

An Ultimate's Guide to Combat

What comes to your mind when you think "Ultimate"? Most of you readers probably conjure up images of some mercenary, fighting on some blasted rock on the outer system. Some of you will come up with an image that is much less pleasant. Ultimate ideals are much, much different than that. We are more than simply an order of militants.

Ultimates have been associated with mercenaries since the movement's inception, simply because most of us do it at one point or another to make money. I've signed contracts with Ultimate Security, Direct Action, Gorgon, and a half-dozen smaller outfits over the course of the last twelve years. I died on New Mumbai (but you should see the other guy), and in two or three places I'm probably legally obligated not to talk about in print.

The whole sum of the Ultimate philosophy is self-improvement, however. A lot of people fear us because of the fact that we have a perceived penchant for violence, but there are two good reasons for that. First, we simply are capable of delivering better violence because of our training and familiarity with augmentations. Second, we know what's coming. About 80 percent of ultimates died in the Fall, and that's considered a victory. The TITANs aren't dead, and they're hardly even gone.

— Exemplar Harmony "Harm" Cho

The world of Eclipse Phase is wrought with danger and intrigue. The purpose of *An Ultimate's Guide to Combat* is to provide players with more tactical options, and it provides additional opportunities for combat, adding in new systems to give a combat-heavy campaign more variety.

Another of the focuses of this supplement is to provide players with a resource for a more responsive combat system, complete with new and expanded rules for weapon qualities, melee combat, and explosives. *An Ultimate's Guide to Combat* includes some theoretical battlefield tech, as well as additional general use military theory and tactics to improve battlefield simulation in the Eclipse Phase system.

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Surviving Post-Fall Combat

This guide is the offspring of Ultimate Security training manuals from before the Fall, coupled with experience that has been added to our expertise both during and after the Fall. Built for a large audience in mind, there are some simplifications and generalizations; this book may still save your life if you are caught in a combat situation, but it is intended to be an introduction, not a complete guide, to combat techniques and tactics.

Understanding Your Gear

In the past three decades, combat gear has changed more than it had in the past three centuries. Despite this, many of the fundamental concepts of firearms and energy weapons have been well known for quite some time.

Being familiar with your gear will save your life if you have to call upon it in stressful situations; intelligence is knowing that you can shoot off a lock, but wisdom is knowing that the AP round you fire at an angle at a block of hardened metal will ricochet back through your leg.

Firearms and Railguns

Kinetic weapons are still the mainstay of transhumanity's arsenal; they are well-pedigreed and have a variety and familiarity that energy weapons just can't match, require relatively little training to use effectively, and generally lack complicated electronics. Plus, unlike seekers, someone who messes up only hurts one teammate, rather than three.

Kinetic weapons function by putting a projectile into or through a target. Contrary to popular opinion, the presence of a bullet in the body doesn't do much damage at all: it's how that bullet gets there that matters.

Faster rounds do more damage, period. Special armor on vehicle scale morphs, robots, or vehicles may negate some of this factor, but both biomorph tissue and synthmorph structure are sensitive to impacts at speed. Higher speed rounds project much more energy, and in both metal and flesh produces additional impact effects that even a larger but slower projectile is unlikely to produce. Railguns rely on this effect more than traditional firearms.

Using kinetic weapons comes intuitively to most soldiers, as they are not uncommon and many common XP's and media programs, as well as countless augmented/virtual reality simulations and games include kinetic weapons, but novice shooters often make mistakes based on inaccurate

depictions of weapons and poor weapon handling. Although modern firearms are very robust, there are still limitations to the amount of abuse that they can take, and they need to be cleaned properly every few hundred rounds to maintain optimal accuracy and reliability. Railguns require less maintenance, though they may need realignment for optimal accuracy.

Ammunition storage is a major concern; the average soldier can carry four or five magazines before they begin to be encumbered by the additional ammunition that they are carrying. Likewise, novices often reload their firearms very frequently, even in situations where there may be immediate contact. This leaves them with many partially depleted magazines and provides openings for hostiles to exploit. It is often impractical to use long extended bursts of fire for ammunition management purposes, even though modern firearms have mitigated most concerns about recoil.

A final note about kinetic weapons is that firing them in microgravity pushes the user away from the direction of the projectile, even in weapons with very good recoil control. Users of these weapons should be aware that rapid full-automatic fire can cause significant shifts in momentum, which can strand an unsuspecting shooter or send them flying away from cover.

Seekers and Grenades

Seekers and grenades are large projectiles, but unlike kinetic weapons seekers and grenades have a focus on containing a special payload, usually an explosive, rather than just delivering a hard impact at high velocity.

Seekers are typically available only in soft-launch configurations, meaning that they can be fired without any fear of backblast. Any back-blast weapons that are issued to soldiers in the After-Fall period are either relics or very large weapons. Both thrown and launched grenades tend to lack any appreciable back-blast.

Seekers, as a general rule, should not be used to fire into groups of combatants that include allies for obvious reasons. Even if allied soldiers are sufficiently hardened to survive the blast, being intentionally targeted by friendly weapon fire is bad for morale.

If encountering enemies with seekers, be aware of their potential for indirect fire, as well as their incredible range. Because seekers can redirect in flight in ways that are superior to smart ammunition, they are able to function at

very high effective ranges; even a micromissile can, when fired by a skilled combatant, hit targets over a kilometer away.

In microgravity, seekers are good weapons because they tend to have relatively little kick, as they have internal propellant that ignites after leaving the launcher, while launched grenades have similar recoil to a kinetic weapon. Thrown grenades have the same impulses as pushing off of something very light, so combatants can usually use them from behind cover.

Beam Weapons

Beam weapons have their own advantages and disadvantages. The foremost upside of beam weapons is their ability to be fielded in microgravity with negligible impulses. Otherwise, beam weapons are so radically different in function that they are almost impossible to categorize as a single group.

Less Lethal Beam Weapons

You will almost never see a microwave agonizer or stunner on the battlefield, but you should be prepared for them nonetheless. Be aware that EMP weapons can double as microwave agonizers in some situations. Most of these are highly effective at penetrating armor.

EMP weapons are also worth noting; their ability to disrupt battlefield communications makes them common secondary weapons or vehicle mounts, and as they double as effective counter-nanowarfare devices, they are prolific in post-Fall armories. They do little direct harm to soldiers on the battlefield, but the chaos they cause can tip the battle in their users' favor. EMP weapons have long ranges compared to most beam weapons.

Laser pulsers also have a flashbang mode, though it typically is less than effective on hardened soldiers.

Conventional Beam Weapons

Traditional beam weapons are known to be somewhat ineffective at long ranges. The furthest beam weapons can engage at is 300 meters, making a good kinetic rifle a solid answer to widespread beam weapon deployment. Beam weapons can be deployed to devastating effect in terms of accuracy, but typically lack full-automatic fire.

Beam weapons are known to have somewhat limited armor piercing capabilities; only the plasma rifle has particularly effective armor piercing capabilities; plasma rifles can double as a light anti-armor weapon. Particle beam bolters

can be a replacement for a standard rifle in some arsenals, but generally are disfavored due to their limited range.

Enhanced Radiation Weapons

Enhanced radiation weapons are generally highly lethal and effective. While proper protection will prevent direct burns, being attacked with ER weapons means almost certain loss of morph.

ER weapons cause little direct damage, but have respectable range, hit through cover, and cause radiation poisoning in biomorphs and radiation-responsive malfunctions in drones and synthmorphs. Medicines are ineffective at repairing radiation-related damage due to the fact that they will sustain significant loss of functionality as a result. Healing vats and pods may be able to reduce the effects of acute radiation sickness in biomorphs; typically biomorphs suffering severe ARS die of infection, even with basic biomods. Damage to synthmorphs is less likely to result in death, but should still be repaired in a timely fashion.

One side effect of ER weapons is potential damage to the ego sleeved in a morph. Since radiation has particularly devastating effects on cyberbrains and biomorphs' central nervous system, backups retrieved from cortical stacks may be corrupted and the ego of anyone sleeved into the target of an ER attack may require psychosurgery to restore full functionality.

