

# MEGATRAVELLER I

THE ZHODANI CONSPIRACY

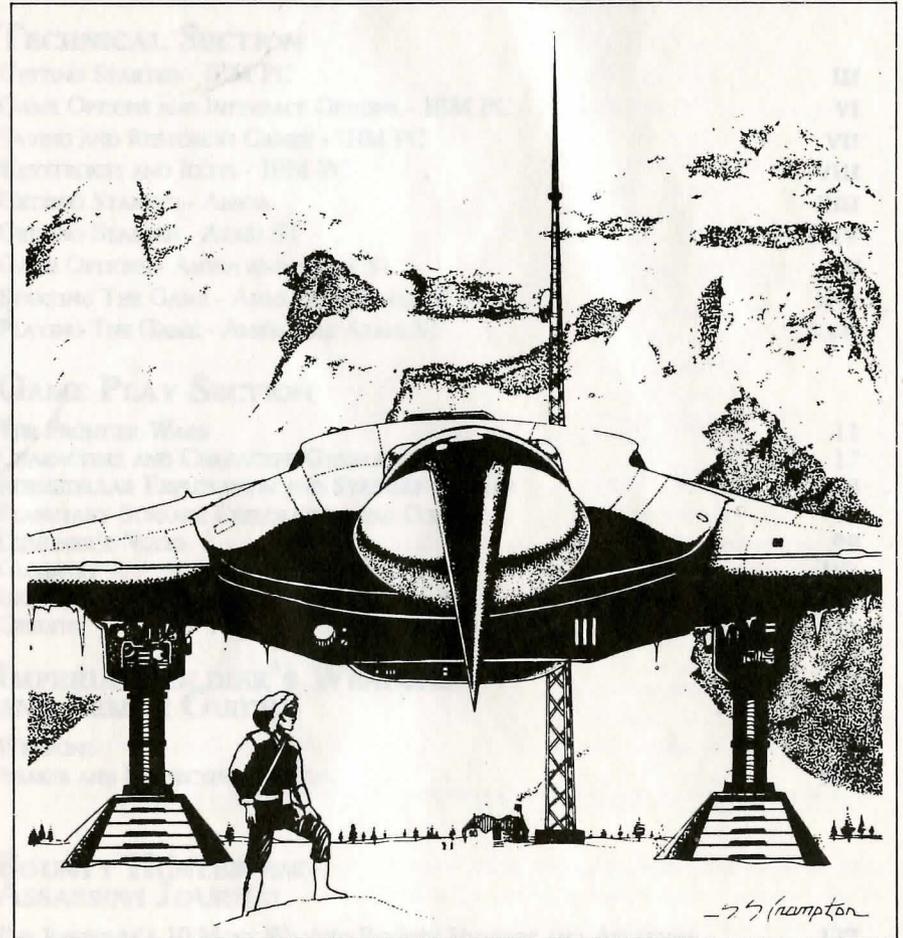


ENGLISH

# MEGATRAVELLER 1™

THE ZHODANI CONSPIRACY

## USER GUIDE



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## A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FROM MARC MILLER

*Dear MegaTraveller Computer Gamer,*

It's hard to believe that it's been 15 years since I began designing TRAVELLER. When the game was completed in 1977, I had no idea it would evolve into the most popular science fiction role-playing series ever created, as well as form the foundation of our company, Game Designers' Workshop (GDW). Here I am, in the 1990s, and TRAVELLER is taking another enormous step forward in its continued development — computerization!

I've been asked many times why I feel TRAVELLER has been so popular. I believe there are several reasons for the game's success. First, TRAVELLER makes it easy for players to generate characters, create (with just a few die rolls) entire worlds, and design powerful starships. A player can pick up the basic game rules and find hours of exciting adventure and enjoyment without being mired in detail. Over the course of its history, TRAVELLER has always emphasized the enjoyment inherent in playing the game and building the background. Rules and background are also definite reasons why TRAVELLER has been so successful. The rules are realistic, understandable and easy to use — head and shoulders above any other gaming system. At the same time, the star-spanning empire that is the background for TRAVELLER is the ideal setting for a science-fiction game. The wealth of detail we have been able to put into it makes the game a living experience.

You may be wondering why TRAVELLER was renamed MEGATRAVELLER. TRAVELLER is the name for the original role-playing system. In 1987, after 10 years in release, the game system had reached a point where it needed revision. Some rules had fallen by the wayside, while new ones had been written to address new topics. We at GDW decided to totally rewrite the game, incorporating everything we thought worked while discarding concepts that were not totally successful. MEGATRAVELLER is the name we use for the current, most up-to-date version of the classic role-playing system. I'm happy to say that this computer version carries the MEGATRAVELLER name.

I've always said that TRAVELLER would make the perfect computer game for the same two reasons that it's a great role-playing game: rules and background. The background, and its wealth of detail, will naturally capture the interest of players. But it's the simplicity of the rules which makes the

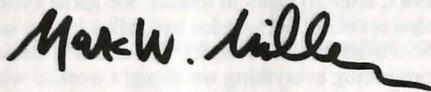
*continued...*

computerization possible. Most game systems provide completely different rules for each different situation that could potentially exist. TRAVELLER simplifies things by identifying the characteristics all situations have in common, and applying one universal method to resolve these problems. The foundation of TRAVELLER is its task system, which makes mountains of formal rules fall away. A task can be almost anything: an attempt to bribe an official, a shot with a laser pistol, piloting a starship, etc. The referee (or the computer) decides how difficult an activity is and what skills and personal characteristics affect the activity, and then determines the outcome. This is a routine perfectly adaptable to the computer, but not implemented in role-playing games until TRAVELLER.

TRAVELLER is a never-ending pursuit for me. It has taken many years to bring TRAVELLER to the computer, and I can't express how excited I am that it is finally available. We're hard at work developing a sequel to this MEGATRAVELLER computer adventure, and we hope to bring you many interstellar computer adventures in the years to come. In addition, we're also developing another of our role-playing systems, SPACE 1889, for the entertainment software market. Watch for it in the near future.

I truly hope that everyone who gets a chance to play this game enjoys it as much as I've enjoyed working on it. So sit back, take control of five characters, let your imagination run wild, and venture to the far reaches of space for a wondrous tale of excitement, danger and intrigue. Game Designers' Workshop and Paragon Software proudly present MEGATRAVELLER 1: THE ZHODANI CONSPIRACY.

*Yours In Science-Fiction Role-Playing,*



Marc Miller

*Marc Miller is the original designer of TRAVELLER. Since 1968, he has designed more than 20 historical and science-fiction board games, two role-playing games, and written more than 34 role-playing supplements, modules, and adventures. TRAVELLER remains his most popular game and continues to receive the majority of his attention. Marc's games have won every major hobby and industry award. He was elected to the Adventure Gaming Hall of Fame in 1982 for his contribution to gaming and role-playing.*

## TECHNICAL SECTION

# TECNICAL SECTION

## IBM-PC/TANDY/COMPATIBLES

### GETTING STARTED

*Note:* All DOS commands are presented in this technical supplement in the courier typeface. Anything appearing in this typeface should be entered exactly as it is written. Commands bracketed with <> indicate keystrokes such as <enter> or <space bar>. Commands written in normal typeface, but **bold**, indicate the general nature of the information you should enter, but not the specific information itself. All DOS commands are also placed on a separate line from the other text in this technical supplement.

For instance: the command

`md name of your directory <enter>`

would instruct you to enter the DOS command `md` (for make directory), followed by the name you wish to give to the new directory, followed by pressing the <enter> key on your keyboard.

### LOADING FROM FLOPPY DISKS

1. Boot your machine using the DOS disk.
2. When the `A:\>` prompt appears, remove the DOS disk and insert MEGATRAVELLER disk A. If you have two disk drives, insert MEGATRAVELLER disk B into your second drive.
3. To begin loading the game, type  
`trav` and press <enter>

### INSTALLATION ONTO A HARD DRIVE

To install the game to your hard drive, you should create a directory where you will copy the game. To create a directory, do the following:

1. From the `C:\>` prompt, type  
`md a name for the directory` and press <enter>

For example:

`md traveller<enter>`

From the `C:\>` prompt, you can access the directory you created by typing

`cd\ name of the directory`

For example:

`cd\traveller`

Once you have created a directory, copy the files from all four disks (A,B,C and D) into the directory you created. This

can be done by inserting a disk into drive A, and from the A:\> prompt, type:

```
copy *.* c:\name of your directory
```

This DOS command copies all files from the A drive (provided that you entered this command at the A:\> prompt, of course) into the directory you created on the hard drive. Repeat this command for the other three game disks. Be sure the appropriate game disk is in the appropriate drive before entering the DOS command.

#### CREATING BACK-UP COPIES OF THE GAME:

You will probably want to create back-up copies of the game if you plan to play from the floppies. To create a back-up, you will need four (4) blank, formatted disks. Be sure to label these disks A, B, C and D.

Now use the DOS `copy` command described above to copy the game disks to the newly formatted disks. From a single drive, type:

```
copy a:*.* b:
```

and follow the prompts for inserting and switching disks in the A drive.

If you have two disk drives, insert the game disk into drive A and the blank formatted disk into drive B. Then type:

```
copy a:*.* b:
```

#### COPY PROTECTION

The game disks for MEGATRAVELLER 1: THE ZHODANI CONSPIRACY are normal in every way. However, at the beginning of the game you will be asked to locate information from the spiral-bound manual packaged with your game, so keep it handy. All of the questions will refer to information presented in the many charts the manual contains.

#### USING DEFAULT CHARACTERS

At the beginning of the game you have the option to use pre-generated, default characters. If you don't wish to use the default characters that come with the game, you're going to have to create a party disk on which to store the characters you create yourself. Before creating a party disk, make sure you have a blank, formatted disk ready. You can still create characters without a party disk, but the characters you create WILL NOT BE SAVED. A party disk is required to save characters you have generated.

#### OTHER LOADING OPTIONS

Once the game is loaded, you will be asked which graphics driver your computer is equipped with:

1. VGA

2. EGA
3. CGA
4. TANDY

After selecting the video driver, you will be asked whether you wish to use a joystick.

Next, you will be asked if you want to load the RealSound sound effects. The amount of sound effects that can be loaded depends on the amount of memory your computer has. If you have 640k of free memory (not supporting any memory resident programs), all of the sound effects will be loaded. A machine with 512k of memory can still be used to operate the game, but not all the sound effects can be loaded into memory. The same applies for machines with 640k, running with memory resident programs.

After the RealSound question is asked, a menu will appear, with the following options:

```
START NEW GAME
CONTINUE OLD GAME
GET STARTED QUICK
```

#### START NEW GAME

START NEW GAME allows you to create a party disk, or start a brand new game. The following menu selections are displayed if you select START NEW GAME:

```
CREATE PARTY DISK
USE MY PARTY DISK
USE DEFAULT CHARACTERS
```

Select CREATE PARTY DISK if this is the first time you've played the game and you wish to create and save your own characters, instead of using the default characters. Simply answer the questions asked and exchange disks when prompted. *Note:* Your party disk can also be used as a save game disk.

Select USE MY PARTY DISK if you have created a party disk and want to start a new game.

Select USE DEFAULT CHARACTERS if you plan to start a new game using the default characters.

#### CONTINUE OLD GAME

Select CONTINUE OLD GAME if you have already created a party of characters and have played the game. You will be asked to insert the save game disk (unless you're playing from a hard drive), and enter the file name of the saved game you wish to restore.

#### GET STARTED QUICK

Selecting GET STARTED QUICK will immediately start the game using the default characters.

The game options can be accessed in two places: the starport building, and the menu selections in the lower right hand corner of the OVERHEAD VIEW SCREEN. The game options are RESTORE, QUIT and SOUND ON/OFF.

RESTORE allows you to restore a position from your save game disk.

QUIT ends the game and returns you to DOS. Be sure you save the game before you QUIT.

SOUND ON/OFF will toggle the sound effects on and off.

---

## GAME OPTIONS

MEGATRAVELLER I: THE ZHODANI CONSPIRACY can be played from the keyboard or with a mouse or joystick. If you desire, the mouse and joystick can be used in conjunction with the keyboard. The following is an explanation of how each is used:

### KEYBOARD

The keyboard interface is easy to use if you keep in mind a few simple rules.

A) Most of the commands in the game have an on-screen icon for players using a mouse. Inside each icon is a title that describes what the icon is used for. For example, the ORDER ICON is used to re-order your party of characters. If that title begins with a CAPITAL letter, the same letter key on the keyboard will execute that command. Using the above example, the O (o) key can be used from the keyboard to initiate re-ordering of your party.

B) The up, down, right, and left arrow keys are almost always used to scroll through menus or lists of objects. Likewise, the <pg up> and <pg dn> keys will often take you to the top or bottom of a list.

C) The function keys, <F1> through <F5>, can be used to access the character information screens. <F1> represents the first (leftmost) character displayed at the top of the screen, <F2> represents the second character displayed, and so on. Also, whenever a specific character needs to be highlighted, the numeric keys 1 through 5 can be used. For example, if you want to re-order your party, press o (O) to re-order, then press the number key which represents one of the two characters you wish to switch, followed by the number key of the other character. The two characters will switch positions in the marching order.

### MOUSE

The mouse interface is the easiest to use. The left mouse button serves as the <enter> key, and the right button serves as the <esc> key. Simply move the pointer to an icon that will

---

## INTERFACE OPTIONS

initiate your desired command and press the right mouse button.

When using the mouse interface, you can devise several game play shortcuts. Many of these shortcuts involve bypassing an icon. For example, you can move objects from a character's inventory into the primary or secondary weapon (item) slot by clicking on an object and the position where you want to move it.

As previously mentioned, you can also use the mouse in conjunction with the keyboard. When travelling on ground, for instance, many players will probably find it easier to move their characters with the arrow keys instead of using the mouse and clicking on the movement icons.

### JOYSTICK

The joystick cannot be exclusively during game play. It merely acts as a substitute for the up, down, left, right, <home>, <end>, <pg up> and <pg dn> keys on the keyboard. The fire button serves the same purpose as the <enter> key.

---

## SAVING AND RESTORING GAMES

### SAVING GAMES

A game can only be saved through the menu selections available in the starport building on a planet. It is recommended that you save your game each time you land on or leave a planet. Starport buildings are usually just a few steps away from your ship.

Before you can save a game position, you must have a blank, formatted disk. You can save your game by entering a starport building and selecting the SAVE option. You will be asked to insert your save game disk into a drive and type a name for the save game file. *Note:* Your party disk can also be used as a save game disk.

Each save game disk allows a maximum of 30 game positions. The number of saved game files on a disk depends on the amount of free space existing on the disk.

### RESTORING GAMES

Saved game positions can be restored at any point in the game where you can access the menu selections in the lower right hand section of the OVERHEAD VIEW SCREEN.

To restore the game, select the GAME OPTIONS menu selection. Next, choose the RESTORE game option. You will be asked to insert the save game disk and type the file name for the game you wish to restore.

Here are all specific keystrokes and icons used in the game, listed according to the game screens on which they appear. As you become acquainted with the game, it's a good idea to keep this technical supplement open to the page detailing the keystrokes and icons for the screen you're currently playing.

*Planetary Surface  
Exploration and Combat*

## THE OVERHEAD VIEW SCREEN

**Character Information:** To access any of the character screens (this can be done at whenever the character blocks are displayed at the top of the screen), press the appropriate FUNCTION key (<F1> through <F5>). <F1> will access the information screen for character 1; <F2> for character 2; <F3> for character 3, etc.

When using a mouse, move the pointer to one of the five character blocks at the top of the screen, and press the left mouse button. The character screen displayed will correspond to character block you chose.

**Combat:** In combat, you will have the ability to control all five of your characters. These characters will be represented by individual icons on the overhead view screen. The character you will have initial control over is the leader of the party. To switch control from character to character during combat, press the numeric key corresponding to the character you wish to control. To control character 1, for instance, press 1. To control character 2, press 2, etc.

When using a mouse, you must click on the small rectangle located on the very top of the primary and secondary weapon information on the right side of the screen. There are five rectangles, each representing a single character. The color of these rectangles corresponds to the color of the character icons.

All fighting can be done from the primary and secondary weapon information displayed on the right side of the screen.

To switch from the primary or secondary weapon information being displayed for a character, you can use the <+> key on the keyboard, or click on the small + symbol next to the character's name in the primary or secondary weapon information.

To fire a weapon, you must click on the FIRE icon, or press the <F> key. After you've selected FIRE, a square will be displayed on overhead view screen. You can move this square with the arrow keys or the movement icons. Move the square onto the person or object you want to fire at. Then press FIRE a second time to shoot the weapon. After the weapon is fired once, the square will remain where it was last

## KEYSTROKES AND ICONS

targeted. You can continue to fire the weapon by firing twice (once to target and once to fire).

If you want to RELOAD a weapon, press the <R> key or click on the RELOAD icon with the mouse.

Throwing a grenade is very similar to firing a weapon. Press the <T> key or click on the THROW icon. The same target square mentioned above will appear. Next, choose the type of grenade you wish to throw (use the right and left arrow keys to move the highlight and the <T> key to select a grenade). Once a grenade is chosen, move the square onto a target and press the <T> key, or click on the THROW icon a second time, to hurl the grenade.

**Objects and Movement:** In order to give an NPC a desired object, the lead character of your party must have the object in his primary weapon (item) slot. If the NPC requests a specific object, the item will automatically be removed from your lead character's inventory. Any money or objects received from the NPC during the transaction will appear in your lead character's inventory.

Using a passcard to get through a locked door can be done when the party is broken into separate icons, or when the group is represented by a single party icon. When the party is represented by a single icon, one of your characters must have the passcard in either his primary or secondary weapon (item) slot. If the party is divided into individual character icons and a single character wants to go alone through a door requiring a passcard, that character must have the appropriate passcard in his primary or secondary weapon (item) slot.

You can determine which passcards open doors by a color coding system. Notice that each passcard has a series of colored lines that correspond to lines displayed in front of each locked door for which a passcard is required.

## THE CHARACTER SCREENS

The character screens supply all the important information you need to know about a character. They also allow you to put objects in your characters' primary and secondary weapon (item) slot, as well as release items you no longer want.

**Character Skills List:** If your character has too many skills to be displayed at one time, you can use the <pg up> and <pg dn> keys to move up and down through the list. There are up and down arrow icons at the top of the skill list, which can be utilized if you're using a mouse.

**Object Manipulation:** There are three menu selections above the inventory squares where pictures of objects are displayed. You can click on a menu selection, or press the key of the first letter of the selection name.

Press P for PICK OBJECT

Press U for USE OBJECT

Press Q for QUIT USING

PICK OBJECT is the most important menu selection. It is used for the following purposes:

1. To move an object from one character to another. To do so, go to character A and PICK the object you want to transfer to another character (character B). Next, go to character B's character screen, and the object previously picked will be placed into the inventory of the character B.

2. Dropping objects on the ground is similarly handled. First, go to a character's screen and PICK an object. Then, return to the OVERHEAD VIEW SCREEN by pressing the <ESC> key, and the object will be dropped on the ground.

3. Viewing a specific object. If you PICK an object and choose to INSPECT OBJECT, information will be displayed for the PICKED object. If the INSPECT option is selected before an object has been PICKed, the information displayed will be for the first object in that character's inventory blocks.

MOVE OBJECT allows you to re-position objects in a character's inventory.

USE OBJECT allows you to choose an item from the inventory list and place it on a character's head or body. An item can also be selected and added to the primary and secondary weapon (item) slots located at the right hand corner of the character screen.

QUIT USING allows a character to quit using an object on his head or body, or one appearing in his primary or secondary weapon (item) slots. If a character quits using an object, it is placed back in his inventory squares.

*Interstellar Exploration  
and Starship Combat*

### THE IN-SYSTEM TRAVEL SCREEN

The main menu options for the In-System Travel Screen:

<u>KEYSTROKE</u>	<u>MOUSE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
S	station icon	Go to the Interloper's station screens
C	commo icon	Go immediately to the commo station screen
J	jump icon	Go to the jump screen
Q	quit icon	Quit the game (the game will not be saved)
	left and right arrow icons	Maneuver the Interloper left and right
	up and down arrow icons	Accelerate and decelerate the Interloper

When using the keyboard, the left, right, up, and down arrow keys are used to maneuver, accelerate, and decelerate. In addition, the 5 key will rapidly decelerate your ship.

The in-system travel screen main menu will change in two instances.

1. If the Interloper comes within close proximity of a world with starport facilities, the ship will come to a halt and the following selections will be displayed:

<u>KEYSTROKE</u>	<u>MOUSE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
S	station icon	To go to the Interloper's station screens.
C	commo icon	To immediately go to the Interloper's commo screen.
L	land icon	To land on a world.
T	take off icon	To leave the world and continue your journey.

2. If the Interloper comes within close proximity of a large or small gas giant it will come to a stop. If the ship is equipped with Fuel Scoops and a Fuel Purification Plant, it will automatically begin to refuel. The menu selections available while the Interloper refuels are:

<u>KEYSTROKE</u>	<u>MOUSE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
S	station icon	To go to the Interloper's station screens
C	commo icon	To immediately go to the commo station screen
T	take off icon	To leave the gas giant and continue your journey.

### THE JUMP TRAVEL SCREEN

- The left, right, up, and down arrow keys are used to move the highlight from system to system.
- <enter> will initiate the jump once a system is chosen.
- When using a mouse, click on the name of the system you wish to jump to.

### STATION SCREENS

The top of all station screens:

<u>KEYSTROKE</u>	<u>MOUSE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
I	In-System icon	To return to the In-System Travel Screen
A	assign icon	To assign a character to a station
V	view icon	To view a specific station screen

### PILOT STATION

<u>KEYSTROKE</u>	<u>MOUSE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
left arrow	left arrow icon	maneuver the ship to the left
right arrow	right arrow icon	maneuver the ship to the right
up arrow	up arrow icon	accelerate
down arrow	down arrow icon	decelerate

### GUN STATION (MISSILE LAUNCHERS)

<u>KEYSTROKE</u>	<u>MOUSE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
R	reload icon	reload the missile bays
T	target icon	target missile on an enemy ship
F	fire icon	fire a missile
right arrow	right arrow icon	move view in the viewport to the right
left arrow	left arrow icon	move the view in the viewport to the left

Once an enemy ship is targeted, the right, left, up, and down arrow keys are used to move the crosshairs in the weapon's viewport.

When using a mouse, you can simply click on the ship you want to attack.

### GUN STATION (LASERS)

KEYSTROKE	MOUSE	ACTION
T	target icon	target an enemy ship
F	fire icon	fire the lasers
right arrow	right arrow icon	move view in the viewport to the right
left arrow	left arrow icon	move the view in the viewport to the left

Once an enemy ship is targeted, the right, left, up, and down arrow keys are used to move the cross hairs in the weapon's viewport.

When using a mouse, you can click on the ship that you wish to fire at.

### COMMO STATION

From the keyboard, the left, right, up, and down arrow keys will allow you to move a highlight through the various available selections.

When using a mouse, just click on the selection you want to access.

### ENGINEERING STATION

The Engineering Station has only one keystroke/icon. To repair a station on board your ship, press <R> or click on the repair icon.

### COMPUTER STATION:

KEYSTROKE	MOUSE	ACTION
L	load icon	to load a computer program into the ship's computer
R	run icon	to run a loaded program
S	stop icon	to stop running a program

### MEDICAL AND SICKBAY STATION

KEYSTROKE	MOUSE	ACTION
H	heal icon	to begin healing a character
R	return to duty icon	to return a character to duty

### PIRATING

KEYSTROKE	MOUSE	ACTION
T	take icon	to take cargo from other ship
E	exit ship icon	quit pirating other ship

Again, the arrow keys are use to move a highlight through the displayed cargo.

If using a mouse, you can just click on the cargo to be taken.

### STARPORTS

KEYSTROKE	MOUSE	ACTION
D	disk icon	to access the disk options
B	bank icon	to access the bank icon
P	personnel icon	to access personnel icon
C	cargo icon	to access cargo icon
S	shipyard icon	to access shipyard icon

*NOTE:* At all the station screens, pressing the <x> key, or clicking on the small box containing an x with the mouse will increase the size of the small overhead 2-D viewscreen to a full screen.

### COMMODORE AMIGA/ATARI ST

#### GETTING STARTED AMIGA

*Note:* The disks provided with the game are not copy protected and you are advised to make a back-up copy of all the disks before you begin playing.

MegaTraveller should work on any Amiga with at least 512K and a floppy disk drive. The game will make use of extra memory, external drives and hard disks if you have them. If you only have 512K memory, then it will be necessary to disconnect external drives and peripherals and to make sure there are no other programs installed on your system. If you wish to play from hard disk then you will need at least 1Mb of memory. Printouts can be made from within the Character Generator using the parallel printer port.

#### MAKING BACKUP COPIES

1. Make sure the original disks are write protected. (You should be able to see through the write protect tab).
2. Use the duplicate option on the Amiga workbench to make copies of both disks.
3. You may also like to format an extra disk to use for storing saved game positions onto. Put the original disks in a safe place and only use them if your copies become corrupted.

#### LOADING FROM FLOPPY DISKS

1. Turn on your machine and at the workbench prompt insert your copy of Disk A into any disk drive.

MegaTraveller should now autoboot and after a few seconds will start playing the introduction sequence and ask you to answer a question from the manual.

### INSTALLING ONTO HARD DISK

*Note:* To run MegaTraveller from a hard disk you will need at least 1Mb of memory and approximately 1.5M Bytes of free disk space.

1. Switch on your machine in the usual manner.
2. Put Disk A into a disk drive and when its icon appears on the workbench, double click on it to open up a window.
3. Inside the window should be an icon labeled Install. Double click on this and follow the prompts.
4. You will be asked where you wish to install it. Answer this with a name like:

```
DH0:TRAVEL <enter>
```

To play the game, open up a window with the travel directory in and double click on the TRAVEL icon.

Alternatively create a directory on your hard disk with a name such as TRAVEL and copy all the files from the disks into the directory using the CLI commands. . .

```
mkdir /travel
cd /travel
copy df0:#? ""
(insert disk B)
copy df0:#? ""
```

Then play the game by typing:

```
cd dh0:travel
travel
```

MegaTraveller will work on any machine in the Atari ST range of computers that have at least 512K memory and a colour monitor or TV, including the ST, STE, Mega-ST and TT computers. MegaTraveller will NOT work with a hi-resolution monochrome monitor. If you have extra memory, an external floppy disk drive or hard disk, then the Megatraveller will make use of them. It is also possible to get printouts from the character generator through the parallel printer port.

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## GETTING STARTED ATARI ST

### MAKING BACKUP COPIES

1. Make sure that the original disks are write protected (you should be able to see through the write protect slot in the corner of the disk).
2. A program is supplied on Disk A to enable you to copy the disks. Switch on your machine with no disks in the drives.
3. When the desktop appears, insert Disk A into drive A, double click on the drive A icon, then double click on

```
MTCOPY.PRO.
```

Simply click on the desired options and follow the prompts.

Alternatively if you have a double sided drive you can copy all the files from the 3 single sided disks onto 2 double sided disks. *Warning:* Do not use the GEM desktop's copy option to copy the disks because it will not copy the disks correctly.

You may also like to format an extra blank disk to use for saving your game position onto. Put the original disks in a safe place and only use them if your copies become corrupted.

### LOADING FROM FLOPPY DISK

1. Switch on your machine with a copy of Disk A in drive A. MegaTraveller will autoboot and present you with the starting sequence after a few seconds.

You may also start the game by clicking on the TRAV.PRГ, which can be handy if you have double sided drive B, but a single sided drive A.

### INSTALLING ONTO HARD DISK

*Note:* Make sure you have approximately 1.3Mb of free disk space on a hard disk partition.

1. Select the New Folder option from the desktop to create a folder with a name such as TRAVEL.
2. Copy all the files from the floppy disks by inserting each disk into a drive and dragging the disk icon into the new folder.

To play the game, open up a window with the folder you created and double click on TRAV.PRГ

Because of the complexity and size of MegaTraveller, information will often be loaded from disk during the game. You should never change disks unless the program prompts

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## GAME OPTIONS

you to do so. If you have more than one floppy disk than you may place disks in these drives to avoid swapping disks so often. If you have lots of memory then disk accessing will also be reduced.

After the game has loaded you will see the title sequence. To bypass this, click a mouse button or press the space bar.

### **COPY PROTECTION**

The game disks for MegaTraveller 1: The Zhodani Conspiracy are unprotected to make it more convenient for you. However, at the start of the game you will be asked to locate information from the manual packaged with your game, so keep it handy. All of the questions will refer to information presented in the many charts the manual contains.

MegaTraveller is designed to be played entirely from mouse, although there are keyboard shortcuts for most operations if you prefer to use them.

To select an object or menu item, move the mouse so that the pointer is over the object and then press and release the left mouse button.

To Cancel or Exit from a screen, press and release the Right mouse button.

To Drag an object, move the mouse so that the pointer is over the object, then press but do not release the left mouse button. With the button still pressed move the mouse so that the pointer is over where you wish to move the object to and then release the button. You will be presented with a menu containing 4 options:

START NEW GAME  
CONTINUE OLD GAME  
GET STARTED QUICK  
QUIT PROGRAM

### **START NEW GAME**

This lets you create your own characters and make up your own party. Selecting this option brings up a further menu:

CREATE PARTY DISK  
USE MY PARTY DISK  
USE DEFAULT CHARACTERS

---

## **STARTING THE GAME**

---

## **PLAYING THE GAME**

### **CREATE PARTY DISKS**

Select this if it is the first time you have played and you wish to create and save your own characters instead of the default characters. Simply answer the questions asked and exchange disks when prompted.

*Note:* Your Party disk can also be used as a save game disk.

### **USE MY PARTY DISK**

Select this if you have a party disk and wish to start a new game.

### **USE DEFAULT CHARACTERS**

This option allows you to start a new game using the default characters provided.

After selecting any of these options you progress into the main character generator. This is detailed in depth in the manual provided with the game.

### **CONTINUE OLD GAME**

If you have already begun playing the game, then this option allows you to continue with a saved game position.

You will be asked to insert your save game disk and to select the filename of the saved game to continue.

### **GET STARTED QUICK**

This starts the game using a default party if you are not interested in creating your own characters.

The game is split into two separate stages:

*Planetary Surface Exploration and Combat*  
*Interstellar Exploration and Starship Combat*

You may only save your game at a starport. A starport is found on most planets very close to where your ship is parked.

### **THE CHARACTER SCREENS**

During most of the game the upper section of the screen displays the characters in your party, showing their armour and status icons. By clicking on any of the characters with the mouse pointer you can view all the important information about a character as well as manipulating the objects they are carrying.

The character screens are split into 4 sections

CHARACTER SKILLS LIST  
OBJECTS  
USED OBJECTS  
SELECTIONS

### CHARACTER SKILLS LIST

This is displayed in the left of the screen. If there are more skills than will fit in a page, click on the page up / page down icons.

### OBJECTS

These are displayed in the centre.

- a. Objects may be moved by clicking on them.
- b. Move an object by dragging it to another slot. If there is something already in that slot it will be swapped.
- c. Move an object to another character by dragging it to a character at the top of the screen.
- d. Inspect an object by clicking on it twice.
- e. Use an object by dragging it to the Use object icon at the bottom of the screen.

