

Gangstar vs Aliens

Context: The purpose was to create seven narrative missions themed around aliens set in the pre-established world of Gangstar Vegas. The Gangstar franchise is Gameloft's version of Grand Theft Auto for mobile devices.

The missions had to be designed in such a way that players could play them at any point during or after the main campaign and the story would still make sense. Cut-scenes and conversations had to average at most a minute in length. The dialogue was voice-acted.

For the sake of brevity, I have excluded missions or portions of missions that were little more than random barks.

Mission 1: Something Amiss

The player receives a call.

E-MAN
Hello? Muscle! Is that you? I need your help!

JASON
E? What's up?

E-MAN
I can't say more on the phone, they--! ... They might be listening.

JASON
Who might be listening?

E-MAN
Not you, apparently! Just come meet me!

The player arrives at E-man's location.

JASON
What's goin' on, E?

E-MAN
My delivery boys haven't shown up in days! None of them are returning their calls!

JASON
Maybe they got some heat, laying low?

E-MAN
No, man, their safe houses are empty! I think it might be... ALIENS.

JASON
Right... Listen, get in the car. Let's go talk to your rivals.

E-MAN
My rivals?! But... they don't like me! You promise we'll only talk? I HATE violence!

JASON
I promise. Only talking.

The player and E-man drive to the location of E-man's rivals.

JASON

So you checked the safe houses for your delivery boys... You check the obituaries?

E-MAN

If one of my boys gets taken out, there's usually a kerfuffle of some kind!

JASON

But there's been no, uh... no kerfuffle this time?

E-MAN

These are kerfuffle-less disappearances, man!

They arrive at the location and confront the thugs.

JASON

Leave the talking to me.

JASON

Hey! We want a word with you!

DEALER

Just the punk we were about to come see! You're gonna pay for what you did, E-Man!

JASON

The hell you talking about?

DEALER

Think you can put a hit out on my entire crew and get away with it?

JASON

WHAT?!

E-MAN

That is a false accusation! I protest!

DEALER

Get 'em, boys!

E-MAN

Don't let them hurt me! I'm very delicate!

A shoot-out follows as Jason argues with E-man.

JASON

Did you put a hit out on their guys?

E-MAN

I wouldn't even know how to begin to think about doing something like that!

They finally corner the thug and interrogate him further.

JASON

HEY! E says he didn't put a hit out on ANYone.

DEALER

Last time I heard from Little Johnny and his crew, they were gonna celebrate at the City of Saints and we ain't heard from 'em since! And twerky's our main competition! So maybe you can see how we'd leap to that conclusion.

JASON

E's crew is M.I.A., too. There some new competition in town?

E-MAN

No, no, no... If there was some new big player moving and shaking, we'd have heard about it! I'm telling you, man! It's friggin' aliens!

JASON

It's not aliens.

E-MAN

Did you not just hear all the things that he just said with his mouth? Everyone is disappearing! This is IT, man! They're here.

JASON

Look, gimme a call if you find something concrete.

E-MAN

Well, he DID mention his boys went to the casino... I'll check that out!

MISSION 2: ALIENATION

Jason's phone rings.

JASON

Hello?

E-MAN

Muscle! I've got a lead on my vanished guys! Come meet me!

Jason finds E-man spying on a delivery van outside a casino.

JASON

What's with the van? Your guys in there?

E-MAN

Don't be an idiot! This is the van carrying the mind-controlling slot machines!

JASON

The what now?

E-MAN

The alien's mind-control slot machines!

The van pulls away from the casino.

E-MAN

Let's follow this thing.

JASON

Fine... But when it turns out that it's delivering Salisbury steaks to nursing homes, you're droppin' the alien stuff.

E-MAN

Junior Woodland Brigade's honour!

JASON

... You were in the Junior Woodland Brigade?

E-MAN

No... Hell no! Although, troop B12 contributed to my unusually profitable 2nd quarter last year.

They follow the van through Vegas.

JASON

So talk to me. Why the van?

E-MAN

That kid mentioned the last place he saw Little Johnny was the City of Saints, so I checked it out. Good thing I did! The place was a creep show!

JASON

How so?

E-MAN

My boys, my rivals, half of freakin' Vegas! All lined up, pulling those slot-machine levers like zombies! And not just there! All the casinos!

JASON

This is Vegas! That's kinda what happens.

E-MAN

I tried to get them to leave, but they ignored me! They just sat there, pulling and drooling...

JASON

Hmm, yeah, you are hard to ignore...

The van leads them to a quarry with a secret side-entrance.

E-MAN

A secret base in the desert!

JASON

That... That's...

E-MAN

See, man?! See?! See?!

JASON

There's definitely something up.

A man-in-black spots them and raises an alarm.

JASON

They saw us! Let's get out of here! You drive!

They pull away from the quarry with vehicles in hot pursuit. Jason hangs out the passenger window and fires at the pursuers.

JASON

Guess they didn't like us snooping around their secret lair!

