

Poseidon Asides

#1: Moribund Armaments, Haven

Welcome to Poseidon Asides, articles that focus on the people and places of Poseidon. This first article introduces Moribund Armaments, a native family-owned gunsmith business in Haven. It covers Moribund's history, principals in the company, some of the products they make (statted out for Blue Planet Revised), and some Access Denied hooks for game masters to make use of (GM eyes only!).

History

Moribund Armaments is a large shop that sits along the main street that runs from Old Town to The Wharf. Founded in 2178 by native Tanner Griff as an arms supplier and general outfitter, it has changed over the years into a firearms manufacturer.

Tanner Griff is a native of Haven who grew up in a family that hand made black powder weapons for trade. After Recontact, Griff saw an opportunity to supply weapons and outdoor gear to colonists and tourists, backed up by his knowledge of the area and the unique challenges of Poseidon. He quickly latched onto binary propellant technology and began to modify the guns he sold to improve their reliability in Poseidon's harsh environments. After nearly 8 years of having satisfied customers telling him he understood the guns he sold better than those who made them, he decided to take a bold step. He turned over management of the shop to his son Layton in 2186, and spent the next year studying modern firearm design, obtaining necessary certifications, and designing and testing his first custom-built firearm.

In 2187 Griff released the first gun, a rifle, to bear the Moribund Armaments name. The Moribund Model 1 rifle was well received locally and made a modest profit, but Griff wasn't satisfied. Despite the quality and durability of the Model 1, many customers still purchased Incorporate-made firearms simply because they recognized the name. Griff was undeterred though, and continued to design and market his own weapons, confident that people would see the difference in quality.

Tanner's son, Layton Griff, followed his father's vision of not just a successful business, but one that could compete with the Incorporates in the planetary firearms market. Layton obtained a formal degree in firearms engineering, and even apprenticed under his father to complete his certification process. He then applied for and obtained a job with MacLeod Enforcement as a firearms technician. He worked with MacLeod for two years, before quitting and returning to his father's shop. With knowledge of the trends and techniques of weapon design, he began to design firearms that blended the best features of modern design and hand-made quality.

The most successful of these designs has been the Flatlander 9. A multi-cylinder revolver, the Flatlander features three 6-shot cylinders sealed inside the weapon. Each cylinder can be loaded with different ammunition types and cycled to the desired cylinder by touch control or verbal command via the gremlin. The entire gun has watertight fittings and the bioplastic parts are sealed with a matte, anti-fungal coating that resists fast fungus attack. The barrel of the Flatlander is thicker and heavier than similar handguns, making the firearm more accurate and very durable. Some owners joke that the Flatlander makes a good substitute for a hammer. Moribund also manufactures shotshell rounds for the Flatlander for use against the smaller, but still dangerous, fauna of the water world.

The formula for the coating is Moribund's best kept secret and Tanner has refused repeated purchase attempts by various Incorporates. The formula is patented and contains extracts of several native plants. So far no Incorporate has been able to reverse engineer the coating successfully, much to their collective frustration.

Moribund's newest project may be the one that propels them into the larger playing field of the Incorporates. For the past year Layton has been working on a design for a personal defense weapon, after receiving some information from a GEO official (and customer) about open trials for a new weapon for the GEO Patrol. After several prototypes, his team finally produced one that met his exacting demands. The PDX-4, nicknamed Hatchling by the design team, has better range than other PDWs on the market and a high cyclic rate comparable to Hanover's current best weapon. In addition, the Hatchling – named for it's ability to tear up a target just like the Poseidon terror – is just as durable as expected for a Moribund design.

Confident of the weapon's superiority, Layton entered Moribund Armaments into the open bidding and trials call issued by the GEO. Due to rising insurgent and other illegal activities, the GEO has seen the need to outfit the GEO Patrol with better weapons, and settled on a PDW to fill that role. Moribund's entry into the trials was a surprise to industry leaders MacLeod and Hanover. Even more surprising was the first round scoring by GEO Peacekeeper and Patrol volunteers and the officials presiding over it. The PDX-4 was selected as the top scoring weapon in all categories in the first round. This didn't sit well with Hanover, current provider of longarms to the GEO and the one favored to win the bidding. Hanover stands to lose millions, if not billions, in revenue should they lose the bidding. It remains to be seen what Hanover may do to protect its profit margin.