### USED OBJECTS

The bottom right of the screen contains space for used objects. There are spaces for:

BREAKING EQUIPMENT  
ARMOUR  
PRIMARY WEAPON  
SECONDARY WEAPON

These can be manipulated as described above.

### SELECTIONS

On the right hand side of the screen are a list of selections. These generally provide you with more information about the character. Click on the selection to view the information. Press a key or click the mouse to remove that information.

Exit from the character screen by pressing the right Mouse button or the Escape key.

*Note:* Time is frozen whilst in a character screen.

*Planetary Surface*  
*Exploration and Combat*

### MOVEMENT

Whilst on a planet you can move about by pressing the left mouse button over the main display area. The party will try to move towards your cursor.

Your party usually move around together displayed as one character having the colour of the leader. The marching order is displayed in the lower right of the screen and can be changed by dragging a character icon on top of another one. The characters will then exchange places.

Some planets will have a shop where you can buy vehicles. To enter a vehicle move your character onto it. To exit click on the vehicle icon in the bottom right area of the screen.

There are some icons in the lower right of the screen which allow you to:

CONVERSE WITH OTHER CHARACTERS  
EXIT A VEHICLE OR VIEW ITS STATUS  
GAME RESTORE OR QUIT  
TAKE OR USE ITEMS  
BREAK AND REGROUP THE PARTY

You may sometimes need to use a passcard to get through a locked door. To do this a character must have the passcard in the primary or secondary weapons slot. Passcards open doors using a colour coding system. Each passcard has a series of coloured lines, which must correspond to the lines displayed in front of each locked door.

### COMBAT

Sometimes other characters will start attacking you. If you want to fight back (rather than run away), you must go into combat mode.

To enter combat mode click on the Party icon in the lower right area of the screen. This will separate your party into individual characters which can be moved about separately. To exit combat mode select the party icon again. The middle right area of the screen will change into a combat status screen. Above the display are 5 colour bars to select the currently controlled character.

Whilst in combat mode, the current character can be in one of three modes:

1. Movement: Either the fire or throw icons are selected. In movement mode a character can walk about by clicking where you want him/her to move towards.

2. Fire weapon: The fire icon is selected. In fire mode, click on the main display where the character should fire at. Continue clicking on the point to fire again. Change between primary and secondary weapons by clicking on the icon next to the weapon information. To reload click on the reload icon.

3. Throw grenade: The throw icon is selected. In throw mode, select the type of grenade you want to throw and click on your target in the main display.

### ORDER MODE

Rather than fight in real time, you may give each character an order to perform. Click on the order icon to enter order mode. Then give each character an order in the same manner as above. Click on the order icon again and they will perform the action. Time will be frozen while you are giving the orders.

### SHOPS AND STARPORT

Entering a building will often take you into a shop where you may buy or sell items. Simply follow the prompts to choose who will pay for the items, who will receive them and what you want to buy or sell.

## *Interstellar Exploration and Starship Combat*

Climb up the ladder of your spaceship to enter your spaceship. There are two modes when in your ship:

1. In system travel used to move your ship around.
2. Starship used in combat to control the ships function and for ship to ship combat.

### IN-SYSTEM TRAVEL SCREEN

The right side of the screen displays some icons:

**Station:** Go to station mode

**Comms:** Go to communications station

**Jump:** Do an inter-system jump

**Quit:** Exit from the game with no save

If you are in orbit around a planet you may select:

**Land:** Land on the planet

**Take off:** Continue your journey

The main part of the screen shows the space centring on your space ship. The upper right of the screen displays a larger area of space. Click on the rotate and thrust icons to move your ship.

Moving close to a planet will automatically put you in orbit. Moving close to another ship will place you in combat mode. Orbiting around a gas giant lets you refuel if you have fuel scoops and a fuel purification plant.

### STATIONS

The upper section contains your characters. Clicking on any of these goes to the character screens.

Click on the In system icon or press the right mouse button to return to the system travel screen.

Below these is the stations display. Each character may only occupy one station. To view a particular station click on the station slot. To assign a character to a station, drag the character icon to its new position. If there is already a character there then they will be swapped.

The lower portions of most station screens contain combat map in the left and station specific controls in the right. Clicking on the icon in the upper left of the combat map expands it to a full screen map.

### PILOT

Controls here are the same as on the system travel screen. Note that they only work when you are in combat mode and that your ship returns to the original speed and direction when you go back to the system travel screen.

### GUN STATIONS (MISSILE AND LASER)

There are two types of gun stations depending on which weapons your ship is equipped with.

- a. Click inside the window to aim and fire.
- b. Click on the target icon to target the enemy ship if you have the target program running.
- c. Click on the fire icon to fire if you have targeted.
- d. Left and right arrow icons rotate the viewpoint. Click the reload icon to reload a missile. Lasers automatically recharge themselves.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Click on an entry for further information. If in combat mode click on the expand icon to select a ship to view information about from the large map.

## ENGINEERING

Click on a system to begin repairing it. Only one system may be repaired at one time.

## COMPUTER

The Load icon brings up a list of programs you have. Drag a program into a spare slot on the computer to start loading it.

To run a program click in the area above the loaded program. This will change colour to indicate what it is running. To stop a program click in the yellow section. Computers may only be loading the one program at a time and will have a number of programs that can run at once.

## MEDICAL AND SICKBAY

Characters to be healed must be assigned to the sickbay. To begin healing a character, click on the heal icon and then on the character to be healed. Only one character may be healed at a time.

Return a character to duty by clicking on the return icon and then on a character.

## PIRATE

If you successfully defeat another ship you get the chance to steel any items that ship was carrying by dragging items from the defeated ship and cargo hold into your own. Most ships have self destruct mechanisms, which will kill your party if they are still on the ship when it goes off. Click on the exit icon to leave the enemy ship.

## JUMP TRAVEL

Click on the system you want to travel to.

# GAME PLAY SECTION



## THE FRONTIER WARS

Man has always been fascinated by outer space. In this era of high technology and rapid discoveries, space remains the unconquerable frontier, filled with mysteries the human race has been unable to solve — despite thousands of years of effort.

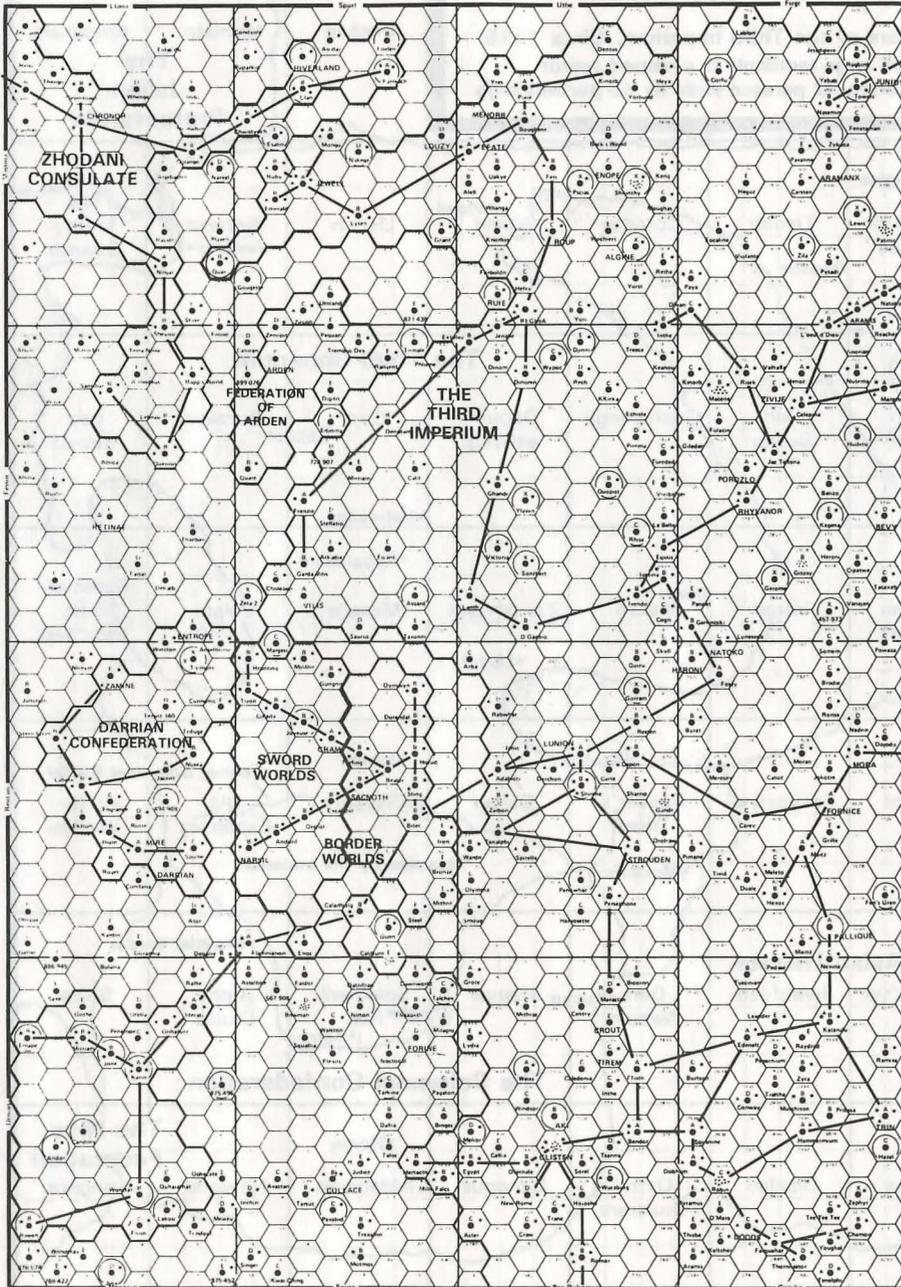
Still, the questions persist. Foremost among them is whether Earth is indeed the only planet with intelligent life. Science has yet to provide a definitive answer, but other forms of expression have all-too-readily offered opinions.

In the captivating science fiction role-playing game MEGATRAVELLER, the question is affirmatively answered with an amazing array of intergalactic societies, mysterious worlds, and exotic alien races.

The Zhodani and the Third Imperium, the two largest human societies in charted space, have been in conflict since first establishing contact in the year 500 (5018 on the Earth calendar). Each society's gradual expansion eventually led to an historic meeting in a backwater region of space known as the Spinward Marches.

Although their human physical appearances were exactly alike, several fundamental differences existed between the two great powers. The Zhodani's political structure was strictly authoritarian, whereas the Imperium was governed by the rule of the Emperor, a classic aristocracy. As the Zhodani race evolved, the human brain's potential was explored and mastered until the use of powerful psionics was a way of life. Mind-reading, telekinesis, extrasensory perception and clairvoyance became common among the Zhodani. The Imperium disdainfully outlawed the use of any form of psionics, believing these strange powers to be an invasion of mental privacy. Also, because the Zhodani utilized their superior mental ability in everyday life, many Imperial traders and merchants grew suspicious of their motives and avoided negotiations with the Zhodani.

The Imperial race, lacking psionics, saw its development grow along creative, artistic and emotional paths. And as with any creative society, wondrous achievement and joy was often coupled with imperfections and greed. The Zhodani — viewing the Imperial race as dishonest, morally corrupt, weak and insecure — lived highly structured and unemotional



The Spinward Marches

lifestyles. With two powerful societies so clearly opposed in political and social beliefs, confrontation was inevitable.

As the Zhodani continued to expand into the Spinward Marches, many worlds were peacefully integrated into the Zhodani Consulate. However, several independent worlds resisted the Zhodani, believing they would lose their freedom and be forced to live under restrictive rule. The Spinward Marches became an intergalactic “hot spot,” and the aggressive advances of the Zhodani led to the first of several conflicts known as the Frontier Wars, the first of which began in 589 — 89 years after the two great powers first established contact.

### 1. The First Frontier War

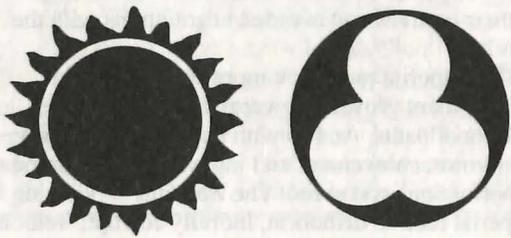
The initial Zhodani attacks were well planned and executed with speed, accuracy and precision. The Imperium was completely surprised and offered little resistance. Deadly battles between the two great combatants raged for the next 15 years.

To strengthen their position, the Zhodani formed a strategic alliance with the Vargr, a race of intelligent beings with a genetic structure similar to canines. This alliance, known as the Outward Coalition, threatened Imperial territories in the Spinward Marches. The Coalition aggressively attacked Imperial forces in a strategic area of space known as the Great Rift.

But after several devastating military defeats, the

#### THE SPINWARD MARCHES: INTERSTELLAR HOTSPOT

The frontier worlds of the Spinward Marches, because they lie between the Imperium and the Zhodani Consulate, have long been a valued prize in the continuing struggle between the two great empires. Conflict between the Imperium and the Zhodani often erupts in the Spinward Marches.



Outward Coalition crumbled; and in the year 604, the most conclusive battle of the First Frontier War was waged. A momentous attack, led by Admiral Olav hault-Plankwell, Commander of the Imperial Fleet, defeated a Zhodani force attempting to raid critical Imperial worlds. This battle brought the 15-year bloodbath between the Zhodani and Imperium to a welcomed end. Although the Imperium claimed victory, its losses in starships and manpower were appallingly high. The casualties suffered by both the Zhodani and the Imperium forced an official stalemate, followed by an armistice. Although this treaty marked the end of the First Frontier War, it was only the beginning of a long period of antipathy and continued border conflict between the two great races.

When the First Frontier War ended, Admiral Olav hault-Plankwell returned with his fleet to Capital, the central headquarters of the Imperium. There he assassinated the Empress Jaqueline and seized rule of the Imperium in a bloody coup. A multitude of power-hungry Imperial factions were thus immediately thrown into a violent Civil War.

### 2. The Second Frontier War

Eleven years after the end of the First Frontier War, tensions between the Zhodani and Imperium again escalated out of control, erupting into the Second Frontier War, which lasted five years. The Zhodani and Vargr re-formed the Outward Coalition — adding a new ally, the Sword Worlds, an independent group of planets within the Spinward Marches. Imperial forces were battered early in the war by forceful Zhodani attacks in the Jewell subsector. Imperial Emperor Cleon V appointed a brave warrior, Arbella Alkhalikoi, as Grand Admiral of the Imperial Fleet.

Arbella hurriedly fortified weary Imperial forces and fought strategically brilliant battles against the Zhodani. In addition, the local resolve of several independent worlds within the battle zone strengthened the Imperium's chances against the Outward Coalition.

The war finally ended when several Imperial Dreadnought Starships, the most advanced and lethal battleships ever designed, were completed and readied for battle. This, along with the arrival of reinforcements from trailing subsectors, led to a decisive engagement that ended the Second Frontier War.

However, early defeats in the war took their toll on the weakened Imperium. Arbella was forced to

sacrifice more territory to the Zhodani, and independent status was given to previously incorporated Imperial worlds won during the First Frontier War.

Following in the footsteps of the late Emperor Olav haut-Plankwell, Arbella returned to Capital with her fleet. She confronted and defeated the remnants of the Imperial's Central fleet, commanded by the new Emperor, Gustus. Her bold actions brought about the long-awaited end to the bloody Imperial civil war and re-established Central Imperial authority.

### 3. The Third Frontier War

An uneasy peace between the Zhodani and the Imperium reigned for nearly 360 years, but was suddenly disrupted in 976 when constant distrust and hidden expansion led to the Third Frontier War. Both great forces were expanding their territories. This so-called peaceful expansion erupted into war when the Zhodani launched attacks against the Imperium.

Imperial response was slow, and desperately-needed reinforcements arrived late. A new method of warfare also emerged in this third great conflict: most of the combat took the form of commercial raiding, disruption of trading channels, and pirating of civilian trade ships.

The Third Frontier War lasted six brutal years. The Imperium was forced to acknowledge its loss to the Zhodani, and the citizens of the Imperium suffered the most significant scars of war. Again, an armistice was signed in which the Zhodani received major territorial claims that gave them a long-desired foothold in the Spinward Marches.

Following the Third Frontier War, the Imperial public, blaming Emperor Styryx for the unforgivable casualties of war, rose against the throne and overthrew the Emperor in a historic revolution.

### 4. The Fourth Frontier War

The fourth great conflict between the Zhodani and the Imperium began in 1082. Great naval battles between the Zhodani and Imperium were fought for two years. The final conflict was named "The Battle of the Two Suns," because it took place in the Regina System, which contains two stars. The battle led to an Imperial victory, though neither side gained substantial ground. The Imperium was able to reclaim two worlds lost in an earlier Frontier conflict.

The Fourth Frontier War is often referred to as the

"False War," because fighting lasted only 18 months and an armistice was signed before Capital could send instructions and reinforcements to Imperial commanders in charge.

### 5. The Fifth Frontier War

Unlike the previous Frontier Wars, the fifth started as a well-organized and planned offensive by the Zhodani and the Outward Coalition, which consisted of the Vargr and the Sword Worlds. The Zhodani plan called for the secret shipment of military weapons and armor to dissident guerilla units on select worlds within the Imperium. These elite Zhodani rebel forces planned surprise uprisings against targeted Imperial military bases. This would divert major groups of Imperial troops and starships, as well as the attention of the Imperium, as the Zhodani steadily increased their military forces in the Spinward Marches. Following the surprise uprisings, the Zhodani would launch their primary offensive against weakened and unprotected Imperial territories.

The Zhodani conspirators planned to smuggle arms to the dissident forces within Imperial borders with the help of the Regina subject chief executive of the Sharurshid Megacorporation, Konrad Kiefer. Kiefer, unsuspectingly, planned the shipments using Sharurshid's facilities and resources, as well as his own contacts with black market smugglers, criminals and interstellar pirates. The Zhodani no doubt made lofty promises of power and wealth to Kiefer to turn him against the Imperium.

Fortunately, Sharurshid's leading authorities already suspected Kiefer was illegally trading, embezzling corporate funds and forging company records. Lenara Raclor, a special agent from Transom, Sharurshid's intelligence agency, was assigned to investigate Kiefer's activities. She soon uncovered the Zhodani plot and found records of shipment dates and locations of secret arms deliveries. With the help of several ex-military travellers, Raclor obtained the holographic data and accompanying decoding keys and...

*Now it's your turn to write history! You control the five ex-military travellers as they set out to thwart the Zhodani conspiracy and capture the traitorous Konrad Kiefer.*

*The fate of the Imperium rests in your hands. How will the Fifth Frontier War unfold? Your actions will determine the outcome and change history forever!*

## CHARACTERS AND CHARACTER GENERATION

### 1. Characters In The TRAVELLER Universe

An exciting aspect of MEGATRAVELLER is its unique character generation system. You will be able to determine a character's strengths and weaknesses by choosing a set of basic ability scores you wish to develop. This approach is unlike other computer role-playing adventures, which assign characters a set of initial attribute scores that can't be changed. For example, if you want your character to be physically strong and agile, you can keep generating basic ability scores until the character has a high STR (strength) and DEX (dexterity). On the other hand, if you desire a character with a keen mental edge, you can choose a basic set of ability scores that include high INT (intelligence) and EDU (education) ratings.

The MEGATRAVELLER character generator is simple to use, but detailed enough to give you the power to mold your characters into likenesses of your choosing. This is extremely important in a role-playing environment because your characters should represent your alter-ego. The characters are a direct link between you and the vast MEGATRAVELLER universe. Your characters will grow to mean more to you than just a computer graphic with a name. Other computer role-playing games offer little control over the development of characters, thus making it difficult to fashion a character to your specifications.

The character generation process was designed for ease of use and enjoyability. More detail and more control means more fun! In your spare time, you may want to generate characters and add them to your character pool. If one of your characters perishes during game play, you will be able to add new characters to your party at a starport with recruiting facilities. There, you can replace a fallen member of your team with one of the auxiliary characters you will have placed in the pool. It's not mandatory to generate extra characters; the character pool will already have several pre-generated characters to choose from.

MEGATRAVELLER offers the most in-depth character building system ever designed for a computer role-playing game. With all its depth, the character generator remains exciting, easy and fun! Regardless, there are bound to be some players who don't enjoy the

process of generating characters. If you're one of these players, you can choose pre-generated characters and get right into the game!

## 2. Character Ability Scores (Attributes) and the UPP

Each character you create is represented by six basic ability scores that will effect nearly every action the character attempts in the game. Each of these abilities is represented by a number from one to 15, with one being the lowest and 15 being the highest possible rating.

Next, each individual ability score is represented as part of a group, referred to as the UPP (Universal Personality Profile). Scores ranging from ten to 15 are represented by letters (A represents 10, F represents 15), because TRAVELLER uses a hexadecimal system to display the character's ability scores in the UPP. In hexadecimal notation, the numbers one to nine are represented by the common Arabic numerals, and numbers ten to 15 are represented by the letters A to F.

Here is an example of a UPP:

STR	DEX	END	INT	EDU	SOC

The following abilities are used to describe a character:

**STRENGTH:** Strength (STR) refers to the character's muscular power. The higher a character's Strength, the more effective related physical tasks can be performed.

### THE HEXADECTMAL NUMBERING SYSTEM

MEGATRAVELLER uses a hexadecimal numbering system for virtually all calculations and determinations. Numbers 1 through 9 are as always; but numbers 10 through 15 are represented by the letters A through F, respectively.

Thus, a character with a STR of A actually has a Strength rating of 10. The highest number in the hexadecimal system is F, which represents 15.

Strength also determines the amount of weight a character can carry without being encumbered and slowed. Most of the tasks requiring physical strength are combat related.

**DEXTERITY:** Dexterity (DEX) involves a character's physical coordination or ability to perform detailed tasks. A character with a higher Dexterity will be likely to complete actions in a more timely manner than a character with a lower Dexterity rating.

**ENDURANCE:** Endurance (END) is a character's physical stamina and ability to continue performing demanding activities over a period of time. A character's Endurance will be critical in combat situations. The higher the endurance ability rating, the more damage a character will be able to sustain. Also, Endurance will affect the rate of oxygen consumption when travelling on the surface of a non-atmospheric world (vacuum) or any environment requiring the use of oxygen apparatus.

**INTELLIGENCE:** Intelligence (INT) is a character's knowledge and ability to apply logic or arrive at competent conclusions. For example, Intelligence would be extremely beneficial to a character attempting to alter a computer program for a desired result. Intelligence helps determine the number of skills a character is able to obtain and use during game play.

**EDUCATION:** Education (EDU) represents the amount of formal and informal training a character has received. Along with Intelligence, a character's Education plays a part in determining the number of skills a character can learn and use at any one time. The higher an individual's Education, the more skills he can acquire and apply in various situations.

**SOCIAL STANDING:** Social Standing (SOC) signifies a character's status within society. This social hierarchy is often based on military rank, wealth, achievement, and the social standing of the character's family. Individuals with a high Social Standing are accustomed to a much higher standard of living, and in most cases, aren't skilled at negotiating and bargaining. Also, Social Standing affects the way others treat an individual. The poor may look upon the upper class with resentment, whereas upper class individuals greet their social equivalents with friendship and camaraderie.

In two instances, two different ability scores are combined to generate a characteristic that helps to

further define characters. First, the sum of a character's INT and EDU determines the maximum number of skills a character can maintain and use at any one time.

$$INT + EDU = \text{maximum \# of skills}$$

Secondly, a character's LIFE FORCE RATING — the amount of damage a character can take before becoming unconscious or being killed — is based on the sum of the character's STR, END and DEX scores.

What ability scores make a well rounded character? As with any human being, there's no perfect combination. It depends entirely on the way you intend to solve the game. MEGATRAVELLER 1: THE ZHODANI CONSPIRACY allows you to reach your goals using a variety of different tactics. If you're the hard core "shoot-em up" adventurer, you'll probably want high (A to F) STR, DEX, and END ability scores. If your forte is strategy and puzzle-solving, you should generate characters with high INT and EDU scores. Always remember, a party consists of five characters, so it's recommended you have a diverse range of individuals. The sum of a team is greater than its parts. You may be pleasantly surprised when a mediocre character who doesn't excel in any one category ends up being the most effective.

When you begin the character generation process, you will choose a set of ability scores randomly generated by the computer. After you select a set of scores, you will begin developing the character. You will have several opportunities during the remainder of the character generation process to increase many of the basic ability scores. Once the character generation process is completed, a character's abilities will be set, and cannot permanently change during game play. However, there will be several ways to temporarily increase ability scores once the character is in the game. Most of these artificial ability increases will occur by using medicinal drugs or serums, and will primarily effect STR, DEX, and END.

### 3. Enlistment And Drafting Procedures In The Military Services

Each of the characters you develop will have a military service background in one of the Imperial forces. A character must either submit to the draft, in which the computer will randomly choose a service, or attempt enlistment in a specific branch of the military. Enlistment in a particular service is not guaranteed, and some acceptance standards are higher than others. If a

character is rejected, he will automatically be submitted to the draft.

### Military Services

There are five distinct military organizations a character can serve in. These services are:

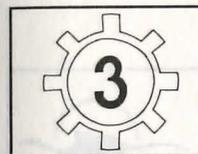
**Army.** A character that serves in the army is placed in the Imperial planetary armed fighting forces. Training focuses on surface military actions, battles, campaigns, and tactical maneuvers. Because of their excellent fighting background, many who serve in the army choose a career as a mercenary after their tour of duty is over. The army is the easiest service in which to enlist; acceptance is high. The ideal service for combat training, weapons and survival skills, the Army is also the military service easiest in which to increase rank.

**Navy.** The purpose of this branch of the Imperial armed forces is to protect and secure regions of space controlled by the Imperium. The interstellar space navy also patrols Imperial territory in search of rogue bands of space pirates that threaten trade channels. Naval qualifications are very rigid and reenlistment is difficult. While in the navy, a character will gain skills vital to the operation of a starship.

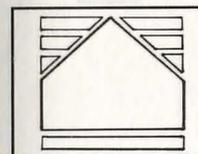
**Marines.** Similar to the Army, Imperial Marines are planetary surface fighting units carried aboard large starships. Often, Marines are responsible for dangerous missions such as boarding and securing crippled pirate vessels. Likewise, Marines are responsible for



Army



Navy



Marines

### CREATING CHARACTERS IN THE GAME

You are likely to enjoy MEGATRAVELLER more if you create characters with differing characteristics and military backgrounds. Not only does this allow you a greater likelihood of overcoming the many varied obstacles the game presents, it offers you the chance to take the part of characters who are radically different in every respect.

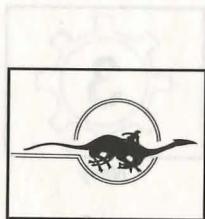
And that, after all, is really what role-playing is all about!

protecting Imperial starports and providing reinforcements to ground troops. The Marines have a fearsome reputation for “toughness,” and are often the first to be called into battle. The rigorous training and responsibilities of the Imperial Marines are dangerous; life expectancy is lower than that of other branches of service. Throughout their tour of duty, Marines acquire numerous weapon and combat skills. In addition to these battle skills, marines, at times, gain several skills necessary to operate a starship. Of all the Imperial military services, the Marines have the strictest acceptance policy, and the opportunities for advancement are low.

**Scouts.** The Scouts are members of the Imperial exploratory service. Scouts are responsible for exploring uncharted regions of space, mapping known or newly discovered regions, and maintaining lines of communication between territories. Although members of the Scouts do not acquire specific combat-related skills, they gain useful skills involving the operation of a starship. Although they are not trained for battle, Scouts are educated in the use of numerous combat weapons. However, the percentage of Scouts who see action in battle is very slim. Although acceptance standards for the Scouts are not as stringent as in other services, the job is just as dangerous in its own way. Many Scouts have lost their lives exploring new territories. There is no ranking system within the Scouts, but reenlistment is almost always granted, allowing the possibility of acquiring a variety of exploratory skills. In addition, Scouts receive excellent benefits because of the highly dangerous tasks they are called upon to perform.

**Merchants.** Merchants are not necessarily members of the Imperial armed forces. Merchants are individuals that engage in interstellar commercial enterprise. They serve on starships owned by large megacorporations, or work for independent wealthy traders. Like any profession that centers around the transfer of money, greed has been known to draw some Merchants into illegal smuggling rings. While in the Merchants, a character can acquire the vital trading and negotiating skills required of a proficient trader. Normally, it is difficult to enlist in the Merchants and chances for promotion are low.

As mentioned earlier, since your party of adventurers consist of five individual characters, it's a good idea to



Scouts



Merchants

develop a group that has experience in a variety of military branches. This strategy gives your party a wide range of skills. MEGATRAVELLER allows you to set your own gaming strategy. You can trade and pirate valuable cargo, set out to find hidden treasures or battle your way to your goal using elite fighters. By having a diverse group of characters in your party, all your options will be covered.

### Commissions, Promotions, and Rank

Each Imperial military service, with the exception of the Scouts, has a specific ranking system. When a character's enlistment attempt succeeds, he becomes eligible for a commission. Commissions are necessary for service promotion. If a character is drafted, he is not eligible for a commission until his second term of service. Once a character receives a commission, he is eligible for a promotion for each subsequent term of service.

Promotion procedures are different for each branch of the military. Promotions are easier to attain in the Army, followed by the Marines, Navy, and Merchants respectively. The Scouts have no organized promotion system.

What advantage does a character's military rank play in the game? The higher a character's rank, the more skills he receives for each term of service. In addition, rank will increase the amount of benefits, skills, items, and credits awarded when it comes time to muster out and leave the military.

### MILITARY RANKS

Rank #	Army	Navy
1	Lieutenant	Ensign
2	Captain	Lieutenant
3	Major	Lt. Commander
4	Lt. Colonel	Commander
5	Colonel	Captain
6	General	Admiral
Rank #	Marines	Merchants
1	Lieutenant	4th Officer
2	Captain	3rd Officer
3	Force Commander	2nd Officer
4	Lt. Colonel	1st Officer
5	Colonel	Captain
6	Brigadier	Owner

## Terms Of Service

When a character completes a successful term of service, he will receive a certain number of skills. The number of skills the character receives during a specific term of service is based on:

1. *The branch of military in which the character is serving.* A character receives one skill for each term served, with the exception of the Scouts. A character in the Scouts receives two skills for each term of service.

2. *Commissions or promotions received during that term.* A character receives one additional skill for any commission or promotion awarded during a term of service. There are special cases in which a character may be granted two extra skills for a commission or promotion.

3. *Any special duty served during that term.* If, during a term of service, a character is granted a special duty or assignment, he receives one additional skill for that term of service.

## Reenlistment

After a term is successfully served, a character can attempt to continue military service or he can muster out. To continue service, the character must attempt to reenlist. If reenlistment is successful, another full term is served — as long as no injuries are sustained. If reenlistment is denied, the character is forced to retire from military service and muster out. On very rare occasions, a branch of military service can force a character into serving another term.

## Retirement Pay

The total number of terms that a character serves in the military determines the amount of credits he receives as yearly retirement pay. A character becomes eligible for retirement pay after five terms of military service. After leaving the military, eligible characters receive 2000 Imperial credits for each term of service.

*1 term of service = 2000 credits*

Retirement pay is issued on a monthly basis and can be collected at any class G to A starport (see Starports in the INTERSTELLAR EXPLORATION AND STARSHIP COMBAT section of this manual).