E-MAN

Are there a lot of them chasing us?!

JASON

There's enough for us to be worried. Lemme try and take care of some of them!

E-MAN

Aw no, I hate being involved in shoot-outs!

JASON

Can't you drive straight?!

E-MAN

I hate being a stationary target even more!

They eventually end up cornered at a UFO-themed motel in the desert.

JASON

What are you doing?! Get us out of here!

E-MAN

We're trapped, man, we're trapped! It's over! Game over, man -- game over!

JASON

They are REALLY pissed!

E-MAN

It was almost nice knowing you, man! ... Almost.

The men-in-black are suddenly blasted from off-screen by laser beams.

JASON

Holy crap!!

E-MAN

Whoa!!

Out of the smoke and wreckage come a group of aliens.

JASON

Oh my god... you were right?!

E-MAN

Oh, thank god! I thought it was just me seeing them!

E-MAN

Sweet petunias! Aliens!!!

ALIEN

Behold, Earthlings! We are travelers from Theta-4 crash-landed here on Earth!

JASON

... What?

ALIEN

Ugh, seriously? Look, your government stole our ship and our tech. We need your help to get it back.

JASON

This is blowing my mind and all, but, uh... why should we help?

ALIEN

Last time they got a hold of some of our aural tech, your government created dub step! Now they're using your gambling devices and our technology to experiment with a new form of mind-control. Soon they'll be able to enslave this whole tiny planet!

E-MAN

The slot machines! I knew it!

ALIEN

You get us back to our ship and we can shut down the wave-form generator that causes your feeble brains to be so easily influenced. We just need to find a way into that underground base.

E-MAN

I've already got a plan in mind! It's brilliant! You guys don't go anywhere; we'll be back once we have everything!

JASON

What? Once we have what?

E-MAN

Leave the details to me! I'm a genius!

MISSION 3: TROJAN HORSE

In this mission, Jason and E-man acquire one of the men-in-black's vehicles.

MISSION 4: MAKING THE MAN

Jason receives a phone call.

E-MAN

The cuckoo flies at midnight!

JASON

Yeah, listen, I think we--

E-MAN

A-HEM! The CUCKOO... flies at MIDNIGHT.

JASON

... The... chihuahua barks at noon.

E-man emerges from nearby bushes.

E-MAN

Good, it's you! So look, we need to get you dressed like one of them. I've got coordinates to their top-secret laundry vans!

JASON

Top-secret laundry vans.

Jason starts driving around looking for the vans while talking to E-man on the phone.

JASON

You sure these vans contain the outfit I need?

E-MAN

Even secret government branches need to stay clean! We can take advantage of this and make a chameleon out you!

JASON

You want me to be a lizard?

Jason manages to acquire the required outfit.

E-MAN

Hey, man! We've got the van! We've got the suit! Come back and let's get this party started!

JASON

You got it.

MISSION 5: BELLY OF THE BEAST

Jason, E-man and the aliens meet in a parking lot outside Vegas, getting ready to infiltrate the government base.

ALIEN

Thanks for helping us out! You don't know what this means to us!

JASON

As long as you can stop the mind-control, we're happy to help.

E-MAN

And... do you think I could pilot your ship for a bit?

ALIEN

Sure, why not? We'd love another crash-landing!

E-MAN

Stupendous!

The gang drives over to the base.

JASON

So... what do we call you? Alien-person? Outer-spacey man?

ALIEN

We have evolved beyond the need for something as base as individual names. Where we come from, we are identified by--

JASON

How about Steve?

E-MAN

Steve! I like it!

STEVE

What?! No! Weren't you listening?

E-MAN

Uh-oh, Steve's getting agitated.

STEVE

My name is not...! We don't HAVE names!

JASON

Don't worry about it, Steve! So how are you going to stop the mind-control?

STEVE

Your government built the mind-control device using technology stolen from our ship!

E-MAN

The slot machines!

STEVE

Well, whatever those things are, we can shut them down from our ship.

The gang arrives at the base exterior.

JASON

Alright guys, there it is. Stay low.

They manage to get inside the base.

JASON

Okay, we're gonna have to be careful in this base...

E-MAN

Don't you think it'll go faster if we split up?

STEVE

Not a bad idea, Earthling!

JASON

All right, fine -- but make sure to keep your head down!

E-man runs off.

STEVE

If nothing else, his snooping will cause a distraction that will help us!

A man-in-black spots them and raises the alarm.

MIB

What the...! Code C-35! Code C-35! Red alert!

JASON

Damn it!

PA ANNOUNCEMENT

Red alert! Intruders detected! Red alert!

JASON

Well, looks like we'll be the distraction!

Steve and Jason fight their way through the base.

JASON

Your ship... what does it look like?

STEVE

It's big, it's saucer-shaped, and it's made from an alloy that can't be synthesized in this solar system! What did you want, the license plate number?

JASON

How do you know it hasn't been broken down for parts?

STEVE

Impossible! The mind-affecting wave-form is linked directly to our neural interface generator. Taking that apart would immediately disable all devices based on our technology!

