

INTRODUCTION

INCOMING

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Duchess,

As per your request, I have prepared the following summation of the developments underway at the manufacturing and refit centers on Arc-Royal. Apparently, Grand Duke Kell and his son were on the level with everything they communicated to the Archon. Though output remains strained meeting the needs of the Hounds, Kell's private armies (including those triple-damned Wolf "pets" of his), and the shattered Dragoons, Arc-Royal's mercenary masters have upheld their end of the bargain in supporting the LAAF's war effort.

If Kell is planning for any future moves against Inarcs, such preparations are too subtle for our eyes on the ground to spot. Entirely too many resources have been earmarked for Lyran defense along the Clan front, and the commitments Adam made to Devlin Stone.

But what surprised me more were the "independent" projects the Grand Duke and his allies have been dabbling in. Even with their capacities strained, it seems, a collection of engineers and scientists have been diverted to a slew of development projects we can only define as "experimental" in nature. Evidently funded by a combination of family funds and "special investors" (read: a number of allied state and mercenary commands), a rash of prototype machines were witnessed undergoing field tests in several of Arc-Royal's more secluded assembly sites and refit centers.

The limited deployment of these designs, use of prototype technologies, and the secrecy surrounding their testing suggests more than a mere customization effort, presenting a possibility that we could be seeing the vanguard of Arc-Royal's next wave in technological innovation. And yet there seems to be no corresponding effort to upgrade the major factory complexes to accommodate such a surge—nothing even close to what we saw when the Kells had to retool to produce the *Mongoose II* and *Cygnus* 'Mechs a few years back.

In my evaluation, this surge in prototype production could be more an act of desperation than a preamble to a manufacturing upgrade. It could well be that the LAAF is hoping to test emergent technologies through their allies and any mercenaries who can be trusted. The sheer volume is simply not there to explain these Experimentals otherwise.

But it is a trend well worth watching as this war winds down and we await to see what's next.

—Strom Ashton, Director, Blackstone Diplomatic Corps 14 December 3076

INTRODUCTION

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The 'Mechs, combat vehicles, and fighters described in *Experimental Technical Readout: Mercenaries* provide players with a rare look at the development of technologies that have yet to hit the "mainstream" in the *BattleTech* universe. The designs featured in this book reflect limited-run prototypes and "one-offs" that have yet to reach full factory production—and most (if any) never will.

The rules for using 'Mechs, vehicles and fighters in *BattleTech* game play can be found in *Total Warfare*, while the rules for their construction can be found in *TechManual*. However, the experimental nature of these designs also draws upon the Experimental-level rules presented in *Tactical Operations*. Thus, none of the units featured in this volume are considered tournament legal, and their use in introductory games is discouraged. Furthermore, the extreme rarity of these machines is such that none of them should occur in a *BattleTech* campaign as a chance encounter, but the capture or destruction of any one of these prototypes could be potential objective for *BattleTech* scenarios and role-playing adventures.

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WLF-2X WOLFHOUND

Field Testing Summation:

Prototype WLF-2 Chassis Refit **Producer/Site:** Arc-Royal MechWorks, Arc-Royal **Supervising Technician:** Michael Bodien **Project Start Date:** 3072 **Non-Production Equipment Analysis:**

Reflective Armor Actuator Enhancement System Engine Supercharger PPC Capacitor

Overview

Imperiled by the latest wave of technological advances in BattleMech weapon designs (like most light 'Mechs), the Wolfhound—once a premier light 'Mech hunterkiller—was a natural choice for experimental upgrades. Yet despite abundant access to Clan technologies, ARM engineers apparently opted for a Spheroid-only approach, which suggests a possible long-term goal of marketing to cost-conscious Inner Sphere consumers. We estimate five prototype WLF-2X Wolfhounds are undergoing testing at this time.

Beginning with the WLF-2 chassis, the extensive modifications seen on this experimental refit began with an endo steel internal frame wrapped around an extralight engine enhanced by a supercharger. This allows the Wolhound-2X to maintain its current performance envelope (and even to achieve MASC-like bursts of speed) while freeing more weight for firepower. Protecting this chassis is a skin of laser reflective armor every bit as thick as the WLF-2's original (though the designers took some apparent liberties with the contours to give the new Wolfhound a little more menace). Finally, the payload retains the classic Wolfhound's all-energy philosophy, but trades in the ER Large Laser for a heavy PPC augmented by an experimental PPC capacitor that sacrifices range and heat control for raw hitting power. An Actuator Enhancement System has been added to the right arm to provide greater accuracy for the 2X's main gun, while production-grade ER medium lasers and an ER Small replace the traditional triple-mediums of the original.