## 4. Injuries, Operations, And The Death Of A Character During Character Generation

It is possible for a character to die while being generated. In addition, at times, a character may sustain injuries caused by rare and unfortunate accidents that

occur during military service. If an injury is sustained, the character can muster out and leave the service. However, the character loses one or several points from his STR, END, or DEX abilities based on the severity of the injury.

An alternative to mustering out due to injury is to let the character undergo an operation. Because operations are highly dangerous, there is a risk that the character will die during surgery. But if the character survives, the ability scores will not be lowered, and the character can continue his term in military service. The higher the character's END rating, the better chance he will survive an operation.

If the character accepts the injury and leaves the military, credit is only given for half a term. Since mustering out benefits are only awarded for full terms, the character cannot receive a commission or promotion. Luckily, the character still receives one skill for that term, even if it was cut short.

## Aging

For each term spent in the service, a character ages four years (two years for a half term). As a character grows older, the physical burdens of a military career begin to take their toll. A character's STR, END, and DEX abilities will decrease with age. At a much later age a character's INT ability will also slowly decrease. The character development strategy is up to you. You must determine if you want younger and healthier

## POSSIBLE PITFALLS IN CHARACTER GENERATION

Creating a character in MEGATRAVELLER requires more thought than in other role-playing games, for you are not only determining the character's attributes at present, but also a great deal of the character's past. Thus, it is important to always be aware of the inherent dangers of trying to create a character with a lot of experience.

Remember, the longer a character stays in the military, the more times he risks permanent injury — even death. Aging takes its toll after a while, too. Of course, if you make it out of the military in good health after a long stint, you'll likely have a wealth of special skills and possibly Imperial credits to show for it.

characters with high ability scores, or more experienced adventurers with a greater number of skills, but lower ability scores.

*Age 4 years = 1 term Age 2 years = 1/2 term*

### **Mustering Out**

There comes a time when a character's military profession must come to an end, whether by force or personal choice. At that point, a character is able to take his valuable skills and training and set out to brave the TRAVELLER universe. Luckily, the military rewards characters for their loyal service by offering mustering out benefits to help them get started on their new path in life.

When a character musters out, he will receive a specified number of benefits from one of two areas: the cash table or benefits table. A character gets one choice from these tables for every term of service, and an additional choice is given for every two promotions in military rank. For example, if a character served five terms, and was promoted to the rank of General (rank 6), he would receive ten benefits for the number of terms served, and an additional three benefits for moving through the ranks.

*+1 benefit for achieving rank 1 and 2*

*Additional +1 benefit for achieving rank 3 and 4*

*Another +1 benefit for achieving rank 5 and 6*

Any gambling skills acquired during a character's service will help him when choosing from the cash table. A character cannot draw from the cash table more than three times. The following benefits are offered:

*Weapons.* The character is given a weapon along with some ammunition. The amount of ammunition given depends on the type of weapon received. The character is always given a weapon in which he has at least one skill value. If a character receives a weapon a second time, he can opt for a +1 skill level in the use of that weapon.

*TAS.* The Traveller's Aide Society offers free access to information about worlds or systems to its members. At times, this information is very crucial and can be helpful to Travellers. There are many dangers within, and outside of, Imperial space, and TAS can better prepare a character for unknown surprises. There is no charge for information, and most facilities offer free boarding and maintain well-stocked cocktail lounges.

*Ability Increases.* A character can receive permanent

increases to his INT, EDU, and SOC basic abilities on the benefits table. Since INT and EDU combine to determine the maximum number of skills a character can possess, the benefits table offers a good opportunity to increase these two important basic ability scores.

*Armor.* Protective armor and vacc suits (space suits needed to breathe on certain planets) can also be acquired during the mustering out procedure. However, these items, essential to any adventurer, are limited to very basic styles, and are not the most advanced forms of battle armor and space suits. Sophisticated armor and space suits are quite expensive and more difficult to come by.

*Imperial Release.* An Imperial Release will grant pardon from a crime committed on a world under Imperial rule. These releases can only be obtained when mustering out, and should be used sparingly. An adventurer may discover that on more corrupt worlds, it may be possible to bribe the jailer into releasing him from confinement.

### **5. Skills**

MEGATRAVELLER allows a character to gain many skills during the character generation process. Skills are the most important part of a character because they determine the probability of successfully performing a task (action). Some skills are specific to performing a single task, but many skills can be applied to a variety of situations. Each skill begins at the number zero, representing an untrained basic working knowledge. As skills are increased, the corresponding number will increase. There is no limit to how high a skill number can reach. The greater the skill level, the more successful a character will be when attempting a related task. The skill level is always displayed after the name of the specific skill. For example:

*Navigation - 2*

There are two categories of skills in MEGATRAVELLER: *basic* skills and *cascade* skills. Basic skills pertain to the general ability of a character to perform a certain task. Cascade skills are a general category and offer the character an opportunity to gain a specialized skill. The following are examples of both types of skills.

*A basic skill:* Medical

*A cascade skill:* Gun Combat (The character would be allowed to choose one skill from the following list:

Energy Weapons, Handgun, Laser Weapons, Neural Weapons, Rifleman, Submachinegun.)

The maximum number of skill levels a character can potentially possess is equal to the sum of the character's INT and EDU. Each skill level is equal to one skill. For example, a character with a UPP of 777777 has an INT of 7 and an EDU of 7, allowing that character a total of 14 skill levels that can possibly be developed. If this character possesses the skill *Submachinegun - 4*, then only ten skill levels remain for that character to make use of.

It is possible for a character to improve a skill area by repeatedly using that skill successfully. A character can find out which skills he can improve upon by visiting a starport containing a training facility. Be forewarned: training isn't free, so be ready to pay a price if you want to improve a character's skills.

Here is a complete list of skills in the MEGATRAVELLER computer game. A brief description follows the name of each skill. Cascade skills are handled differently. After the name of a cascade skill, there is a listing of the specific skills available under that Cascade skill.

Academic	<i>cascade:</i> Admin, Linguistics, Sciences, +1 Education.
Admin	The character is experienced in dealing with bureaucratic agencies and understands the requirements of successfully relating to them.
Aircraft	The character is capable of operating jet-propelled aircrafts.
Assault Rifle	The character is accomplished in the use of assault rifles.
ATV	The character is trained in the operation and maintenance of all types of All-Terrain Vehicles.
Battle Dress	The character is qualified to use battle dress, a high-tech military armored suit.
Blade Combat Brawling	<i>cascade:</i> Dagger, Sword. The character is proficient in hand-to-hand combat, and is capable of fighting without weapons.
Bribery	The character is adept in bribing officials to circumvent regulations and ignore cumbersome laws.

Carousing	The character is a sociable individual who enjoys meeting and mingling with strangers in unfamiliar surroundings.
Combat Engineering	The character is capable of constructing rapid field fortifications, utilizing camouflage, and assessing strengths and weaknesses of enemy locations. This skill also includes the strategic planting of mines.
Combat Rifleman	The character is efficient in the use of modern combat rifles.
Communications	The character has a working knowledge of various communication systems, primarily those aboard spacefaring vessels.
Computer	The character is practiced in the operation of electronic and fiber optic computers. Computer skills are vital to the operation of a starship's onboard computer.
Dagger	The character is trained in the use of a dagger as a weapon.
Demolitions	The character is well-grounded in the placement, handling, and use of explosive devices.
Electronics	The character is experienced in the use, operation, and repair of electronic devices.
Energy Weapons	The character is trained in the use of a variety of energy weapons, including the plasma gun.
Engineering	The character is skilled in operating, maintaining and repairing starship drives and jump drives. A proficient engineer is essential for effectively operating a starship.
Environmental	<i>cascade:</i> Recon, Stealth, and Survival.
Exploratory	<i>cascade:</i> Pilot, Sensor Ops, Survey, Vacc Suit, Vehicle, and Survival.
Fleet Tactics	The character has a background in naval operations, formations and

	maneuvers. An essential skill for space combat.
Forgery	The character is quite capable of faking papers, signatures and documents.
Forward Observer	The character has professional skills in determining the direction of artillery fire. Modern fire support is an effective weapon, but only if accurately directed.
Gambling	The character has expertise in various games of chance.
Grav Belt	The character knows how to operate a grav belt that can propel him through the air.
Grav Vehicle	The character is able to pilot all types of grav vehicles that glide above the ground.
Gravitics	The character is able to use and repair all types of gravitational devices.
Gun Combat	<i>cascade</i> : Energy Weapons, Handgun, Laser Weapons, Neural Weapons, Rifleman, and Submachinegun.
Hand Combat	<i>cascade</i> : Brawling. +1 END, +1 STR, Sword, and Dagger.
Handgun	The character is able to use a variety of handguns.
Heavy Weapons	The character can operate heavy weapons such as the light assault gun and rocket launcher.
High Energy Weapons	The character can use high energy battlefield weapons. These weapons are larger, more powerful and less versatile versions of the portable plasma and fusion guns.
High-G Environment	The character has survived in environments with a gravity of two Gs or greater. A high-G environment exerts considerable stress and bodily injury to those unaccustomed to extreme gravity.
Inborn	<i>cascade</i> : Carousing, Jack-of-Trades,

	and Leader.
Interpersonal	<i>cascade</i> : Admin, Interview, Liaison, Linguistics, and Steward.
Interrogation	The character is proficient at the psychological art of interrogation. This skill includes the ability to extract more information from a subject than is normally possible. An interrogator has been trained to detect lying and assemble piecemeal information.
Interview	The character is trained in conversing with others on an individual basis. The character's knowledge of psychology, body language, and oral communication allows him to keep his subjects at ease, making them more apt to be open in conversation.
Intrusion	The character is experienced in clandestine methods of acquiring goods that belong to others. An individual with Intrusion skills can pick pockets, safes, and locks.
Jack-of-all-Trades	The character is capable of handling a wide variety of situations and is very resourceful at finding solutions to problems.
Jet-Propelled Aircraft	The individual is able to operate and pilot jet-propelled aircrafts.
Laser Weapons	The character is trained in the use of most laser weapons.
Leader	The character is experienced in leading others through difficult situations, and has the knowledge and self assurance to be admired and trusted.
Liaison	The individual is accomplished in the art of dealing with others. This skill is used in relation to military units, citizens in a community, or alien and foreign cultures. The character is capable of subordinating his or her own views and prejudices when they may conflict with the opinions held

Linguistics	by those he is communicating with. The character is trained and experienced in communicating in foreign languages.
Mechanical	The character can operate and repair an assortment of mechanical devices.
Medical	The character has a thorough background in the medical arts.
Mental	<i>cascade</i> : +1 INT and +1 EDU.
Navigation	The character is instructed in interplanetary and interstellar navigation. A starship navigator is responsible for plotting courses and ensuring information is available to the crew and pilot when it is required. Also, this skill allows the character to interpret the data provided by the starship's scanners and detectors.
Neural Weapons	The character is educated in the use of neural rifles and pistols.
Physical	<i>cascade</i> : +1 DEX, +1 STR, and +1 END.
Pilot	The character is capable of operating starships and large interplanetary spacecrafts. This skill allows the individual to control lift-offs, landings, refueling and routine flights.
Recon	The character is adept at military scouting, and is capable of travelling through rough terrain without being detected.
Recruiting	The individual is familiar with the most effective methods of approaching others and presenting proposals for employment.
Rifleman	The character is drilled in the use of standard military weapons, such as the autorifle, carbine, and rifle.
Robot Ops	The character is capable of overseeing robots and programming them for specific duties.
Robotics	The character has a background in designing, building and repairing high-tech robots.
Sciences	The character has a background

Sensor Ops	education in various areas of modern sciences. The character is accomplished in the operation and interpretation of a variety of sensor readings.
Screens	The individual is schooled in the operation of defensive equipment developed for starships. These protective devices include nuclear dampers, meson screens, and black globe generators.
Ship's Tactics	The character is experienced in the operation of a starship during battle situations.
Ship's Boat	The character is able to operate a small interplanetary craft known as ship's boat. These craft range from five to 100 tons and include shuttles, lifeboats, and fighters.
Space	<i>cascade</i> : Engineering, Navigation, Pilot, SensorOps, Ship's Boat, and Vacc Suit.
Space Combat	<i>cascade</i> : Screens, Spinal Weapons, Turret Weapons, Sensor Ops, Ship's Tactics, and Tactics.
Space Technical	<i>cascade</i> : Communications, Computer, Engineering, Gravitics, and Vacc Suit.
Special Combat	<i>cascade</i> : Battle Dress, Combat Engineer, Combat Rifleman, Demolitions, Forward Observer, Grav Belt, Heavy Weapons, High Energy Weapons, High-G Environment, Stealth, and Zero-G Environment.
Spinal Weapons	The character is prepared to operate major starship weaponry.
Stealth	The individual, trained in covert activity, is capable of remaining unobserved by moving quietly and taking maximum advantage of available cover.
Steward	The character is educated in the care of, feeding, and entertaining of starship passengers.

<b>Streetwise</b>	The character can successfully deal with dangerous individuals without alienating them. This skill also enables the character to obtain information, hire persons, buy or sell illegal contraband, or engage in other "shady" activities.
<b>Submachinegun</b>	The character is trained in the use of a submachinegun (SMG).
<b>Survey</b>	The individual is capable of mapping and charting star systems and producing accurate maps of Imperial territories. This skill will help determine characteristics (UWP) of an unknown or unclassified world.
<b>Survival</b>	The character can successfully live off the land and survive life-threatening situations. The individual can find food and water, and build shelter in the harshest environments.
<b>Sword</b>	The character is trained in the use of the sword as a weapon.
<b>Tactics</b>	The character is experienced in small unit tactics.
<b>Technical</b>	<i>cascade:</i> Communications, Computer, Electronics, Gravitics, Robot Ops, and Sensor Ops.
<b>Trader</b>	The character has a working knowledge of techniques and practices of commerce. This skill allows a character to determine the real value of many items, increasing his negotiating power.
<b>Turret Weapons</b>	The character is accomplished at operating turret-mounted and fixed small craft weaponry.
<b>Vacc Suit</b>	The individual is able to operate a standard vacuum space suit. This also includes the use of armored battle dress and other suits required on planetary surfaces with an exotic, corrosive or insidious atmosphere.
<b>Vehicle</b>	<i>cascade:</i> Aircraft, ATV, Grav Vehicle, Jet- Propelled Aircraft, Ship's Boat, and Watercraft.

<b>Vice</b>	<i>cascade:</i> Bribery, Forgery, Gambling, Intrusion, and Streetwise.
<b>Watercraft</b>	The character is qualified to operate all waterborn crafts.
<b>Zero-G Environment</b>	The character has been trained to function and perform physical activity in a Zero-G environment. Actions attempted in such environments can hinder individuals unable to compensate for recoil and inertia.

*Note:* Not all of the above skills are important in MEGATRAVELLER 1. Some will come in handy in future MEGATRAVELLER computer adventures. Each skill that plays a part in this first adventure, THE ZHODANI CONSPIRACY, is **boldfaced**. When generating your characters, you may want to include some skills which aren't necessary for THE ZHODANI CONSPIRACY, if you plan to use these same characters in future MEGATRAVELLER computer adventures.

The skill system outlined here is the basis for the MEGATRAVELLER pen and pencil role-playing system, as well. Though some of the above skills are not essential to solving this first computer adventure, it would not have done the gaming system justice to remove them entirely. Even in the pen and pencil role-playing version of MEGATRAVELLER, not all of the character skills play an important role in every adventure. In addition, a unique feature of this MEGATRAVELLER computer adventure is that it allows you to print out information on characters you have generated. Therefore, the characters you generate can be used in the pen and pencil role-playing system. This compatibility would not exist if skills were eliminated from the above list.

Characters are given a set of default skills as soon as they enlist or are drafted into a service, as well as when they achieve a certain rank in that service. These default skills are common to military life. For example, every character other than a merchant is given *Gun Combat-0* because the use of a weapon is initially taught to all soldiers, whether they be in the Army, Navy, Marines, or Scouts.

The following are lists of skills that are picked up in each of the services:

## Army

*Hand Gun - 0, Combat Rifleman - 1, ATV - 0, Vacc Suit - 0. Army Lieutenant: Submachinegun - 1.*

## Navy

*Hand Gun - 0, ATV - 0, Turret Weapons - 0. Navy Captain: +1 Social Standing. Navy Admiral: +1 Social Standing.*

## Scouts

*Hand Gun - 0, Vacc Suit - 0, ATV - 0, Sensor Ops - 0, Pilot - 1.*

## Marines

*Hand Gun - 0, Vacc Suit - 0, ATV - 0, Sword - 1. Marine Lieutenant: Handgun - 1.*

## Merchant

*Hand Gun - 0, Vacc Suit - 0, ATV - 0, Navigation - 0. 1st Officer: Pilot - 1.*

## 6. Advanced Education Table

Characters with an Education ability less than 8 are only entitled to three skill lists from which to select. When a character's Education is 8 or greater, an extra list, The Advanced Education Table (AET), is added to the other three. The AET offers more non-combat oriented and specialized skills that aren't available in the basic soldier's repertoire.

## 7. Choosing From A Character Pool

MEGATRAVELLER gives you the option of choosing pre-generated characters if you don't want to go through the character generation procedure, or if you want to become familiar with the rest of the game before generating your own characters.

In addition, you can develop up to 15 characters and save them in the character pool. If one of your original characters is killed, you can recruit new members for your party at various starports. New characters recruited at the starports will come from the character pool, so you may want to develop a wide range of characters with diverse skills and backgrounds.

## 8. Character Generator Procedures

Here is a breakdown of the character generation system in MEGATRAVELLER 1 : THE ZHODANI CONSPIRACY.

1. A set of basic ability scores is chosen for the character. These sets can be re-calculated until a desired set is displayed.

2. The character must attempt enlistment into a specific service or submit to the draft.

3. Once the character enters a service, the default skills are added to the character's list of basic skills.

4. You are then told whether or not the character received any commissions, promotions, or special duties for the term being served. Based upon this information, the character is given an appropriate number of selections from the list of skill tables. If the character suffers an injury, they must muster out, receiving credit for only a half-term, or risk an operation to continue.

5. Skills for the character are determined from the skill tables you choose. As the skills are chosen, they are added to the list of the character's skills.

6. As the character finishes a full term, his age is increased four years. Depending on age, certain ability scores are decreased or increased.

7. After a term is served, the character must reenlist, be forced into reenlistment, or muster out. If at least five terms have been served, mustering out is considered retirement. When a character retires, he receives a monthly retirement fund.

8. When a character leaves the service, he is allowed to make selections from the cash or benefits table. No more than three choices can be made from the cash table. Any gambling skills the character may possess will increase the amount received from the cash table.

9. If a character has more skills than the sum of his Intelligence and Education scores, he must edit his skill lists.

10. Once a character is fully developed, you must name him/her and save the individual in the character pool.

## INTERSTELLAR EXPLORATION AND STARSHIP COMBAT

Between your visits to various worlds within the TRAVELLER universe, you will spend great deal of time travelling the interstellar spaceways. These vast regions of space are traversed by far traders shipping cargo between worlds, Imperial fleet vessels protecting the interests of the Imperium, and dreadful pirates who prey on defenseless cargo ships. In the TRAVELLER universe the spaceways are futuristic highways. Just as someone gets in their car to go to work, individuals in MEGATRAVELLER can travel between worlds by starship. The Imperial Navy consists of formidable and powerful fighting starships constructed to protect the Imperium.

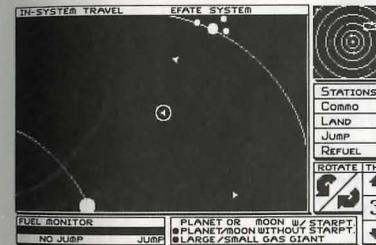
### 1. In-System Travel Screen

Space travel in MEGATRAVELLER can be accomplished in one of two ways. Space travel *within* a star system is performed using the In-System Travel Screen. The space *between* systems is so vast that a special method, Jump Travel, must be utilized. For more information on jump travel, see the section: **Jump Travel Screen**.

A majority of the In-System Travel Screen will consist of a large viewport. In this viewport you will be able to travel between worlds in your starship, the Interloper. Each star system has a star, situated directly at its center. Orbits are drawn as circles surrounding that star. Some orbits contain worlds, gas giants, or an asteroid belt. These are all displayed graphically, as are any satellites (moons) the worlds might have. To get information about a world or a gas giant and its satellites, you must access the Interloper's communications station (see the **Communications Station** section).

At the top of the viewport is an In-System Travel heading. The particular star system in which you are travelling is listed beside this heading.

All ships travelling in the system are represented by a single icon in the viewport on the In-System Travel Screen. When combat is engaged, each different class of ship has its own icon in the 2-D overhead view displayed on most of the Interloper's station screens. The Interloper can be distinguished from other



The In-System  
Travel Screen

starships because its icon is surrounded by a circle.

When the circle around the Interloper encompasses another starship, you will be thrown into combat mode. Combat mode is where all space combat takes place.

On the In-System Travel Screen, the system is displayed in quadrants shown in the top right hand corner of the screen. Your ship is represented by a single coloured pixel.

The Interloper's fuel gauge is displayed in the lower left side of the In-System Travel Screen. This gauge is separated into three areas: NO JUMP, CAUTION (not labelled as caution), and JUMP. If the amount of fuel in the Interloper's tanks is in the NO JUMP area, it's impossible to make a jump. If the fuel line is in the CAUTION area, then a jump is possible, but there's a slight chance of a misjump. The JUMP area signifies that the Interloper has enough fuel to make a successful jump. Jump space is explained in detail in the **Jump Travel Screen** section of the manual.

When a misjump does occur, the Interloper will jump into a system other than the chosen destination. This can be a major setback, as making a jump requires a significant amount of fuel. For this reason, after a misjump, you will have the added expense of refuelling the Interloper — which can be costly.

Displayed in the bottom right side of In-System Travel Screen is a graphical key. This key explains the graphic representations used in the system map shown in the large viewport. These graphic representations include planets and accompanying satellites with and without starport facilities, and large or small gas giants.

The Interloper can only land on worlds with starport facilities. Those without starport facilities aren't an integral part of the game and can be ignored. Large and small gas giants can only be used for refueling the Interloper, but only if the ship is outfitted with the proper equipment (fuel scoops and a fuel purification plant).

Fuel scoops allow the Interloper to trap raw hydrogen fuel from a gas giant's atmosphere. The fuel purification plant then transforms the raw fuel so that it is compatible with a ship's drives.

Below the smaller system representation are five

menu selections:

STATIONS

COMMO (abbreviation for communications)

LAND (LAUNCH)

JUMP

REFUEL

Selecting STATIONS will allow you to access the various stations within the Interloper.

Selecting COMMO will immediately take you to the Interloper's communication station. Here, you can find pertinent information about a system, any gas giants or planets and accompanying satellites within the system. The communication station can also be accessed by selecting the STATIONS option, but since COMMO is probably the most commonly used menu selection on the In-System Travel Screen, it was given its own menu selection for easier access.

LAND is selected whenever you wish to land the Interloper on a world's surface. To signify which planet you intend to land on, you must maneuver the circle surrounding the Interloper around the planet's graphical representation in the viewport.

When you enter the Interloper from the ground, the LAND menu selection is changed to LAUNCH. After entering the Interloper, your characters will be placed in the stations they occupied when they last left the ship. From the station screens you must go to the In-System Travel screen and use the LAUNCH selection to leave the planet.

Selecting JUMP will take you to the Jump Travel Screen, where it's possible to jump to another star system.

Selecting REFUEL will allow you to refuel the Interloper, as long as the ship is properly equipped. Similar to landing, the circle surrounding the Interloper must encompass the graphical representation of the gas giant before a refueling attempt can be made.

Lastly, if a mouse is being used, below the five menu selections are arrow icons used to control the Interloper. The arrow icons permit you to turn the ship left and right and to accelerate or decelerate. Also displayed is the current acceleration of the Interloper. Once the ship accelerates it will remain at that accelerated speed until a new speed is selected. The ship will continue to move forward even when a right or left turn is utilized. In order to come to a stop, you must decelerate an equal amount, or turn the ship

entirely around and accelerate an equal amount in the opposite direction.

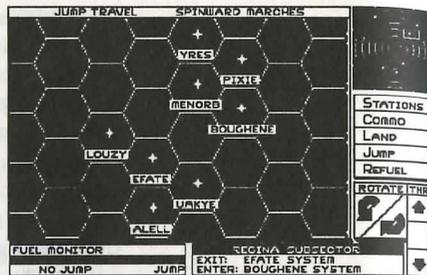
## 2. The Jump Travel Screen

Jump Travel is the basic concept of interstellar travel. Theoretically, jump spaces are alternate spaces, only dimly understood from the standpoint of our own universe. Jump is defined as the movement of matter from one point in normal space (called normal space) to another point in normal space by travelling through an alternate space (called jump space). The benefit of the jump is that the time required is relatively invariable — approximately one week.

Entering jump space is possible from anywhere in a system. Sometimes jumps do go wrong, these failures usually put the ship in a system other than the system of intended destination.

For a ship to be able to make a jump, it must be equipped with a jump-capable drive. There are different types of drives, each allowing jump travel of a certain distance. The distance is displayed as a number after the name Jump Drive. For example: *Jump-2*

The number means the jump drive is capable of jumping a ship the distance of two hexagons. Hexagons are used to measure distance between systems on the Jump Travel Screen. At the moment, the Imperium's



The Jump Travel screen.

## MEGATRAVELLING IN JUMP SPACE

Distances between worlds in the MEGATRAVELLER universe are inherently great. A starship travelling at sub-light speed might wander the cosmos for thousands of years without ever encountering another planet inhabited with intelligent life.

To enable travel from one star system to another, MEGATRAVELLER permits "jump space" travel, wherein a starship passes from point A in ordinary space, through a section of alternate space, to arrive at point B in ordinary space. Jump space makes it possible to complete what would normally be a thousand-year journey in only one week.

technology level is only high enough to produce jump-6 capable drives, but even these are rare and very expensive. In this first MEGATRAVELLER adventure, *The Zhodani Conspiracy*, you are limited to jump-2 technology.

The Interloper's fuel gauge remains displayed in the lower left side of the screen, the same position as on the In-System Travel Screen.

The bottom right portion of the screen, next to the fuel gauge, is used to display the name of the system and subsector the characters are currently in. Once a destination system is chosen, the name of that system is also displayed.

The remainder of the screen is used to display a hexagonal grid map containing the eight systems in the game and surrounding space.

Any hexagon occupied by a system bears that system's name. The name of the system the characters are currently in is highlighted. This highlighting can be moved to other hexes so you can choose the name of the system you wish to jump to. Remember to keep in mind the restrictions placed upon jump travel by the type of jump drive installed in the Interloper. If the Interloper only has a jump-2 drive, then the ship can only jump a distance of two hexes.

## 3. Station screens

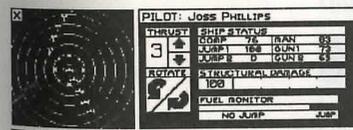
There are two ways you can get to the stations screens. The first method is selecting the STATIONS menu selection on the In-System Travel Screen. The second method is automatic: when forced into combat, you are immediately placed at the station screens.

The nearby picture is of a station screen for the Interloper's pilot station. The top portion of the screen remains the same as it is throughout most of the game, with a few minor changes (explained below).

The middle section of the screen is used to display the menu selections ASSIGN and VIEW. Next to these menu selections are the station blocks.

The bottom of the screen is broken into two sections. Information displayed in these two sections depends on the station being viewed. This is detailed in the explanation of each individual station.

The Interloper contains eight different stations that characters can occupy and perform work in. These stations are used to operate the various controls of the



A Station screen

ship. The eight stations are:

- PILOT STATION
- GUN STATION #1
- GUN STATION #2
- COMPUTER STATION
- ENGINEERING STATION
- COMMUNICATION STATION
- MEDICAL STATION
- SICK BAY STATION

Each is important and will have to be used at one time or another. Since there is a maximum of five characters in a party at any one time, characters must be strategically placed in the stations. Be sure a character with appropriate skills is placed in a station where his skills will improve his performance. For example, if you want accurate information from the communication station, the character in that station should have good communications or related skills.

When the characters enter the Interloper for

the first time, they will be placed in the stations by default. A character will be assigned to a station in

which he is the most skilled. Every time you land on a planet, leave the Interloper, and return, the characters will be placed in the stations they occupied when they last left the Interloper.

Using the station blocks in the middle of the screen, you can determine which character is in a specific station.

Each station block consists of three sections. The first is a square containing the heading. The second is a square displaying the service symbol of the character currently occupying the station. Below each of these squares, with the exception of the pilot and sickbay station, is the third section: a small rectangle telling you whether the character in the station is busy doing something or waiting for something to be completed. If the rectangle is not filled in, the character is not busy. If the rectangle is filled, the character is in the middle of some action. This rectangle does not appear for the pilot and sickbay stations because no time-consuming actions take place there during the game.

If the rectangle under the following station is filled, the character in that station is doing the following:

STATIONS	PILOT	GUN 1	GUN 2	COMP	ENG	COMM	MED	S.BAY
ASSIGN								
VIEW								

Station blocks.

*Gun Stations.* The character is waiting for his laser weapon to fully recharge or for the missile bays to be reloaded. Laser weapons can still be fired even if they aren't fully recharged, but the rectangle will remain filled until the laser is recharged. The missiles cannot be fired until they're reloaded into the missile bays.

*Computer Station.* The computer is still loading new programs.

*Engineering Station.* Repairs are still being made to one of the repairable ship systems.

*Communications Station.* Information is still being processed and cannot yet be accessed.

*Medical Station.* A character in the medical station is still in the process of treating a character(s) in the sick bay station.

Characters can be switched from station to station — and you can view stations using the two menu selections next to the station blocks, under the heading STATIONS. Select ASSIGN to assign a character to a new station. If there is a character already in that station, then the two characters will be switched. Select VIEW if you wish to view one of the stations. A station cannot be viewed unless there is a character assigned to that station.

The top of the station screen remains the same throughout most of the game, with a few exceptions. The marching order block is replaced with a square titled, "The Interloper." Below the title are some statistics of the Interloper. These stats include: the

#### ASSIGNING CHARACTERS TO STATIONS

Your knowledge of your characters, and their abilities and skills, will be put to the test when it comes time to assign each character a job, or station, on board the Interloper.

When assigning characters to their stations, keep in mind the skills and personality characteristics that they will be able to apply to the job. A character with a medical background is no good to you in the piloting station.

Unlike other computer role-playing games, where you play the characters until the action starts, and then take over yourself, your success at MEGA-TRAVELLER will depend on how efficient your characters are at each task, and how well you guide their actions.

weapons in guns #1 and #2, the computer model, the jump drive capability, and the maximum acceleration of the Interloper. The ORDER icon changes to an IN-SYS TRAVEL icon. Selecting the IN-SYS TRAVEL icon will take you back to the In-System Travel Screen.

Other than the above changes, the top portion of the screen remains the same. The character screens can be viewed as always.

It is possible for a character to take damage in the GUN #1, GUN #2, and COMPUTER stations. In combat, some damage is also applied to these three stations. If the damage is great enough to destroy the weapons or computer, the station is considered destroyed. Characters in a station when it is destroyed will suffer damage.