ER weapons are very effective against nanoswarms, but are generally not considered legal for deployment onto a battlefield against transhumans.

Spray Weapons

Spray weapons are limited in range and effectiveness, but they have their own place on the battlefield. Shard pistols are not uncommon as sidearms, due to their high armor penetration, though shredders are rarer due to their bulk and weight.

Buzzers are often deployed by combat engineers, as deployable nanoswarms are useful for construction and demolitions purposes, though weaponized nanoswarms, while deployed infrequently, are frowned upon. Freezers are used occasionally to construct barricades or bridges.

Torches and flamethrowers, the former being a more advanced variant of the latter, are also commonly used as combat weapons due to their ability to inflict devastating heat-related damage on both soldiers and materiel, as well as their

abilities to clear foliage. Setting foes on fire is an additional benefit.

Although most codified warfare proscribes it, spray weapons are not infrequently used with chemical and biological agents; everything from BTX² to Twitch gets loaded up and used when the kiddie gloves come off. Nutcracker is not particularly lethal, but has devastating morale effects. Sprayers can be loaded with even more exotic compounds.

Entering the Battlefield

While civilians and security contractors may not have a lot of say on their gear, any mercenary or soldier worth their salt will carry three things into battle with them: a primary weapon, a sidearm, and a utility weapon.

Primary weapons typically have an effective engagement range of at least a hundred meters, with accurate fire possible to three hundred meters, though in clustered habitats or urban environments a shorter-range weapon like a submachine gun may be more practical for its ability to be deployed in cramped quarters. Kinetic weapons and beam weapons are the most popular primary weapons, with kinetic weapons leading by far in terms of widespread adoption.

Sidearms are backup weapons first and foremost, but they sometimes include utility weapons. Shotguns with frangible rounds, for instance, can function as a sidearm, though by and far the most popular sidearm option is a pistol. Sidearm selection is heavily dependent on the preferences of individuals and institutions; most mercenary outfits prefer heavy pistols, while civilians, police, and security prefer lighter pistols with more ammunition capacity.

Finally, people tend to bring a utility weapon with them. SWAT teams may have flashbangs, military units may bring along seekers or rocket launchers, and commandos may have satchel charges or other special gear. Grenades are the most common "utility weapon"; HEAP, thermobaric, and plasmaburst grenades are devastating against both hard and soft targets, and are standard issue for combat deployments.

Effective Infantry Units

The best predictor of battlefield success is unit cohesion. Gear is interchangeable, but operators are not. Transhuman combat is different from warfare in the 20th century because it is not uncommon for the same combatants fight the majority of any given war, resleeving to rejoin comrades after they have perished, or simply being well-

equipped enough to be such a dominant force as to be nigh-untouchable on the battlefield.

Units work best if they have close interpersonal relationships throughout. Respect is earned through authentic relationships, and many people grasp this concept and strangle it to death by trying to enforce unit cohesion by forced fraternization. Officers should have charisma, and as much as possible soldiers should have bonding opportunities outside combat. Unlike a faulty rifle, you cannot simply swap in a new soldier.

The one rule of battle is that you never want to have a single soldier alone in combat. Occasionally snipers or commandos may undertake a solo mission, but this only happens when they do not expect to encounter heavy combined arms resistance, or when no better option presents itself. A lack of unit cohesion may mean that soldiers abandon each other on the battlefield, or, worse, under the heat of pressure, especially when opponents like the TITANs, whose ability to perform sophisticated biological and infosec attacks is well known, are able to cause psychological tensions between troops.

The Fireteam

In any mercenary group or military worth its salt, units will be divided into fireteams. In small organizations or more decentralized organizations, like anarchist strike squads, you see more independent selection of weapons, but the fireteam unit is tried and true, and ensures that any group of soldiers in the field has the firepower they need to survive most engagements. Fireteams are created for the open battlefield, not counterterrorism or security uses, and have a focus on sustainability and flexibility, though you may find similar groupings among police and security forces that are built around shorter engagements and close quarters combat.

Fireteam Configurations

Fireteams tend to be between four to six members in size. It is generally accepted practice to designate a fireteam leader who has a mix of forward observer and tactical decision making roles. The squad leader is usually equipped with a rifle and an underbarrel seeker or grenade launcher with smoke for signaling and concealment as well as fragmentation, HE, or HEAP rounds. The remaining members of the fireteam typically fall into one of the following categories:

Rifleman: Every soldier is trained to be a rifleman, because it serves as a good baseline skill set. Riflemen are typically not issued any special weaponry, with an automatic

rifle, heavy pistol, and two or three grenades being standard issue. The rifleman's job is usually to protect the team leader, and should the squad split up they will remain together.

Automatic Rifleman: Entrusted with a machine gun, automatic riflemen take on support roles, placing suppressive fire. They are typically more senior than riflemen, knowing optimal positioning and having the skilled ability to use bursts of effective fire.

Assistant Automatic Rifleman: The AAR takes on a support role, carrying additional ammunition for the automatic rifleman in addition to his own rifle.

Light Anti-Tank Rifleman: LAT support is often used as an alternative "junior" role in a fireteam. Typically, fireteams do not have dedicated anti-tank capabilities, but if they are likely to encounter armor there will typically be at least one rifleman with an anti-tank weapon (typically a disposable missile launcher) to back them up.

Fireteams tend to be composed of a fireteam leader, one automatic rifleman, one AAR, and then either riflemen or LAT riflemen.

The Squad

Squads are coordinated groups of fireteams. The number of fireteams per squad varies, but a squad typically comes to between ten to sixteen soldiers, with at least two members of a command group. This command group almost always contains at least a squad leader, who takes on a tactical decision making role and coordinates communications with higher command, and a squad medic/robotics repair specialist, who tries to keep everyone alive or patched up through the fight.

Some other specialist types are applied at the squad level that may be worth noting:

Designated Marksman: Not a sniper, the designated marksman is typically equipped with an automatic rifle, but one with better optics (or electronics) so that it is prepared to make medium to long range shots outside normal combat engagement ranges. These tend to be selected from riflemen who are good shots, and they maneuver freely to select vantages that provide good overviews of the battle, functioning as scouts as well as removing threats before they reach the other squad members.

We won't go into detail about groups larger than a squad here; organizations tend to have wildly different

preferences for organization beyond that, but we will go into detail about other combat roles.

Squad Support

You will occasionally see some elements be deployed outside of the normal squad hierarchy. Depending on the organization fielding them, they will either be formally attached to a squad, or be coordinating efforts alongside squads with direction coming directly from higher ups.

Sniper Teams: Sniper teams can be devastating. A lone sniper can suppress a squad better than an armored vehicle with an HMG in some situations, because the fear of getting shot is important. For anyone with a cortical stack, a sniper is a minor inconvenience, but being knocked out of combat is still a major concern, and snipers are able to disable commanders, specialists, and other valuable elements with relatively little fear of reprisal and wreak havoc on an opposing force's morale.

Sniper teams tend to either operate with a single sniper (common for stealthier sniper roles), or a sniper/spotter pair. With modern electronics, spotters tend to take on a more traditional rifleman overwatch role, protecting the sniper while they do their work and keeping a second eye out for dangers, though there are times when they cooperate, especially among forces that are not equipped with high-end smartlinked weapons with cutting edge optics. Snipers may be deployed with anti-materiel rifles, either to fight increasingly hardened morphs (such as combat synths) or automated drones, or to allow limited anti-vehicle roles.

Forward Operations Coordinators: These guys communicate with artillery and CAS elements to call in support on target and help leverage the superior firepower available to their faction. They are, understandably, somewhat rare among some of the less-well equipped mercenary and military forces, though they can be a lifesaver in a pinch.

Anti-Tank Teams: While fireteams may deploy light anti-tank capabilities, anti-tank teams take the fight to tanks, rather than vice versa. An anti-tank team includes at least one anti-tank gunner, typically with a very heavy anti-tank weapon like a multi-launch rocket launcher or an assault cannon.

HMG Team: The HMG is a weapon that provides excellent area denial against infantry and light armored vehicles. Typically, the HMG is a two-man team consisting of a machine gunner and an assistant who helps carry part of a tripod setup and ammunition for the weapon.