Type: WLF-2X Wolfhound

Technology Base: Inner sphere (Experimental) Tonnage: 35 Battle Value: 2,017





HOP-4X HOPLITE

Field Testing Summation: Prototype HOP-2D Hybrid Refit Producer/Site: Arc-Royal MechWorks, Arc-Royal Supervising Technician: Scientist Janus (Clan Wolf in-Exile) Project Start Date: 3075

Non-Production Equipment Analysis:

Composite Internal Structure Clan Rotary Autocannon/5 Clan Streak LRM-15 Launcher Clan Light Active Probe

Overview

The experimental *Hoplite* refit only hit the testing stage very recently, but this is actually considered quite a feat, as the design is actually an amalgamation of Clan and Inner Sphere experimental technologies. Based on a chassis best known as a unit of choice for the shattered Wolf's Dragoons mercenary command, this design underscores its origins with the former Clansmen who now take shelter on Arc-Royal with Phelan Kell's exiled Wolves. Yet, at the same time, only the manufacturing capabilities of ARM—with surprise aid from Coventry Metal Works—made this refit possible.

The entire structure and skin of this experimental *Hoplite* hails from Inner Sphere origins. Most of it—from the light fusion engine, standard gyros, double-strength freezers, and even the CASE-protected ammunition bins—is built to proven, off-the-shelf Spheroid design specs. But Coventry engineers apparently had a hand in the internal framework itself, as the brittle, but extra-light composite bones still bear CMW serial numbers. (This development is still under investigation.)

Where the Clan technology becomes apparent is the *Hoplite's* weapons loadout—and virtually all of it is prototype. With the weight savings of the light engine and the composite structure, the *Hoplite*-4X gains enough space to trade in its LB 10-X for an experimental Clan-made Rotary AC/5 with three tons of ammunition. Its Spheroid LRM-5 launcher is also replaced by a 15-tube Clan-made Streak LRM system. Together, these weapons have the ability to rain massive ballistic and missile destruction down on enemy units at excellent ranges, while a Clan-made light active probe sweeps the nearby area for ambushes.



Type: HOP-4X Hoplite

Technology Base: Mixed Tech (Experimental) Tonnage: 55 Battle Value: 1,946

Equipment

	Equipment			inia 55	
	Internal Structure	Composi	te	3	
	Engine:	275 Ligh	nt	12	
	Walking MP:	5			
	Running MP:	8			
	Jumping MP:	0			
stage	Heat Sinks:	10 [20]		0	
as the	Gyro:			3	1 and a second s
ohere	Cockpit:			3	
wn as	Armor Factor (Ferro-Fib	orous): 185		10.5	
enary		Interna	l Armo	or	
ormer		Structur	e Valu	e	
Kell's	Head	3	9	C	
uring	Center Torso	18	28	SP-	
Metal	Center Torso (rear))	8	DE	
	R/L Torso	13	18	Q	
oplite	R/L Torso (rear)		8		
light	R/L Arm	9	18		
s, and	R/L Leg	13	26		
oven,					
neers	Weapons and Ammo	Location	Critical	Tonnage	
as the	Rotary AC/5 (C)	RA	8	10	
serial	Ammo (RAC) 60 (C)	RT	3	3	- a ma
)	CASE	RT	1	.5	
s the	Streak LRM 15 (C)	LT	3	7	
otype.	Ammo (Streak) 16 (C)	LT	2	2	
oosite	CASE	LT	1	.5	
in its	Light Active Probe (C)	Н	1	.5	
with					
s also					

Mass



GHR-7X GRASSHOPPER

Field Testing Summation: Prototype GHR-5J Chassis Refit Producer/Site: Arc-Royal MechWorks, Arc-Royal Supervising Technician: Michael Bodien Project Start Date: 3075 Non-Production Equipment Analysis: Bombast Lasers

Torso-Mounted Cockpit System Bloodhound Active Probe

Overview

The venerable *Grasshopper*—a late first Star League era design orphaned by Kerensky's departure—has survived for centuries to become almost ubiquitous among any force that values heavy firepower and mobility in equal measure. This relative commonality may be why this particular chassis was chosen for prototype refit by ARM engineers over other machines produced out of Arc-Royal.

Compared to the Wolfhound and Hoplite rebuilds, the heavy Grasshopper is a far less radical modification—a fact that suggests a greater emphasis on developing a productionready prototype. The use of endo steel, a light engine, and a heat sink upgrade to double strength freezers frees up enough tonnage for the 7X to replace its standard Leviathan Lifters with improved jump jets, boosting its flight distance by fifty percent. In addition, ARM engineers chose to augment the 'Mech's protection with another ton of standard armor and took the unexpected step of moving the cockpit systems into the more heavily armored torso. In addition to these changes, the Grasshopper's payload was completely replaced with a pair of experimental bombast lasers (one in each arm), and a head-mounted medium pulse laser. In the head space cleared away by the cockpit's relocation, the tinkers placed a prototype Bloodhound active probe, granting their new and improved 'Hopper the ability to sniff out even the most wellhidden enemies.