#### **4. Pilot Station**

The pilot station is used to fly the Interloper during combat situations. When you leave the pilot station, the Interloper will continue to move on the same course and speed as when you left. To plot a new course or to change the Interloper's speed, you must return to the pilot station.

The two sections of the pilot station consist of an overhead 2-D view and the information and controls for operating the Interloper. The following is displayed:

- Controls identical to those in the In-System Travel Screen, which operate in the same manner, as well.
- The Interloper's fuel gauge.
- The status of those systems that can be damaged during combat: gun #1, gun #2, computer, maneuver drive, and jump drive.

#### **5. The Gun Stations**

Each of the two gun stations represents a hard point on the Interloper in which a single weapon system can be installed. At the beginning of the game only one of the Interloper's hard points is occupied with a weapon system. Additional weapon systems can be purchased and installed at any starport with the proper facilities.

There are three types of weapon systems available: beam lasers, pulse lasers and missile bays. There are also several types of beam and pulse lasers, as well as a variety of missiles.

The bottom of the gun station is divided into an overhead 2-D view, with the Interloper's icon in the center and a viewport (as if looking out into space through a window). Below the viewport are the controls for operating the various weapon systems. At

the top of the viewport is the name of the character manning the gun and which gun station is being displayed (GUN #1 or GUN #2).

A small square containing an X resides in the upper left corner of the overhead 2-D view. If MEGATRAVELLER is being played with a mouse, this X can be clicked on to increase the size of the display to fill the entire screen. The keystroke command of "x" will accomplish the same. This feature may come in handy because you can't see some enemy ships in the small viewscreen that are still in combat range.

In combat, you will be able to fire lasers or missiles at a specific target, let lasers recharge or reload missile bays. Lines pointing in the eight compass directions diverge from the Interloper in the 2-D view. Two of these lines will be highlighted. The area of space between the two highlighted lines represents the view seen outside the weapons window. You can rotate the view in both displays up to 360 degrees to view any enemy ships, missiles or mines around the Interloper. All targeting and firing of weapon systems is done from the controls under the gun stations viewport.

See the INTERSTELLAR EXPLORATION AND STARSHIP COMBAT section of the manual for more information on how the weapon systems actually operate.

The lasers will always recharge themselves, but the missiles have to be manually reloaded from the Interloper's auxiliary supply. The remaining missiles will be displayed graphically. The overhead 2-D display is replaced with the missile reloads. Once you're finished reloading you can return to the overhead 2-D display.

#### **6. Computer Station**

The computer station is probably the most important station in the game. Many of the ship's operations require the appropriate program be running in the computer. These programs tell the ship how to execute the various operations it is assigned. Different models of computers have the ability to store and run a different number of programs. At the beginning of the game, the Interloper is equipped with a Model 2 Computer, but this can always be replaced with a different model.

Each computer model can have a certain number of programs loaded into memory, so many of these programs can run at one time. A computer's

STORAGE represents the number of the programs it can store. CPU represents the number of stored programs which can be run at one time.

There are 12 programs which can be purchased. A program must be loaded into the computer and running for it to be effective. The programs are:

*Target (T):* Helps beam and pulse laser weapon systems lock on a target. Lasers cannot be fired without this program running in the ship's computer.

*Launch (L):* Helps a missile launcher lock on to targets. If this program is not running in the ship's computer, the missile weapon system cannot be fired.

*Jump-1 (J1):* Must be running in the ship's computer before a jump-1 can be attempted. A better jump program, Jump-2 and higher, can also be used to make lower level jumps.

*Jump-2 (J2):* This program must be running in the ship's computer in order to make a jump-2.

*Navigation (N):* Controls ship through jump space to its chosen destination. This program is required to make any jump attempt.

*Maneuver (M):* Enables the ship to maneuver. Without it, the ship cannot move to the left or right.

*Predict 1 (P1):* Elevates a weapon system's accuracy, thus increasing the ability to hit an opponent.

*Predict 2 (P2):* An upgraded and more effective version of the Predict 1 program.

*Predict 3 (P3):* The most advanced version of the Predict 1 program. Insures maximum effectiveness of weapon system fire.

*Maneuver/Evade 1 (ME1):* Loads various evasive maneuvers that help the Interloper dodge enemy fire.

*Maneuver/Evade 2 (ME2):* Upgraded version of Maneuver/Evade 1. It is more effective but requires two computer spaces instead of one.

*Auto Evade (AE):* Serves the same purpose as the Maneuver/Evade 2 program, but needs only a single computer space to run.

Displayed on the bottom portion of the screen is the 2-D overhead view (left) and the computer information (right). Programs can be loaded and run using the LOAD and RUN icons or equivalent keystrokes. A program must be stopped before another program can be loaded.

In addition to those programs loaded in the computer, there is enough storage space for 20 extra programs. When you choose to LOAD a new program,

the overhead 2-D view will be replaced with the extra programs in storage. When a program currently loaded into the computer is replaced, it goes into the computer program storage.

For each individual storage space available in the ship's computer, a graphic block is shown. This block is divided into two squares and a small rectangle, one on top of the other. The graphic representation of the program is placed in the bottom square. When a program is loaded, the square above the picture of the program will fill, line by line, from top to bottom. When the entire top square is filled, the program is ready to be run. The rectangle on top of both squares is filled when a program is running. This way, you will always know which programs are loaded and which are running.

*Note:* Some programs require two of the computer's storage spaces. These operate just like programs which require only one space, except for the additional space required.

If your computer takes damage during combat, there is a chance that a running program will be destroyed. Once a program is destroyed it is removed from the computer.

## 7. Engineering Station

Characters in the engineering station can repair certain damaged systems on the Interloper. The systems that can be repaired are: gun #1, gun #2, maneuver drive and the computer.

The two sections at the bottom of the screen are the overhead 2-D view (left) and the engineer's controls and important information (right).

Each of the repairable systems has a bar indicating how much damage it can take. To the left of the bar there is a percentage of operating ability, telling you how much a system has been damaged. A damaged system can be repaired, but not to full operating capacity. Full repairs can only be made at a starport with shipyard facilities. Once a system is destroyed it cannot be repaired, it must be replaced.

A character may repair only one system at a time. A character can quit repairing a system and begin repairs on a different one at any time.

The ship's jump drives and structural points are displayed separately from the systems that can be repaired. Structural points can ONLY be repaired at a starport with shipyard facilities.

When a starship is hit in battle, damage is distributed to several places. The systems mentioned (gun #1, gun #2, maneuver drive) and the structural points. A system becomes inoperable when destroyed. If a character is in the gun or computer stations, they will sustain damage as well. Once the Interloper's structural points are reduced to zero (0), the ship is destroyed and your characters along with it.

### 8. Communications Station

You can get all the useful information about the worlds within a system at the Communications station. You can also receive bits and pieces of information about other ships appearing on the In-System Travel Screen. The information is broken into three categories:

*System information.* This is a list of all the planets in the system, their characteristics, number of satellites, and the starport class. For ex:

#### MENORB SYSTEM

SUN SMERA	SIZE 2	TYPE M5
ORB CLASS UWP	NAME SAT STPT	
1 Planet D653523-D	Trill	4 D

The UWP (Universal World Profile) is used to describe the physical characteristics of a world. Like the Universal Personality Profile (UPP), all numbers

#### WORLD SIZE

Code	General Description	Min. Diameter	Max. Diameter
R	Asteroid/Planetoid Ring	Multiple Bodies	Under 1 km
S	Very small	200 km	799 km
0	Asteroid/Planetoid Belt	Multiple Bodies	Under 200 km
1	Small	800 km	2,399 km
2	Small (Luna: 3,200 km)	2,400 km	3,999 km
3	Small (Mercury: 4800 km)	4,000 km	5,599 km
4	Small (Mars: 6,400 km)	5,600 km	7,199 km
5	Medium	7,200 km	8,799 km
6	Medium	8,800 km	10,399 km
7	Medium	10,400 km	11,999 km
8	Large (Terra: 12,800 km)	12,000 km	13,599 km
9	Large	13,600 km	15,199 km
A	Large	15,200 km	16,799 km

SGG: Small Gas Giant

LGG: Large Gas Giant

R: A Ring orbits a world.

S: A small body orbits a world or a star.

0: A planetoid or asteroid orbits a star.

#### WORLD ATMOSPHERE

Code	General Description
0	vacuum
1	vacuum (trace atmosphere)
2	vacuum (very thin tainted atmosphere)
3	vacuum (very thin atmosphere)
4	thin (tainted atmosphere)
5	thin
6	standard
7	standard (tainted atmosphere)
8	dense
9	dense (tainted atmosphere)
A	exotic
B	exotic (corrosive atmosphere)
C	exotic (insidious atmosphere)
D	exotic
E	exotic
F	exotic

#### WORLD HYDROGRAPHICS

Code	General Description	Minimum %	Maximum %
0	desert world	0%	4%
1	dry world	5%	14%
2	dry world	15%	24%
3	wet world	25%	34%
4	wet world	35%	44%
5	wet world	45%	54%
6	wet world	55%	64%
7	wet world	65%	74%
8	wet world	75%	84%
9	wet world	85%	94%
A	water world	95%	100%

#### WORLD POPULATION

Code	General Description	Population
0	low	less than ten
1	low	tens
2	low	hundreds
3	low	thousands
4	mod	ten thousands
5	mod	hundred thousands
6	mod	millions
7	mod	ten millions
8	mod	hundred millions
9	high	billions
A	high	ten billions

## WORLD GOVERNMENTS

Code	General Description
0	NO GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE: In many cases, but not all, family bonds predominate.
1	COMPANY/CORPORATION: Government by a company or corporation managerial elite; citizens are company employees.
2	PARTICIPATING DEMOCRACY: Government by advice and consent of the citizen.
3	SELF-PERPETUATING OLIGARCHY: Government by a restricted minority, with little or no input from the masses.
4	REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY: Government by elected representatives.
5	FEUDAL TECHNOCRACY: Government by specific individuals for those who agreed to be ruled. Relationships are based on the performance of technical activities which are mutually beneficial.
6	CAPTIVE GOVERNMENT/ COLONY: Government by a leadership answerable to an outside group; a colony or conquered area.
7	BALKANIZATION: No central ruling authority exists; rival governments compete for control.
8	CIVIL SERVICE BUREAUCRACY: Government by agencies employing individuals selected for their expertise.
9	IMPERSONAL BUREAUCRACY: Government by agencies which are insulated from the governed.
A	CHARISMATIC DICTATOR: Government by a single leader enjoying the confidence of the citizens.
B	NON-CHARISMATIC LEADER: A previous charismatic dictator has been replaced by a leader through normal channels.
C	CHARISMATIC OLIGARCHY: Government by a select group, organization, or class enjoying overwhelming confidence of the citizenry.
D	RELIGIOUS DICTATORSHIP: Government by a religious minority which has little regard for the needs of the citizenry.
E	RELIGIOUS AUTOCRACY: Government by a single religious leader having absolute power over the citizenry.
F	TOTALITARIAN OLIGARCHY: Government by an all-powerful minority which maintains absolute control through widespread coercion and oppression.

## WORLD LAW LEVELS

Code	General Description
0	NO LAW (no prohibitions)
1	LOW LAW (body pistols and explosives restricted)
2	LOW LAW (man portable energy and laser weapons restricted)
3	LOW LAW (machineguns and automatic weapons restricted)
4	MODERATE LAW (light assault weapons restricted)
5	MODERATE LAW (personal concealable weapons restricted)
6	MODERATE LAW (all firearms except shotguns restricted)
7	MODERATE LAW (shotguns restricted)
8	HIGH LAW (blade weapons controlled, no open display)
9	HIGH LAW (weapon possession outside home restricted)
A	EXTREME LAW (weapon possession restricted)
B	EXTREME LAW (rigid control of civilian movement)
C	EXTREME LAW (unrestricted invasion of privacy)
D	EXTREME LAW (paramilitary law enforcement)

## TECHNOLOGY LEVELS

Code	General Description
0	pre-industrial (primitive)
1	pre-industrial (bronze or iron age)
2	pre-industrial (printing press)
3	pre-industrial (basic science)
4	industrial (internal combustion)
5	industrial (mass production)
6	pre-stellar (nuclear power)
7	pre-stellar (miniature electronics)
8	pre-stellar (super conductors)
9	early stellar (fusion power)
A	early stellar (jump drive)
B	average stellar (large starships)
C	average stellar (sophisticated robots)
D	average stellar (holographic data storage)
E	high stellar (anti-grav cities)
F	high stellar (anagathics)
G	high stellar (global terraforming)
H	Extreme stellar

## STARPORTS

Code	General Description
A	All options available
B	All options available
C	All options available
D	All options Available
F	Only DISK, BANK, PERSONNEL, and CARGO available
G	Only DISK, BANK, and CARGO available
H	Only DISK available
X	No starport facilities other than landing pads

are hexadecimal. In a hexadecimal system, the numbers ten through 15 are represented by the letters A through F, respectively. Numbers one through nine are the same as in the decimal system. Refer to the charts below to find out what each of the numbers in the UWP represent. The numbers in the UWP refer to, in order, Starport Size, Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, Population, Government, Law Level and Tech Level. (See the charts on the preceding pages.)

For a list and description of all the starport options, see the **Starport** section.

*Planet Information:* This information consists of all the data from the above charts that pertain to the selected planet.

*Ship information:* The accuracy of this information depends on the related skills of a character in the Communications station. The type of information given is: ship's class, owner, maximum acceleration, computer type, structural points and the number of hard points in which weapon systems could be installed. This information is given for all the ships that are currently the overhead view on the In-System Travel Screen.

## 9. Medical And Sick Bay Station

The medical and sick bay stations share the same station screen. The two sections at the bottom of the screen consist of the Overhead 2-D view (left) and the following:

- The name of the character in the medic station. On the left side of the name of each character is the character's service symbol.
- The name of the characters in the sick bay station and two hits values. One is the current state of the character's hits value, the other is the character's maximum hits value.
- Icons (for players using a mouse) that allow you to heal a damaged character or return a character to duty. A character in sick bay cannot be healed unless there is also a character in the medical station.

Healing characters in the sick bay can be done while the ship is on the ground or in space.

A character in the medical station may treat only one character at a time. A character can cease treating one character and begin healing a different one at any time.

## 10. Starships

While travelling through each system, the Interloper

will encounter a great amount of stellar traffic. The Spinward Marches is a rapidly growing frontier territory and trade routes are steadily travelled by Independent and Megacorporation traders. As can be expected, there is also a thriving pirate population that roams the space outside the trade routes, waiting to prey on the wealthy Megacorporation trade ships.

The ship Lenara gives your characters at the beginning of the game is a registered far trader of the Sharurshid Megacorporation. But because it was being used by Lenara for a special undercover assignment, it has a few features other ships of the same class don't have.

There are seven classes of starships that can be encountered in this MEGATRAVELLER adventure:

*Small Interplanetary Craft:* These craft aren't fitted with jump-capable drives. They are primarily used, by those who can afford them, to travel between worlds within a system. Small-time operators use this smaller craft to transport small loads of cargo.

*Trader/Armed Merchant:* These vessels are fairly common and are often used by Megacorporations and independent traders. Their primary purpose is to deliver cargo in and between systems. To defend against suspected pirate raids, all trading ships are built with one or several hard points for the installation of weapon systems.

*Armed Escort:* A lightly-armed vessel used by the Imperial government and Megacorporations to protect the bigger and slower traders. This ship is also capable of carrying a small load of cargo, but not enough to make it an effective trader.

*Destroyer:* A medium class ship designed for seek and destroy combat techniques. Moderately armed and maneuverable, these ships pose a threat to many unsuspecting pirate fleets. Also capable of carrying a small amount of cargo, these ships are sometimes captured and used by pirate groups.

*Corsair:* A formidable heavy fighting vessel, the battleship of the future. The Corsair is a heavily fortified and armored vessel used in most battlefleets. The ship has sufficient cargo space to carry military food, arms, and other miscellaneous supplies.

*Scout:* Commonly used for exploration of uncharted regions of space, the scout class vessel is lightly armed and very maneuverable.

*X-Boat:* These ships are used exclusively by the

Imperial fleet for communication purposes. These ships are responsible for the transport of mail and information between systems within the Imperium.

Ships encountered will have one of four types of owners. Different owners will only control certain ships.

- The Imperium's armed battlefleet (scout, destroyer, corsair, x-boat)
- A pirating organization (destroyer, scout, escort, trader, small interplanetary craft)
- A Megacorporation (traders, escorts)
- An independent owner (traders, small interplanetary craft)

There are ten different Megacorporations. These are:

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Oberlindes    | 6. Tukera     |
| 2. Ling Standard | 7. Susag, LIC |
| 3. Imperiallines | 8. Delgado    |
| 4. Sharurshid    | 9. Zeneca     |
| 5. Naasirka      | 10. Gsbag     |

If you wish, to earn the credits you need to purchase your jump-2 drive, you may want to risk being a pirate. It is a profitable but dangerous way to make a living.

## 11. Starship Statistics

The following statistical information on the various starships you may encounter includes the ship's weapon systems, along with the type of lasers and number of missiles, structural points, weapon hard points damage capacity, amount of cargo space, and the acceleration rate (G level).

### Small Interplanetary Craft

cargo: x2  
G level: 4  
weapons: #1 TL 8 pulse laser pwr:25  
ship's structural points: 300  
weapon struct. points: 60

### Trader/Armed Merchant

cargo: x20  
G level: 1  
weapons: #1 TL 13 beam laser pwr:25  
          #2 TL 13 beam laser pwr: 25  
structural points: 1500  
weapon struct. points: #1 = 300  
                          #2 = 300

### Armed Escort

cargo: x5  
G level: 2  
weapons: #1 TL 8 beam laser pwr: 25  
          #2 missile bay w/8 missiles  
structural points: 1750  
weapon struct. points: #1 = 350  
                          #2 = 350

### Destroyer

cargo: x8  
G level: 2  
weapons: #1 TL 13 beam laser pwr: 25  
          #2 TL 13 pulse laser pwr: 25  
          #3 missile bay w/16 missiles  
structural points: 2000  
weapon struct. points: #1=400  
                          #2=400  
                          #3=400

### Corsair

cargo: x12  
G level: 2  
weapons: #1 TL 13 beam laser pwr: 50  
          #2 TL 13 pulse laser pwr: 25  
          #3 missile bay w/12 missiles  
          #4 missile bay w/12 missiles  
structural points: 2500  
weapon struct. points: #1=500  
                          #2=500  
                          #3=500  
                          #4=500

### Scout

cargo: x8  
G level: 3  
weapons: #1 TL 13 pulse laser pwr: 50  
          #2 missile bay w/16 missiles  
structural points: 1500  
weapon struct. points: #1=300  
                          #2=300

### Imperial X-Boat

cargo: none  
G level: 4  
weapons: TL 13 pulse laser  
structural points: 1500  
weapon struct. points: 300

## 12. Piracy

The more you pirate a Megacorporation's ships, the more protective vessels it will assign to subsequent trading expeditions. In fact, if you pirate a Megacorporation often enough you will encounter Imperial ships aiding the Megacorporation's trade ships. The Imperium dislikes using its own ships as an escort service, but sometimes it must. The Megacorporations within the Imperium are very powerful.

It will take excessive piracy to get the Imperium to escort Megacorporation ships, mainly because the Imperial fleet is so spread out (due to the rumor of an upcoming frontier war and the current rate of piracy). But beware: the Imperial fleet is not a force to be reckoned with by a solitary pirate vessel. Those who live by the sword die by the sword. Remember also that the Interloper will often be the target of other pirating ships. It would be a serious loss if you just left a planet with a hold full of valuable cargo, only to have it taken by pirates.

In order to pirate a vessel, the targeted ship must first have its weapon systems inoperable. This will require inflicting a lot of damage and some good guesswork. After the weapon systems are knocked out you must attempt to match course and speed of the vessel.

If this is accomplished, the station portion of the screen (no matter which station you're currently in) will be replaced with the graphic display of the pirated ship's cargo hold. The area used for the 2-D overhead view (bottom left) will be replaced by the graphic representation of the Interloper's cargo hold. You can then take the cargo from the other ship — as long as you have available space in the cargo hold of the Interloper.

*Note:* Most ships have a self-destruct mechanism, often set when pirates board ships. This will limit the amount of time you have to take the other ship's cargo. Should your characters still be on-board a ship when it self destructs, both your characters and the Interloper will be destroyed.

One of the major risks of pirating another ship is that, in the process, you're vulnerable to other attacking ships. Therefore it's a good idea to make sure the area is secured of all other enemy vessels before attempting to pirate a crippled vessel.

*Streechen Wine.*



*Foodstuff.*



*Grain.*



*Water.*



*Spices.*



*Steel.*



*Nonmetal Ores.*



*Iron.*



*Special Alloys.*



*Radioactives.*



*Pharmaceuticals.*



*Ship Supplies.*



*Tools.*



## 13. Ship Movement

The Interloper can be piloted from two screens; the In-System Travel Screen and the pilot station. Controls for piloting the ship are the same on both screens. The pilot you have flying the Interloper will play a big part in how well the ship travels and maneuvers. This will be important in combat situations.

It is, of course, possible for an unskilled character to pilot the ship, but he will not do so very well.

## 14. Cargo

There are thirty different types of cargo that can be purchased throughout the eight systems in the game. The availability and price of each depends a lot on the world on which it is bought or sold.

The types of cargo are:

### FOODSTUFFS

1. Streechen Wine
2. Foodstuff
3. Grain
4. Water
5. Spices

### INDUSTRIAL

6. Steel
7. Nonmetal Ores
8. Iron
9. Special Alloys
10. Radioactives
11. Pharmaceuticals
12. Ship Supplies
13. Tools

### BUYING AND SELLING CARGO

It is a good idea to pay close attention to any library information and rumors, for they will sometimes give hints of good trading bargains. There is a lot of strategy to buying and selling cargo. The leader of the party should have trading or interpersonal skills and you should pay attention to where cargo can be bought inexpensively and sold for a maximum profit, taking into account how costly it is to transfer the cargo from point A to point B.

- 14. Petrochemicals
- 15. Explosives
- AGRICULTURAL
- 16. Animal Compounds
- 17. Livestock
- 18. Fertilizers
- 19. Plant Compounds
- 20. Lumber
- HIGH TECH
- 21. Electronic Parts
- 22. Medical Equipment
- 23. High Tech Parts
- 24. Computers
- 25. Robots

MISCELLANEOUS

- 26. Starrghrite
- 27. Clothing
- 28. Raw Crystals
- 29. Textiles
- 30. Entertainment Equipment

All of the buying and selling of cargo is done at starports with a cargo menu selection. The cargo hold of the Interloper has enough spaces to hold 20 units of cargo.

15. Starports

There are a maximum of five menu selections available at a starport. The menu selections depend on the class of the starport, which can be found in the **Communications Station** section of the manual in the Starport chart.

The five menu selections are:

- 1. DISK
- 2. BANK
- 3. PERSONNEL
- 4. CARGO
- 5. SHIPYARD

Each of these menu items offers sub-selections.

**DISK: SAVE / GAME OPTIONS**

Selecting DISK will allow you to (1) save the game and (2) change the game options.

(1) It should be noted that even though a saved position can be restored any time during game play, starports are the only place at which the game can be saved. It's a good policy to save the game every time you land on and leave a world. See the technical supplement for more information.

(2) The various game options (sound, restore game,



Petrochemicals.

Explosives.

Animal compounds.

Livestock.

Fertilizers.

Plant compounds.

Lumber.

Electronic parts.

Medical equipment.

High tech parts.

Computers.

Robots.

Starrghrite.

Clothing

Raw crystals.

Textiles.

Entertainment equipment.

etc.) are covered in the technical supplement.

**BANK: PARTY ACCOUNT / RETIREMENT PAY**

Selecting BANK will allow you to either (1) deposit and withdraw credits from the Party account or (2) receive any retirement pay a character may be eligible for.

(1) The party account is an alternative to pooling all the party's credits to one character when you wish to buy something. It's a good idea to keep most of the party's credits in the PARTY ACCOUNT because the account can be used to pay for most all purchases made in the game. The only time you'll really need hands-on cash is when you wish to bribe an NPC.

(2) Retirement pay is issued on a monthly basis to eligible characters. You are informed of the amount of retirement pay when you generate a character who retires.

**PERSONNEL: RECRUIT / TRAIN**

Selecting PERSONNEL will allow you to (1) recruit a new character into your party or (2) train a character in skills that he has used often and successfully.

(1) When you have lost a character(s), you can add new one to your party at starports with personnel facilities. The characters that are made available for recruitment consist of the extra characters on your character disk.

*Note:* To finish the game, you must have at least one character from the original character party.

(2) There is a fee for training a character in a skill. A character must repeatedly use a skill successfully in order to train for an extra level in that skill.

**CARGO: BUY / SELL**

Selecting CARGO will allow you to (1) purchase any type of cargo that's available and (2) sell any cargo in the Interloper's hold. See the **Cargo** section for more information.

**SHIPYARD: REFUEL / REPAIR / BUY WEAPONS / SELL WEAPONS / BUY SUPPLIES**

Selecting SHIPYARD will allow you to:

(1) Refuel the Interloper; you can purchase refined and unrefined fuel at any starport. Unrefined fuel is cheaper, but the chances of a misjump increase. If the Interloper is equipped with a fuel purification plant, then unrefined fuel is transformed into refined fuel when purchased. With a fuel purification plant, you will only be given the option for purchasing unrefined fuel because there is no need to purchase refined.

(2) The REPAIR option allows you to repair structural damage and system damages that cannot be repaired by a character in engineering. See **Engineering Station** for more information.

(3) The BUY WEAPONS option allows you to purchase weapon systems for hard points on the Interloper. If you wish to purchase a new weapon system, you must have an empty hard point on the Interloper.

(4) SELL WEAPONS lets you sell any of the weapon systems you may have on the Interloper.

(5) BUY SUPPLIES allows you to purchase all the other necessary equipment vital to the upkeep, operation, and improvement of the Interloper.

At each starport there is a bulletin board. Pay close attention to it, because there is often a message to all Travellers visiting the world.

### MISCELLANEOUS STARSHIP EQUIPMENT

#### Computer Programs

MODEL	STORAGE	CPU	COST(Imperial Credits)
1	4	2	20,000
1/bis	4	4	40,000
2	6	3	100,000
2/bis	6	6	180,000
3	9	5	200,000

*Storage* = The number of programs that can be loaded into the computer at one time.

*CPU* = The number of loaded programs the computer can run at any one time.

#### Pulse Lasers

TL	PWR	Cost	Damage
8	25	22,500	75
8	50	45,000	125
13	25	67,500	175
13	50	90,000	225

#### Beam Lasers

TL	PWR	Cost	Damage
8	25	25,000	100
8	50	50,000	150
13	25	75,000	200
13	50	100,000	300

#### Missiles

Type	Cost (each)	Damage
mine	1,000	125/100/75
scatter mine	1,250	90/70/60
constant unguided	4,000	300/200/125
multiple const. unguided	3,500	130/110/90
constant guided	5,500	300/200/125
constant homing	7,500	350/250/175

*Mines.* These are ejected from the rear of the starship and remain stationary. If used correctly, set in strategic patterns, mines can be an offensive or defensive

### COMPUTER PROGRAMS AND WHAT THEY DO

Program	Size	Cost	Effects
target (T)	1	4,000	required to fire beam or pulse lasers
launch (L)	1	5,000	required to launch missiles from the missile bays
jump 1 (J1)	1	4,000	required to make a jump-1
jump 2 (J2)	2	10,000	required to make a jump-2
navigation (N)	1	5,000	required to make any jumpspace attempt
maneuver (M)	1	5,000	required to maneuver ship
predict 1 (P1)	1	1,000	increases chance to hit opponent
predict 2 (P2)	2	5,000	upgraded and more effective version of predict 1
predict 3 (P3)	2	15,000	upgraded and more effective version of predict 2
maneuver/evade 1 (ME1)	1	3,000	decreases the chance of your opponent striking your ship
maneuver/evade 2 (ME2)	2	1,000	upgrade of maneuver/evade 1, further decreases opponent's chance to hit your ship
auto evade (AE)	1	2,000	same effect as maneuver evade 2, takes less space

Size = the number of storage spaces the program takes up in the ship's computer.

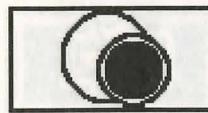
weapon.

*Scatter Mine.* Shortly after being ejected from the Interloper, this mine disperses into three smaller mines. These three mines cover more area but are less potent.

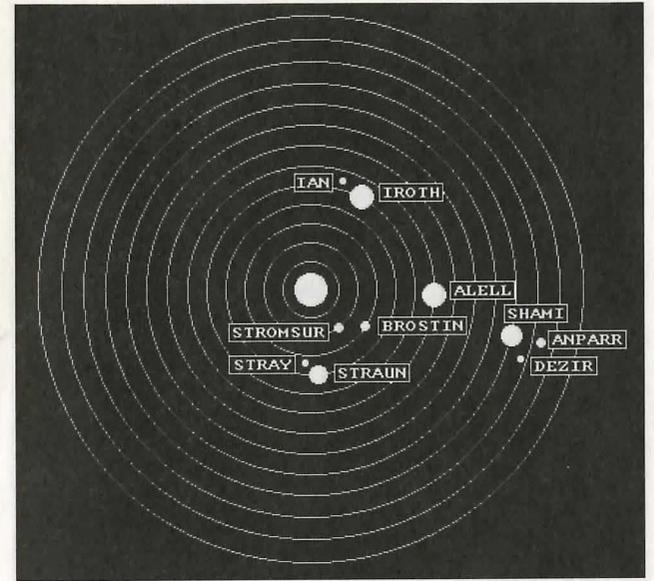
*Constant Unguided Missiles.* These travel in a straight trajectory. Most of the time these missiles have to be fired directly in the path of the intended target.

*Multiple Constant Unguided Missiles.* The same as the constant unguided missile, except that when launched, this missile separates into three smaller warheads. This increases the chance of hitting the target, but the individual warheads do not inflict as much damage.

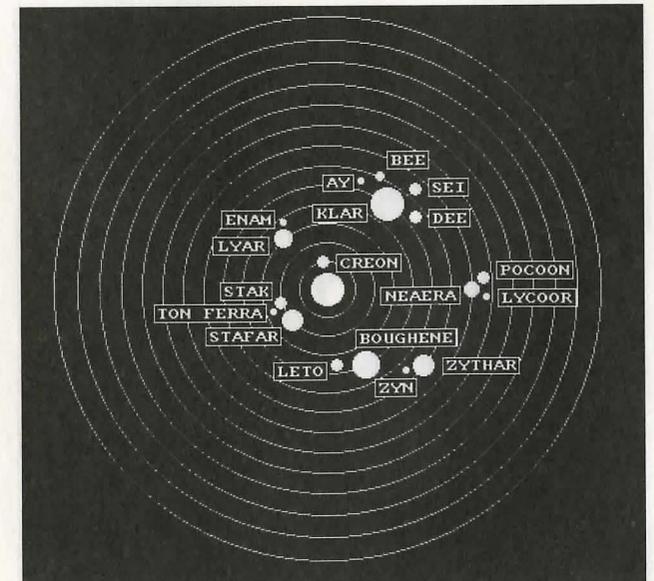
*Constant Guided Missiles.* These missiles travel in a straight trajectory but accelerate and decelerate to match the speed of the intended target.