Engineers: Engineers play a crucial combat role by handling detonation or disarming of unexploded munitions, battlefield construction projects like bridges and makeshift fortifications, and otherwise making logistical and tactical shifts to favor their allies.

Infosec Specialists: Although most battlefield equipment is hardened against digital interference, combat in areas with functional mesh infrastructure or where wireless equipment is deployed is crucial, and infosec specialists are a part of many military forces, handling jamming, information suppression, and communications for their forces.

Remote Operators: These soldiers often fight remotely, but handle drone operations. It's not uncommon to have someone jamming into a light aerial vehicle or ground-based drone to supply supporting fire or drop supplies off to troops, though larger vehicles tend to be piloted locally to eliminate the risk of digital intrusion.

Special Forces

Infiltration forces, scouts not attached to squads, and the like fall under the auspices of special forces. Special forces operators are expected to be able to function both as forward operations coordinators and complete covert mission tasks. Lacking heavy weapons, they use silenced weapons with subsonic ammunition and flash suppressors as a standard kit, and gather intelligence or complete sensitive missions. They tend to be among the elite soldiers of any given force, and have great operational flexibility, but their primary objective lies in completing their mission, not neutralizing enemy forces.

One common use for special forces is sabotage. In these cases special forces operators are typically equipped with disassembler or saboteur nanoswarms, given high-yield explosives, or in some cases even antimatter grenades for use against targets: nanoswarms are favored for their ability to cause destruction silently with less risk of detection, but both conventional and high-tech explosives deliver very fast and very potent destructive yields.

Special forces are also used as forward operations coordinators. In this role they find vantage points to confirm that artillery, killsat, or air support is coming in on target and having the desired effect, as well as designate targets using a smartlink, laser designator, or similar piece of gear.

Special forces are deployed with some of the most elite infosec teams available in any military. The advent of automated defenses and surveillance means that almost any

special forces operator is at risk for detection by any number of automated alarm systems, drones, or augmented hostile combatants. Special forces operators deploy some of the best camouflage and signals jamming techniques, including using cutting-edge technology to shield themselves from broad electromagnetic frequency detection. Invisibility cloaks or equivalent augmentations are effectively standard issue for special forces teams.

Mechanized Infantry

While infantry remain the backbone of militaries even after the Fall, there is still a need to deploy them into potentially hostile environments and transport them quickly. Most infantry units are actually mechanized infantry, who use infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs), armored personnel carriers (APCs), or other light armored vehicles to provide cover and additional firepower.

Armored Personnel Carriers

Armored personnel carriers tend to be used to carry troops in to and out of battle. Most have treads or wheels, though APCs with walker or hover locomotion have become more popular in recent years.

APCs are distinguished from IFVs by carrying only light weapons; they will typically have anti-infantry capabilities, but only the lightest of anti-armor capabilities are mounted on APCs, if even.

As with most materiel, APCs are built to be pressurized and amphibious, and can have a broad range of armor. APCs tend to be well-enough armored to shrug off any weapons less powerful than an assault cannon or plasma rifle.

Infantry Mobility Vehicles

Infantry mobility vehicles (IMVs) are lighter and faster variants of APCs. Typically built for mine resistance, they are usually wheeled (though hover variants may exist), are lightly armed if armed at all—some variants have firing ports—and focus on having greater speed and scouting capabilities. These vehicles are also used on patrols, especially variants equipped with better sensor packages, and are unlikely to see active battlefield use except in transport roles where they will not be placed in engagements with enemy forces. Almost all IMVs are capable of resisting small arms fire and light explosives; they are particularly good at shielding transported troops from explosions.

Infantry Fighting Vehicles

Infantry fighting vehicles are used to supplement troops. Almost always heavily armored, often to near the same levels as main battle tanks, treads, wheels, and walkers are the dominant locomotion systems for these massive machines. An IFV is defined as any vehicle equipped with anti-armor capabilities designed to assist and transport infantry on the battlefield, and unlike an APC or IMV, they typically remain with the troops that they deploy at all times. Expect any IFV to have an autocannon for engaging air or ground targets, and perhaps also a machine gun turret and/or missile launcher package.

One advantage of the IFV in some environments is its ability to provide cover to infantry, especially where there is a known source of enemy fire. This rolling cover can protect not only the IFV's passengers, but also friendly infantry outside the IFV, from enemy fire. When sweeping urban areas, it is not uncommon for infantry to circle an IFV in box or circle formations, allowing them to maintain the autonomy of individual soldiers but also be covered from attacks originating on the other side of the IFV.

IFVs also function in similar roles to APCs, and are used to deploy troops quickly onto the battlefield or pull them out of areas where artillery or air support have made positions indefensible.

Battlefield Support

Most of the military victories on battlefields in the past two centuries have come down not only to ground forces superiority but also the presence of strong battlefield support elements, such as artillery, air support, and killsats.

Artillery

Air Support

Air support comes in multiple forms and is used in a variety of circumstances. We'll be examining both aerial deployment techniques as well as direct and indirect fire from air support forces that may be frequently found on transhuman battlefields.

Air Deployment

In low gravity and with high powered VTOLs and planes, air deployment has become increasingly popular for all sorts of ground forces. Deployment from the air is done in two ways; either airborne forces carried in by parachute or glider, typically launched from a plane or low-altitude spacecraft, or

via VTOL insertion. Landing aircraft not equipped for VTOL capabilities is not unheard of, but generally tends to be met with mixed results at best, as fixed-wing aircraft may be incapable of taking off in battlefield conditions.

Airborne force deployment is tricky because it leaves few avenues for escape. Although it can insert troops well behind enemy defensive positions, something which is of high indispensable value, and you can deploy troops far from enemies' ability to retaliate, troops tend to be relatively vulnerable during deployment.

However, gliders and parachutes deployed in low gravity environments may be able to bring along armor that was inconceivable with Earth's gravity; of course, the parallel concern is that troops and armor trying to parachute or glide in thin atmospheres may not be able to reach acceptable landing speeds before landing, resulting in damage to materiel and injuries or death of soldiers.

Air assaults carried out with vertical takeoff and landing capable aircraft (VTOLs) are more common in most places. Multiple infantry units can be attended to by a single VTOL, which may be assigned to transport roles for the duration of a battlefield encounter or be retasked to air support roles after deploying infantry and armor.

In low gravity, and with the power of a fusion reactor, VTOLs have become capable vehicles for armored insertions, and it is not uncommon to see armed forces deploy all-in-one VTOLs for anti-air, anti-armor, and transport roles.

Air support is often used for direct and indirect munitions delivery. Aircraft can move at speeds that make it difficult to effectively retaliate against them, and can carry the same weapons that one would expect to see on an IFV, plus bombs and missiles (large guns tend to be unpopular, though not impossible to find, on aircraft). VTOL and hover capable aircraft can provide sustained fire support, while fast movers such as jets can provide single attack runs. Air support is sometimes relegated to autonomous or jammed drones, which can be highly effective.

Single-strike gun runs are common from aircraft, as they keep the aircraft in motion and provide enough firepower to at the very least deter most forces. Bombing or missile runs, with heavier munitions deployed, are used when IFVs or tanks threaten infantry units, or when the destruction of armor is of immediate strategic importance. VTOLs can provide sustained fire from hover, which has the upside of infantry suppression and high armor kill rates; a good pilot can remain

sufficiently mobile to avoid most incoming fire, while still staying stationary enough to provide predictable support for ground forces.

Air support is frequently delivered with the support of a forward operations controller, though on rare occasions pilots may be responsible for selecting and engaging targets of their own accord. This is typically rare, as munitions effectiveness falls dramatically when pilots are responsible for finding and lining up targets without external assistance, especially with single pilot aircraft or aircraft without a dedicated gunner role.

Killsats

Killsat support is exceedingly rare, and has its own downsides. "Killsat" is a popular term that worked its way into military jargon to refer to any direct weapons support from spacecraft or satellites against ground targets.

When dealing with killsat munitions, some things are important to remember. Killsats are expensive, are typically slaved to strategic interests, and are as such somewhat rare. Few killsats are made with the capacity for precision destruction; kinetic killsats can strike with similar yields to nuclear and antimatter weapons, while energy weapon based killsats can saturate a city block with enough energy to melt rock.