Type: GHR-7X Grasshopper

Technology Base: Inner sphere (Experimental) Tonnage: 70 Battle Value: 1,587

Equipment				Mass
Internal Structure:	Endo St	eel		3.5
Engine:	280 Lig	lht		8.5
Walking MP:	4			
Running MP:	6			
Jumping MP:	6			
Heat Sinks:	13 [26	5]		3
Gyro:				3
Cockpit (Torso-Mounted):				4
Armor Factor:	217			14
	Intern	al A	Armor	
	Structu	ıre ۱	Value	
Head	3		9	P
Center Torso	22		33	F
Center Torso (rear)			11	
R/L Torso	15		22	Ĭ
R/L Torso (rear)			8	
R/L Arm	11		22	
R/L Leg	15		30	
Weapons and Ammo Lo	cation	Critic	al To	onnag
Bombast Laser	RA	3		7
Bombast Laser	IA	3		7
Bloodhound Active Probe	Н	3		2
Madium Dulas Lasar		1		2





ANH-2AX ANNIHILATOR

Field Testing Summation: Prototype ANH-2A Chassis Refit Producer/Site: Arc-Royal MechWorks, Arc-Royal Supervising Technician: Michael Bodien Project Start Date: 3074

Non-Production Equipment Analysis:

Armored Components (Sensors, Life Support, Cockpit) Laser Reflective Armor Improved Heavy Gauss Rifles

Overview

Another experimental refit that draws from iconic Wolf's Dragoons stock, only two of the so-called *Annihilator-2AX* refits have been spotted on Arc-Royal's proving grounds to date. (A third was reportedly destroyed in a freak accident earlier this year.) Another brainchild of Michael Bodien, ARM's "chief tinker", this chassis—like that of the *Wolfhound-2X* emphasizes Inner Sphere-only refit equipment with a possible eye toward facilitating future production runs.

The chassis, engine, gyro and cockpit systems of this *Annihilator* refit all use technologies currently in mass production, although the compact engine and gyro represent innovations of much more recent vintage. As with the 2A model, this experimental configuration still uses standard heat sinks, and even removes several of them thanks to the machine's lighter heat load. Protecting all of this is nineteen tons of laser-reflective armor, a hide that provides more protection than the 2A's standard plating—especially against energy weapons, as well as heavy component armor on all of the cockpit, sensor, and life support systems.

The weapons load consists of two experimental improved heavy Gauss rifles, with the ammunition bins moved into the truncated arms. This is noteworthy because both of these powerful cannons hail from Defiance Industries' manufacturing centers, despite strained relations between Defiance and their competitors on Arc-Royal. Apparently, this "contribution" to the 2AX's design took a fair amount of wrangling, including—according to some rumors—a direct order from the Archon himself.

Type: ANH-2AX Annihilator

Technology Base: Inner Sphere (Experimental) Tonnage: 100 Battle Value: 2,542

Equipment			Mass	
Internal Structure:			10	
Engine:	200 Compact		13	
Walking MP:	2			
Running MP:	3			
Jumping MP:	0			•
Heat Sinks:	10		0	
Gyro (Compact):			3	
Cockpit (Armored):			4	
Armor Factor (Reflective):	304		19	
	Internal	Armor		
	Structure	Value		
Head	3	9		
Center Torso	31	44		
Center Torso (rear)		15		
R/L Torso	21	32		
R/L Torso (rear)		10		
R/L Arm	17	34		
R/L Leg	21	42		

Weapons and Ammo Lo	cation	Critical	Tonna
Improved Heavy Gauss Rifle	RT	11	20
Ammo (iHeavy Gauss) 16	RA	4	4
CASE	RT	1	.5 ,
Improved Heavy Gauss Rifle	LT	11	20
Ammo (iHeavy Gauss) 16	LA	4	4
CASE	LT	1	.5
Armored Comp. (Sensors)	Н	0	1
Armored Comp.	Н	0	1
(Life Support)			





"SCHWERER GUSTAV"

Field Testing Summation: Custom Hybrid Chassis Producer/Site: Field Center Bravo-613, Arc-Royal Supervising Technician: Sergi Ivanovich, Chief Tech, Tooth of Ymir Mercenary Regiment

Project Start Date: 3073

Non-Production Equipment Analysis:

Hybrid Chassis (Standard/Endo Steel) Command Console Bloodhound Active Probe Binary Laser Cannon Clan Rotary AC/5 Thumper Artillery Cannon

Overview

According to the rumors, the birth of the "Schwerer Gustav" began when the Tooth of Ymir mercenary command's chief technician, Sergi Ivanovich, bet Kell Hounds chief tech Daniel Holstein that he could get the discarded hulk of a particularly savaged Wolf's Dragoons *Annihilator* operational in less than six months. The barroom wager quickly gained a life of its own when Ivanovich revealed some of his plans, and received a boon from Grand Duke Kell himself, who saw to it that he received additional support for his "inspiration" in the form of several experimental weapon systems.

