, ignores him and runs for the bridge. Kevin tasers him. Isko lets out an agonizing scream but it doesn't seem to completely take him down. He pulls out the taser darts and steps towards Kevin when Victor comes from behind Kevin and kicks Isko so hard it launches him over the side of the pier, and he falls down on to the beach below. The seagull flies out of the way as the giant body hits the ground with a big thud.

VICTOR (V.O)

Sonofabitch.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Woow! That shook the whole beach!

Kevin and Victor run quickly down the hill and as they get down they see Isko crawling slowly under the pier.c

KEVIN (V.O.)

United States Border Control! Stop moving!

Victor, on the other hand, doesn't wait. He moves closer to Isko, who tries to get up fast and take off. Victor tases him again and then kicks him hard on his side. Isko falters and yells out as he collapses to the ground.

ISKO

(we can't hear him over the intercom)

Run! RUN NOW! (in spanish)

HARTMAN (V.O.)

That's a beast. Good job rookie. Now check for others.

[[END OF COMMON BRANCH 1]]

#BRANCH 1.1

Isko tries to get up.

VICTOR (V.O.)

(Quietly.. Grinding his teeth) hold him down.

Kevin is holding his legs down, while Victor savagely kicks him all around.

Isko seems motionless now.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Let's go ahead and switch cameras on the beach now. Nothing more to see there.

Victor is about to kick Isko again, but Kevin raised his hand as if to ask him to stop.

KEVIN (V.O.)

(quietly)

Maybe enough.

Victor turns towards the camera then turns back and gets down to handcuff Isko.

VICTOR (V.O.)

Crosser apprehended and secured. (pause). Requesting EMS. (pause). Negative on any weapons.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Rookie, you're done here.

With an audible click, all of the cameras switch off.

[[Your ARGUS report is on the screen: 1 captured - 2 escaped. 33% success.]]

HARTMAN (V.O.)

(with disdain)

Alright, newbie, you've got one catch, but you let others through.

Frank, they're coming your way down the boardwalk. Minors or not, they won't get through tonight!

> FADE TO BLACK

[[END OF ACT 1]]

#BRANCH 1.2 (continues from the moment Isko is captured)

EXT. PARK CAM - NIGHT

The siblings are carefully climbing the stairs to get to the bridge. ARGUS tags them "yellow" as unknown subjects.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

We got visual on intruders making a run for it on the other side of the pier.

The location monitors beep as Victor finishes up with Isko. Kevin checks his monitor.

KEVIN (V.O.)

I'm on it.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Looks like a young girl with an older male unsub with a drawstring backpack on.
ARGUS shows a close match to a wanted human trafficker.

Kevin heads toward the bridge as Victor collects himself and handcuffs Isko.

Jose and Merriam make it to the bridge. ARGUS is tagging Jose as RED now (if you're on the Bridge Camera). Kevin goes after them but they've outrun him.

KEVIN (V.O.)

(shouting as he draws his gun and breathing heavily)

BORDER CONTROL! STOP NOW!

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Lost them from beach cameras. Frank, any POV on your side?
Agent Trop... you have to stop him now. ARGUS flagging this as kidnapping.

KEVIN (V.O.)

(hesitant)

They're.. too far. I.. don't have a clear shot. --- -

(shouts)

LAST WARNING! STOP!

> CUT TO BLACK

Three gunshots are followed by a piercing scream.

[[Your ARGUS report is on the screen: 1 captured - 2 escaped. 33% success.]]

HARTMAN (V.O.)

(displeased)

Dammit! We've got two illegals in the wind.

They're coming your way, Frank. Need to be stopped before mixing in with the civilian population.

One might be hit, so keep an eye on the hospital on Boardwalk Street.

You were too slow rookie. Not good.

> FADE TO BLACK

[[END OF ACT 1]]

#BRANCH 2 (continue right before Isko is beaten senseless)

EXT. PARK CAM - NIGHT

The siblings step out of the shadow and ARGUS immediately tags them “yellow.” Jose and Merriam left the cover of the shack and are sneaking up the old worn out stairs. Jose hears Isko’s yell and quickly pulls Merriam up faster towards the bridge.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

We’ve got eyes on 2 unsubs maneuvering towards the bridge.