Killsats are limited in effectiveness by their distance from the battlefield; you will rarely find a killsat so distant as to have more than a second worth of lag in communications; sometimes battleships with guns to spare may provide battlefield support. If satellites are not in geosynchronous orbit, there may be a limited engagement window in which their weapons can be deployed; multiple killsats on the same orbit naturally increase the number of engagement windows, and it doesn't take that many satellites to achieve constant firing solutions on most bodies in our solar system. Rounds fired from a killsat typically take between five to six minutes to arrive, though particles or beams arrive quickly enough for the delay to be negligible.

The After-Fall Armory

The Fall taught transhumanity a number of things. First, you can't count on massive decentralized AI tactical networks in place of boots on the ground. Second, sufficiently nasty things can suborn your gear. Third, most battlefields are pretty unsurvivable for even well-prepared transhumans.

I'd say that about half of the things that I encountered during the Fall were things that could only be dealt with using specialized gear or external support. At New Mumbai we had to deploy nukes to stop the TITANS' advance, and we didn't have enough time to get everyone out (civilians and soldiers both).

So, with that in mind, here are a few things that anyone going into combat in this day and age should expect. I'm going to take a moment to remind everyone that the best force multiplier in existence is the transhuman mind, unless the Factors do something particularly shocking, so do enough reading to set yourself apart from the genetrash.

Handling Expensive+ Costs

Eclipse Phase uses simplified costs to reflect the fact that it is unlikely that one will find items at the same price in habitats on opposite sides of the solar system. *An Ultimate's Guide to Combat*, however, looks at military and government issue equipment that would cost a fortune on the private market, and for which blueprints may simply be unavailable or extremely highly restricted. *AUGC* uses Expensive+, Expensive++, and so forth to denote objects that not only are expensive, but are orders of magnitude more expensive than standard; Expensive+ is equivalent to 100,000 credits as an average cost, Expensive++ is equivalent to 1,000,000 credits as an average cost, and so forth. These are not considered categories for the purposes of increasing categories (something which is expensive follows the rules on p. 296, *EP*); increasing categories from Expensive+ increases the cost by 100,000 credits, and something which is increasing from Expensive++ would increase the cost by a million credits.

Weapon Qualities

A lot of people overlook the vagaries of various weapons. Each weapon has its own unique upsides and downsides, and you should be making an intelligent and informed decision about each of your tools as you prepare for battle.

Some weapons are renowned for their ability to consistently put out damage against a variety of targets.

These reliable weapons are a mainstay in many peoples' arsenals.

Positive Weapon Qualities

Reliable weapons roll each damage die twice, taking the higher result as the final outcome for the die. *Reliable* applies not only to the weapon's base damage, but any damage added by automatic fire. Alternatively, 2 damage may be added for each d10 in the weapon's DV instead of rerolling dice.

A handful of weapons are capable of causing damage to a large area; these blast-causing weapons can hit multiple targets at once.

Area weapons are not content merely to damage a single target, but also cause damage to additional morphs. Targets standing within a number of meters equal to the Blast rating of the weapon fall victim to the same effects as the original target of the weapon.

There are some weapons capable of functioning radically differently, to the point where different skills are used with various modes of the weapon.

Multi-Mode weapons are capable of being used in multiple different configurations. The skills used will vary from weapon to weapon.

It is not uncommon to find weapons that cause damage across a whole cone of fire. These weapons are devastating to unsuspecting combatants or those who cannot take cover.

Saturation weapons use special rules detailed in the *Saturation Attacks* section.

Some rare weapons do damage directly through radioactivity (x-rays, gamma rays, neutrons, or other energetic particles). These are highly illegal, and go by a number of names; they are generally lumped together as enhanced radiation weapons. Some nuclear weapons, typically referred to as enhanced radiation weapons, yield primarily radiation instead of blast and heat, and have this quality as well.

Radioactive weapons ignore a target's armor, though special radiation hardening applies. They also expose targets to a number of grays equal to their rating.

Flame weapons have the added upside of potentially lighting targets on fire.

Flame weapons ignite the target on an Excellent (30+) success, similar to the torch spray weapon (p. 341, EP), doing damage equal to the Flame rating each turn.

Intrepid weapons manufacturers have derived a number of ways to create weapons that permanently damage armor, rather than merely piercing through it.

Defab weapons cause damage to the target's armor; each piece of armor that an attack from the weapon hits has its rating lowered by the attack's Defab rating until it is repaired. Repair spray and self-healing armor is still effected, but repairs damage from Defab at a rate of one point per hour.

Negative Weapon Qualities

Some weapons are just plain unwieldy. These weapons are difficult to use and carry effectively, making it difficult to move effectively while carrying them.

Unwieldy weapons confer a -10 penalty to all Flight, Fray, Freerunning, and Freefall tests made by the user while the weapon is being carried or used. Characters with multiple unwieldy weapons suffer the first -10 penalty and then take an additional -5 penalty for each additional weapon. Large morphs reduce the penalty for unwieldy weapons by 5, and very large morphs reduce the penalty by 10. Small morphs, on the other hand, increase the penalty by 5.

Older weapons, and some post-Fall weapons made in a pinch to use fewer resources, suffer from recoil. I like to keep an old anti-materiel rifle from Earth that I've had since I left for New Mumbai in a locker. It packs a real kick, but it's as hard-hitting as any gun you'll see today.

Firing a weapon with the **Recoil** quality imposes a -10 penalty to future attacks with that weapon during the remainder of the combat turn, unless the weapon has been deployed or the character uses a complex action to recover from the recoil.

One thing you don't hear about firearms that often is how many of them are total lemons. Especially if you're buying from scum tinkerers or the Jovians, you can expect a lot of low-end cheaper firearms to be unreliable at best.

When firing a weapon with the **Lemon** quality, the weapon jams (kinetic, seeker, or spray weapons) or overheats (energy weapons) if the attacker rolls a 1 on any of the damage dice rolled on account of the weapon's DV. Melee weapons with the Lemon quality break entirely; they lose any other qualities and do $1d10 + SOM \div 10$ damage. A jammed

projectile weapon requires a Complex Action to unjam, while an overheated energy weapon cannot be to attack again until the end of the next turn. Broken melee weapons may be repaired; the Game Master decides what processes this entails.

Variable Rating Weapon Qualities

Sometimes weapon qualities may have a range or list of values; this means that the user can decide the level at which the quality functions.

Example: Kinetic Gauntlets have an Area (0-10) rating, which means that they can be used to effect a single target only, or all targets within ten meters.

Weapon Qualities and Automatic Fire

Weapon qualities that apply to attacks may be doubled by automatic fire; this only applies to qualities like Radioactive, Flame, or Defab that have direct numerical effect.

Example: An HMG firing Defab rounds (which confer a Defab rating of 2) hits an enemy APC. Since the Defab rating is doubled, the APC loses 4/4 from its armor rating.

Damage Bonus

An Ultimate's Guide to Combat introduces a variety of new weapons, many of which use different statistic calculations. It is suggested that Damage Bonus be calculated using the rules in *Transhuman* (p. 96), which state that either $SOM + DUR \div 20$ be used to calculate Damage Bonus or that small morphs should decrease Damage Bonus by 1 and large morphs should increase Damage Bonus by 2. For sake of consistency with the other books, this book uses $SOM \div 10$ to represent the standard damage bonus, and adds in weapons that use $SOM \div 5$, for weapons that use double the normal damage bonus.

Alternate Caliber

Firearms in AF 10 can be found in alternate calibers that make them more suitable for specific types of combat; a rifle with a smaller round may not do as much damage as its full sized counterpart, but it will allow for more ammunition to be loaded into a magazine; a standard automatic rifle with a 30 round capacity modified to fire rounds in a smaller caliber can hold 42 rounds in a standard magazine, or 63 in an extended magazine, while the same rifle modified to use larger caliber rounds could hold 24 rounds in its magazine, or 36 in an extended magazine. When calculating the number of rounds that a firearm using an alternate caliber can use, always round

down; extended magazine capacities are calculated from the caliber modified number prior to rounding, however. There is no (effective) cost difference between rounds of different calibers.