The final form of the 'Mech that resulted was a hodgepodge of proven and prototype technologies from Inner Sphere and Clan origins, the very definition of a "FrankenMech". Dubbed the "Schwerer Gustav" (an obscure reference to a heavy artillery platform from Terra's second World War), the hybrid design is dominated by parts cobbled together from at least six different chasses, particularly the demolished *Annihilator*, a wrecked *Verfolger*, and a scrapped *Berserker*.

But though it looks makeshift, packed within this 'Mech's surprisingly sturdy frame are a host of newer parts. A compact gyro provides stability with minimal use of space, while a command console makes it possible to employ this unit as a Bi tactical officer's ride. A Bloodhound active probe provides the ability to detect any hidden enemies in close proximity, while its firepower includes a Clan-made Rotary AC/5, a binary laser cannon, and a Thumper artillery cannon.

All told, Ivanovich won his wager with Holstein; completing the "Schwerer Gustav" in just two months, his prize—beyond

bragging rights and heaps of commendations from his superiors—was said to be six cases of Lachan County Ale. The one-of-a-kind "Gustav", meanwhile, has joined the Tooth of Ymir's depleted ranks as a part of the unit's command lance.

Type: "Schwerer Gustav"

Technology Base: Mixed Tech (Experimental - FrankenMech) Tonnage: 100 Battle Value: 1,796

Equipment

Equipment			wass
Internal Structure: Standa	rd/Endo Steel	Hybrid	8
Engine:	400 XL		26.5
Walking MP:	4		
Running MP:	6		
Jumping MP:	0		
Heat Sinks:	15 [30]		5
Gyro (Compact):			6
Cockpit:			3
Armor Factor:	192		12
	Internal	Armor	
	Structure	Value	
Head	3	9	0
Center Torso	31	25	09
Center Torso (rear)		10	9
R Torso	15	24	
R Torso (rear)		6	
L Torso	21	21	
L Torso (rear)		9	
R/L Arm	10	20	
R/L Leg	21	24	

Neapons and Ammo	Location	Critical	Tonnage	
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Cockpit Command Console	Н	1
Thumper Artillery Cannon	LT	7
Binary Laser Cannon	LA	4
Rotary AC/5 (C)	RA	8
Ammo (RAC) 60 (C)	RT	3
Ammo (Thumper) 40	RT	2
CASE	RT	1
Bloodhound Active Probe	СТ	3



WARRIOR HX-9 HELICOPTER

Field Testing Summation: Prototype(?) H-7 Chassis Refit Producer/Site: Unknown Supervising Technician: Unknown Project Start Date: Unknown (post-3073) Non-Production Equipment Analysis: Vehicular Stealth Armor VTOL Jet Booster System

Hyper-Velocity Autocannon/2

Overview

A venerable attack vehicle, known for its maneuverability, long reach, cost-effectiveness, and reliability, it only stands to reason that the Warrior class attack helicopter would be the focus of some experimentation. But the mystery of the so-dubbed HX-9 Warrior attack helicopter spotted on Arc-Royal's proving grounds in Kell Hound livery has many of our people scratching their heads. Although the helicopter is of local origins, being manufactured on Furillo for centuries, the modifications seen on the HX-9 all seem to hail from the opposite side of the Inner Sphere. We therefore believe this prototype—duplicated at least once by Arc Royal technicians (though their parts supply sources are somewhat dubious)—was actually imported from Capellan space, likely by expatriate mercenaries flocking to the relative safe haven of Duke Kell's world.

Though outwardly similar to the H-7 model, the HX-9 swaps out the Warrior's classic internal combustion engine for a slightly more powerful extra-light fusion plant, increasing its cruising speed by just over ten percent, while a jet booster system allows for speed bursts of almost 220 kph. In addition, experimental stealth armor and a Guardian ECM now protect this craft, rendering it harder to see on enemy radar. A prototype hyper-velocity light autocannon (presumed, like the armor, to be of Capellan origins), provides the HX-9 its only offensive bite, albeit at ranges the classic SarLon AC/2 could only dream of. All of this combines to make the HX-9 an ideal scout chopper and long-range harasser.