The location monitors beep. Kevin checks his monitor.

KEVIN (V.O.)

On it!

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Looks like a young girl and an older unsub with a drawstring backpack on, the kind used by drug smugglers.

ARGUS shows a close match to a wanted human trafficker.

EXT. BRIDGE CAM - NIGHT

Kevin goes after them and follows them onto the bridge. The van lights blind him for a second. Jose hears Kevin coming up and realizes they might not outrun him. He stops, takes off his backpack and gives it to Merriam and signals for her to keep going. Merriam clings to his arm and shakes her head violently. Jose prys her fingers loose and pushes her forward.

KEVIN (V.O.)

(shouts as he draws his gun)

BORDER CONTROL! STOP NOW!

Merriam steps away slowly, still not sure what to do. Jose walks directly towards Kevin with his hands up.

KEVIN (V.O.)

(over heavy breathing)

I've got 2 individuals here. (pause). They both look minor. (pause). A young girl is noncompliant and attempting to flee.

(shouts to Merriam)

STOP!

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Please be careful agent Trop. These aren't your neighborhood kids.

Kevin approaches Jose quickly and twists his arm to turn his body around then pull him towards Merriam. He puts his gun away.

KEVIN (V.O.)

(trying to calm himself down)

This is the United States Border Control... Don't be afraid... Come back please.

Jose moves his lips as if he's telling her something without speaking. She turns away and takes off. Kevin tries to step towards her, but Jose puts his legs between Kevin's and accidentally causes him to trip and fall.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Goddamnit! Agent assaulted. Needs backup immediately.

Kevin's helmet was crushed on the side and a terrible shrieking is heard over the COM line. He takes it off and puts it next to him. After a brief struggle, Kevin has his knee pressing Jose's head to the ground and quickly handcuffs him.

Kevin pats himself like he's looking for something. He looks around. Then he makes some hand gestures.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Looks like agent Trop lost his radio and monitor. I've turned on the alarm on his device.

There's also a sighting of a makeshift raft heading south toward the beach area. Can someone check it out?

[[END OF COMMON BRANCH 2]]

BRANCH 2.1 (all captured)

EXT. BEACH CAM - NIGHT

(ON THE BRIDGE CAM) In the shadows, Merriam comes back into view. She is holding her brother's backpack and walking hesitantly towards Kevin. He doesn't see her.

Victor handcuffs Isko and ties his legs together just in case.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Guys, we still have a minor on the run. Frank, keep an eye on Boardwalk street.

VICTOR (V.O.)

One individual secured down here. (pause). Heading up to assist now.

Kevin is still looking for his monitor. He can't hear the sound coming out of it, because his monitor fell through the pier cracks and in between rocks. Before Kevin notices Merriam behind him, Victor gets to the top.

VICTOR (V.O.)

DROP IT!

Kevin turns around as She lunges towards her brother. Victor tasers her before she got to move.

Merriam screams, and her weak body can't handle the shock. She drops to the ground and lays still.

> CUT TO BLACK

Jose cries out before Victor silences him as well with a swift kick to the head.

[[Your ARGUS report is on the screen: 3 captured. 100% success.]]

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Well, that was close... and intense.

Continue to scan the beach area, but it appears all unsubs are captured.
Good ARGUS score to get started with Rookie. Keep it up.

> FADE TO BLACK

[[END OF ACT 1]]

BRANCH 2.2 (all escape)

EXT. BRIDGE CAM - NIGHT

In the shadows, Merriam comes back into view. She is holding her brother's backpack and walking hesitantly towards Kevin. He doesn't see her. ARGUS instantly tags Merriam "red."

HARTMAN (V.O.)

The other minor appears to be back. We can see her approaching agent Trop from behind. She's holding something.