Alternatively, firearms can be purchased with the Caliber Adaptation modification applied; this does not change their cost, though they cannot use normal caliber rounds.

All normal firearms require the Caliber Adaptation modification to function with alternate caliber rounds; railguns can use small caliber rounds by default, but must be upgraded with a large caliber adaptation.

Alternate Propellant Loads

It is possible to manufacture traditional firearm (but not railgun) projectiles with different propellant and projectile materials and proportions to make very effective bullets with special qualities. The two most common types of load changes are hypervelocity and subsonic rounds. There is no (effective) cost difference between these rounds and other rounds.

Hypervelocity rounds use a projectile of normal weight and a more energetic propellant. They can only use ammunition types that are compatible with railguns. If fired in a firearm without the hypervelocity adaptation, they add the recoil effect, as they are substantially more energetic than standard rounds. Low-quality firearms may explode on a critical failure with hypervelocity rounds, though most after-Fall weapons can handle the additional pressure. Firearms with the Lemon quality will explode if hypervelocity rounds are used in them. Hypervelocity rounds get a slight range bonus.

Subsonic rounds, on the other hand, are designed so that their projectile never breaks the sound barrier. Typically, projectile weight is increased while propellant loads are decreased or kept similar to standard rounds. Subsonic rounds are harder to hear than normal rounds (-10 to perception tests to hear, which stacks with silencers and other effects), but they have shorter range and poorer penetration and damage performance on account of the slower speed.

Railguns cannot change propellant loads, as they do not use traditional propellants.

Smartgun Systems

The smartgun system is marketed as a weapon for someone who doesn't want to worry about self defense. Used similarly to a normal gun, smartguns typically have a barrel that can aim fifteen to thirty degrees off of where the user is

aiming, and fires after using a smartlink system to verify targets with the user. Smartguns use an integrated AI with its own weapon skill (45 or 60, depending on the price of the AI system), and are typically hardened against assault by using a variant of skinlink; with only an hour's training users can send commands by neural reflex. Haptic feedback encourages the user to hold the weapon in such a way that it can engage its targets. The feed from the weapon to the user is sent wirelessly to mesh inserts, however, and may be intercepted or jammed. The transmitter sending targeting feedback of the user has an effective distance of five meters, and has an EMP threshold of 12.

Smartgun systems comprise two separate parts: the AI and computer components and the mobility platform that accompany it. The AI has a skill rating of 45 or 60, depending on the electronics suite that accompanies it and the software loaded. These packages have a Moderate or High cost, respectively. Most smartgun AI packages can be applied to any weapon, though exotic weapons may not have sufficient data available for use. Smartguns can be used without mechanisms, but suffer a -10 penalty.

The mobility components of a smartgun must be purchased separately. The modifications necessary to make a one-handed weapon a smartgun are available at Moderate cost, while two-handed smartgun adapters typically have a High cost. Unwieldy weapons cannot be made into smartguns.

Should a smartgun system be purchased for a weapon without a smartlink, they double as a smartlink.

Kinetic Weapons

New Kinetic Weapon Mods

Caliber Adaptation: Firearms may be rechambered and have barrels and other mechanisms replaced to use small caliber or high caliber rounds, changing their effectiveness and ammunition capacity. A firearm can have a small or large caliber adaptation (or a normal caliber adaptation, if they come with a pre-existing caliber modification applied), while railguns typically only have large caliber modifications. Unlike firearms, railguns can fire rounds smaller than their caliber adaptation, though neither firearms nor railguns can fire high caliber rounds without the appropriate adaptation. [**Free** if purchased with weapon, otherwise **Low**]

Hypervelocity Adaptation: Firearms with the hypervelocity adaptation mod do not have the recoil quality added when firing hypervelocity ammunition. [**High**]

Smartgun Computer: Smartgun computers house an AI with basic target detection, trajectory calculation, and projectile tracking software built-in. They also include sensors and a modified skinlink pad that allows them to autonomously pick targets to be vetted by the user. They are available at levels that replicate a skill level of 45, or a skill level of 60, for their respective weapons. Without a smartgun adapter, a smartgun can still fire, but suffers a -10 penalty. [**Moderate** for 45, **High** for 60]

Smartgun Adapter: Smartgun adapters allow for a weapon to be used with a smartgun computer, allowing for a user to simply point the weapon in the right direction and tell the computer to let loose. [**Moderate** for one-handed weapons, **High** for two-handed weapons]

Automatic Fire Control: Most modern firearms have an automatic weapon, and most of those can be configured to fire at increasingly rapid rates. Automatic fire control systems allow weapons not originally designed for automatic or burst fire to gain the full-auto and burst fire firing modes, so long as they are capable of semiautomatic or burst fire (i.e. they are not single shot weapons). These systems are not available for revolvers. [**Moderate**]

Semiautomatic Fire Control: The alternative to an automatic fire control group, semiautomatic fire control groups add semiautomatic fire modes to weapons not normally capable of firing single shots, like machine guns, but only if those weapons are not single-shot weapons. [**Moderate**]

New Kinetic Weapons

Revolver: A blast from the past, revolvers fire higher caliber rounds than heavy pistols and are better adapted for engagements at longer ranges. Unlike traditional revolvers, there is no chamber gap, as the chamber is slide-mounted and seals to the body of the firearm when in firing position, allowing for the use of a silencer. More hefty than a pistol, they cannot be as easily concealed, but otherwise are a one-handed weapon that functions similarly to a pistol. Speed loaders are used rather than detachable magazines to allow for rapid reloading. [**Low**]

Designated Marksman Rifle: Firing a larger round than traditional automatic rifles, DMRs are intended for use by skilled marksmen against distant targets. A cross between the sniper rifle and automatic rifle, it provides better range and firepower, with a focus on armor penetration. [**High**]

Heavy Machine Gun: For when a normal machine gun isn't heavy enough, the heavy machine gun offers higher calibers and larger mechanisms to guarantee that targets go down. Typically only capable of full-automatic fire (though some variants also include semi-automatic fire), they fire devastatingly large rounds at frightening speeds. Heavy machine guns are two-handed weapons, and have the Unwieldy quality. Heavy machine guns require an entire Action Turn to reload, per the [Reloading Heavy Weapons](#) rules. [**Expensive**]

Anti-Materiel Rifle: Capable of taking down light armored vehicles and drones (but not most tanks), anti-materiel rifles fire rounds that are evolved from 12.7 or 20 millimeter anti-aircraft guns of the early 20th century. [**Expensive**]

Assault Cannon: Assault cannons fire rounds adapted from heavy vehicle autocannons. Only technically an infantry weapon, they require deployment to avoid recoil and are unwieldy. Assault cannons cannot have caliber mods applied, and subsonic and hypervelocity rounds are not available for assault cannons. Assault cannons require an entire Action Turn to reload, per the [Reloading Heavy Weapons](#) rules. [**Expensive+**]

More Railguns

Railgun variants of practically every conventional firearm exist (shotguns being the only notable exception). As such there are a few things noted.

Railgun variants of Expensive firearms are treated as being Expensive+, while Railgun variants of Expensive+ weapons are still Expensive+ (but have a minimum cost of 200,000).

Railgun heavy machine guns and anti-materiel rifles burn through batteries at twice the rate of other railguns (100 shots per standard battery), and railgun assault cannons burn through batteries at four times the rate (50 shots per standard battery).

New Kinetic Ammunition

Listed costs are per 100 rounds of ammunition.

Defab: Defab rounds include a core of densely packed nanites and chemical compound capsules that target specifically armor compounds: fullerenes, organoweaves, spider silk, elastic polymers, and ceramic, metal, and smart compounds used in most armors. Rather than explicitly destroy items made of these materials, defab rounds simply

weaken these materials until they no longer provide protective value. Defab rounds even affect implanted bioweave armor and robotic armor enhancements. [Moderate]

Shotguns

Shotguns are not as effective as battlefield weapons as their depiction in the media would indicate. Mercenaries and soldiers will not typically be outfitted with shotguns, but there are times when the weapons are useful for one of two purposes: light, unarmored targets (such as biomorphs or cases), or when fighting threatens to breach a habitat.