Type: Warrior HX-9 Helico	opter			Armor		
Technology Base: Inner spl	here (Experiment	tal)	Value			
Movement Type: VTOL			Front	6		
Tonnage: 21			R/L Side	6/6		
Battle Value: 392			Rear	6		
			Rotor	2		
Equipment		Mass				
Internal Structure:		2.5	Weapons and Ammo	Location	Tonnage	
Engine:	70	1.5	Hyper-Velocity AC/2	Nose	8	
Type:	XL Fusion		Ammo (HVAC) 30	Body	1	
Cruising MP:	10		Guardian ECM Suite	Nose	1.5	
Flank MP:	15 [20]		CASE	Body	.5	
Heat Sinks:	10	0	VTOL Jet Booster	Body	.5	
Control Equipment:		1.5				
Lift Equipment:		2.5				
Power Amplifier:		0				
Turret:		0				
Armor Factor (V-Stealth):	24	1.5				



VEDETTE V-G7X

Field Testing Summation:

Prototype Vedette-series Chassis Refit Producer/Site: Field Center ARCT Gemini 7, Arcturus Supervising Technician: Sgt Major Rolf Kalaska Project Start Date: 3074 **Non-Production Equipment Analysis: Reactive Armor** Engine Supercharger

- Bombast Laser
- MagShot Gauss Rifles

Overview

A simple and economical design, the Vedette has served House armies and mercenary forces alike as the "reliable old standby" for centuries. But with the post-Fourth War technological renaissance and the flood of innovations since, a simple combination of standard armor, standard autocannon, and a standard machine gun has about as much life expectancy in a serious battle as a one-legged Locust. Such is the apparent thinking behind this experimental upgrade, first sighted at the refit centers on Arcturus. Although not one of the designs being tested by Kell and his allies, Arcturus' proximity and willingness to earmark refit yard test beds to local mercenaries has earned this experimental venture a closer look.

Trading in the Vedette's classic combustion engine for a supercharged extralight fusion provides this prototype with the same mobility as the original, plus an occasional speed boost to hit 108 kph on open ground. Over eight tons of reactive armor provides solid protection from enemy fire that is especially effective against ballistic weapons. But the most radical chassis alteration is the dual-turret configuration that allows this vehicle's two main guns-a prototype bombast laser, and a light AC/5-two swivel against two targets independently. Backed up by a pair of forward-set MagShot Gauss rifles and a targeting computer for enhanced accuracy, this experimental Vedette refit is far more costly than its progenitors, but can be a nasty shock to any unsuspecting opponent.



Type: Vedette V-7X Medium Tank Technology Base: Inner sphere (Experimental) Movement Type: Tracked			Armor Factor (Reactive):	136 Armor Value	8.5
Tonnage: 50			Front	25	
Battle Value: 1,223			R/L Side	23/23	
			Rear	23	
Equipment		Mass	Turret 1	21	
Internal Structure:		5	Turret 2	21	
Engine:	250	10			
Type:	XL Fusion		Weapons and Ammo	Location	Tonnage
Cruising MP:	5		Supercharger	Body	1
Flank MP:	a (1 a)				
FIANK MP:	8 (10)		Bombast Laser	Turret 1	7
Heat Sinks:	8 (10) 12	2	Bombast Laser Light Autocannon/5	Turret 1 Turret 2	7 5
		2 2.5			7 5 1
Heat Sinks:		—	Light Autocannon/5	Turret 2	7 5 1 1
Heat Sinks: Control Equipment:		2.5	Light Autocannon/5 Ammo (LAC) 20	Turret 2 Body	7 5 1 1 1
Heat Sinks: Control Equipment: Lift Equipment:		2.5 0	Light Autocannon/5 Ammo (LAC) 20 2 MagShot Gauss Rifles	Turret 2 Body Front	7 5 1 1 1 4



KANGA-X JUMPTANK

Field Testing Summation: Experimental Chassis Prototype Producer/Site: Wolf City Auxiliary Factory Epsilon, Arc-Royal Supervising Technician: Senior Technician Ansom Project Start Date: 3075

Non-Production Equipment Analysis:

Vehicular Jump Jets Large Chemical Laser Streak LRM 10

Overview

Once considered a boondoggle so expensive even the Clans would not waste the technology and resources on it, the long lost Kanga-class hovertank, unique for being the only such vehicle in history to pack jump jets, found a new lease on life in a most unusual place. The strange manufacturing and trade alliance between Clans Hell's Horses and the exiled Wolves on Arc-Royal, combined with the desperate bid for new weapons to join in the fight against the Word of Blake, has apparently led a small cadre of Hell's Horses and Exile technicians to tinker with a prototype new-generation Kanga, this time drawing on the benefits of recent Clantech advances.