Victor gets the ARGUS alert on his monitor. He can't completely neutralize Isko before running up the hill towards the bridge. Kevin is still looking for his monitor. He can't hear the sound coming out of it, because his monitor fell through the pier cracks and in between rocks. He doesn't notice Merriam behind him. Down below Isko collects himself and runs after Victor. Before Kevin notices Merriam behind him, Victor gets to the top.

VICTOR (V.O.)

DROP IT!

Kevin turns around as She lunges towards her brother. He gestures to Victor shouting something, but we can't hear him.

As Victor is pulling his taser gun, Isko jumps him from behind and smashes his helmet with a rock he picked up from the beach below. Victor struggles to turn around, but Isko smashes him again, killing off his radio and knocking him unconscious.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Goddammit!

Merriam drops behind in shock. Jose wants to reach her but he's handcuffed. Kevin tries to get up quickly and reaches for his gun but Isko is faster and swings at him with the same rock that it stuns him right away.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

What the??! AGENTS DOWN! I repeat BOTH AGENTS DOWN!

Perp is in possession of the agent's firearm.

Loud sirens start and ARGUS red alerts intensify.

> CUT TO BLACK

[[Your ARGUS report is on the screen: 0 captured. 0% success.]]

HARTMAN (V.O.)

Everyone, we're back on high alert. We have 3 armed and dangerous individuals heading towards the crowded downtown area. 2 Agents down. EMS, local police, everyone is on the way.

We're doubling ARGUS eyes on the area. Minor or not... not one of these rats can get through tonight!

> FADE TO BLACK

[[END OF ACT 1]]

#BRANCH 3 (continue right before Isko is tagged)

[[Various options of this branch will reuse elements from previous ones, depending on what cameras you might be on]]

EXT. BRIDGE CAM - NIGHT

Isko stands up. He can see the agents on the pier. He sees the kids on the beach running toward the shack. He runs up the hill and disappears from all cameras.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

can we scan the other cameras on the beach?

Jose and Merriam running to hide behind a small, deserted shack on the beach. Victor and Kevin start walking back toward the bridge while checking the surroundings. He spots Isko almost at the top of the hill.

KEVIN (V.O.)

I see one going for the bridge. (pause). Engaging now.
(shouting)

“STOP! DON’T MOVE!”

HARTMAN (V.O.)

We don’t have clear visuals on the suspect. Please be vigilant.

The agents run after Isko, who surprisingly seems to stop at the top.

ISKO

(we can’t hear him over the intercom)
Run! RUN NOW! (in spanish)

They catch up to him. They struggle but Isko is too powerful and throws them both off. Kevin grabs Isko again and they both tumble down the sand hill.

Isko is first to get up and punches Kevin. Isko scrambles up the sand hill where Victor is collecting himself.

HARTMAN (V.O.)

It’s too messy for ARGUS to get a clear tag.

Isko YELLS loudly as VICTOR tasers him a couple times, and the two finally succeed in subduing him.

At the same time the two siblings make it to the bridge without being apprehended.

[[Your ARGUS report is on the screen: 1 captured - 2 escaped. 33% success.]]

HARTMAN (V.O.)

(with disdain)

Alright newbie, this was a mess. You’re done here.

> FADE TO BLACK

[[END OF ACT 1]]

#TEASER CLOSING

EXT. DETENTION FACILITY - 3AM

Bruised and roughed up, Jose and Merriam are wearily standing in line at the detention center. Jose is holding Merriam tightly to him. She's cold, and can barely stand.

In the back, two guards are pulling Isko, on the ground, from the bus towards the open cage to lock him up in there.

One of the patrol guards pulls Merriam hard from her brother and tosses her towards the camera.

Jose is about to launch at the guard, but the latter holds out a police baton in front of Jose's face in a threatening move. Jose, exhausted, didn't want to fight anymore. He turns his eyes towards Merriam.

Merriam looks back at her brother who gestures to her to look at the camera.

Right as she turns her face towards the standing camera. A quick flash and click sends shivers through her frail body.

> CUT TO BLACK

A "TRY AGAIN?" message is written on the black screen.