JASON

So wait, why did you come to Earth with a mind-control device?

STEVE

What? Oh, that wasn't for you Earthlings. That was for the Andromeda-3 world-eaters that were hiding out behind your moon.

JASON

Oh, okay. Wait, what?

They reach the flying saucer in a hangar.

STEVE

There's my ride! Listen, you hold these guys off while I go warm up the engines!

JASON

Don't take too long!

Jason fights off waves of enemies as the ship starts up.

STEVE

It worked! We are back in business!

JASON

Great! Throw down a ladder or... open a hatch or something!

STEVE

Pitiful human! Did you really think we were peace ambassadors?! With mind-control and weapons?! C'mon! Now the invasion of Earth can continue!

JASON

Steve, you asshole! Don't do this!

STEVE

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!

Steve flies the saucer out of the hangar as E-man shows up.

E-MAN

Hey! Where's he going?!

JASON

That alien bastard betrayed us!

E-MAN

Aw man! And here I was going to gift him these futuristic coffeemakers I found!

E-man shows Jason what is obviously two jet packs

JASON

What? Where'd you get those?

E-MAN

Behind some protective cases that said "Warning: Prototype." Why?

JASON

Those don't look like coffeemakers.

PA ANNOUNCEMENT

Warning! Self-destruct initiated! Evacuate immediately!

JASON

These are jet packs! C'mon, they're our best bet for getting out of here!

E-MAN

We will soar out of here in a blaze of caffeine!

JASON

Not coffeemakers!

Jason and E-man fly through the base as it explodes around them.

E-MAN

I can't believe Steve betrayed us! After all we did for him!

JASON

I guess just because you're from a higher race, doesn't mean you're any less of an asshole!

E-MAN

I find that oddly comforting!

Jason and E-man fly safely out of the base.

Outside, E-man's jet pack malfunctions and sends him flying out of control.

MISSION 6: LEAF ON THE WIND

In this mission, Jason must fly around following a tracking signal to E-man's location.

He finds E-man stranded on an arch beneath a bridge.

MISSION 7: GET OFF MY LAWN

Jason is driving with E-man.

JASON

All right, you ready to go kick some alien ass?

E-MAN

Do you even think those aliens have asses?

JASON

Better kick 'em all over, then, just to make sure.

E-MAN

I think I saw the military in the desert surrounding the UFO. They might be able to help!

They drive over to the desert military base. The UFO is there, surrounded by military who have cordoned the area. Jason is stopped by a military general.

GENERAL

Sorry, sir. No civilians past this point!

JASON

I've got a bone to pick with the driver of that UFO.

GENERAL

You crazy, boy? That's a gad-damn alien ship!

JASON

Yeah. And it's time to knock it out of the sky.

GENERAL

Well lookit you, Mr. Tough Guy -- ready to take on the alien menace and save the human race!

JASON

Yeah? And why aren't you doing anything?

GENERAL

Hands are tied; got orders to hold fire 'til we can send in volunteers to place these airstrike beacons.

JASON

Volunteers?

GENERAL

Top brass doesn't want us risking our boys to an unknown enemy. Can't do nothin' 'til they figure somethin' else out.

JASON

Hell with that, I ain't afraid of them. Gimme one of those.

The General hands Jason the beacons.

GENERAL

Give 'em hell, soldier!

Jason walks off to fight the UFO.

GENERAL

He is so fuckin' dead.

Jason fights Steve who is piloting the UFO.

JASON

I'm coming for you, Steve!

STEVE

You'll never stop us, you inferior primate!

Jason destroys a generator that powers the UFO's force-field.

STEVE

Oh, I'll bet you think you're clever for doing that! I doubt you'll be able to do it again!

Jason destroys the remaining generators.

STEVE

Oh damn... Uh, well, it's not like he'd know to place a beacon in the beam of light or anything...
What? What do you mean the mic's still on? OH SH--!

Jason places a beacon in the beam of light and the UFO is hit with air-strikes.

STEVE

You'll never stop us! Never! Ouch! Agh! AaaaAAAA--!

The UFO explodes as the crowd cheers. In the background, a man-in-black drives off.

We cut to the inside of a casino where gamblers are pulling slot-machine levers in unison, beams of pulsing energy surrounding their heads. After a beat, the light dissipates and everyone looks around in a stupor.

CIVILIAN

Oh... Oh wow! We're free, finally!

CIVILIAN

Finally! Haha! Finally!

CIVILIAN

We're free to go home! To leave!

CIVILIAN

Yes, home! Leaving! Uh... Hmm.

CIVILIAN

Maybe... Maybe after a few more pulls.

CIVILIAN

There's no rush.

The gamblers go back to pulling the slot machines.

We cut to Jason and E-man in the desert, looking up at the sky.

E-MAN

So there really is life out there... You think we'll ever see them again?

JASON

No idea, E-Man, but if we do... we'll be ready to kick their asses back into space.