Rather than tackling the sophisticated computer problems that plaqued past efforts to produce a jump tank, the allied engineering team clearly opted to simply copycat the original Kanga's frame and computer combination as much as possible. Drawing on the latest in experimental Clan tech, the so-named Kanga-X swaps its autocannon and LRM for a prototype chemical laser and Streak LRM launcher, while trading in its SRM for a Clan Streak-4 and its machine gun for additional armor. The addition of a rotating turret mechanism may have caused balance issues for this vehicle, however. As of this writing, at least three of the five test beds built to date have suffered fatal accidents during trial runs, with one of the prototypes completely destroyed during a simply obstacle course exercise. It therefore remains to be seen if these Clanmade vehicles will ever see full production and deployment.

Type: Kanga-X Jump Tank

Technology Base: Clan (Experimental) Movement Type: Hover/Jump Tonnage: 50 Battle Value: 1,312

Equipment	
Internal Structure:	
Engine:	165
Type:	Fusion
Cruising MP:	8
Flank MP:	12
Jump MP:	6
Heat Sinks:	10
Control Equipment:	
Lift Equipment:	
Power Amplifier:	
Turret:	
Armor Factor (Ferro-Fi	brous): 115
	Armor
	Value
Front	25
R/L Side	24/24
Rear	22
Turret	20

Weapons and Ammo	Location
Large Chemical Laser	Turret
Ammo (Chem Laser) 20	Body
Streak LRM 10	Turret
Ammo (Streak) 24	Body
Streak SRM 4	Turret
Ammo (Streak) 25	Body
CASE	Body
Jump Jets	Body



SCHREK II-X PPC CARRIER

Field Testing Summation: Modified Schrek Chassis Refit Producer/Site:

Arc-Royal MechWorks Special Annex, Arc-Royal Supervising Technician: Vanessa Bidwell Project Start Date: 3076 Non-Production Equipment Analysis:

XXL Fusion Engine PPC Capacitors

Overview

Like the Vedette, the Schrek PPC carrier is another familiar standby of the Succession Wars that has become the focus of some attention by present-day tinkers. But the vehicle undergoing trials on Arc-Royal is no simple tweak using modern technologies. Instead, Vanessa Bidwell, heading Arc-Royal MechWorks'"Special Annex" (a refit facility specialized in conventional vehicles), chose to perform a complete ground-up redesign of the venerable Schrek, producing an assault tank both heavier and deadlier than its original model, while performing the same mission role of heavy defense and supporting fire.

The 80-ton Schrek grows by 15 tons in the new configuration (which ARM engineers dubbed the "Schrek II-X"), but maintains its mobility with a special extra-extralight (XXL) fusion plant, while its armor bulks out with over eight tons of heavy ferro-fibrous, painstakingly crafted to resemble the original Schrek's in every way (for surprise factor). Although the use of the hyper-expensive XXL could have theoretically enabled Bidwell's team to grant the Schrek a better mobility, they evidently focused more on augmenting the tank's firepower with a sextet of light PPCs-three of which incorporate energy capacitors for greater damage. Each of the Schrek's distinctive triple-guns houses one capacitorenhanced light PPC and one without in an over-under fashion, which allows this vehicle to maintain a constant volley even while cycling capacitor charges. To make them even deadlier, all of these weapons are slaved to a targeting computer for greater accuracy.

Type: Schrek II-X PPC Carrier Technology Base: Inner sphere (Experimental) Movement Type: Tracked Tonnage: 95 Battle Value: 1,407						
Equipment	Equipment					
Internal Structure:						
Engine:	285					
Type:	XXL Fusion					
Cruising MP:	3					
Flank MP:	5					
Heat Sinks:	45					
Control Equipment:						
Lift Equipment:						
Power Amplifier:						

Mass 9.5

8.5

35 5

0

0

	Mass
	2.5
Armor Factor (Hvy Ferro-Fib.): 168	
Armor	
Value	
35	
34/34	
33	
32	
	Armor Value 35 34/34 33

Location	Tonnage
Turret	12
Turret	9
Body	5
	Turret Turret



SYD-45X "STARLING"

Field Testing Summation: Prototype SYD Chassis Upgrade	Equipment		Mass
Producer/Site: Shipil Test Facility Hades, Skye	Armor Factor (Hvy Ferro-Al):	69	3.5
Supervising Technician: June McVinton		Armor	
Project Start Date: 3073		Value	
Non-Production Equipment Analysis:	Nose	20	
XXL Fusion Engine	Wings	17/17	
Bombast Laser	Aft	15	
Chaff Pod			

Overview

Although unrelated to Arc-Royal's recent foray into experimental redesigns, the development of prototype aerospace craft has received a sudden surge in recent years as well. Shipil Company of Skye, for example, has begun test flights for experimental variations on two of their more venerable chasses—the *Seydlitz* and the *Lucifer*. Of these, the *Seydlitz* prototype is an apparent rebuild that uses essentially the same airframe configuration, but boosts tonnage, acceleration, armor and firepower to potentially deadly effect.