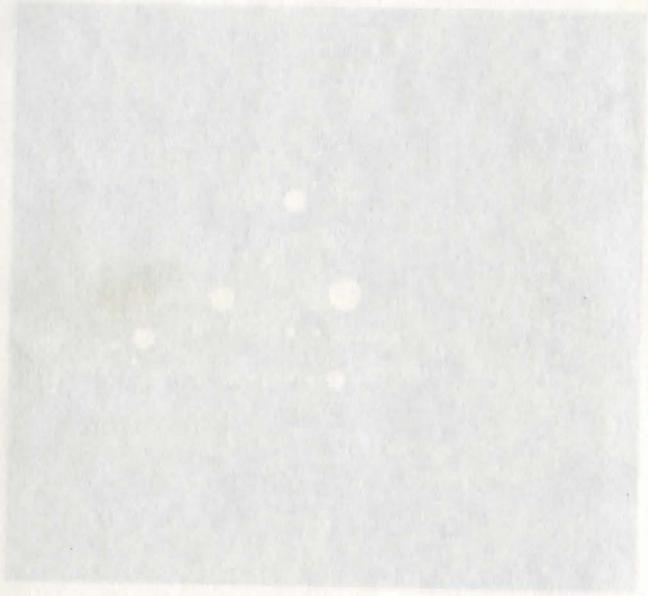
# ALELL



# BOUGHENE



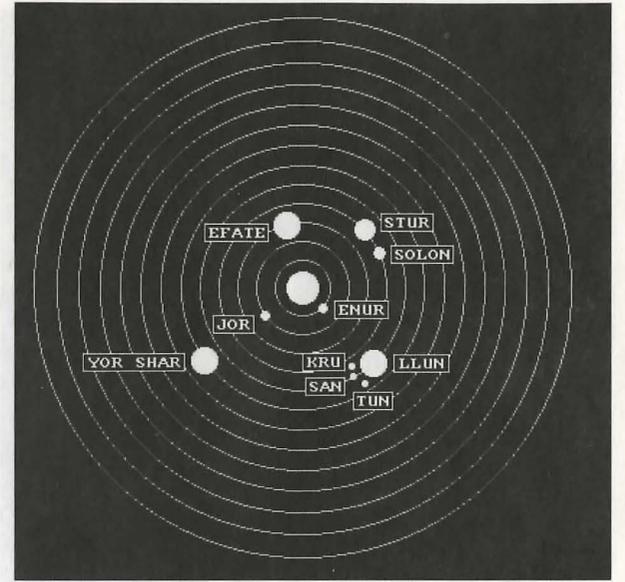
ALFELD



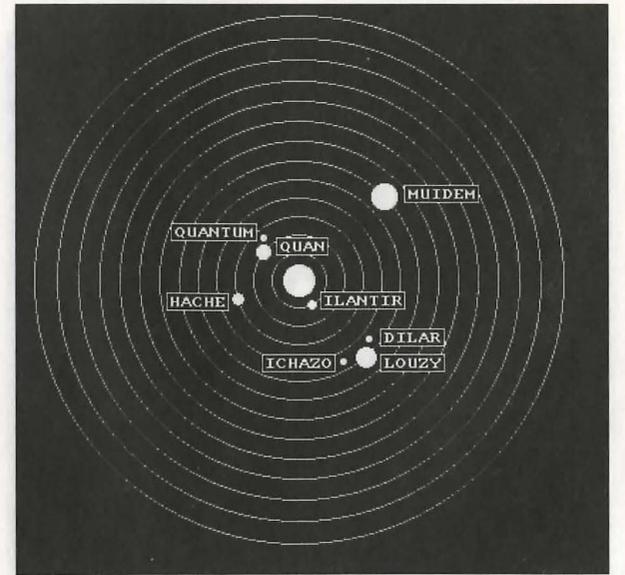
BOUGHENE

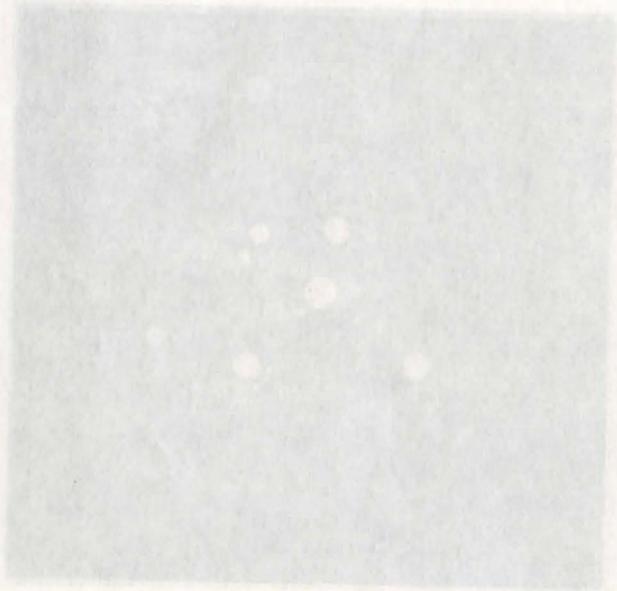


EFATE

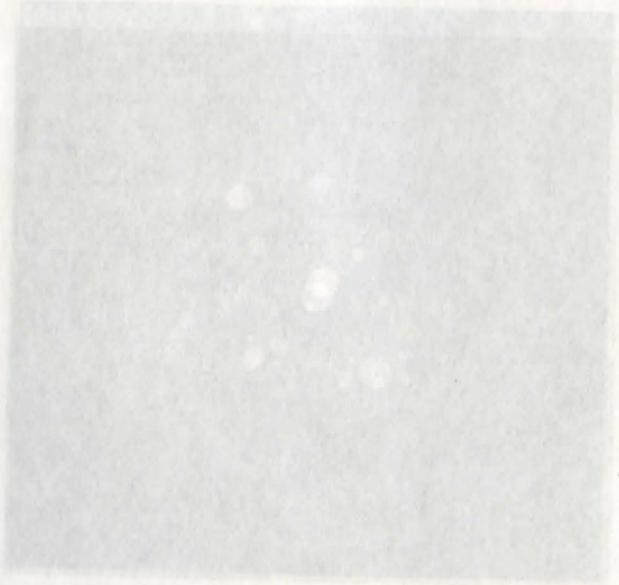


LOUZY

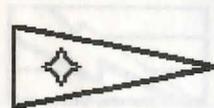
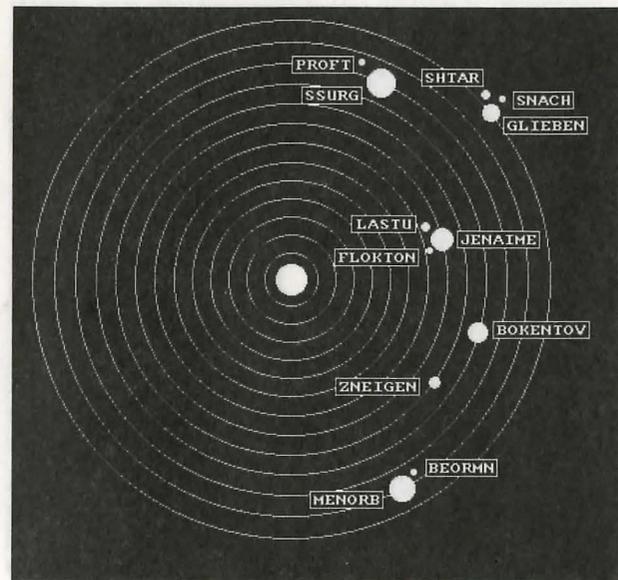




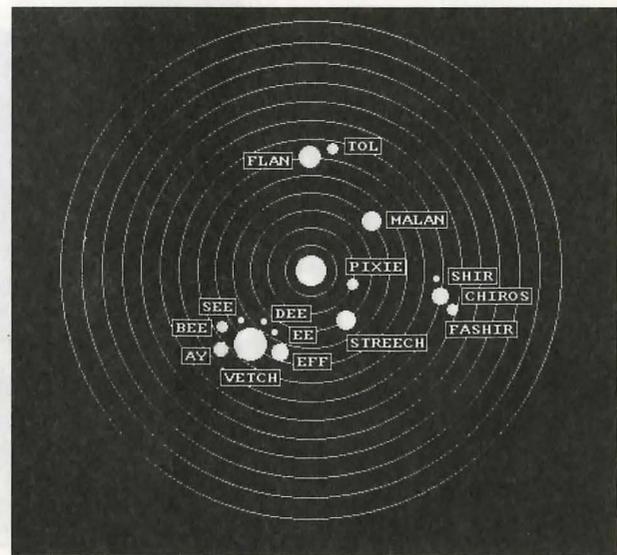
BOUZY



# MENORB



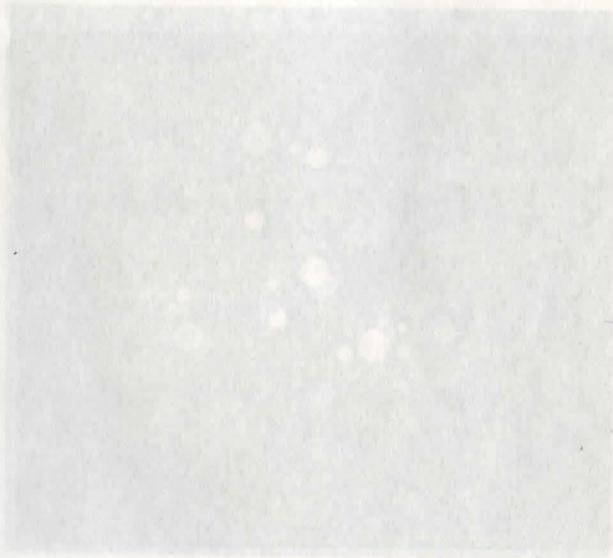
# PIXIE



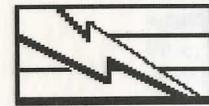
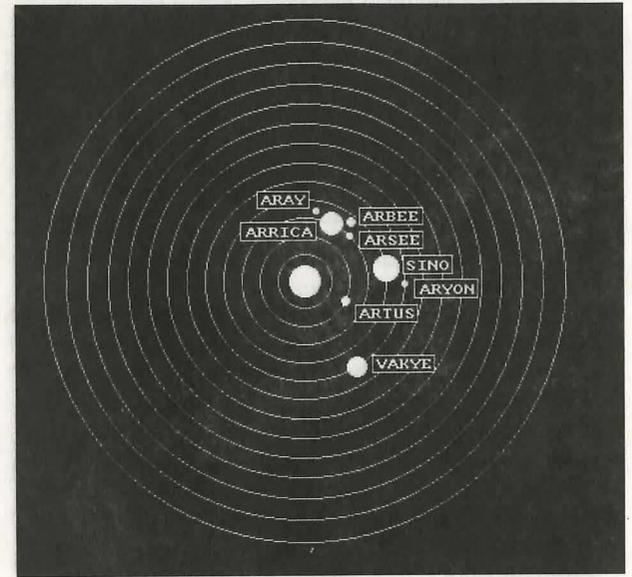
MIRORB



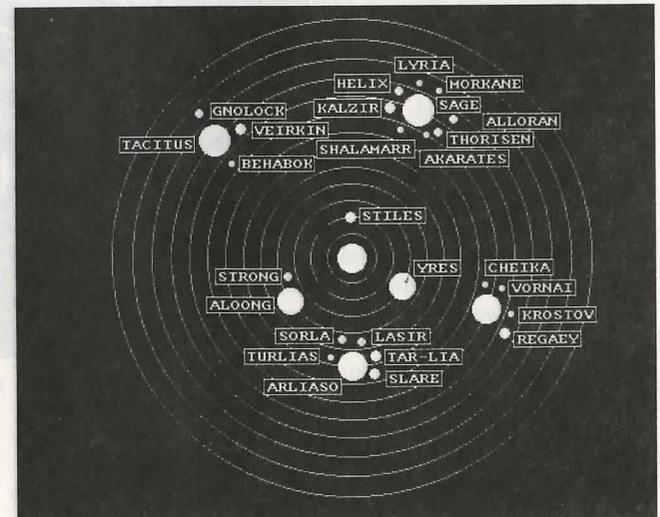
PIXIE



UAKYE



YRES



*Constant Homing Missiles.* These missiles are the most effective and most expensive. When fired at an intended target, these missiles home in on the target and will not stop until they hit the target or are destroyed by laser fire.

## 15. Systems

There are eight star systems in the game. On pages 64 to 71 you will find maps of each system and the planets within it. Along with each system layout is the system's flag.

## 16. Space Combat

Similar to ground combat, you must first go into combat mode to fight enemy ships. Combat mode is initiated whenever another ship moves into the circle surrounding the Interloper on the In-System Travel Screen. When in combat mode you are placed into the station screens.

All the Interloper's operations are handled from the station screens. See each individual station section for more information.

From the pilot station you fly and maneuver the Interloper.

From the two gun stations you fire installed weapon systems at enemy ships or incoming missiles.

From the computer station you load and run necessary programs which allow you to do things such as firing lasers, missiles, maneuvering, etc.

From the engineering station you can partially repair certain ship systems that have been damaged.

From the communications station you can get information about the vessels you're fighting.

From the medical and sick bay stations you can heal injured characters.

The 2-D overhead view at the lower left side of all station screens lets you visually locate other enemy ships and keep track of their movements. All missiles and mines are displayed, as well. The area you see in this view is a small section of the combat area.

The view can be enlarged to an entire screen to offer a wider range of view. When the view is enlarged, the circle around your ship represents the overhead 2-D view. When enemy ships move off the full screen, they are out of combat range.



*The 2-D Overhead View.*

Your ship, the Interloper, is always centered in the screen. Lines pointing in all eight compass directions extend from the ship. These lines represent weapon facings from the weapon stations.

To fire at the enemy ships you must go to one of the weapon stations. The whole bottom right portion of the screen consists of a viewport and controls for targeting and firing the weapons. Weapon systems can be fired up to 360 degrees. Two of the lines extending from the Interloper on the overhead 2-D view will be highlighted at the gun stations. The area between these two lines represents the view from the weapon's viewport. All ships and missiles on the overhead 2-D will likewise appear in the weapons viewport.

All of the weapon systems will have a targeting and firing icon, as well as a left and right arrow icon to move the weapons viewport to the left and the right. As you move the weapon viewport to the left and the right, the two highlighted lines on the 2-D overhead view will move to show the area of space displayed in the weapon's viewport.

Beam lasers fire one concentrated shot. Afterward, it will begin to recharge to full capacity. You need not wait for it to recharge all the way. It can be fired at any time, but the damage it inflicts is based on the amount of charge it has.

Beam lasers are fired in four small bursts. Once fired, they will also begin recharging. All fully-charged bursts must be used first. If the only remaining burst is partially-charged, then it can be used. The damage caused depends on the charge in the laser. Pulse lasers are effective defensive weapons against incoming missiles.

Missiles have to be loaded into the missile bays before they can be launched. Each missile launcher has four missile bays. Once the missile bays are emptied, they must be reloaded with missiles in storage.

## PLANETARY SURFACE EXPLORATION AND COMBAT

### 1. Introduction

Throughout your adventures in the MEGATRAVELLER universe, you will visit a variety of worlds. Some of these planets will contain abundant green vegetation and high populations, while other worlds will have harsh environments such as scorching dry deserts, non-atmospheric vacuums, or glacial, ice-covered terrain. You will also encounter many unique individuals along your journey. Some of the people you meet are barbaric and uncivilized, whereas others are members of sophisticated, high-tech societies. You will also come upon alien beings in your journeys. As you control your group of travellers you will meet new friends willing to help you on your way. Some will help you acquire more Imperial credits. Some will provide you with important information. At times, an individual may ask you to perform a task, for which he promises a reward.

However, not everyone in the MEGATRAVELLER universe is friendly. There are many merciless and untrustworthy characters throughout known space. These felonious individuals include interstellar pirates, bounty hunters, professional assassins, and greedy criminals. These villains do as they please and live their lives in total disregard of the law. There is no room to negotiate with the dregs of the universe. It is best to deal with them on their own terms. Stand strong, fight hard and utilize your characters' skills and training in combat. If a bounty is placed on your party, you will surely encounter some of the most dangerous and heartless offenders ever known. Get ready to fight!

While exploring planetary surfaces, all actions take place on two game screens; the overhead view screen and the character screens.

### 2. The Overhead View Screen

All of the ground exploration and combat action takes place on the overhead view screen. From this screen, you will be able to access any one of the five character screens.

#### Character Information

The top portion of the screen displays important information about each of the characters in your party. Each character is represented by a square block which

is divided into different sections. The following information is represented in the character block:

A) The character's former military service symbol is displayed, along with his rank.

B) A graphic representation of the helmet or headgear the character is wearing. If no headgear is being worn, a simple outline of the character's head is displayed.

C) A graphic representation of the armor or protective suit the character is wearing. If no bodily protection is being worn, an outline of the character's upper body is displayed.

D) The first of the two bars next to the character block represents the character's oxygen supply. As oxygen is used, the bar will become smaller.

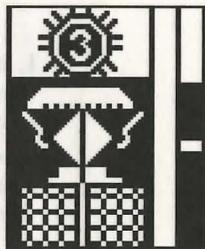
E) The second bar corresponds to the character's life force (hits value). When physical damage is suffered, the bar will become smaller. If the character is healed, the bar will grow accordingly. The life force bar is intersected by a white line. When the bar is reduced below the white line, the character becomes unconscious. If the bar disappears completely, the character dies.

Next to the character information blocks is an icon that allows you to reorder your party of characters.

### Marching Order

The Marching Order icon, next to the aforementioned icon, represents which character is in the lead position, and the order in which the other four characters fall behind. It is important to keep track of which character is leading. In most situations, the leader's skills and attributes are taken into account in determining the success or failure of tasks. However, during combat, each character is represented by its own icon on the overhead map. Therefore, when talking to non-player characters (NPCs), purchasing equipment, operating vehicles, etc., make sure that a character with the appropriate skills is in the lead position.

All movement and combat will take place in the overhead display window. While moving about the planets, your party of characters will be represented by a single icon. When in combat, five smaller icons, representing each of your characters, will replace the large, single icon. Each character can be distinguished by a particular color (or pattern). This color (or pattern) will be the same as the color used on the character's



The character block.



The Marching Order icon.

service symbol and character screen.

Below the overhead display area, there is a text window which displays short messages and information to the player during the game.

The bottom-right side of the screen is used for the following.

- During planetary movement and exploration, the movement of the lead character and vehicle icons is controlled using the arrows that point in the eight compass directions. These arrows are designed to allow movement of the icons using a mouse.

- When an important NPC is encountered by your lead character on the overhead display, a picture of the NPC will appear in this section of the screen.

- In combat mode, the rightmost portion of the screen is used to display important character information for combat. Information for only one of your five characters appears at a time. But you can easily cycle through the character information for each member of your party. The information displayed for each character is:

Primary or Secondary weapon and the ammo in the clip currently loaded

# of extra clips of ammunition

# of radiation grenades

# of explosive grenades

# of chemical grenades

From this display you can control your characters' actions during combat sequences. These combat actions are:

- reloading the primary or secondary weapon
- throwing grenades
- switching the information between characters firing primary or secondary weapons

In the lowest right corner of the screen are menu selections that control your party's actions while they explore on the overhead display. Some of these menu selections are broken down into sub-menus when they are selected. *Note:* All of the sub-menus have an ESC option which, if chosen, will take you back to the main menu selections. These primary menu selections are:

- CONVERSE
- GAME
- ITEM
- VEHICLE
- PARTY



The Combat Information Screen

### The CONVERSE Menu Selection

Select CONVERSE when you want to communicate with an NPC. In order to communicate with a NPC, the lead character icon must be close to, and facing, the NPC icon. By selecting the CONVERSE menu selection, the following sub-menu options will appear: TALK, BRIBE and ESC. If TALK is selected, the NPC will communicate with you in an enlarged text window. If BRIBE is selected, another sub menu is displayed. You can determine the amount of the bribe you wish to offer from among five choices: 1,000 credits, 5,000 credits, 10,000 credits, 25,000 credits and 50,000 credits.

### The ITEM Menu Selection

By selecting ITEM, the following sub-menu options appear: TAKE, USE and ESC.

TAKE allows you to pick up an object you have discovered. USE lets your characters use any item in their primary or secondary weapon (item) slot.

To take an item, the lead character icon must be on top of the object. If TAKE is chosen, you will be asked which character wishes to take the item. Once you select a character, the item will be placed in that character's inventory of items. If USE is selected, you must select the character wishing to use an item. A character can only use an item if it is in his primary or secondary weapon (item) slot. Any object or weapon in the primary or secondary weapons (item) slots is considered ready to be used.

### The VEHICLE Menu Selection

The VEHICLE menu item offers the following sub-menu options: LEAVE, STATUS and ESC. If your party is in a vehicle, the LEAVE option will allow the characters to exit the vehicle, with the lead character icon placed directly outside the vehicle. The STATUS selection allows you to check the condition of the vehicle. Various information, such as damage, is displayed.

### The PARTY Menu Selection

The PARTY menu selection is used when you wish to enter your five characters into combat mode. When not in combat, your characters are represented on the screen by a single icon. In combat, each character has its own icon, so that each may be controlled individually. Choosing PARTY will bring up two other menu selections: BREAK and REGROUP.

BREAK initiates the combat mode and generates

five separate character icons. REGROUP ends combat mode and integrates the individual icons back into one.

### The GAME Menu Selection

Selecting the GAME option will give you the following choices: RESTORE, QUIT, PAUSE, SOUND OFF (SOUND ON) and ESC. RESTORE should be chosen to restore a previously saved position. QUIT should be picked to leave the game. *Note:* the game will not be saved. Be sure to save the game at the nearest starport before you QUIT. Although there is no PAUSE key, you can pause the action at almost any point in the game by going to a character information screen. If SOUND OFF is selected, the sound effects and music will be toggled off. The SOUND ON option restores sound effects.

The name of the planet your characters are exploring appears directly above the main menu. In addition, the name of the star system containing the planet also appears. This information helps you keep track of where you are in the MEGATRAVELLER universe. You are advised to take notes about each planet and what you find there. Jot down any rumors you may hear. Note the TAS (Traveller's Aid Society) and library information you discover. It may all come in handy later.

### 3. The Character Screen

There are several terms that should be explained before the character screens are described. You will encounter these terms often.

1. *Weight:* Each character will have a maximum amount of weight (kilograms) he can carry. The character will move slower when this maximum weight limit is exceeded. The more weight a character attempts to carry over his limit, the slower he will become. It is impossible for a character to completely stop, but he can be reduced to a crawl.

2. *Primary/Secondary Weapon (Item) Slots:* Each character has 19 inventory boxes on the character screen in which objects can be placed. In addition to these 19 boxes, four other boxes represent the character's armor or protective suit, headgear, and the primary and secondary weapons slots. Therefore, a character can have a maximum 23 objects and weapons on his person at one time. *Note:* some of the weapons take up TWO inventory boxes due to their size.

The primary weapon (item) slot is used to represent a weapon or object that is in the character's hands and ready to use. In a combat situation, any object or

weapon in the primary weapons slot will be used. The primary and secondary weapons (item) slots can be reversed at any time.

The secondary weapon (item) slot represents a weapon or object that a character can quickly access. For example, if during a combat sequence a character wants to use a weapon or object that is not in his primary weapon (item) slot, he can easily switch to the secondary weapon slot. Additionally, the secondary weapon (item) slot is used for smuggling weapons through starport checkpoints. Any weapons a character wants to smuggle through the checkpoint should be placed in the secondary weapon (item) slot. Depending on several factors (size of weapon, personal skills), the character may successfully sneak the weapon out of the starport. If the character fails in his attempt to smuggle a weapon, it will be confiscated by starport security.

### Individual Character Screens

Each of the five characters in your party has an individual character screen that supplies all needed information. On the character screen, you can view and move objects that are in the character's 19 inventory boxes. The background color (or pattern) matches the same color (or pattern) used in the same character's service symbol.

The top portion of the character screen remains the same as the overhead view screen. The bottom portion of the screen displays:

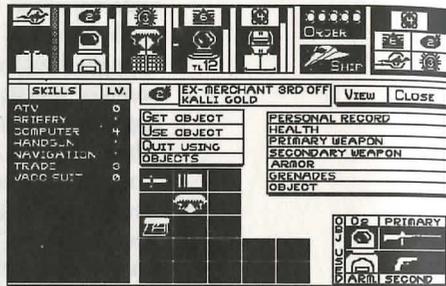
A) A list of the character's skills.

B) Four menu selections above the 19 inventory boxes. The four menu selections are: PICK OBJECT, USE OBJECT, QUIT USING and OBJECTS.

The above menu selections are used to move objects in the character's 19 inventory boxes. Also, these menu selections allow you to place headgear, armor, and a protective suit on a character. The primary and secondary weapon or object can also be selected using these menu selections.

C) The character's service symbol, service name, rank, and individual name. Next to this information are the VIEW and CLOSE icons, used to access the menu selections mentioned below.

D) Next to the above menu options is a larger list of selections that allow you to obtain a great deal of



Individual character screen.

pertinent character information. This list of menu selections consist of: PERSONAL RECORD, HEALTH, PRIMARY WEAPON, SECONDARY WEAPON, WEAPON LIST, ARMOR, GRENADES, and INSPECT OBJECT.

Selecting PERSONAL RECORD will display:

- The character's UPP (both original and temporarily altered)
- Weight the character is currently carrying and the maximum weight the character can possibly carry (in kilograms).
- The character's life force value (hit points).
- The character's title, based on Social Standing (ex: Baron)
- Amount of credits the character is carrying.
- The amount of credits in the party account.
- The # of terms the character has served in the military.
- The amount, if any, of retirement pay the character is eligible to receive each month.

Selecting HEALTH will display:

- The character's life force (hit points).
- Name of any breathing equipment the character is wearing.
- The remaining oxygen supply.

Selecting PRIMARY WEAPON or SECONDARY WEAPON will display:

(If there is a weapon in the primary weapon slot):

- The name of the weapon in the primary weapon slot.
- The number of reloads the character has for that weapon.
- The current clip loaded in the weapon and how many shots are left in that clip. This is displayed with a bar graph.

(If there is an object in the primary weapon slot):

- The name and picture of the object.
- The object's weight (kilograms).
- The base value of the object in Imperial credits.

Selecting WEAPONS LIST will display:

- An entire list of all the weapons in the character's inventory, including weapons in the primary weapon or secondary weapon slot. Along with the name of the

weapon is a display of the amount of ammunition being carried.

Selecting ARMOR will display:

- The name and picture of any armor the character is currently wearing.
- The weight of the armor, in kilograms.
- The condition of the armor or protective suit that the character is currently wearing.

Selecting GRENADES will display:

- The number of radiation, explosive, and chemical grenades the character is carrying.

Selecting INSPECT OBJECT will display:

An object in the character's inventory must be chosen to inspect. You will then see:

- The name of the object chosen.
- The weight (in kilograms) of the object chosen.
- The base value of the object chosen.

#### 4. Terrain

Due to the variety of worlds in the MEGATRAVELLER universe, many different landscapes will have to be traversed. Some ground can be covered on foot, but the use of a vehicle may be needed before your party can travel over rugged terrain. If your party cannot find a vehicle on the world they are exploring, an alternate form of travel must be discovered.

All the explorable planets can be placed into three categories:

1. Desert worlds (some may have no atmosphere)
2. Green habitable worlds (some may have exotic atmospheres)
3. Ice worlds (some may have no atmospheres)

*Note:* atmospheres are covered in the **Oxygen and Life Support Systems** section.

The following data on various terrains will aid you on your adventures. Many of the worlds have common types of terrain. Therefore, this data is compiled into a single list.

*Green Grass:* Areas of lush green grass that allow easy and natural movement. Movement does not require the use of a vehicle.

*Farm Land:* Areas of plowed grassland used for agricultural development. Allows free movement.

*Rough Grass:* Regions of high, dense grass.

Movement on foot is slowed. The use of a vehicle is not necessary, but helpful.

*Highways and Roads:* Paved areas that increase the rate of movement on foot. Paved roads exist in most star cities and startowns. Wider highways help increase the flow of traffic.

*Pathways:* Pathways are cleared areas of ground, usually near rougher terrain. Pathways better the chance of successfully negotiating seemingly inaccessible regions on foot.

*Bridges:* Bridges allow movement over large expanses of water that can not be crossed on foot. Like roads and highways, bridges allow faster movement.

*Swamps:* Wet and sloppy areas consisting of small pools of water, soft mud and quicksand. On foot, these areas are inaccessible. However, at times, there are cleared pathways of solid ground. A grav vehicle can cross swampy regions.

*Mountains:* Mountainous regions consist of high peaks and smaller rocky outcroppings. Movement through these areas is impossible, both on foot or by vehicle.

*Cracks:* Small openings in the ground that prevent movement on foot. Cracks can be crossed in an ATV or a grav vehicle.

*Crevice:* Similar to cracks, though much wider and deeper, crevices can only be traversed in a grav vehicle.

*Bushes:* Dense shrubs and plant life making movement on foot impossible. To cross dense areas of bush, an ATV or grav vehicle is required.

*Trees:* Densely covered regions of tall trees. The only way to journey through these areas is in a grav vehicle that is capable of flying over the trees.

*Rocks:* Hazardous areas covered with jagged rocks and boulders that make movement on foot impossible. To cross rocky terrain, an ATV or grav vehicle is required. Even an ATV has a hard time crossing rocky terrain.

*Fences:* Fenced areas are often used to surround farm land or wealthy estates in the hope of stopping vagrant trespassing. A grav vehicle can be used to fly over a fence if it is too dangerous to climb.

*Water:* Large stretches of water can be crossed by bridge. Some worlds contain such vast expanses of water that bridges cannot be constructed between two populated areas. Therefore, a hydro foil or grav vehicle must be used to travel between these areas.

*Ice Plains:* Flat, slippery regions of smooth ice. They can be traversed on foot, but at a slower pace than normal.

*Large Craters:* Craters are caused by the impact of large meteorites on a planetary surface. Craters are quite deep and a grav vehicle is essential to cross them.

*Small Craters:* Similar to larger craters, but not as wide or deep, small craters can be slowly crossed in an ATV or grav vehicle.

*Cactus Plants and Palm Trees:* Found only on desert planets with an atmosphere, these areas of exotic plant life can only be crossed in a grav vehicle.

*Buildings:* You will visit a large number of different buildings throughout the MEGATRAVELLER universe (See **Buildings**). You can fly above buildings in a grav vehicle. Otherwise, buildings must be travelled around.

## 5. Oxygen and Life Support Systems

Some of the worlds that can be explored have a breathable atmosphere, very similar to Earth. A breathable atmosphere eliminates the need for any cumbersome protective suits and breathing apparatus.

Other worlds have a variety of different atmospheres not meant to support human life. With the invention of engineered survival equipment, man can live in these harsh environments.

**Vacuums** are the most difficult environments in which to survive. To enter a vacuum, a character must have some form of protective suit with proper breathing equipment. Failure to wear the proper equipment will result in instant death by implosion. See the *Imperial Soldier's Weapons and Armor Guide* to determine what types of protective suits are suitable for vacuums.