Ironically the project that could make Moribund a major player in the firearms industry is also causing internal strife that might tear it apart. The elder Griff made firearms out of love of the craft, with no desire to be a mass supplier – opposed in fact since he felt it would diminish the quality of his products. He also didn't want to be labeled a dealer in death, someone who made weapons that would be used to kill natives. Layton understands his father's concerns, but sees the opportunity to make the company an economic powerhouse capable of competing with MacLeod and Hanover. The difference in opinion has led to several loud, public arguments in the store and the shop, leading to fears that Layton may leave to start his own company. Everyone in the company is hoping that tempers cool and they come to a solution they both can live with.

Moribund Armaments PDX-4 Hatchling

The Personal Defense Experimental version 4 is Moribund's entry in the GEO's Patrol longarm open trial. The weapon is well-built, and quite sturdy as expected from a Moribund design. It has their patented anti-fungal coating on all bioplastic parts and is sealed against moisture, dirt, and debris. The Hatchling is balanced for burst and automatic fire, with extra recoil compensation to make it more controllable. It sports an integral laser designator/sight in the foregrip as well as a modular top rail that can fit a variety of optics; a simple red dot sight is being used for the trials. Regardless of the outcome of the trial, the weapon will eventually be sold as the PDW-4 Hatchling.

The anti-recoil measures allow a user to ignore the usual +1 Recoil for firing in burst or automatic fire modes.

Dimensions: 0.5 m, 2.2 kg

Power Source: Mini-cell and binary propellant

Rigging Value: Standard

Durability: 1

Legality: Restricted

Availability: Rare (several prototypes), after trials Uncommon

Cost: Not available/1100 cs

Ammo Capacity: 100 rounds/magazine

Fire Modes: S/B3/A10

Range: P20/S60/M100/L300

Damage Rating: 6/9

Recoil: 2

Flatlander 9 Shotshell Rounds

These rounds fire a load of multiple, small, bioplastic pellets, similar in size to bird shot (2.4 mm). These rounds are intended to be used against small animal threats such as Poseidon scorpions, hellbenders, stick monkeys, and water rats.

Shotshell rounds grant a +1 TN bonus to Small Arms rolls, but impose a -1 to DR and any armor is counted as 3 higher than normal.

Moribund Model 1 Rifle

This semi-automatic rifle was Moribund's first commercially produced product. Lighter than a typical hunting rifle, the Model 1 still has an excellent range and nearly the same stopping power. It comes standard with a 10x telescopic sight, environment sealing, and anti-fungal coating on all bioplastic parts.

Dimensions: 1.2 m, 2.3 kg

Power Source: Standard cell and binary propellant

Rigging Value: Standard

Durability: 2

Legality: Legal

Availability: Uncommon

Cost: 500 cs

Ammo Capacity: 30 rounds/magazine

Fire Modes: S

Range: P12/S100/M200/L450

Damage Rating: 8

Recoil: 3

Access Denied
Game Master's Eyes Only

Family Squabble

The fight between Tanner and his son Layton has gotten uglier as the GEO trials have progressed. The most recent argument in the shop ended with Layton threatening to leave and start his own business, and Tanner all but telling him he wasn't welcome at Moribund any more. Layton leaving now would pull Moribund out of the GEO trials which would waste a great opportunity for them. On the other hand, Tanner is worried that winning the bid will alienate the natives and open up him, his family, and his employees to retaliation.

Regular customers or friends of the Griffs may feel compelled to intervene on the behalf of Tanner or Layton, or maybe simply want to help mend the breach between father and son. MacLeod and Hanover would be happy to see Moribund drop out of the trials, and may have agents subtly attempt to encourage the split. Hanover particularly may go to extreme lengths to remove Moribund from the competition.

Incorporate Intrigue

Hanover is willing to do just about anything to stop Moribund from winning the GEO bid for the new Patrol PDW. The first attempts will be subtle; spreading rumors on CommCore about faults with Moribund firearms, paying some street thugs to break out the shop's windows one night, and encouraging people to side with one of the Griffs to continue pushing them apart.

If those seeds bear no fruit, or the Griff men mend their differences, then Hanover will become more direct – while still protecting themselves from discovery. Employees would be bribed, blackmailed, or threatened into doing some task or leaving the company. Hanover could initiate a lawsuit, claiming features of the PDX-4 were created from stolen Hanover tech development, which will ensnare Moribund in legal delays for months. Thugs may be hired to threaten or assault the Griffs, vandalize the shop, or even set the business on fire one night. Threatening messages to the Griffs from “native” sources could be sent over CommCore or even delivered hand-written on paper.

Those sympathetic to Moribund could take it upon themselves to help, or be hired by Tanner or Layton to protect the business and investigate the happenings. The GEO Patrol would certainly get involved in the investigation as well. On the flip side, characters could answer a call from anonymous agents (working for Hanover) to perform some of these illegal tasks for good pay.