The SYD-45X—dubbed the "Starling" for reasons that remain unclear—gains 5 tons under the Shipil prototype refit, with a significantly improved airframe protected by heavy ferro-aluminum armor. Its fusion engine—upgraded now to an experimental 300-rated extraextralight type, provides a maximum 10.5 G overthrust that few fighters can match. Designed for short range sorties, this craft retains the two-ton fuel tank its SYD-21 progenitor had, and even features a reduced-size cockpit to free up tonnage elsewhere. The saved tonnage allowed Shipil's designers to mount a prototype bombast laser in the nose, and a one-shot chaff pod in the tail. This combination of offensive and defensive upgrades ensures that any enemy expecting an easy kill against what they think is just a modernized *Seydlitz* is in for a rude awakening indeed.

Type: SYD-45X "Starling"

Technology Base: Inner sphere (Experimental) Tonnage: 25 Battle Value: 695

Equipment		Mass
Engine:	300	6.5
Туре:	XXL Fusion	
Safe Thrust:	14	
Maximum Thrust:	21	
Structural Integrity:	14	0
Heat Sinks:	10 [20]	0
Fuel:	400	5
Cockpit:	Small	2





LUCIFER-X30

Field Testing Summation: Prototype LCF Chassis Refit Producer/Site: Shipil Test Facility Hades, Skye

Supervising Technician: June McVinton

Project Start Date: 3074

Non-Production Equipment Analysis:

Binary Laser Cannon Extended LRM-10s Medium X-Pulse Laser

Overview

The second of Shipil's experimental upgrades confirmed to date, the Lucifer-X30 is a more conventional upgrade of its base-line model (the classic LCF-R15 Lucifer). Of particular note is the fact that the airframe, engine, armor, flight systems and heat sinks used by this variation are "off-the-shelf" technologies, suggesting that the payload is intended to test the weapons or render it possible to quickly deploy upgrade kits to any interested parties.

An extralight fusion plant and ferro-aluminum armor lighten the R15's frame without sacrificing performance or maneuverability. The tonnage saved—combined with the removal of the established weapons—allowed Shipil's test engineers to mount a binary laser cannon in the nose, and a prototype extended LRM 10-rack in each wing. A single medium X-Pulse laser (another experimental weapon system) was then added to the aft, to discourage pursuers.

Only a pair of Lucifer-X30s are known to be in operation at this time, continuing their "shakedown" trials in the skies over Skye. Limited supplies may be holding up further experiments at this time, but we suspect that Shipil's representatives are already trying to line up potential buyers for a new Lucifer fighter line.

Type: LCF-X30 Lucifer

Technology Base: Inner Sphere (Experimental) Tonnage: 65 Battle Value: 1,842

Equipment		Mass
Engine:	195	4
Туре:	XL Fusion	
Safe Thrust:	5	
Maximum Thrust:	8	
Structural Integrity:	6	0
Heat Sinks:	13 [26]	3
Fuel:	400	5
Cockpit:		3
Armor Factor (Ferro-Al.):	376	21

	AIIIIO
	Value
Nose	130
Wings	82/82
Aft	82

Weapons and Ammo	Location	Tonnage	Heat	SRV	MRV	LRV	ERV
Binary Laser Cannon	Nose	9	16	12	12	—	—
Extended LRM-10	LW	8	6	6	6	6	6
Ammo (Extended LRM)	9 LW	1	—	—	—	_	—
Extended LRM-10	RW	8	6	6	6	6	6
Ammo (Extended LRM)	9 RW	1		—	_	_	_
Medium X-Pulse Laser	Aft	2	6	6	_	_	_





SLAYER CX 1

Field	d Testing Summation: Prototype SL Hybrid Refit	Equipment		M	ass	
Proc	ducer/Site: UOC Provisional Research Center, Ramora	Armor Factor (Ferro-Lam.):	273	1	9.5	
Sup	ervising Technician: Cadence Avellar		Armor			
Proj	ect Start Date: 3075		Value			
Non	-Production Equipment Analysis:	Nose	80			
	Clan Ferro-Lamellor Armor	Wings	71/71			
	Clan Rotary Autocannon/5	Aft	51			
	Clan Improved Heavy Medium Lasers					
	Clan Laser Anti-Missile System	Weapons and Ammo	Location	Tonnage	Heat	SR\
		Dotory $AC/E(C)$	Naca	10	n	20

Overview

Sketchy reports from the Periphery have brought word that the Snow Raven Clan has begun to flex its developmental muscle in the Outworlds Alliance. Although these prototypes are not aimed at the mercenary mass market, I have chosen to include the most consistently reported design as a show of what happens when Clan and Inner Sphere innovations are combined.