**Exotic, corrosive, or insidious atmospheres** require the use of a helmet or respirator with a filter.

Atmospheres of this type are caused by unusual gas mixtures. If the proper equipment is not worn, physical damage is gradually suffered, resulting in eventual death.

In these atmospheres, it is vital to keep track of your characters' oxygen supplies. A lack of attention to oxygen supply will surely lead to death. Don't let your party of characters wander farther than their oxygen supply can carry them.

Auxiliary Oxygen tanks can be purchased at general utility stores. They are used just like other objects in a

characters inventory. When used, they completely restore a characters oxygen level.

The rate at which a character uses his oxygen supply is dependent on two factors. First, the higher a character's END, the slower that character's rate of oxygen consumption. Secondly, oxygen use increases for all characters during combat because of high stress and physical exertion.

## 6. Healing Injuries

A character can sustain bodily damage in a number of ways; combat being only one of them. When a character is injured, it is vital that he receive medical attention to heal the physical damage sustained. Without proper healing, a character will not survive in hostile situations.

There are four methods that can be used to quickly heal a wounded character. Each of the methods has advantages and disadvantages.

*Hospitals:* Hospitals are the easiest and most efficient, but most expensive healing option. Some more uncivilized worlds do not have medical facilities, so the hospital option does not always exist. However, advanced hospital facilities on high-tech worlds allow instantaneous healing due to the advanced technology of the Imperium.

*Medical Kits (med-kits):* The major advantage of a med-kit is that in the hands of a skilled individual, a character can be healed from wounds suffered in combat situations. Although the kits can be used by anyone, they are most effective in the hands of a character with related medical skill.

*Starship (Interloper):* Each starship is equipped with a medical station and an accompanying sick bay. Healing aboard a starship occurs slowly, and it may be a difficult journey to travel back to a starport with serious injuries (See **Medical Station** in the INTER-STELLAR COMBAT AND STARSHIP EXPLORATION section).

*Speed Healing Serum* Developed by the military, this healing serum can be used by a character who lacks competent medical skills. Only one dose of the serum can be used on an individual character (See **Serums and Drugs**).

## 7. Vehicles

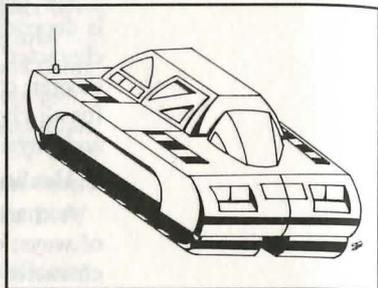
As previously mentioned, there will be areas where travel on foot is impossible or highly dangerous. In these areas a vehicle can be rented — if there is a rental location on the planet. There are three types of vehicles that can be rented: a tracked ATV (All Terrain Vehicle), grav vehicle (flying hovercraft), or water vessel.

**ATV:** An ATV is a standard vehicle designed to traverse most terrain that would normally prohibit movement on foot. Although quite reliable in most situations, the ATV does have its limitations. It is not capable of travelling over mountains, crevices, and craters. Likewise, it is not able to float or cross a body of water. The heavy ATV, powered by a standard internal combustion engine, is capable of high speeds. Although some military versions exist, the ATV is mainly used for exploration and travel purposes. Although it is not as capable as a grav vehicle, it is easier to operate and less expensive to rent.

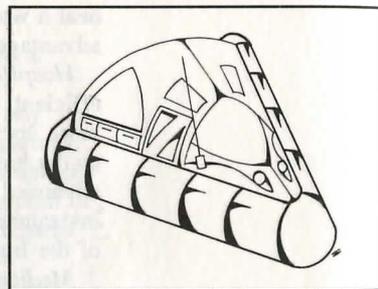
**Grav Vehicle:** The grav vehicle is the most capable planetary vehicle. It is restricted only by the most formidable terrain, such as elevated mountaintops. The grav vehicle is extremely heavy because of its protective armor plating. It is capable of very high speeds. It is fusion powered and can carry up to 10 persons. Grav vehicles are used on high-tech worlds for planetary transportation. The demand for these vehicles is high, and rental prices are costly.

**Hydro Foil:** Some of the worlds you will visit consist of 60% or more water, making a water-faring vehicle essential. This water craft is charged by hydro foil power, generated by a powerful internal combustion engine. This water vessel is capable of high speeds and can seat seven passengers including the driver.

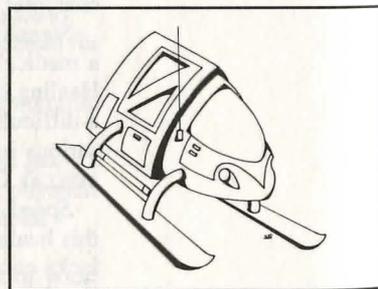
Vehicles can be obtained at a vehicle rental building. Not all worlds contain renting facilities, and some rental facilities do not carry all three types of vehicles. If your characters want to rent a vehicle, they will be asked for a fee and a deposit. If the vehicle is returned in suitable condition, the full deposit is returned. If the



ATV.



Grav vehicle.



Hydro Foil.

vehicle is returned damaged, then a portion of the deposit is kept for repairs. If the characters don't return the vehicle at all, or if the vehicle is destroyed, then the entire deposit is kept to pay for the loss or retrieval of the vehicle.

Once the fee and deposit are paid, the rented vehicle will be available outside the rental building. To place your characters in the vehicle, move your lead character icon onto the vehicle icon. The lead character will be the person who operates the vehicle. The EXIT VEHICLE menu selection allows the characters to leave a vehicle and proceed on foot. The vehicle is moved in the same fashion as the lead character icon. While in the vehicle, characters are still capable of picking up items on the ground, talking to NPCs, and accessing all the character information. This makes game play from a vehicle very easy.

## 8. Serums and Drugs

Due mainly to military experimentation, a variety of serums and drugs have been developed to enhance physical performance. These serums can be purchased at any general utility store, but are very costly.

**Speed Healing:** Each dose of speed healing serum can only be used once on a single character. When used, the serum will instantly heal bodily injuries that have been sustained. There are risks associated with this serum. It should only be used when a character is about to become unconscious.

**Fast Drug:** This serum increases the body's metabolism, accelerating the speed at which a character can move and take action. The use of the fast drug has one major drawback; it places a strain on the resources of the human body and additional physical injury can result when it is used. When using the fast drug, it is a good idea to have a slow serum handy. Though rare, there have been several cases where death has resulted from fast drug use.

**Slow Serum:** This serum was developed to act against the fast drug. If the effects of the fast drug are no longer needed, this serum can eliminate the impact of the fast drug.

**Combat Drug:** This drug was designed to enhance an individual's STR, DEX, and END, making a character more effective in combat situations. Like the fast drug, the combat drug extracts more than the human body is meant to give. It is not uncommon for the combat drug to cause physical damage to a character taking it.

Unfortunately, no serum exists as an antidote to the combat drug, so it should only be used by a healthy character.

In order to use a serum or drug, a character must have it in his possession. A character cannot use a serum or drug on another character. To use the serum or drug you must view the appropriate character's character information screen, and make sure the serum or drug is in the primary or secondary item slot. Next, you must choose the USE ITEM menu selection and select the appropriate serum or drug. The serum or drug picture will disappear from the primary or secondary slot and will immediately begin effecting the character.

### 9. Planetary Law Levels

Just as you will encounter a variety of landscapes and alien societies, each world also has different levels of structured law. Some worlds are very restrictive, banning even simple hand-held weapons. Other worlds may have no law at all. Worlds with no legal structure are the most dangerous places to journey. The scum of the universe tend to assemble there.

The following is a list of law levels and the weapon restrictions that apply:

Law Level	Classification	Restrictions
0	No Law	no prohibitions
1	Low Law	body pistols and explosives restricted
2	Low Law	man-portable energy and laser weapons restricted
3	Low Law	machine guns and automatic weapons restricted
4	Moderate Law	light assault weapons restricted
5	Moderate Law	personal weapons that can be concealed restricted
6	Moderate Law	all firearms except shotguns restricted
7	Moderate Law	shotguns restricted
8	High Law	blade weapons controlled, no open display
9	High Law	weapon possession outside home restricted
A	Extreme Law	weapon possession restricted
B	Extreme Law	rigid control of civilian movement
C	Extreme Law	unrestricted invasion of privacy
D	Extreme Law	paramilitary law enforcement

Law level restrictions are cumulative. For example, on a law level 6 world, all firearms except shotguns are restricted along with the provisions set for law levels 1 through 5.

Each time your characters land on a planet they will arrive in a starport. Each starport is surrounded by high walls with reinforced armor plating and only one, highly-guarded exit. At these checkpoints all weapons restricted by the planet's law level will be confiscated. On worlds with extremely strict law levels, your party of characters may be weaponless. If weapons are peacefully turned over to starport authorities, your party will be permitted to leave the starport and venture into the surrounding startown. If your characters refuse to hand over their illegal weapons, the guards may attack and your party may be forced to flee to its starship and leave the planet.

Depending on the size and type of weapon, and based on a character's skill, a member of your party can attempt to smuggle weapons through starport checkpoints. In order to successfully smuggle a weapon, the weapon must be in the character's secondary weapon (item) slot. You will notice that when a smuggling attempt succeeds, all of the illegal weapons in the character's 19 inventory boxes are confiscated, but the smuggled weapon — in the secondary weapon (item) slot — remains. If the attempt fails, the weapon in the secondary weapon (item) slot is confiscated with the rest of the character's weapons.

On high law level worlds there are strict legal structures and virtually no corruption. By breaking the law, your party of characters may be imprisoned for a certain length of time. The jail sentence imposed will reflect the severity of the crime and the particular law level of the world. When your characters are released from jail, the weapons and objects they possessed before their incarceration will not be returned. After their release from jail, your characters will be escorted to their starship and ordered to leave the planet. Any weapons confiscated at a starport checkpoint are returned to the characters. A jailer cannot be bribed into releasing your character from prison. If your characters commit a crime on a world with a high law level, your party will be repremanaded when they return to the starport. You will then have the option of using an Imperial Release or paying a set bail. If your characters have to pay bail money, their weapons will be confiscated but will be returned when using an Imperial Release. Another, less risky way to be released from jail is to use an Imperial Release.

If your characters possess an Imperial Release, they can use it to be immediately

released from jail with full return of their weapons. Imperial Releases will be accepted on any Imperial world.

### 10. NPC (Non-Player Character) Interaction

During the adventure, your party of characters will meet a large number of NPCs. Many of these NPCs will be friendly, but others should be avoided. It is advisable to converse with as many people as possible, because NPCs are an excellent source of information and potential money-making opportunities. Some NPCs will be willing to provide information as an act of friendship. But other, less-scrupulous individuals will seek a bribe or expect your party of characters to perform a specified task before they are willing to help or pay you.

To interact with an NPC, the lead character icon must be close to and facing the icon of the character with whom you wish to converse. Your lead character is the person who will do the talking with an NPC. Be sure that a character with satisfactory interpersonal skills is in the lead character position during oral communication. Select the CONVERSE option from among the menu selections. The NPC will either:

1. Give a short and friendly response that reflecting the fact that he doesn't have much to say and wants to continue whatever it is he was doing before you approached him. The short response is displayed in the text window beneath the overhead view of the world.

2. Appear in a picture that is displayed on the right side of the overhead view screen. The area of the screen that contained the overhead view and small text window will be replaced with one large text window. The NPC will communicate with you and his messages will appear in this large text window. If an NPC is coyly reserved, a healthy bribe may loosen his tongue.

A NPC may ask your party of characters to accomplish a task for him. For example, a person you encounter may have had a valuable heirloom stolen from him in the past. He may offer your group a reward to discover where the item is located and retrieve it for him. Once your characters retrieve the item, they should return to the NPC and converse with him again. When the item is returned to its rightful owner, the NPC will give your party its promised reward.

Since your lead character is the person who converses with NPCs, he will also be the person

attempting bribes. Therefore, you may want your lead character to have personal bribery skills and control of the major source of your party's funds. If a NPC steadfastly refuses a bribe he may be trying to raise your price. With each bribe attempt the character stands a better chance of successfully bribing the NPC, so credits given in previous bribes aren't for nothing.

### 11. Buildings

During your party's travels, your characters will continuously search for certain buildings on planets they visit. Most of the essential buildings are located in the startown or star city, situated directly outside the starport where you land. However, some buildings may be in less populated areas of the world.

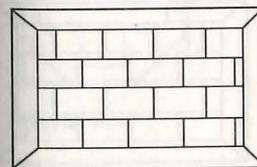
Some of the buildings don't have an interior light source. In these case, an electric torch or lantern is needed to see. Also, some doors may be reinforced so that unwanted intruders cannot gain entrance. A breaching or demolition charge can sometimes destroy the door.

To make game play easier, the buildings that can be entered by your characters all have a road or walkway leading to their entrance. Abandoned buildings that cannot be entered and explored do not have such a walkway. Also, similar buildings will look the same no matter which world you are on. After some time, it should be easy to recognize each building by its picture. For example, a museum has the same building picture whether it is located on Efate, Alell, or any other world. However, this does not imply that the museum on Efate will offer the same price for an valuable artifact as the museum on Alell.

Here is a list of the buildings that appear most frequently on the worlds:

**Weapons Shop:** Here a character can buy and sell weapon supplies. The level of weapons for sale at a weapon shop is dependent on the particular world's tech and law level. The higher the world's tech level and the lower the law level, the greater the selection of weapons at a weapons shop. When purchasing a weapon, you will be asked what character wants to buy or sell arms.

If a character opts to sell a weapon, he can only sell a weapon in his inventory and not weapons possessed by other characters in your party. When a character sells a weapon, all of its ammunition is passed along as well. The more ammo sold with the weapon, the more



*Weapons shop (appears in red).*

money a character will receive for the sale. If one of your characters managed to smuggle an illegal weapon through the starport checkpoint, a weapons dealer may be willing to pay a hefty price for the restricted weapon.

If a character opts to buy a weapon, the selection of available weapons is displayed. Any weapon can be purchased from the list. The weapon will come with one clip of ammo, but additional ammunition can be purchased separately. Some weapons shop owners are known to sell illegal, black-market arms. But Imperial security forces have been heavily investigating and arresting such dealers. The chances of buying illegal weapons on a restricted world is slim to none.

If a character plans to buy ammunition for his weapon, he can only purchase it for a weapon he is currently carrying in his inventory and for weapons that are permitted by the world's law level.

The weapons shop has no interior overhead map. Upon entering the shop, a picture of the shop owner will appear on the right side of the screen. A large text window, where all transactions will take place, will be to the left of the picture. This text window will replace the overhead display window.

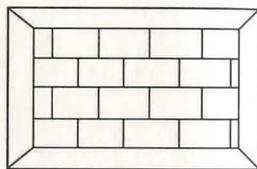
**Armor Shop:** At armor shops, a character can buy or sell any form of armor or vacc suit. The only factor that restricts the availability of merchandise in an armor shop is the tech level of the world. The higher a world's tech level, the more sophisticated and advanced types of armor and vacc suits available.

A character can only sell armor or vacc suits that he possesses. A higher price will be paid by the owner of the armor shop for equipment that surpasses the tech level of the planet. For example, if a character wishes to sell a TL 12 Hostile Environment Vacc Suit on a world with a tech level of 7, he will command a very high price for the suit. When a character attempts to sell armor or vacc suits, any damage the equipment has suffered will depreciate the value.

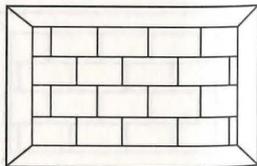
If a character wants to purchase armor or a vacc suits, a listing of available armor and vacc suits is displayed.

As with the weapons shop, the armor shop has no interior overhead map. Buying and selling is done by communicating with the shop owner.

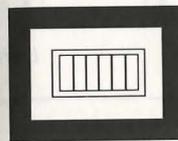
**General Utility Shop:** A character can buy and sell any miscellaneous objects he has discovered, like



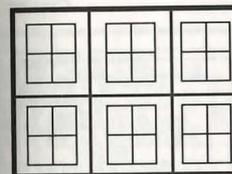
*Armor shop (appears in blue).*



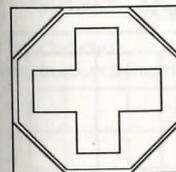
*General utility shop (appears in white).*



*Jail.*



*Vehicle rental.*



*Hospital icon.*



*TAS icon.*

gems, electric torches, demolition charges, etc. Be advised: some objects that can be sold at a general utility shop will generate a higher price from an interested NPC. Once an item is sold and your party of characters leaves the planet, the item cannot be retrieved.

The general utility shop has no interior overhead map. Buying and selling are handled in the same manner as with the weapons and armor shops.

**Jails:** Jails only exist on planets with a law level of 1 or higher. Your characters will be arrested and imprisoned when they disobey the laws and regulations of a particular planet. Upon their release, they will be escorted to the starport of that planet to resume their lives. (The law enforcers hope lawbreakers take this subtle hint and leave the world.)

Most jails have no interior overhead display map. When in jail, a picture of the jailer will appear on the right side of the screen and the small text window and overhead view window will become one large text screen used for communication.

There are a few jails with overhead display maps. These jails are distinguished by a road or walkway leading to the entrance.

**Vehicle Rentals:** Here a character can rent a vehicle to help his party travel across the surface of a planet. There are three types of vehicles that can be rented: an ATV, a grav vehicle or a water vessel (See **Vehicles** for specific information). Not all three types of vehicles can be rented at every vehicle rental location. There is a limited supply of vehicles available, so be very careful with them when you rent them.

When a vehicle is rented, both a fee and a deposit must be paid. When the vehicle is returned in satisfactory condition, the deposit is refunded. If the vehicle has been damaged, only a portion of the deposit is returned. If the vehicle is destroyed or never returned, the deposit is kept by the vehicle rental facility. Once the rental fee and deposit are paid, the vehicle will be waiting outside of the vehicle rental shop.

**Hospitals:** A character can enter a hospital if he has been injured and seeks to be healed. A medical fee is charged based on the extent of injuries (See **Healing** section for more information).

**TAS:** The Traveller's aide society (TAS) can be entered by any character, but its services are only

entered by any character, but its services are only available if the lead character of your party is a member. Membership can only be obtained while mustering out of the military. The purpose of TAS is to assist a traveller by supplying free lodging and important travel information. Granted, the facilities are not as luxurious as the famous Starfarer's Home super hotels, but they are free. The information available at TAS can provide some very important details about a specific planet that your characters plan to visit.

**Library:** The library is a second source of available information. There is a fee charged for each piece of specific information obtained. At a library, a fee is listed above the first few words of the first paragraph pertaining to the information you seek. This provides a slight hint of what the information may pertain to and its price.

**Casino:** These buildings are present only on worlds with a low law level. A character can come here with hopes of hitting it big and spend hard-earned credits on a game of chance. Many have struck it rich in a casino, but even more have lost the vacc suit off their back and left galactic casinos bankrupt.

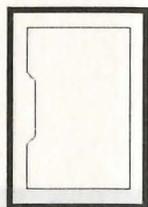
**Hotels:** There are many chains of hotels offering lodging to travellers, but none as elegant as the Starfarer's Home. Very powerful and influential people stay at a Starfarer's Home when on business trips.

**Bars:** After a long, hard day of exploration, combat and adventure, there is no better place to relax, socialize or just have a stiff drink than an interstellar bar. There are all types of clubs and bars scattered throughout the Spinward Marches. Many interesting people can be encountered in bars. Be careful, because on some of the low law level worlds these watering holes attract dangerous interstellar pirates and ruffians.

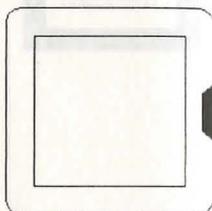
**Starport Building:** These buildings offer all types of services ranging from outfitting a starship to depositing money in your party account. A character can also train and improve his skills at a starport building. It is best to visit a starport building as soon as you land on a world. Your game can be saved at this location. See **Starports** in the INTERSTELLAR COMBAT AND STARSHIP EXPLORATION section of the manual for specific information.

## 12. Ground Combat

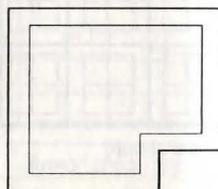
All of the combat in the game is handled from the overhead view screen. To initiate combat, you must first enter combat mode. This is done by selecting the



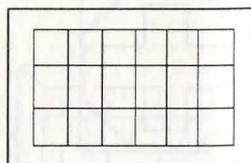
Library.



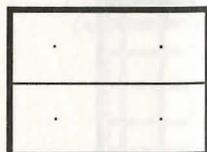
Casino.



Hotel.



Bars.



Starport building.

PARTY selection on the main menu list.

2. When on the ground, your enemies can fire on your party when it is represented by the large single party icon. If a hit is scored against your party, a randomly chosen character will sustain the damage. To retaliate, you must still divide your party into the 5 individual character icons.

When thrust into combat mode, your lead character icon will be replaced with five individual icons representing your entire party. The head of each individual character icon is the same color (or pattern) used to represent the character throughout the game.

Combat operates in a real-time environment and is not based on rounds of fighting. This means that time does not stop while characters fire/reload weapons, move or make decisions. While controlling your characters in combat, your enemy (enemies) will also be firing weapons, reloading, throwing grenades etc. At this point, you can either utilise real-time combat as before or press the "O" to issue combat orders to the members of your party.

Each of your characters has different movement ratings based on the amount of weight they are carrying. Characters will move slower when they are encumbered (carrying more weight than their maximum potential). A sound strategy is to move encumbered characters behind protective cover so they are not an easy target.

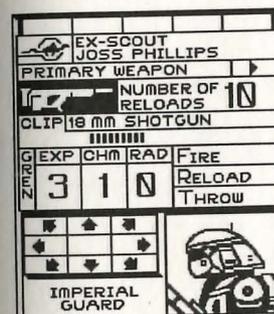
When in combat mode, each character is capable of:

- Switching between primary weapon and secondary weapons
- Firing a weapon
- Throwing grenades
- Moving

All character actions are controlled from the character information on the right side of the screen. Information is only displayed for one character at a time, but you can switch quickly and easily between characters. Use the 1-5 keys to change among characters.

At the top of the character information are five rectangular blocks, representing the characters in your party. The blocks are the same color or pattern as the character they represent. Below these blocks are the service symbol and name of the character whose information is being displayed.

Below this is a character's weapon information. Displayed are:



The Combat Information Screen

- The picture and name of the weapon.
- # of reloads for that weapon.
- Graphic bar representing the remaining ammunition in the clip currently loaded into the weapon.
- Icons to allow reloading and firing of the weapon.
- A list of all the grenades a character is carrying.

When in combat, the small pictures representing your character's opponent are displayed in the top right hand corner in place of the party's marching order.

For characters who are going to engage in combat, use the TAB key to target an opponent. If the character is going to through a grenade, press the "T" key, choose the type of grenade you wish him or her to use, and press the ENTER key. Next, the target box will appear on the screen. Use the TAB key to target the opponent. (For multiple characters, press the TAB key repeatedly until the cursor box is located at the target you wish to fire on.) After targeting the opponent, press the ENTER key, and then use the 1-5 keys to move to the next character.

For characters who are going to retreat or hide, walk the character to the position that you designate is safe. Next, use the 1-5 keys to move on to your other characters.

After you have issued all of the combat orders, press the "O" key again. All combat action will now progress.

Unlike many role playing games where armor reduces an opponent's chance to score a hit, MEGATRAVELLER uses armor to reduce the amount of damage sustained when a character *is* hit. Each weapon has a penetration factor, and armor or protective suits have an armor value. When a hit is scored, the amount of damage caused by the attack depends on the penetration value of the weapon as compared to the armor value of the armor or protective suit.

If a weapon's penetration factor is substantially lower than the armor value, the weapon will inflict a small portion of its base damage value.

If the weapon's penetration factor is much greater than the armor value, the weapon will inflict its base damage value.

If the weapon's penetration factor and armor value are relatively the same, the damage caused by the attack will be half the base damage value of the weapon.

Useful information for the weapons and armor can be found in the *Imperial Soldier's Weapons and Armor Guide*.

Each character has a life force (hits value) rating. This rating is broken into two sections, and is displayed using two methods. The first method is a representation using two numbers separated by a slash (2/2). This method is used on the character information screen. The first number is the amount of damage a character can sustain before becoming unconscious. The second number represents the additional damage a character is able to sustain before dying. Once a character becomes unconscious, he will continue to lose points at a slow rate. It is important to get medical attention to unconscious characters, because once the second number reaches zero, the character is dead.

The second method used to display the hits value is done using a bar graph. This method is used on the overhead view screen next to each of the character blocks. The bar is separated by a white line. If the bar travels below the white line, the character is unconscious. If the bar completely vanishes, the character is dead. The bar method operates the same as the numerical method mentioned above.

If a character is rendered unconscious during battle, he can be picked up by another character in your party and carried off the combat field. It is still necessary to get the unconscious character medical attention soon after the combat encounter. If all of the characters in your party are rendered unconscious, they will soon die. Therefore it is absolutely necessary to keep at least one character conscious.

If the battle is going badly and you think it best to live to fight another day, you can let your characters retreat. To retreat, regroup your party and run.

There are three types of combat: hand-to-hand, direct fire, and non-direct fire. Most of the game will probably be played utilizing direct fire combat. Direct fire refers to projectile weapons which require a target to be in sight and in range. For example, two direct fire weapons are a pistol and rifle. Indirect fire includes the throwing of grenades, for which a target does not necessarily need be in sight, but you must know its general location. Artillery fire at unseen distant targets is the most common type of indirect fire. Hand-to-hand combat is fought with knives and swords at an extremely close range. This type of combat will most

likely take place on planets where firearms are prohibited.

When using a direct fire weapon, you will not be able to shoot at targets behind buildings and other obstructions. The only targets that can be hit are those in the character's (not player's) LOS (line of sight). A simple mental test is to imagine a straight line between the character and the intended target. If there are no high obstructions in the way, the target can be hit. Some examples of high obstructions include buildings, exterior walls and vehicles.

Grenades, on the other hand, can be thrown at targets behind an obstruction. For example, if there are three opponents on the other side of a wall, you can lob grenades over the wall.

Range is not taken into account because of the small distances involved in a combat encounter. All weapons can be fired at any target on the overhead display screen. The only exception is with hand-to-hand combat, where a character's icon must be next to, and facing, the intended target.

## DESIGNER'S NOTES

When Paragon Software acquired the development rights for the MEGATRAVELLER computer game, we were finally given the chance to create a computer "role-playing" game. Until this license was obtained, Paragon had concentrated on arcade and strategy games. Needless to say, we were quite excited and couldn't wait to get past the preliminary scheduling and preparation stages and into the design and programming aspects of development.

One might think that since there was a pen and pencil version of the game, there was probably little computer game design required. If only that were true! As matter of fact, it was exactly the opposite.

The computer game designer has a lot of people to please and excite about a product (programmers, management, artists, and most importantly, you, the computer gamer). Additionally, the designer must work around numerous hardware limitations and create a viable design that can be implemented within a reasonable amount of time.

This is a much easier task to prepare for when you start from scratch, because you're designing the game with all the existing limitations and guidelines in mind. In the case of MEGATRAVELLER, we had to "modify" the existing material to fit within the development criteria.

We thought it was important to include both interstellar exploration and adventuring on planetary surfaces, both very important aspects of MEGATRAVELLER. In order to accomplish this, we had to generalize the design of each, which meant eliminating a lot of the small details.

Space combat was taken from the May Day rules, a board game implementing ship to ship combat utilizing the MEGATRAVELLER rules. The game retained the TRAVELLER feel, but was simpler than Starship Combat in the original rules. We wanted to include all the different varieties of starships, a starship construction option, and all the advanced offensive and defensive weapons available in the pen and pencil game, but we just didn't have the disk space or the time. It is our hope to continually build upon this computer game with future MEGATRAVELLER adventures and supplements.

The character generator follows the basic character

generation procedures in the pen and pencil version. It has been implemented in exactly the same manner as in the original game, with the exception of mustering out benefits. We had to remove some of the available benefits and add new ones that the player would find more useful in the computer version.

We unquestionably wanted to create a link between the original role-playing game and the computer version. For this reason, we kept the character generator as faithful to the original as possible, with the exception of the above changes. This compatibility means that those of you who play the pen and pencil version can print out characters from the computer version and use them for MEGATRAVELLER role-playing. As matter of fact, you can use the character generator to create characters for the pen and pencil role-playing version of MEGATRAVELLER without ever using them in the computer game.

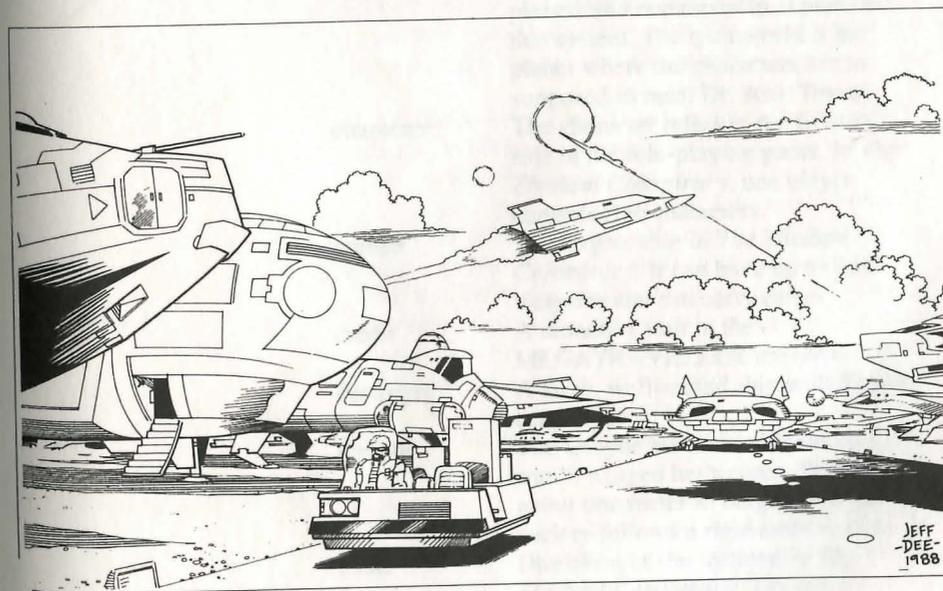
It wasn't possible for us to allow the creation of alien player characters. Such a feature would have used up too much critical disk space that was needed for other, more important features. Therefore, we integrated many of the aliens in the MEGATRAVELLER universe as non-player characters you will encounter during your adventures. This worked out very nicely, adding a real science-fiction and MEGATRAVELLER feel to the game. We even went ahead and created a few bizarre alien creatures of our own — though most of these are quite unfriendly.

When creating the surface maps for the planets in the game, we wanted all the important locations to be easy to find. There's nothing more agonizing than an incredibly large area to explore with very little to accomplish. What fun is it to spend most of your time wandering over a large map in hope of finding a specific building, location, or person(s)? We felt that quality of the game play is much more important than the quantity. So we tried as hard as possible to match the gaming environment with the game design.

I could continue with explanations of why we did or didn't implement certain features, but I think I've said enough.

One final word of thanks to all the MEGATRAVELLER fans that called to offer their support and encouragement. Thanks to Digest Group Publications for the material they sent us, it was a great help.

We would especially like to thank Marc Miller, president of Game Designers' Workshop and creator of the TRAVELLER universe, for his generous support and research material.