Shotguns tend to have a lower muzzle velocity than other kinetic weapons. For the past two decades, the same advances that mitigated recoil in other firearms have been applied to shotguns, so you don't have to worry about the kick of a 12-gauge taking out your shoulder.

Likewise, smart materials allow for the choke (which changes the pattern of shot impact) of a shotgun to be configured for appropriate distances on the fly; a user with a smartlink can do this automatically, while old-school users can use a quick action to change the range of a shotgun's choke.

Most shotguns are kinetic weapons, but there is a railgun variant. Popularly called flak cannons, these weapons fire a cluster of magnetic projectiles, and can have their spread adjusted similarly to a traditional shotgun. They can fire slugs, but the normal railgun ammunition type restrictions apply. As an added feature, a flak cannon can fire grenades (with range increments equivalent to a conventional SMG). Flak cannons are only available in a two-handed configuration, and tend to pose a much higher risk of hull breach than their chemical propellant utilizing brethren.

Shotguns cannot be use hypervelocity rounds.

Shotguns lose 1d10 damage for firing at long range and 2d10 damage for firing at extreme range. Shotguns firing at flechette or shot suffer reduced accuracy penalties for firing at long ranges (no penalty at medium range, -10 at long, and -20 at extreme).

Although many weapons are simply integrated into each other after the Fall, underbarrel shotguns and flak cannons remain in use due to their utility and their ability to be attached to other weapons without requiring attention from a professional armorer.

Underbarrel Shotgun: The underbarrel shotgun has been a staple of counterterrorism and military forces for

many years, and its utility combined with its quick stopping power makes it ideal. As a complex action, an underbarrel shotgun can be attached to any two-handed weapon. It can also be used as a standalone weapon, but requires two hands to use in this manner due to the awkward design of the firearm. [Moderate]

Shotgun Pistol: The variety of sawn-off shotguns and other highly portable shotguns manufactured by transhumanity is exceptional, but the one common trend that shotgun pistols have is being neat single-handed weapons that fire normal shotgun rounds. [Moderate]

Hunting Shotgun: Hunting shotguns fire larger cartridges than most of the other shotguns that are available, and are favored by those who need to do a lot of damage and make a statement. With a pump-action or semiautomatic firing method, they are capable of shooting quickly and accurately in a wide variety of conditions. The hunting shotgun is a two-handed weapon. [Moderate]

Assault Shotgun: The typical drum-fed assault shotgun is a mean looking weapon that can clear a room in seconds. Capable of being used in a variety of roles and purposes, the assault shotgun has a reputation as a terrifying weapon. The assault shotgun is a two-handed weapon. [High]

Underbarrel Flak Cannon: The underbarrel flak cannon provides incredible power and range compared to its traditional brethren, and maintains its larger counterpart's grenade launcher functionality, though its range is pitiful compared to bigger variants. They are commonly favored as grenade launchers, as they function almost identically to their larger parent weapon when launching grenades. As with an underbarrel shotgun, it can attach to any two-handed weapon, but requires two hands to use effectively if it is detached. [High]

Flak Cannon: The flak cannon has a reputation as a truly fearsome weapon. Capable of doing massive damage, the flak cannon has the ability to chamber grenades or microgrenades as well as flechettes and slugs. The flak cannon is a two-handed weapon. [Expensive]

Shot, Flechette, and Chokes

Shot and flechette projectiles utilize a shotgun's choke to change the spread pattern of the projectiles. Modern smart materials mean that this can be done on the fly, both manually (quick action) or automatically with a smartlink (no action required). Chokes are rated for distance; starting at 0-

10, then continuing up to 10-20, 20-30, and so forth out to the end of Medium Range for the shotgun (shotgun pistols have access to a 20-30 meter choke, full-length hunting shotguns have access to a 140-150 meter choke, and flak cannons can emulate a 240-250 meter choke).

A shotgun attacking a target that is closer than its choke's optimal distance loses the Reliable quality. Targets within the choke's optimal distance take normal damage from the shotgun. Targets beyond the choke setting of the shotgun take 1d10 less damage from the shot, which is cumulative with shotguns' damage loss at long and extreme range. Slugs do not use the shotgun's choke.

Shotgun Ammunition Types

Modern shotguns typically fire caseless ammunition with flechette payloads. Flechettes cannot have modifications applied to them due to their complex shape and small size. Shot and slug projectiles are also available; slugs tend to turn shotguns into short range rifles (slugs decelerate more rapidly than bullets, and shotguns have less rifling), and shot functions like flechettes, but tend to have less armor penetration. Shot is available in plastic, flux, and regular varieties, while slugs are available with the full spectrum of ammunition modifications, including smart ammunition (flak cannon slugs are limited to the types of ammunition appropriate for railgun ammunition). Flechette rounds are not customizable with ammunition types.

Firing a shotgun or flak cannon with slugs increases its AP by 4, adds +2 to its DV, and makes it lose the Reliable quality. Additional ammunition type modifications can be applied on top of this, including smart ammunition if appropriate.

Firing a shotgun or flak cannon with shot reduces its AP by +4. Against unarmored targets, a positive AP value has no effect. Shot is typically considered inferior to flechettes, but is favored for its ability to be used with materials that render it less lethal.

Special Shotgun Ammunition

In addition to the standard ammunition types, shotguns can fire frag rounds (treated as slugs), which are available in regular and zap configurations. Frag rounds add the Area (2) quality to the weapon, and their damage is resisted as energy damage. Otherwise, they function like their parent rounds (either regular slugs or zap slugs). Smartlinks allow frag rounds to airburst, making them effective against

swarms. Flak cannons cannot use frag rounds, as they tend to disintegrate at high velocity, discharging early. [**low** per 100 rounds].

Dragon's breath shotgun rounds turn a shotgun into an improvised flamethrower. Dragon's breath attacks gain the Saturation 10/40 quality, lose Reliable, and are blocked with energy armor. On a critical failure on the evasion attempt, any targets caught in the area catch aflame, taking 1d10 damage that follows the usual rules for being on fire (p. 198, *EP*) and is considered a class B fire.

Beam Weapons

EMP Weapons

When dealing with nanoswarms, it is useful to bring along specialized EMP weapons that are highly effective against them. In addition, EMP weapons are used as a means to sabotage communications; they cannot disrupt optical electronics' function, but radio communications devices hit with an EMP attack are reduced to 1/10th of their normal operating ranges (p. 341, *EP*). This may be prevented with the EMP hardening upgrade, which specifies a minimum DV for an EMP weapon attack to impact the equipment. Nanoswarms take full damage from EMP weapons.

EMP weapons typically are built with a Marx generator or vircator as their primary source of electromagnetic radiation. This allows them to use radio waves, microwaves or x-rays, though the range on the electromagnetic spectra is secondary to the EMP weapon's function of causing sudden and great levels of electromagnetic radiation very quickly. It is possible to find analogue variants of these weapons, especially in arsenals of people who are concerned about digital subversion threats, especially TITANS. The Jovians have stockpiles of these used both for information suppression and as a safeguard against dreaded nanotechnological attacks.

Since EMP weapons often function without visual cues, many models can be set to create either a flash of light or a low-power laser beam when activated, to let users without enhanced vision see the shots they are firing. Some, though not all, EMP weapons can pull double-duty as microwave agonizers, causing pain, though they lack a "roast" setting.

EMP Pistol: Primarily used to subvert personal communication equipments or as a backup for hostile nanoswarm management, the EMP Pistol is not capable of

attacking hardened gear, but works decently against nanites and unhardened radios. [Moderate]

EMP Rifle: More powerful, EMP rifles are almost always used for combat against nanoswarms. Capable of dealing significant damage to a swarm, they are also used as a directed alternative to EMP grenades. This is a two-handed weapon. [High]

EMP Saturator: EMP saturators look like a device out of twentieth-century science fiction, with an adjustable reflector dish at the end. Capable of firing in a cone, these powerful EMP devices can tear through nanoswarms and disable all but the most hardened devices. They can also be focused into directed beams, for use as a long-range EMP weapon. [Expensive]

Enhanced Radiation Weapons

Enhanced radiation weapons are terrifying and dangerous, as well as highly illegal in most places. They set off radiation detectors unless they are incredibly well made, and they tend to be the tools of assassins, rather than soldiers.