Cadence Avellar, daughter of the United Outworlders Corporation's CEO, apparently acted as a go-between on this project, which uses a locally built SL-15 *Slayer* heavy fighter as the baseline. To improve the fighter's speed, Avellar traded in the *Slayer*'s 320 standard fusion plant for a 400-rated extralight of Inner Sphere manufacture (though where the Alliance came by such parts is uncertain), while incidentally upgrading its heat sinks to Inner Sphere double-strength freezers. This made room for a number of Clan-made upgrades, including 14.5 tons of Clan-provided prototype ferro-lamellor armor. The nose-mounted heavy AC and medium laser were then swapped out for an experimental Clan Rotary AC/5, while each wing drops its twin standard medium lasers in favor of prototype improved heavy medium lasers supplied by the Ravens. Finally, a Clan laser AMS replaced the traditional tail-mounted medium laser, allowing this fighter to further discourage missile-heavy pursuers who will already find this craft tough to bring down.

The reports from Ramora suggest that the Raven-Outworlds design teams have managed to bring five of these so-called *Slayer*-CX1 fighters on-line, but there is no corresponding report confirming any immediate plans to mass produce them.

Type: SL-CX1 Slayer

Technology Base: Mixed Tech (Experimental) Tonnage: 80 Battle Value: 2,287

Equipment		Mass
Engine:	400	26.5
Туре:	XL Fusion	
Safe Thrust:	7	
Maximum Thrust:	11	
Structural Integrity:	8	0
Heat Sinks:	16 [32]	6
Fuel:	800	8
Cockpit:		3

Aft	51							
Weapons and Ammo	Location	Tonnage	Heat	SRV	MRV	LRV	ERV	
Rotary AC/5 (C)	Nose	10	2	20	20	20	_	
Ammo (RAC) 40 (C)	_	2	—		_	_	_	
2 Improved Heavy Lasers (C) LW	2	14	20	_	_	_	
2 Improved Heavy Lasers (C) RW	2	14	20	_	_	_	
Laser Anti-Missile System (C) Aft	1	5	—	_	_	—	



"BULLET" SUICIDE DRONE

Field Testing Summation: Disposable Guardian Drone Refit Producer/Site: Mujika Aerospace Technologies, St. Ives Supervising Technician: Roman Pavelov Project Start Date: 3071 Non-Production Equipment Analysis: Drone Operating System

Booby Trap

Overview

Of all the prototype aerospace craft we have learned about in recent years, the "Bullet" may well be the most disturbing, despite the fact that it is a lightweight conventional fighter. Built on St. lves, where information is scarce thanks to the shattered HPG network there, we believe this fighter to have actually been in a form of limited production since 3072 at the latest. What makes this most disturbing is that the "Bullet" is not a fighter in the strictest sense of the word, but more of an airborne kamikaze drone.

Starting with the airframe of a Guardian light fighter, the "Bullet" retains the look of the standard Guardian, despite having had its VSTOL capabilities removed and its armor improved and redistributed for maximum defense. Its original Rawlings 140 turbine was further replaced with a lighter (and weaker) GM AeroClassic 120 turbine, reducing its airspeed by almost 15 percent. The nose-mounted SRM launcher is also reduced in size, from a 6-rack to a 2-tube system. All of these reductions cleared the tonnage needed for an unmanned flight control system that transforms the "Bullet" into a completely unmanned craft, remote piloted by DropShip- or ground-based crews.

The purpose of this design is almost singular in nature: to lance through enemy lines either by playing the role of a lame Guardian or by sheer mindless straight-arrow flying. Once there, the fighter either lands or flies as close as possible to its objective before setting off its onboard two-ton explosive package. Clearly intended to meet the increasingly guerrilla nature of the Capellans' war against the Word, the fact that they have begun to mass produce unmanned suicide fighters speaks volumes about the way recent events have begun to shape our world.

Type: "Bullet" Suicide Drone

Technology Base: Inner Sphere (Experimental) Tonnage: 20 Battle Value: 92

Equipment		Mass
Engine:	120	8
Type:	ICE	
Safe Thrust:	6	
Maximum Thrust:	9	
Structural Integrity:	6	0

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Equipment			Mass					
Heat Sinks:	0		0					
Fuel:	320		2					
Cockpit:			2					
Drone Operating System	m:		2.5					
Armor Factor (Standard	l): 20		1.5					
	Armo	or						
	Valu	e						
Nose	7							
Wings	5/5							
Aft	3							
Weapons and Ammo	Location	Tonnage	Heat	SRV	MRV	LRV	ERV	
SRM 2	Nose	1	0	2	_	_	_	

1 2

Ammo (SRM) 50

Booby Trap

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