

but in the 1960s the Sentinels encountered these aliens again and discovered they had only built a forward launching base on Mars. This base, abandoned by the Sirians, is now the home of an Empyrean, Deloss, who is thought to be the only living being on Mars at this time.

The asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter was once a planet, though how it was destroyed, and by whom, remains a mystery. Unbeknownst to the superhumans of Earth, over two million years ago this former world was once the home of a race of plant creatures whom the Progenitors nurtured and protected. Within the asteroids themselves can be found hidden repositories of Progenitor knowledge and technology, which would be invaluable to individuals powerful and wise enough to understand them.

Europa, one of the moons of Jupiter, is the location of our solar system's Star\*Guard base. The Star\*Guard is an ancient order of warriors devoted to the protection of the good and innocent, originally founded on the planet Odragar but now made up of representatives from dozens of races. Star Guardians are trained in hand-to-hand combat and mental disciplines, given the powerful Star-Staff as a weapon, and then assigned to particular regions of space. Andre Almena, a Spaniard, is currently the Guardian of our region and lives on Europa with a small support team of various aliens. He rarely comes to Earth, considering it well-protected by its own heroes.

## PAGE 95 — ALIENS AND THE GREATER GALAXY

The information presented in the main text is accurate, and represents the extent of the public's knowledge of alien life. Some of Earth's governments, primarily the United States, know considerably more details gleaned from information that hasn't been publicly released, but no one on Earth knows the full extent of the galactic community (see the accompanying map for the current galactopolitical state of affairs as of the Earth year 2002). More importantly, no one on Earth is aware of several potential alien threats to Earth's security.

### The Hzeel

The greatest of these threats is posed by the Hzeel, a humanoid species with bluish-grey skin, large reddish eyes, and technology significantly more advanced than Earth's. The Hzeel control an empire rimward of Earth, and are expansionistic. The chief threat to their aims as of 2002 is the Perseid Empire (Ironclad's people), which lies spinward of both them and Earth. In the hope of outflanking the Perseids, the Hzeel are considering a sweep into Earth's part of the galaxy, and that would include conquering Earth for use as a forward base and supply station.

In recent years the Hzeel have sent numerous scout ships to covertly explore Earth and learn more about its people and technology, particularly peoples with superhuman powers (which likewise occur among the Perseids, but are quite rare among the Hzeel). Most of these missions have gone

**Map of Hero Universe (2002)**