## GLOSSARY

- Alell** One of the eight star systems in *The Zhodani Conspiracy*. Alell is a binary system (two stars) with three planets the characters can explore. (See *system*)
- anagathics** Rare and expensive longevity drugs. A steady supply prolongs life and prevents aging.
- armed escort** A type of ship that will be encountered in the game. Escorts will often be in a caravan protecting merchant ships.
- Army** The Imperial Army is a planet-based fighting force. These soldiers fight in surface battles and campaigns. (see *Service*)
- Aslan** The Aslan are a race of intelligent beings resembling Terran lions. Aslan females outnumber males three to one. The major goal of an Aslan male is to own land, while the female is concerned with trade, industry and knowledge.
- Boughene** One of the eight star systems in *The Zhodani Conspiracy*. There are two planets and one moon to explore in this system. The mainworld is the planet where the characters are to supposed to meet Dr. Arik Toryan.
- character** The character refers to the fictional role in the role-playing game. In *The Zhodani Conspiracy*, one player controls five characters.
- corsair** The largest ship in *The Zhodani Conspiracy*. It can have up to four weapons and can carry cargo.
- credit** A monetary unit in the MEGATRAVELLER universe.
- destroyer** A large, well-armed ship with limited cargo space.
- Droyne** The Droyne are an intelligent race of small, winged herbivores. They are about one meter in height. Droyne society follows a rigid caste system.
- Efate** One of eight star systems in *The Zhodani Conspiracy*. The game begins, and ends, on Efate's

mainworld. There are two other planets and three satellites to explore in this system.

hexadecimal Numbering system based on 16. Digits 0 through 9 are represented the same as in the decimal system. Numbers 10 through 15 are represented by the letters A to F. The hexadecimal system is used throughout MEGATRAVELLER. (see *UPP*, *UWP*)

hexes Short for hexagons. Hexes are used in MEGATRAVELLER maps, both on ground and in space. The distance of a jump from one system to another is measured in hexes. (see *jump*, *system*)

Hivers Hivers are an intelligent race in the TRAVELLER universe. Hivers have six limbs, one of which is their head. The head has six manipulative tentacles and six eye stalks. The other five limbs end in six-fingered hands and these limbs are used both as arms and legs.

Imperium, The The interplanetary government of the MEGATRAVELLER Universe. The present government is the Third Imperium, founded 1,107 years earlier.

Interloper The name of the Sharurshid ship Lenara gives to the characters at the beginning of the game. (see *Raclor*, *Lenara*)

interplanetary One kind of ship the player will encounter. These craft travel between planets in the same system. They are small and fast with limited cargo space.

jump Faster-than-light travel from one point in space to another. A jump is made by leaving normal space and travelling through an alternate space called jumpspace.

key, code The keys referred to are complex computer files necessary to decode encrypted files. The code keys are stored on holographic cartridges.

Kiefer, Konrad One of the major NPCs in the game, Kiefer is the major foe of the player. He is the Subsector Executive of Sharurshid Megacorporation and is smuggling Zhodani arms into the Imperium. He will hire bounty hunters and assassins to harass the player throughout the game. (see *Sharurshid*)

K'kree The K'kree, once called Centaurs by humans, are the most massive of the major alien races. The K'kree are covered with short gray fur with a dense black mane. The K'kree are social creatures and live in herds.

Louzy One of eight star systems in *The Zhodani Conspiracy*. This system has three planets for the characters to explore.

mainworld The mainworld in each system is usually, but not always, the most populated world in the system. The system is named for the mainworld.

Marines Members of the armed fighting forces primarily carried aboard starships. They battle piracy and are used to board enemy ships in space. Imperial Marines also protect starports and bases that belong to the Navy and supplement other ground forces as needed. (see *Service*)

Menorb One of eight star systems in *The Zhodani Conspiracy*. Only the mainworld of Menorb and its moon can be explored by the characters.

Merchants Traders. They can be employed by large trading corporations or they can be small independent traders who carry cargo and passengers between worlds. Merchants can deal in conventional trade and commerce or they can become involved in less-than-legal smuggling. (see *Service*)

Navy The Imperial Navy patrols interstellar space. Ships and worlds in the vastness of space are subject to attack from pirates or unfriendly governments. The Navy seeks to

	protect interstellar trade lines and Imperial territory from pirates and foreign powers. (see <i>Service</i> )
NPC	A Non-Player Character is a character in a role-playing game that is not controlled by the player. Lenara and Kiefer are two prominent NPCs in <i>The Zhodani Conspiracy</i> . (see <i>Kiefer</i> , <i>Konrad</i> and <i>Raclor</i> , <i>Lenara</i> )
Pixie	One of the eight star systems in <i>The Zhodani Conspiracy</i> . Pixie has three planets to explore.
player	The individual playing a role-playing game. In <i>The Zhodani Conspiracy</i> , five characters will be controlled by the same player.
Psionics	The use of mental powers such as telepathy, telekinesis, clairvoyance, or teleportation. The Imperium considers the use of these powers to be a criminal act. The Zhodani is a psionic-using society, and that adds to the radical dissimilarities between the two cultures. (see <i>Zhodani</i> and <i>Zhodani Consulate</i> )
Quaam, Viktor	Viktor is Kiefer's right-hand man. He is responsible for the kidnapping of Dr. Arik Toryan. The characters must defeat Viktor in order to rescue Arik and continue the scenario. (see <i>Kiefer</i> , <i>Konrad</i> )
Raclor, Lenara	Lenara is the Transom agent investigating Kiefer. She has Kiefer's encoded file, which she gives to the characters (in addition to the ship and some money). She sends them to Boughene to meet with Dr. Arik Toryan. Lenara is the player's major connection to the scenario. (see <i>Transom</i> )
Scout ship	One of the ships that will be encountered. The Scouts often give old ships to ex-scouts as a reward for excellent service.
Scouts	The Imperial Interstellar Scout Service is an exploratory service. The scouts are responsible for exploring and

	mapping new territories. In addition to this, the Scouts are also information couriers. They man the X-Boats, the high-tech Imperial postal service. (see <i>Service</i> )
sector	A division of the Imperium made up of sixteen subsectors. The Spinward Marches is the sector in which <i>The Zhodani Conspiracy</i> is set. The Imperium is composed of roughly 27 sectors.
service	The career of the character before adventuring in the MEGATRAVELLER game. In MEGATRAVELLER, there are 18 different services. In <i>The Zhodani Conspiracy</i> , the five most common are used. (see <i>Army</i> , <i>Marines</i> , <i>Merchants</i> , <i>Navy</i> , <i>Scouts</i> )
Sharurshid	Sharurshid Megacorporation is one of 13 mega-corporations in the Imperium. Sharurshid's business activities emphasize trade in luxury and novelty goods, transport of goods between worlds, and service industries. Sharurshid has conducted limited trade with the Zhodani Consulate. (see <i>Kiefer</i> , <i>Raclor</i> , <i>Transom</i> and <i>Zhodani Consulate</i> )
skill	Acquired by characters while in the service. These skills will affect the ability of the characters to succeed at certain tasks. There are 72 skills in <i>The Zhodani Conspiracy</i> , from Academic to Zero-G Environment.
Spinward Marches	The frontier sector of the Imperium, as it borders the Zhodani Consulate. In addition to the two major powers, there are also numerous independent territories in the Marches. This sector has been settled since the year 400, but has potential for exploration and development for centuries to come. (see <i>Imperium</i> , <i>sector</i> , <i>Zhodani Consulate</i> )
startown	The section of the city near the

	starport. This area has a tendency to enforce law and order less strictly than in more provincial areas. There are more casinos and illegal weapon stores and fewer jails and security guards in startown than in the city.
subsector	Each sector in the Imperium is divided into 16 subsectors; each is named for the capital world. <i>The Zhodani Conspiracy</i> takes place in the Regina and Jewell subsectors on the Spinward Marches. (see <i>sector, Spinward Marches</i> )
system	A star, its orbiting planets and associated satellites. One world in the system is designated as a mainworld, and the system is named for that world.
task	An action that a character attempts to perform during the game. Every task is assigned a difficulty that determines the number needed to succeed at that task. Difficult tasks will require a higher number than routine or simple tasks. Applicable skills will lower the number needed to succeed. (see <i>skill</i> )
Toryan, Arik	Dr. Arik Toryan is the Computer Operations Office Manager for Sharurshid. Toryan created an encoding scheme for Kiefer that needed two decoding keys — one specified by Toryan, the other by Kiefer. When Lenara approached Dr. Toryan and asked for his decoding key, he agreed to help. Dr. Toryan is followed to Boughene, then kidnapped by Viktor Quamm. The characters must rescue Arik in order to win the game. (See <i>Kiefer, Quaam, Ractor, Sharurshid</i> )
trader	A trader is a merchant ship (sometimes called an armed merchant). These ships carry cargo between systems and are often a target for pirates.
Transom	Transom is publicly known as an auditing division of Sharurshid. It has

	secretly developed into an agency that investigates embezzlement, theft and fraud of Sharurshid employees. (see <i>Ractor, Sharurshid</i> )
Uakye	One of the eight systems in <i>The Zhodani Conspiracy</i> . Uakye has three systems to explore.
UPP	The Universal Personality Profile summarizes a character's attributes as a sequence of six hexadecimal numbers (0 to F). The attributes, in order, are Strength, Dexterity, Endurance, Intelligence, Education and Social Standing. A character with a UPP of 777777 is average in every respect. A character with a UPP of A47CD8 is stronger than average (A), not very dextrous (4), and has an average endurance (7). This character is very intelligent (C) and extremely educated (D), with a social standing that is just slightly above average (8). (see <i>hexadecimal</i> )
UWP	The Universal World profile is series of letters and numbers used to summarize the characteristics of a planet. The characteristics, in order, are: Starport, Size, Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, Population, Government, Law Level and Tech Level. Efate, with a UPP of A646930-D, has an excellent starport (A). It is a medium size (6) planet with a thin-tainted atmosphere (4) and it is a wet world — with 60% water (6). The population of Efate is in the billions (9) with an oligarchy (3) for government. There is no law (0) and the tech level is average stellar (D).
Vargr	The Vargr are an intelligent race resulting from genetic manipulation of Terran canines. They are bipedal carnivores, with hands similar to those of humans. The Vargr have no central government.
X-boat	The X-boat system is the Imperial "postal service" that is maintained by

- the Scouts. The characters will occasionally encounter an X-boat. (see *Scouts*)
- Yres** One of eight star systems in *The Zhodani Conspiracy*. There are two planets and two satellites to explore in Yres.
- Zhodani** The Zhodani are a branch of humanity similar to other human races. The most important difference is their use of psionics. The Zhodani have been battling with the Imperium for 500 years along the Spinward Marches.
- Zhodani Consulate** The Zhodani Consulate is the government of the Zhodani people (equivalent of the Imperium).

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# IMPERIAL SOLDIER'S WEAPONS AND ARMOR GUIDE

I usually don't go to the front lines, and I don't have a chance to see the real level of my skills in the hands of the soldiers.

My expectations for my own performance are high. I don't want to be a soldier who is just a soldier. I want to be a soldier who is a warrior.

I've been in the front lines and I've seen what it's like. I've seen the soldiers who are the best. I've seen the soldiers who are the worst. I've seen the soldiers who are the best of the best. I've seen the soldiers who are the worst of the worst.

In the end, it's all about the soldier. It's about the soldier who is the best. It's about the soldier who is the worst. It's about the soldier who is the best of the best. It's about the soldier who is the worst of the worst.

Though I'm not a soldier, I'm not a warrior. I'm not a soldier who is the best. I'm not a soldier who is the worst. I'm not a soldier who is the best of the best. I'm not a soldier who is the worst of the worst.

But I'm a soldier. I'm a warrior. I'm a soldier who is the best. I'm a soldier who is the worst. I'm a soldier who is the best of the best. I'm a soldier who is the worst of the worst.

The Imperial Army is a vast organization. It is a vast organization of soldiers. It is a vast organization of warriors. It is a vast organization of the best of the best. It is a vast organization of the worst of the worst.

The Imperial Army is a vast organization. It is a vast organization of soldiers. It is a vast organization of warriors. It is a vast organization of the best of the best. It is a vast organization of the worst of the worst.

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the difference between the two factors, the...  
effectiveness of the...  
...The... of...

## WEAPONS

*Welcome to the Imperial Armed Forces,*

You can take pride in knowing you have earned the right to serve the Imperium, the greatest and most just universal power ever known. May your service in the armed fighting forces always honor and preserve the ideals of the Imperium.

As you are fully aware, the Imperium contains an array of unique worlds. Some of these planets are inhabited by highly civilized races who have achieved startling technological advances. Other worlds contain primitive cultures that continue to use rudimentary, hand-held weapons. This *Imperial Soldier's Weapons and Armor Guide* is devised to assist you in identifying military arms discovered within the Imperium. A picture of each weapon is included along with pertinent statistical information that will help you determine its strengths and weaknesses.

The statistical information is as follows:

*Rounds/Clip:* This represents the number of rounds (bullets) that can be loaded into the weapon. In some

instances, ammunition is contained in a clip, which is loaded into the weapon.

*Penetration Factor:* The higher the penetration factor, the more effective the weapon will be when fired against armored protection. You should compare the penetration factor of the weapon against the armor factor of an opponent to determine how effective your attack will be. If the penetration factor is greater, your assault will be very damaging. The greater

the difference between the two factors, the more effective the weapon will be.

*Damage:* The base amount of damage caused by the

### The Imperial Creed

I proudly stand as an Imperial Soldier,  
and hereby swear a solemn oath to live my life,  
to the best of my ability,  
in the name of  
the Imperium.

May my actions be brave and my judgement be clear.

May my service always honor the Imperium.

I firmly resolve to resist greed, corruption,  
and self advancement against the Imperium.

I promise to preserve peace and to accept  
alien races with friendship and equality  
so long as their intentions do not threaten the  
welfare of the Imperial Empire.

In the name of honor and justice, I steadfastly swear  
to lay down my life for the preservation of the Imperium.

Though my life may end in the call of duty,

I promise to obey all orders given to me by my superior  
officers, and I pledge to exhaust every ounce of strength,  
courage and will to defeat my enemies.

weapon. Damage is also affected by the protective armor an opponent is wearing, and the various skills of the weapon's user.

*Weight:* The weight of the weapon in kilograms.

*Cost:* All monetary transactions are carried out using Imperial credits. The credit amount represents the base cost of the weapon. This cost can increase or decrease based on the personal bartering skills of the buyer or seller, and the tech level of a particular planet.

*Tech Level:* The technology level needed to create the weapon. You may find that travellers have purchased high tech level weapons and sold them on low tech worlds.

*Law Level:* The law level of a world indicates the level at which the weapon is prohibited. Some worlds with stringent law levels will confiscate certain weapons outside of starports. It is not uncommon for weapons to be smuggled past starport checkpoints. Punishment for weapons smuggling is severe.

These statistical categories will provide you with a basic knowledge of the known Imperial weapons. Always be aware that weapons can kill. Remember your education and training, and always use clear judgement in any circumstance that requires you to raise your weapon. Above all, honor the Imperium through committed service in all your actions.

Long Live the Emperor. Long Live the Imperium.

*Duke Commander*

*Sir Norris of Regina*

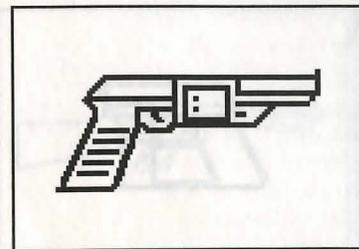
*Commander in Chief of the  
Imperial Armed Forces*

*Spinward Marches*



## 1. Personal Slug Throwers

"Slug thrower" is a term used to describe a firearm or weapon that fires a projectile within your line of sight (LOS). These weapons range from a simple revolver or shotgun to the gauss pistol, the most advanced slug thrower in the Imperium. All of the slug throwers are either single shot weapons that fire one round for each pull of the trigger, or fully-automatic firearms that fire bursts of several rounds when the trigger is pulled. Ammunition for slug throwers is always purchased by the clip (magazine) or an amount necessary to fully load the weapon. Ammunition is never sold by the individual shell.



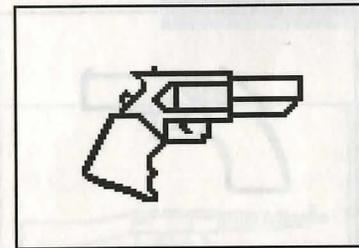
### Revolver (7 mm)

Description: A fairly obsolete firearm, the revolver is often used on lower tech level worlds. One round is fired for each pull of the trigger. Six bullets can fit into the revolver at one time. Ammunition for the revolver is purchased in packages of six. The 7 mm revolver

has a very low penetration factor and is not very effective against most types of armored protection.

#### Revolver (7 mm)

*Rounds:* 6     *Penetration Factor:* 1     *Damage:* 3  
*Weight (kgs):* 5     *Cost (credits):* 125  
*Tech Level:* 5     *Law Level:* 5



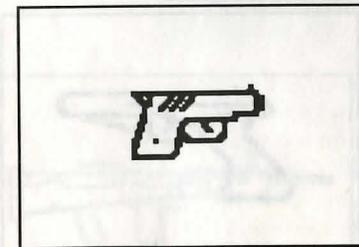
### Magnum Revolver (9 mm)

Description: The 9 mm magnum revolver pistol is a larger and more powerful version of the 7 mm revolver. It fires a larger shell and has a higher penetration factor. One round is fired with each pull of the trigger. The pistol holds six rounds

which are always purchased in a group, not separately. The magnum revolver can be found on many lower tech level worlds and is slightly more expensive than the 7 mm revolver.

#### Magnum Revolver (9 mm)

*Rounds:* 6     *Penetration Factor:* 3     *Damage:* 3  
*Weight (kgs):* 1     *Cost (credits):* 300  
*Tech Level:* 5     *Law Level:* 5



### Snub Pistol (10 mm)

Description: The snub pistol is a low-velocity revolver that fires a 10 mm shell at 100 to 150 meters per second. Although designed for use on starships or in a zero-G environment, this weapon has a good penetration factor and damage rating and is formidable when used at

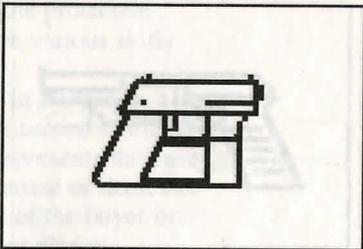
close range. An ammo clip is not used; instead, six individual cartridges are loaded into the pistol. Ammo for the snub pistol is always purchased six at a time.

#### Snub Pistol (10 mm)

*Rounds:* 6     *Penetration Factor:* 6     *Damage:* 4  
*Weight (kgs):* 5     *Cost (credits):* 150  
*Tech Level:* 8     *Law Level:* 5

### Body Pistol

Description: The body pistol is often smuggled into high tech level worlds. The pistol is small and easy to conceal. Designed to evade detection devices at starports, it is constructed of non-metallic material. The magazine holds six rounds and is loaded into the pistol's handle.

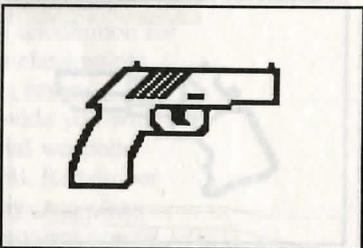


#### Body Pistol

Rounds: 6 Penetration Factor: 1 Damage: 3  
 Weight (kgs): 5 Cost (credits): 500  
 Tech Level: 8 Law Level: 1

### Auto Pistol

Description: The auto pistol is the most commonly used automatic weapon. It fires bullets at 400 to 500 meters per second. The weapon is fitted with a magazine that can hold up to 15 rounds of ammunition. A favorite among ex-military travellers, the auto pistol is small, inexpensive and quite effective against opponents not protected by armor.

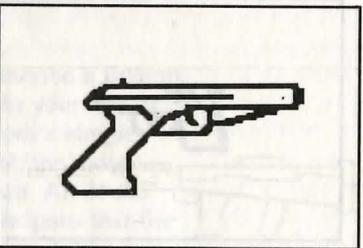


#### Auto Pistol

Rounds: 15 Penetration Factor: 2 Damage: 3  
 Weight (kgs): 1 Cost (credits): 200  
 Tech Level: 5 Law Level: 3

### Gauss Pistol (4 mm)

Description: The gauss pistol fires a needle-shaped projectile that spins through an electromagnetic field. The gauss pistol is silent. There is no kickback when firing the weapon. Gauss weapons are rare, and can only be purchased on high tech and law level worlds.

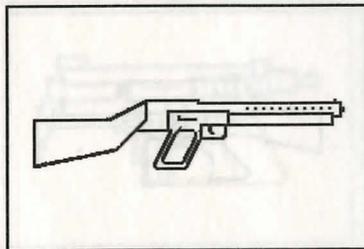


#### Gauss Pistol (4 mm)

Rounds: 15 Penetration Factor: 4 Damage: 4  
 Weight (kgs): 5 Cost (credits): 600  
 Tech Level: 13 Law Level: 5

### Carbine (7 mm)

Description: A shorter version of the 9 mm rifle, the carbine fires a smaller round at 900 meters per second. Ammo is held in a 10 round magazine that is loaded into the underside of the weapon. The carbine is a cost efficient weapon. It is light and easy to carry. It does not require



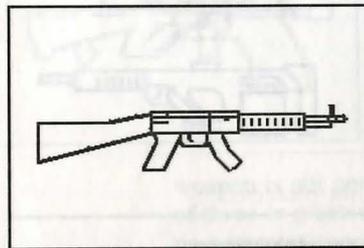
extensive training to fire; amateur shootists can operate the weapon. The carbine can be purchased on lower tech worlds.

#### Carbine (7 mm)

Rounds: 10 Penetration Factor: 2 Damage: 3  
 Weight (kgs): 3 Cost (credits): 200  
 Tech Level: 5 Law Level: 8

### Rifle (9 mm)

Description: Much heavier and longer than the carbine, the 9 mm rifle fires a larger projectile at a velocity of 900 meters per second. The rifle is loaded with a 20-round clip. It has a high penetration factor and is effective against armored opponents.

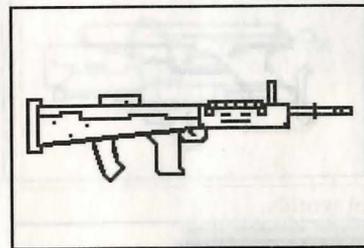


#### Rifle (9 mm)

Rounds: 3 Penetration Factor: 5 Damage: 2  
 Weight (kgs): 5 Cost (credits): 1000  
 Tech Level: 7 Law Level: 8

### Auto Rifle (7 mm)

Description: The 7 mm auto rifle is a much more refined weapon than the 9 mm rifle. Because of its automatic fire capability, the auto rifle is restricted by most worlds in the Spinward Marches. During combat, the weapon must be reloaded frequently, because the ammo clip



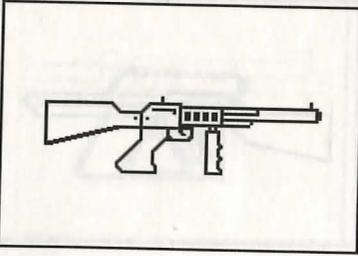
only holds 20 rounds.

#### Auto Rifle (7 mm)

Rounds: 20 Penetration Factor: 3 Damage: 3  
 Weight (kgs): 5 Cost (credits): 1000  
 Tech Level: 6 Law Level: 3

### Gauss Rifle (4 mm)

Description: The 4 mm gauss rifle is considered the state-of-the-art direct fire slug thrower. Using the same technology as the gauss pistol, it fires a needle-shaped projectile through an electromagnetic field at a velocity of up to 1500 meters per second. The weapon is a good value, considering its fully-automatic firing capabilities and high penetration factor. A very effective rifle against armored opponents. The gauss rifle is a very rare weapon and can only be purchased on high tech worlds.

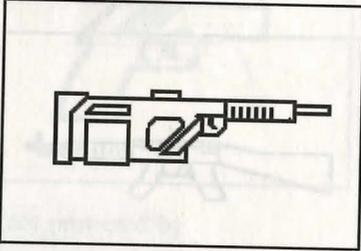


#### Gauss Rifle (4 mm)

Rounds: 40 Penetration Factor: 7 Damage: 3  
 Weight (kgs): 3.5 Cost (credits): 1500  
 Tech Level: 12 Law Level: 8

### Shotgun (18 mm)

Description: The shotgun is a powerful weapon built not for accuracy, but for shock effect at short range. The shotgun fires shells containing a large number of tiny pellets at 350 meters per second. A 10-round clip is loaded under, and parallel to, the gun's barrel. While the shotgun is very powerful, it has a low penetration factor. It is nearly useless against most forms of armor.

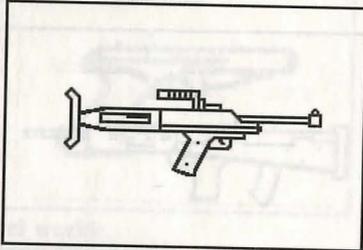


#### Shotgun (18 mm)

Rounds: 10 Penetration Factor: 1 Damage: 4  
 Weight (kgs): 4 Cost (credits): 150  
 Tech Level: 4 Law Level: 8

### Auto Shotgun (18 mm)

Description: The auto shotgun is very similar to the regular shotgun, but offers fully automatic fire. The ammunition clip can hold 20 rounds. The cost for an auto shotgun is higher than the normal shotgun.

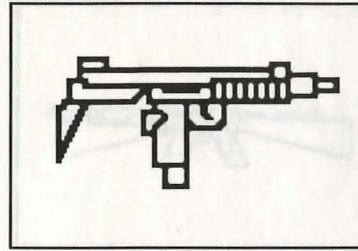


#### Auto Shotgun (18 mm)

Rounds: 20 Penetration Factor: 1 Damage: 4  
 Weight (kgs): 4 Cost (credits): 500  
 Tech Level: 7 Law Level: 8

### Submachine Gun (9 mm)

Description: The submachine gun is a small, lightweight automatic weapon. A 30-round magazine is loaded in the underside of the weapon. It's much easier to smuggle this weapon through starport checkpoints than some of the larger auto rifles. The submachine gun is a favorite among



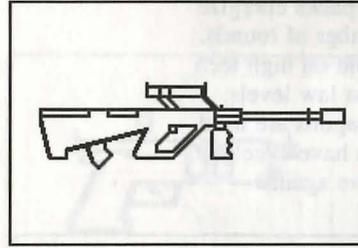
ex-military adventurers and rebels on lower tech worlds who can't afford advanced or expensive armaments.

#### Submachine Gun (9 mm)

Rounds: 30 Penetration Factor: 3 Damage: 3  
 Weight (kgs): 2.5 Cost (credits): 500  
 Tech Level: 5 Law Level: 3

### Assault Rifle (7 mm)

Description: This weapon is similar to, but lighter and less expensive than, the auto rifle. It fires a projectile at velocities of up to 900 meters per second. A 30-round clip is loaded into the underside of this fully-automatic rifle. Ammunition is inexpensive and is purchased by the clip. The assault



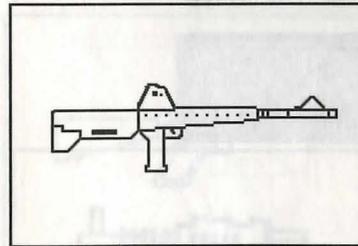
weapon is not permitted on any world with a law level of three or greater. It is difficult to smuggle the weapon past starport checkpoints.

#### Assault Rifle (7 mm)

Rounds: 30 Penetration Factor: 3 Damage: 3  
 Weight (kgs): 4 Cost (credits): 400  
 Tech Level: 7 Law Level: 3

### Advanced Combat Rifle (9 mm)

Description: More sophisticated than the assault rifle, the advanced combat rifle fires an explosive bullet at a velocity of 900 meters per second. The weapon is fully automatic, and ammunition is purchased in 20-round clips. It can only be bought on high



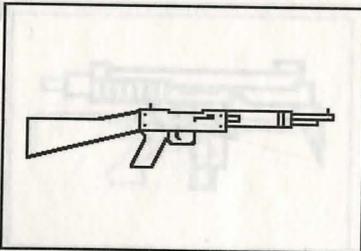
tech worlds with a low law level.

#### Advanced Combat Rifle (9 mm)

Rounds: 20 Penetration Factor: 4 Damage: 3  
 Weight (kgs): 3.5 Cost (credits): 1000  
 Tech Level: 10 Law Level: 3

### Light Assault Gun (LAG)

Description: This heavy rifle requires a sling to assist in its firing. It blasts a 20 mm shell at velocities of 400 to 500 meters per second. Although the weapon is cumbersome, it has a high penetration factor and is effective against armored opponents.



#### Light Assault Gun (LAG)

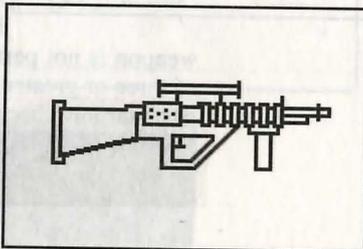
Rounds: 5      Penetration Factor: 8      Damage: 4  
Weight (kgs): 7      Cost (credits): 600  
Tech Level: 8      Law Level: 5

## 2. Personal Energy Weapons

Personal energy weapons are activated by power packs worn on the body. These power packs energize a weapon and allow it to fire a set number of rounds. Personal energy weapons are only found on high tech worlds, and are often restricted by most law levels. Some of the more powerful energy weapons are used for military purposes. Energy weapons have excellent penetrating power and are very effective against armored foes.

### Laser Carbine (TL 8)

Description: The laser carbine, powered by a backpack, fires high-powered energy bolts. Like all energy weapons, the powerpack is connected to the weapon by a strong cable. The laser carbine fires a 9 mm concentrated energy beam that is aimed using an optic sight.

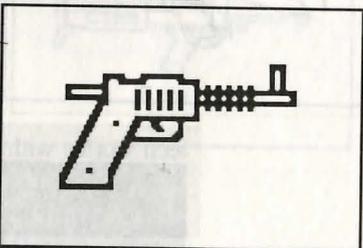


#### Laser Carbine (TL 8)

Rounds: 40      Penetration Factor: 7      Damage: 3  
Weight (kgs): 5      Cost (credits): 2500  
Tech Level: 8      Law Level: 2

### Laser Pistol (TL 9)

Description: The laser pistol functions in the same way as the laser carbine. However, it is lighter, and does not have efficient penetrating power.

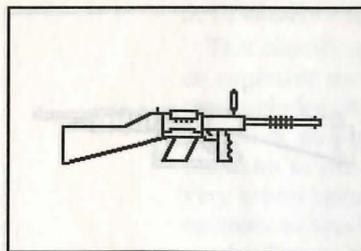


#### Laser Pistol (TL 9)

Rounds: 40  
Penetration Factor: 4  
Damage: 3      Weight (kgs): 1      Cost (credits): 2000  
Tech Level: 9      Law Level: 2

### Laser Rifle (TL 9)

Description: The laser rifle is the standard high energy weapon. It is heavier and more powerful than the laser carbine. The rifle fires a concentrated beam of energy that strikes a target with an intense burst of light and heat. A strategic advantage of the laser rifle is that it



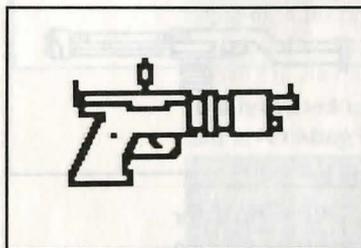
can be fired twice as much before its power pack requires regeneration.