Radiation has potentially lethal effects against synthmorphs, biomorphs, and nanites, but leaves most things physically intact. In some cases, enhanced radiation weapons may be favorable due to the fact that they do not cause physical damage (i.e. they won't put a hole in the habitat wall).

That said, they have their purposes; ER weapons can penetrate almost any armor, and only things intentionally designed for radiation exposure tend to have any sort of resistance against them. They will decimate nanoswarms, so I've heard people argue for them as backup weapons against TITANS.

One of the advantages of ER weapons is their ability to have late-onset effects; hitting someone with a full graser array may not cause meaningful instantaneous harm other than some burns that would be unpleasant though not particularly concerning. Minutes later, the target will be dead. Synthmorphs tend to fall foul of the effects quicker, though they generally have a greater tolerance.

If you plan on entering a battlefield with ER weapons, have backups—they can toast cortical stacks entirely.

Melee Weapons

Clubs

Power Sledge: The Power Sledge is built to smash spacecraft hulls and other hardened surfaces. With adjustable smart materials in its head and a system of weight shifts that multiply the user's swing, the power sledge is often used in boarding actions or to break apart ore samples when a machine to do so is unavailable. Used against morphs, it can do massive damage, but it is so heavy as to encumber its user. [Moderate]

Seekers

Grenade launchers and missile launchers are common in transhuman arsenals; they pack heavy punches and are man-portable systems that are difficult to supply with ammo but provide unparalleled damage potential.

Note that unlike conventional seekers, grenades do not come with smart ammunition functions for free.

MPMLMS: The Man Portable Multiple Launch Missile System fires multiple full-sized missiles. Similar to a disposable missile launcher, it holds four parallel launch tubes with a common electronics package and firing mechanism. With impressive range and damage output, the largest drawback of the MPMLMS is that it is very large; it negates the need to reload after each individual shot, at the cost of being even more unwieldy than a standard missile launcher. MPMLMS take a full Action Turn to reload, per the [Reloading Heavy Weapons](#) rule. [High]

Reloadable Missile Launcher: Since it is much easier to carry loose projectiles and load them into a large launcher than bring multiple launchers into the field, reloadable missile launchers are the primary form of anti-tank weapons brought into combat. Not capable of the rapid or sustained fire of the MPMLMS, reloadable missile launchers include guidance packages and are capable of accepting a broad range of missiles. Reloadable missile launchers take a full Action Turn to reload, per the [Reloading Heavy Weapons](#) rule. [Moderate]

Grenade Launcher: Grenade launchers are solid mainstays of many arsenals; capable of deploying grenades over long distances with relative accuracy, they have a similar form factor to rifles, with the addition of a bulky but not gargantuan drum for grenades and propellant. They are able to fire flares, smoke, and weaponized payloads equally effectively. [Moderate]

Grenade Machine Gun: Essentially a belt-fed grenade launcher, the GMG is an effective area denial weapon. Less utility-focused than the grenade launcher, GMGs are used almost exclusively with explosive payloads, though smoke or flare rounds are occasionally used.

New Seeker Rounds

Listed costs are for ten grenades/missiles.

Flare: Flare rounds are unusual because rather than having an effect on impact, they ignite shortly after leaving the barrel. Flare rounds are typically discharged into the air, though they can be pointed directly at foes to deal a moderate amount of damage, or they can be used to illuminate areas, send signals, or confuse targeting systems.

If a character has fired or thrown a flare seeker or grenade at a prior point during the current Action Turn, smartlinks and homing smart ammunition provide no bonuses for attacks against that character. [**Low**]

Defab: Designed to be used against hardened armor, defab rounds do not affect synthmorphs or biomorphs by causing wounds (though they will damage both bioweave armor and synthmorphs' integrated armor), but consists of a condensed package of fast acting nanites and chemical capsules that burn out after only a fraction of a second but weaken the chemical and physical bonds that hold armor together, reducing the armor of the target until it is repaired. [**High**]

Seeker Ammunition Mods

Listed costs are to modify a batch of ten grenades/missiles.

Self-Launching Seeker: This seeker does not require a launcher to be used in order to launch. Rather than being launched normally, these seekers interface with the user's PAN for target selection, and are thrown like darts (they still use the Seeker Weapons skill). Their range is decreased to a quarter of the normal ranges (p. 203, *EP*). This modification is only available for minimissiles and micromissiles. [**Moderate**]

Exotic Weapons

Exotic Melee Weapons

Kinetic Gauntlets: An alien or TITAN artifact with unknown relationships to the Casimir force. Shaped like long cylinders with two open ends, they are not quite shaped for human forearms, but can be adapted for wear by adding cushions and straps. The final rig usually extends beyond the

user's hands, limiting their ability to manipulate other objects. Objects within the generated field are moved by aligning the paired gauntlets and extending one or the other. Studies of the few known specimens of kinetic gauntlets have revealed nothing about their nature and mechanics. Kinetic gauntlets are similar to fixors, though their ability to exert force on outside elements poses a significantly greater threat.

Users of kinetic gauntlets can make a number of attacks, crushing their target with pure force or flinging them about like a bug in a tin can being shaken by a wrathful fury. More frightening for warriors is the ability of a kinetic gauntlet to affect a ten-by-ten-by-ten meter volume. Use of kinetic gauntlets is particularly effective at smashing swarms, which they seem almost purpose designed to do. The area of effect of a Kinetic Gauntlet attack forms a cube placed directly in front of the user (they cannot inadvertently harm themselves). It respects large, heavy objects with a mass of more than 2700 kilograms, though they will still be crushed if caught in the way. Items on the other side of walls, floors, or ceilings are not effected, though the kinetic gauntlets will effect things visually obscured from the user. [**Expensive (Minimum 50,000)**]

Scour Sword: If you somehow manage to find one of these, send it my way. Some intrepid artifact dealer figured out a way to warp and refract the fields created by a scour ring around the edge of a foot-long blade (really more of a dagger than a sword). The result is a weapon with almost unstoppable cutting power which doesn't care at all about any sort of armor and severs limbs like a hot knife going through butter.

Since it demolishes target matter to component atoms, scour swords largely disregard armor, weapons used to block them, or the morphs that they are inevitably used against. Likewise, they can create hull breaches on spaceships or habitats with less than a foot of matter separating them from vacuum with very little effort. If a habitat knows about scour swords, they are likely banned.

A critical hit with a scour sword causes a wound immediately. [**Expensive (Minimum 30,000)**]

Exotic Ranged Weapons

Archery

Archery is a tried and true martial discipline, often overlooked. The bow and crossbow are simple designs that can be made in a pinch with readily available materials, and with smart materials and clever designs you can

nanofabricate a bow that would make Odysseus look like a slouch.

Archery is a little difficult, though. You will want a smartlink on your bows to help you adjust to environmental factors, and the motions are different enough that you need to learn archery as a separate skill. Bows tend to fare poorly against modern armor, and they're not as good at putting holes in things as a firearm. In addition, most bows are pretty large; a compound bow can be more than five feet long, easily matching a sniper rifle in dimensions. Smartbows and advanced bows may have mechanisms to allow them to either retract parts to decrease size or be disassembled. Disassembling a bow takes two complex actions, and unless stated all bows can be disassembled (smartbows "disassemble" themselves once ordered to, requiring no additional effort).

Arrows, however, tend to carry a meaner payload than firearms do. Able to be equipped with everything from full sized nanite hives to microgrenades, archery can be a clever way to deliver payloads without detection. Bows lack the same firing signature that firearms and energy weapons have, making them stealthy without the need for (often illegal and only marginally effective) silencers and flash suppressors. In addition, arrows or bolts dipped in an injection-vector toxin can apply it to their target, so long as the projectile does at least one point of damage when it hits.

It is a quick action to grab an arrow and draw a bow, and a complex action to reload a crossbow with more bolts. Defenders being attacked with archery weapons use their full Fray score to dodge, as if they were being attacked in melee.