#### Laser Rifle (TL 9)

Rounds: 80      Penetration Factor: 9      Damage: 3  
Weight (kgs): 6      Cost (credits): 3500  
Tech Level: 9      Law Level: 2

### Laser Pistol (TL 12)

Description: The TL 12 laser pistol is a more advanced version of the TL 8 firearm. It has a higher penetration value, and is powered by a pack that allows the weapon to be fired many times. This pistol is rare and can only be purchased on high tech worlds with very low law levels.

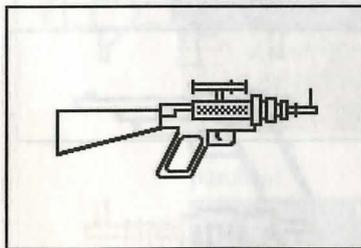


#### Laser Pistol (TL 12)

Rounds: 120      Penetration Factor: 5      Damage: 3  
Weight (kgs): 2      Cost (credits): 3000  
Tech Level: 12      Law Level: 2

### Laser Carbine (TL 12)

Description: This upgraded version of the laser carbine is very powerful, and has a higher penetration value against armored foes. It has a greater firing capacity. This very rare weapon utilizes state-of-the-art scientific technologies.

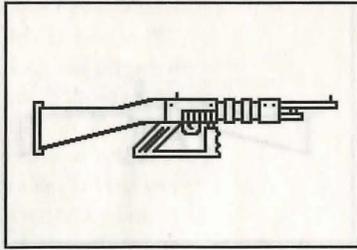


#### Laser Carbine (TL 12)

Rounds: 120      Penetration Factor: 10      Damage: 3  
Weight (kgs): 4.5      Cost (credits): 4000  
Tech Level: 12      Law Level: 2

### Laser Rifle (TL 12)

Description: The most powerful laser weapon ever created, the TL 12 laser rifle can be fired often before the power pack needs re-charging. The weapon also has a very strong penetration value. This rifle is expensive, rare and found only on high tech worlds. It is quite heavy and cumbersome.

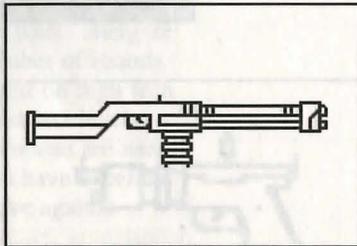


#### Laser Rifle (TL 12)

Rounds: 120 Penetration Factor: 18 Damage: 3  
Weight (kgs): 9 Cost (credits): 8000  
Tech Level: 12 Law Level: 2

### PGMP (Plasma Gun Man Portable TL 12)

Description: The PGMP is energized by a portable power pack that connects to the weapon via a flexible power link. The powerpack uses a laser ignition system to heat hydrogen fuel into a plasma state.



The plasma is then fired through a magnetic field. One powerful plasma bolt is fired for each pull of the trigger. It is the most powerful weapon a person can use; very few forms of armored protection can withstand it. It can only be found on high tech level worlds with an exceptionally low law level.

#### PGMP (TL 12)

Rounds: 40 Penetration Factor: 20 Damage: 12  
Weight (kgs): 6 Cost (credits): 10000  
Tech Level: 12 Law Level: 2

### Neural Pistol

Description: The neural pistol, nearly impossible to purchase, is the rarest weapon in the universe. A blast from the pistol disrupts brain activity and causes immediate unconsciousness. The weapon is effective against most forms of armor. Even if you could find it for sale, it would probably be too expensive to purchase, because it's so technologically advanced.

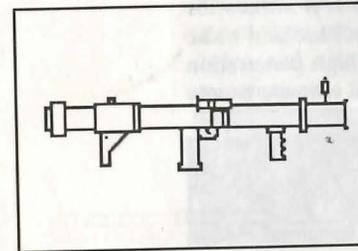


#### Neural Pistol

Rounds: 20 Penetration Factor: 10  
Damage: Unconsciousness Weight (kgs): 15  
Cost (credits): 225,000 Tech Level: 16 Law Level: 2

### 3. Grenades and Rocket Launchers

This classification includes any weapon which fires an explosive rocket, or any thrown projectile (grenade) that explodes on impact. Grenades and rocket launchers are highly restricted weapons. They are only found on worlds that have no laws. These weapons are very useful because they can affect a group of enemies as opposed to a single target. Also, grenades can be thrown over obstacles such as walls, trees, or rocks.



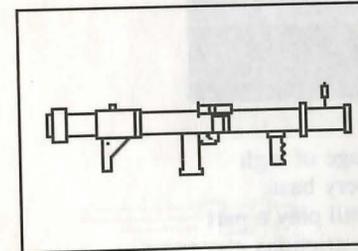
### TL-7 Disposable Rocket Launcher

Description: A very powerful and costly rocket launcher. It is totally independent of a rifle, and can only be fired once before being discarded. This disposable rocket launcher has an extremely high penetration rating.

It is restricted to worlds with an appropriate tech level and no existing law level.

#### TL-7 Disposable Rocket Launcher

Rounds: 1 (then must be discarded)  
Penetration Factor: 36 Damage: 6  
Weight (kgs): 3.5 Cost (credits): 4500  
Tech Level: 7 Law Level: 1



### Rocket Launcher (TL 10)

Description: This weapon can fire three rounds before having to be reloaded. It has a slightly lower penetration value, but it is potentially as damaging as the TL-7 Disposable Rocket Launcher. The Rocket Launcher (TL 10) is a very effective, but expensive and rare weapon to

purchase.

#### Rocket Launcher (TL 10)

Rounds: 3 Penetration Factor: 32 Damage: 8  
Weight (kgs): 5 Cost (credits): 7500  
Tech Level: 10 Law Level: 1

### Explosive Grenade (TL 7)

Description: This grenade explodes into flying shrapnel when it strikes the ground. It is a very effective weapon against groups of enemies in a small area.

#### PGMP Explosive Grenade (TL 7)

Rounds: 1 Penetration Factor: 9 Damage: 8  
Weight (kgs): 1 Cost (credits): 500  
Tech Level: 7 Law Level: 1

### Chemical Grenade (TL 11)

Description: A deadly grenade that explodes into shrapnel and intense chemical heat when it strikes the ground. This grenade is difficult to purchase and more expensive than other grenades. It has a high penetration value against armored foes. The chemical grenade is only permitted on worlds with no law level.

#### Chemical Grenade (TL 11)

Rounds: 1 Penetration Factor: 13 Damage: 8  
Weight (kgs): 1 Cost (credits): 750  
Tech Level: 11 Law Level: 1

### Radiation Grenade

Description: Upon explosion, this grenade throws off intense radiation. Everyone in the small contaminated area of the explosion suffers from temporary radiation sickness. This radiation sickness cannot be prevented by armored protection. Radiation grenades are often used strategically to create a contaminated "area" separating you from your opponents.

#### Radiation Grenade

Rounds: 1 Penetration Factor: NA  
Damage: Area of effect Weight (kgs): 1  
Cost (credits): 750 Tech Level: 11 Law Level: 1

## 5. Melee Weapons (Hand To Hand)

Even though we are in the advanced age of high energy laser and plasma weapons, the very basic weapons, used for thousands of years, still play a part in today's combat. Some worlds have restrictions imposed by their governments forbidding any weapons except knives and swords. Hand-to-hand weapons can not be thrown at an opponent. They can only be used for close-range fighting. All melee weapons are constructed of sturdy, high-grade steel, with the exception of the plastic knife.

### Dagger

Description: A small, double edged weapon that can vary in style, workmanship and length. Most daggers are

approximately 200 mm in length.

#### Dagger

Penetration Factor: 2 Damage: 2 Weight (kgs): 1  
Cost (credits): 10  
Tech Level: 1 Law Level: C

### Sword

Description: The sword is the most common hand held combat weapon. On several low tech worlds, the sword is commonly used as the main armament of militant forces. Through the centuries, the sword has been a symbolic, decorative weapon worn by many nobles and upper class citizens. Swords are forged in a variety of styles and sizes, with single or double edged blade construction.

#### Sword

Penetration Factor: 4 Damage: 2 Weight (kgs): 1  
Cost (credits): 150 Tech Level: 1 Law Level: C

### Plastic Knife

Description: This knife is similar to a regular dagger, but constructed of a dense hydrocarbon plastic. After the weapon has been melted or misshaped, it can return to its normal shape by tapping it sharply against a firm base. This plastic weapon cannot be discovered at starport weapon detection areas.

#### Plastic Knife

Penetration Factor: 2 Damage: 2 Weight (kgs): 15  
Cost (credits): 300 Tech Level: 9 Law Level: C

## ARMOR AND PROTECTIVE SUITS

There are many worlds within the MEGA-TRAVELLER universe, and each of these planets has unique societies and environments. Many times it will be necessary to protect your body with armor or protective environment suits designed to allow survival in severe atmospheric conditions. There is a large variety of armor and protective suits available. The availability of this equipment is largely determined by the tech level of the world. On high tech level worlds, all types of equipment can be found. However, on low tech level worlds, armor and protective suits are very basic. Obsolete armor can usually be purchased for a bargain price on high tech level worlds. Likewise, advanced equipment can be sold for a profit on worlds with a low tech level. However, buying and selling is largely a part of your characters' communication and negotiating skills.

### Jack Armor

Effective against blade weapons (sword and dagger), jack is a leather covering worn over the torso, arms, and legs. Although jack is ineffective against firearms and energy weapons, it is useful on high law level worlds which permit only blade weapons. It is light, inexpensive, and easy to purchase on nearly any world.

Jack Armor

Armor value: 2 Weight (kgs): 1  
Cost (Imperial Credits): 50 Tech Level: 1

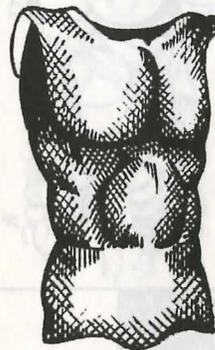


### Mesh Armor

A slightly upgraded version of jack armor, mesh can be a natural or synthetic suit reinforced with a metal mesh. It is more costly, but heavier and more durable than jack armor. Mesh is most effective against blade weapons. But, like jack armor, mesh offers little protection against firearms and energy weapons.

Mesh Armor

Armor value: 2 Weight (kgs): 2  
Cost (Imperial Credits): 150 Tech Level: 7

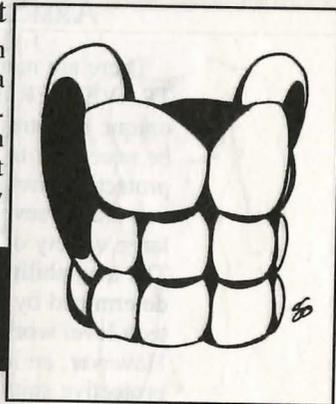


## Flak Jacket

A flak jacket is an inexpensive form of ballistic cloth fashioned into a protective covering to guard the torso. A flak jacket offers limited protection against firearms. However, it will not defend you against personal energy weapons.

### Flak Jacket

*Armor value:* 3 *Weight (kgs):* 2  
*Cost (Imperial Credits):* 250  
*Tech Level:* 6

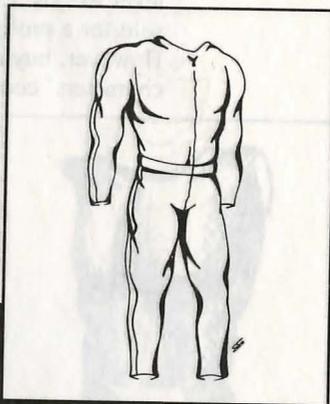


## Cloth Armor

An upgraded version of the flak jacket, cloth is a protective suit made from a heavier stock of ballistic cloth. This armor absorbs the impact of a projectile and distributes the blow over the entire area of the suit. It is highly favored because of its low cost, light weight, and protection against firearms.

### Cloth Armor

*Armor value:* 5 *Weight (kgs):* 1  
*Cost (Imperial Credits):* 500  
*Tech Level:* 7

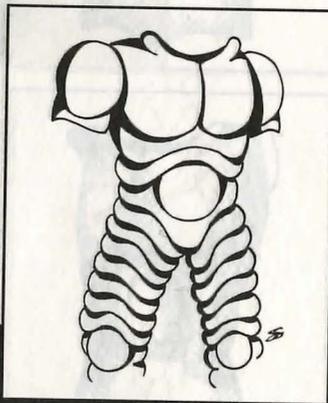


## Ablat Armor

An inexpensive material designed to ablat (vaporize) when struck by laser fire. When the material vaporizes, the energy of the laser fire is carried away, offering protection to the wearer. Ablat will eventually lose its effectiveness against laser attacks because the armor wears away each time it is directly hit.

### Ablat Armor

*Armor value:* 1 (6 vs. lasers)  
*Weight (kgs):* 2  
*Cost (Imperial Credits):* 75  
*Tech Level:* 9

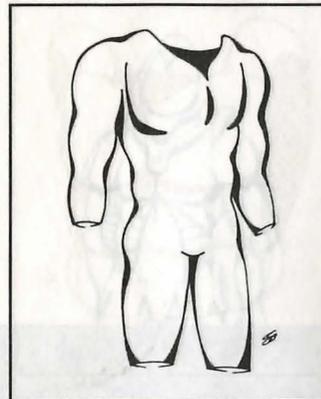


## Reflec Armor

Reflec armor is extremely effective against laser weapons, but virtually useless against most other types of attacks. This armor is constructed of a reflective material on a plastic base. It is worn underneath clothing. This armor is rare, difficult to purchase and very expensive.

### Reflec Armor

*Armor value:* 1 (10 vs. lasers)  
*Weight (kgs):* 1  
*Cost (Imperial Credits):* 1,500  
*Tech Level:* A

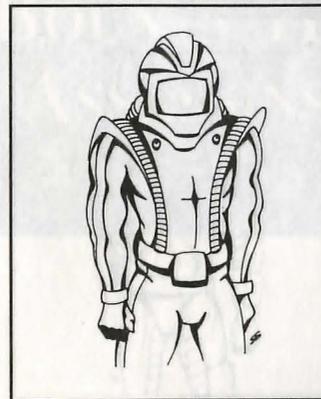


## TL 8 Vacc Suit

This suit is not manufactured specifically for combat situations. Instead, it is meant to protect the wearer from extreme temperatures, pressure variations and atmospheric conditions. The vacc suit is a basic survival tool on worlds classified as desolate vacuums. The TL 8 vacc suit is more unwieldy and uncomfortable than more advanced suits. However, this suit serves the same purpose at a lower price.

### TL 8 Vacc Suit

*Armor value:* 5 *Weight (kgs):* 10  
*Cost (Imperial Credits):* 6,000  
*Tech Level:* 8

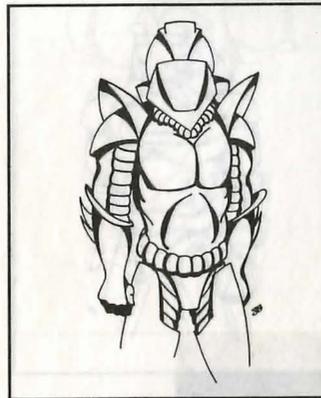


## TL 9 Hostile Environment Vacc Suit (HEVC)

The TL 9 HEVC is a more advanced version of the TL 8 vacc suit. It is less cumbersome and provides suitable armor protection in combat situations. However, the main purpose of the suit is to offer protection against the harsh and dangerous environment of a vacuum.

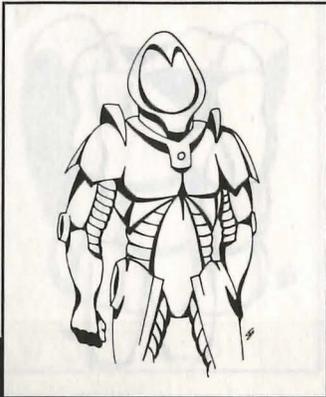
### TL 9 Hostile Environment Vacc Suit

*Armor value:* 7 *Weight (kgs):* 8  
*Cost (Imperial Credits):* 8,000  
*Tech Level:* 9



## TL 12 Hostile Environment Vacc Suit

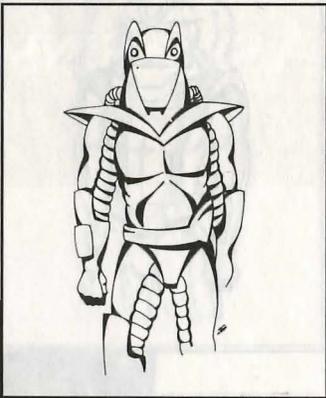
Similar to the TL 8 and TL 9 HE vacc suits, the TL 12 offers protection in vacuum environments as well as armored protection against enemies. The main advantage of the TL 12 over other vacc suits is its flexibility and mobility. Overall, it is the best suit and armor combination, next to military combat armor and battle dress.



**TL 12 Hostile Environment Vacc Suit**  
*Armor value:* 8 *Weight (kgs):* 2  
*Cost (Imperial Credits):* 10,000  
*Tech Level:* 12

## TL 12 Combat Armor

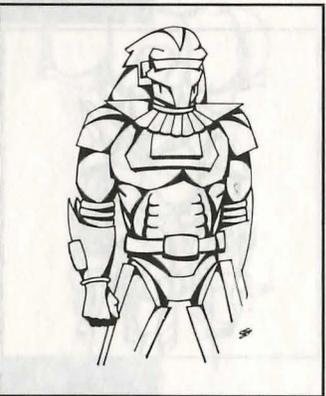
Combat armor is restricted to Imperial combat troops and is not sold on the open market. But due to a thriving black-market for military supplies, the armor can be purchased on high tech level worlds. The armor, which also serves as a vacc suit, is constructed using advanced forms of metallurgy and synthetic research.



**TL 12 Combat Armor**  
*Armor value:* 9 *Weight (kgs):* 10  
*Cost (Imperial Credits):* 125,000 (est.)  
*Tech Level:* 12

## TL 13 Battle Dress

An advanced and powerful version of combat armor, battle dress is the ultimate form of personal protection. Battle dress is restricted to military use. However, it can also be purchased on the black-market of high tech level worlds. Detailed information on battle dress is not available because it is considered highly classified in Imperial military circles.



**TL 13 Battle Dress**  
*Armor value:* 11 (est.)  
*Weight (kgs):* 26 (est.)  
*Cost (Imperial Credits):* 200,000 (est.) *Tech Level:* 13

# BOUNTY HUNTER AND ASSASSINS JOURNAL

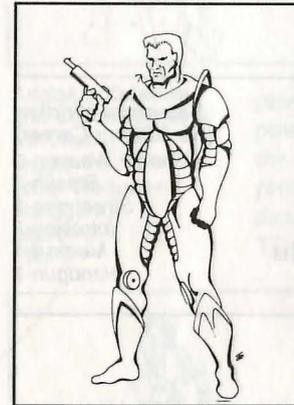
## THE IMPERIUM'S 10 MOST WANTED BOUNTY HUNTERS AND ASSASSINS

### REWARDS OFFERED

#### **Amrhein Alazar**

#### **Professional name: The Annihilator**

Amrhein Alazar had an extensive career in the Imperial Marines, serving six terms and eventually achieving the rank of Force Commander. Three of his six terms of service were spent in the Marine's Special Service unit, the most highly-trained and elite combat group in the Imperial Marines. All military information and data on Alazar is top secret and restricted. However, it is known that Alazar was dishonorably discharged for dealing smuggled anagathics, rare and expensive age-retarding drugs.



After being discharged from the military, Alazar put his deadly skills to use as a professional assassin. An expert with nearly all forms of weaponry, Alazar is most lethal with early tech level automatic rifles and pistols. His record of assassinations is unblemished. He has murdered hundreds, including several high level Imperial government Ambassadors.

Alazar has thus far been able to elude Imperial authority, leaving many dead Imperial agents and independent bounty hunters in his wake. According to a recent rumor, he is hiding out somewhere in the Regina subsector of the Spinward Marches.

Alazar is considered the most dangerous and merciless assassin in the galaxy. The Imperial Military Security Agency is offering a bounty of 250,000 credits to anyone who neutralizes him.

#### **Katerenya Viridion**

Katerenya Viridion is beautiful and charming. Masked by physical beauty, she is actually one of the deadliest assassins in the Imperium. Many unsuspecting males have fallen victim to her graceful allure. Viridion relies on her seductive appeal to lure her prey within striking distance. She continues to thwart Imperial Forces, who have pursued her for years.

Viridion was born and raised on the planet Efacec in

#### **Amrhein Alazar** **Imperial Marines** **Force Commander**

*Medical-2*  
*Battle Dress-2*  
*Laser Weapons-2*  
*Assault Rifle-4*  
*Brawling-1*  
*Forgery-1*  
*Survival-3*  
*Streetwise-3*

the Regina subsector. Her father was a wealthy military arms supplier who raised Viridion as he would have a son. She was taught at a young age to live off the land, fight and use a variety of weapons. Years later her father was murdered by interstellar pirates. Viridion believed that her father's business competitors were actually responsible for the murder, because they were known to fund pirating operations. Taking matters into her own hands, Viridion set out to settle the score against her father's enemies. She gained revenge and began a career as an assassin for hire.

Though she is an attractive woman, do not take her abilities lightly. Viridion is an expert in the use of a variety of energy weapons. The Regina Subsector Law Enforcement Agency is offering a 225,000 credit reward for her capture.

### Gainus Ozar

#### Professional name: The Butcher of Boughene

Gainus Ozar is a savage and sadistic individual. His criminal life began at the age of nine, when Ozar murdered the headmistress of the orphanage he was confined to, on the planet Boughene. Those who have met Ozar claim he suffers from severe mental illness. Others say he is possessed by wicked demons. Regardless, Ozar is one of the most sought-after assassins in the Spinward Marches.

Ozar enjoys his work. He never kills in a quick, efficient or painless manner. He is known to torture and terrorize his victims, sometimes taking several days to kill them. He has been known to dismember his victims one body part at a time; thus the name The Butcher.

A variety of Imperial enforcement-agencies and Megacorporations have joined forces to offer a 200,000 credits reward to anyone who can capture this heinous murderer.

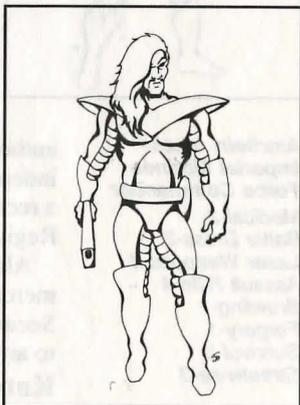
### Andolus Zelexian

At one time a prosperous trader, Andolus Zelexian turned to smuggling in hope of reaping great riches. While most of his illegal actions focus on smuggling and pirating intergalactic trade routes in the Regina Subsector, Zelexian does put his lethal capabilities to



**Katerenya Viridion**  
(No Military Career)

Energy Weapon-3  
Stealth-3  
Streetwise-3  
Intrusion-2  
Medical-1  
Handgun-1



**Gainus Ozar**  
(No Military Background)

Streetwise-3  
Stealth-2  
Sword-1  
Demolitions-1  
SMG-2  
Handgun-2  
Brawling-2  
Gambling-2

use as a paid assassin when the bounties are high. As of late, Zelexian has been repeatedly striking trade ships owned by the SuSAG, LIC Megacorporation, a large chemical and pharmaceutical firm.

Zelexian is an expert laser rifleman. Through his smuggling contacts, he has access to all the latest energy weapons and military defensive armor. In addition to leading pirate forays against SuSAG, LIC, he has also been striking interstellar starships owned by the Sharurshid Megacorporation. The Regina Subsector Law Enforcement Agency, in conjunction with SuSAG, LIC and Sharurshid, are offering a reward of 175,000 Imperial credits for the neutralization of Zelexian.

### Maximillian "Maxie" Mortis

Maxie Mortis is an ex-Imperial marine presently serving as a professional assassin for a powerful organized crime syndicate. During his stint in the military, Mortis served four terms and became proficient at weapons combat. He is especially dangerous with powerful energy weapons such as the TL 12 Plasma Gun Man Portable.

Even in the military Mortis was rebellious, never wanting to abide by the strict guidelines imposed by the Marines. According to published reports, Mortis disappeared after shooting, and critically wounding, his commanding officer on the firing range. Because of his insurgent actions, Mortis never received a commission or promotion, though he served four terms of service.

Like most hit-men in organized crime, Mortis prefers to kill his victims quickly and cleanly. Imperial intelligence sources indicate that Mortis is operating in the Regina or Jewell subsector. The Imperial Law Enforcement Agency has posted a 150,000 credits reward for the capture of Maxie Mortis.

### Szen Sanai

Szen Sanai is a cunning assassin with expertise in nearly all forms of weapons combat. After serving in the Imperial army for two terms, Sanai began his own underworld business, selling black-market military arms. He ran this highly successful business until Imperial agents discovered his operation.



**Andolus Zelexian**  
2nd Officer Imperial Merchants

Trader-4  
Laser Weapons-3  
Handgun-2  
Liaison-2  
Pilot-3



**Maximillian "Maxie" Mortis**  
Private Imperial Marines

Jack-Of-All-Trades-3  
Bribery-2  
Energy Weapons-3  
Stealth-2  
Gambling-2

A dozen Imperial officers stormed Sanai's secret warehouse and neutralized his cohorts. However, the seemingly successful raid became a bloodbath when Sanai single-handedly killed every member of the Imperial strike force using his keen intelligence and deadly weapons skills.

Word of the slaughter spread through the universe quickly, and Sanai was soon approached by countless underworld figures to carry out assassinations. Sanai's first business was destroyed, but a promising new career was born. The Imperial Law Enforcement Agency has offered a 125,000 credits reward for the arrest of Szen Sanai.

### Rhevah Hamache

#### Professional name: The Triggermaster

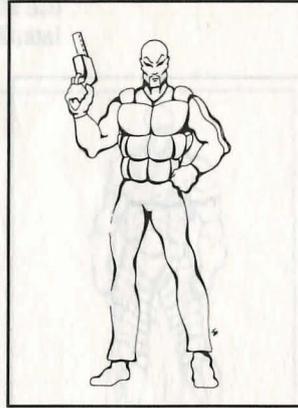
Rhevah Hamache had a long and distinguished career as a starship pilot in the Imperial Scouts. After leaving the military, Hamache purchased his own starship and began trading in the Regina subsector. Hamache always had a reputation as a fair and honest trader. After the accidental death of his wife and daughter, Hamache underwent a personality change. He began to smuggle cargo and pirate defenseless ships. Money became his passion, and he soon became "The Triggermaster," a malicious killer for hire. Those who know him well say that on the fateful day he lost his family, his conscience died as well.

Hamache is the leader of a band of interstellar raiders based at a secret hideaway somewhere in the Regina subsector. The Imperial Law Enforcement Agency was offering a small reward for his capture until Hamache assassinated Duke Annatoly Gruss, leader of a planet in the Forboldn system. The reward has been raised to 100,000 credits because of diplomatic pressure from the Forboldn ambassador.

### Name Unknown

#### Professional name: Bolo

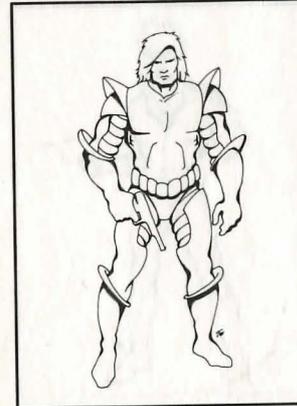
Bolo, a renowned captain in the Imperial Army, was thought to have been killed in action during a planetary surface conflict on Emerald, a world in the Jewell subsector. He was given the name Bolo by the loyal Imperial soldiers under his command. During his



**Szen Sanai**  
**Lieutenant:**  
**Imperial Army**  
Forgery-2  
Trader-1  
Assault Rifle-3  
Heavy Weapons-2  
Handgun-2  
Recruiting-1  
Battle Dress-3



**Rhevah Hamache**  
**Imperial Scout**  
Pilot-3  
Handgun-2  
Navigation-1  
Communications-1  
Laser Weapons-2  
Vacc Suit-1



**Bolo**  
**Captain:**  
**Imperial Army**  
Leader-2  
Hand Combat-3  
Assault Rifle-1  
Demolitions-1  
Recon-3  
Battle Dress-1  
Laser Weapons-1



**Demetrieje Jannev**  
**(No Military Background)**  
Gambling-2  
Streetwise-3  
Brawling-2  
Handgun-2  
Liaison-1

military career, he was decorated with several awards of merit for bravery and heroism.

Recently, evidence surfaced proving Bolo is alive — and operating as a hired assassin for an unknown source. His victims are mostly powerful megacorporation executives.

Having served three terms in the Imperial Army, and battle-hardened from combat, Bolo makes an excellent assassin. His main weapons of expertise are small arms which can be smuggled through starport checkpoints. The Imperial Army Military Police Force is offering a reward of 75,000 credits to anyone who can take Bolo prisoner.

### Demetrieje Jannev

Born in the Aramis subsector, Jannev is a master criminal. Armed robbery, pirating, and murder are just a few of the felonies of which this career criminal has been convicted. Jannev was sent to the planet Mithras, an Imperial prison world in the Glisten subsector, to serve a life sentence. With the aid of underworld contacts, Jannev managed to escape the savage world.

Now a bounty hunter and assassin, Jannev is rumored to be operating in the Regina subsector. Jannev is heartless and distant. He has fulfilled dozens of "blood contracts" on known smugglers. The Regina Subsector Law Enforcement Agency is offering a 50,000 credits reward for the arrest and capture of Jannev.

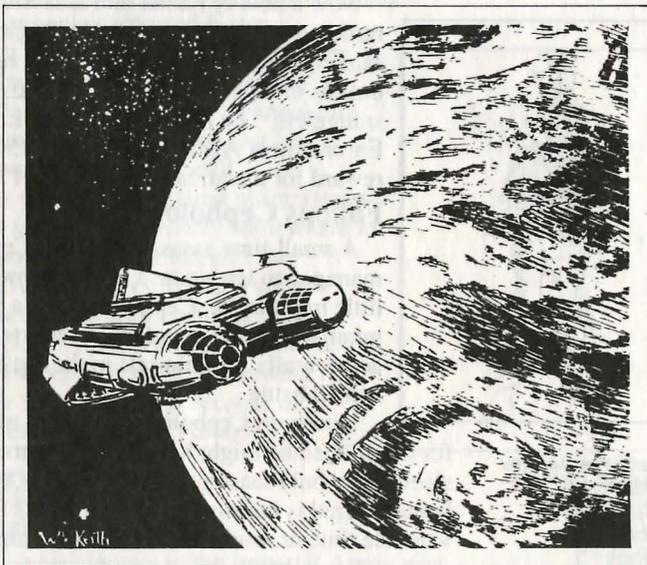
### Fallous Cepholon

A small-time assassin for hire, Cepholon has managed to terminate a few unknown victims of little importance. Cepholon is not a very skilled gunman. Some unconfirmed reports claim he accidentally shot himself in the leg during a heated battle.

However, Cepholon is trying to make a name for himself, so he might have some scheme up his sleeve. The only reason a reward of 25,000 credits is being offered is because no agency wants to spend valuable time or resources to search for him.



**Fallous Cepholon (No  
Military Background)**  
Dagger-1  
Handgun-1  
Intrusion-1  
Streetwise-1





Portrait of a Soldier  
from the  
Museum of  
the  
Museum