Bow: Bows are available in a number of different configurations, including smartbows and compound bows that would make turn-of-the-century warriors very jealous. That said, a run of the mill bow is cheap and easy to fabricate, even in habitats with more tough arms restrictions. [**Trivial** (unfinished parts), **low** (assembled bow)]

Compound Bow: Compound bows use advanced composite materials and manufacturing techniques to create a set of pulleys and simple mechanisms to allow a user to leverage their strength and fire arrows with a surprising amount of force behind them. [**Low**]

Smartbow: Smartbows use smart materials to transform from an inconspicuous cylinder into a moderately sized bow; somewhat shorter in length than a normal bow, they have just enough complexity to perform similarly. They

are integrated with a smartlink by default, and are subject to more legal controls than other bows. [**Moderate**]

Automatic Bow: A cross between a bow and crossbow, the automatic bow is a compound bow with a self-powered mechanism that allows it to emulate the effects of being fired by a stronger morph, even if the user is not particularly strong. The limbs of the bow partially retract when the bow is not in use, giving it the same carrying profile as a carbine. [**Moderate**]

Crossbow: Crossbows have the unique ability to function as kinetic weapons with the aid of a smartlink. Crossbows come in both automatic and manual forms. Manual crossbows leverage a transhuman's strength, and are generally built with adjustable poundage to let anyone use them without too much exertion, while automatic crossbows require either a token effort or will cock themselves without any effort on the user's behalf. Crossbows fire bolts that are functionally similar to arrows (but are not interchangeable), and may be attached to a magazine for rapid shots. [**Low** (manual), **Moderate** (automatic)]

New Augmentations

Warriors use a vast variety of augmentations, but there's a number of things that I have seen on the battlefield that you need to be aware of. Some high-end augmentations are available exclusively for combat, and you should know about them before you go onto a battlefield where you might tangle with them.

Bioware

Whiplash Tendril: The Whiplash Tendril is a unique transgenic augmentation that lets you reach out and touch someone on the other side of a room. Capable of extending ten meters in less than a quarter of a second, whiplash tendrils are made of a tension tolerant myomer that is highly flexible and durable. Barring the potential applications for Asyncs, Whiplash Tendrils are capable of both making basic unarmed attacks at a distance (including touch only attacks, with the bonus those bring), and **Redirect** close combat maneuvers. It uses its own Exotic Melee Weapon skill. [**Moderate**]

Glow Glands: A cheaper alternative to radiation sense augmentations, glow glands trigger when exposed to enough radiation to cause acute radiation sickness. Glow glands emit green light when exposed to enough radiation for minor radiation sickness, yellow light for major radiation sickness, red light for critical radiation sickness, and purple light for

extreme radiation sickness, and are typically implanted in the neck or other region where they are likely to be visible.

Glow glands trigger immediately after exposure to radiation, and they continue glowing for a day to a week after initial exposure. They can be used multiple times.

Despite the Jovians' bioconservative nature, glow glands are common in Jovian space as a second-tier warning system for radiation hazards, though cybernetic versions are favored over the bioware system. Alternatively, glow glands can be worn as a high-tech alternative to film badges. Since most Jovians do not have even basic biomods, the Jovian models are set to half the thresholds for radiation exposure that most biomorphs have, which has become almost the standard setting for glow glands. [Trivial]

Cyberware

Daedalus Discharger: Daedalus discharger cyberware is designed to provide rapid bursts of power for cybernetic augmentations or robotic enhancements that require a power source, as well as allow users to power energy weapons and railguns without requiring an external source.

Daedalus dischargers have integrated nuclear batteries, capacitors, and traditional batteries that allow them to output about four kilowatts (80 energy weapon shots an hour), and store five times that amount in rapid discharge batteries. This power output allows them to serve as a valuable tool for users of power-hungry gear, especially those operating in environments where recharging facilities are not available. [Expensive]

Mjölnir System: The Mjölnir system is intended to give morphs an advantage in speed and maneuvering. Using a series of physical reinforcement points the Mjölnir system integrates a number of boosters (typically some sort of jet boosters) with vectored thrust. The end result is to allow the user to "jump" a distance of about fifty meters (any direction) in a 1.0 g environment, or significantly further in microgravity and low-gravity environments. The thrusters in a Mjölnir system are built to safely direct the exhaust, often using magnetic containment and plasma jets. Using a Mjölnir system is a complex action.

Mjölnir systems also have combat functionality: making a melee attack from a distance. Mjölnir systems function as a smartlinked weapon, using a special Exotic Melee Weapon skill. A successful hit causes $3d10 + (SOM \div 5)$ damage. If the user decides not to make an attack in this

manner, the Mjölnir system can slow them to safe speeds instead. Attacking an object that can't be knocked back (like a bulkhead) inflicts $2d10$ damage on the user, but does an additional $1d10$ damage to the target.

The Mjölnir system requires a power source; either connection to a recharging station or a nuclear battery can suffice, and the charging process requires about an hour. Wireless recharging is possible, where such facilities are available, but the process takes eight hours. It is possible to store a nuclear battery indefinitely in the augmentation, allowing for regular usage. [Expensive; High if a morph already includes Thrust Vector movement]

Nanoware

Jackglue: A favorite of the paranoid or those who like to be absolutely secure, jackglue is able to be applied to cyberbrain or other digital access ports. More advanced than its name implies, Jackglue creates a diamond-like surface that is nigh-impentable. The user can have the surface removed so that they can use access jacks, a process that takes about fifteen minutes. They can also have the nanites permanently scour the access ports, which requires them to be repaired prior to use. [Moderate]

Robotic Enhancements

Internal Fusion Plant: Designed for Large or larger morphs, an internal He-3 fusion plant can be used to provide nigh-unlimited power to a morph without the need for nuclear batteries or other fuel sources. However, although fusion creates largely inert byproducts, the reactor core itself becomes highly radioactive during use, requiring a second layer of shielding and making overly miniaturized reactors impractical.

A synthmorph or robot with an internal fusion plant can charge energy weapons, devices, and batteries rapidly. In addition, any augmentations that require power can be operated on the power from the fusion plant, rather than internal batteries. The limitations on this are minimal, limited only to applications beyond the usual limitations of an individual morph. Although fusion reactions shut down harmlessly if the reactor is breached, many habitats find the prospect of transhumans and robots walking around with both the ability to power large energy weapon arsenals and expose bystanders to radioactive material troublesome, meaning that this implant may be restricted in many habitats. [Expensive (Minimum 40,000)]

Mesh Insert Disconnect: Used in cyberbrains that are expected to see combat use, mesh insert disconnect systems allow for the cyberbrain to be shut off from mesh inserts in case of suspected hacking or other concerns. Of course, this shuts down their PAN, making it impossible to use things like smartlinks wirelessly; skinlink and other direct wired contacts are rerouted directly to the cyberbrain through a secondary "mesh" insert without wireless capabilities. While mesh inserts can simply be turned off, this allows for compromised mesh inserts to be disabled, rather than leaving them in contact with the cyberbrain. [Low]

New Morphs

Biomorphs

Rabbit: Unnatural looking, the rabbit (sometimes called elf) morph is built around the concept of creating a fast, durable, and perceptive scout that can be deployed into almost any environment. Renowned as a light scout biomorph, rabbits have distinctive heads and bodies that differ from the transhuman pattern enough to be easily distinguishable, with built in camouflage and espionage augmentations. Due to their lagomorphic or abhuman looks, rabbit or elf morphs are favored by some civilians who prefer their exotic forms.

Implants: Basic Biomods, Basic Mesh Inserts, Cortical Stack, Enhanced Hearing, Enhanced Smell, Enhanced Vision, Echolocation, Polarized Vision, Eidetic Memory, Chameleon Skin, Clean Metabolism, Grip Pad, Eelware, Medichines, Oracles, Respirocites, Skinlink, High-G Adaptation, Toxin Filter, Temperature Adaption (Improved Cold).

Aptitude Maximum: 30

Durability: 60 (50 + 5 from high-g adaptation + 5 from respirocites)

Wound Threshold: 12

Advantages: +5 REF, +5 COO, Pain Tolerance I, +10 Freerunning or Free Fall, +10 Infiltration, Climbing, and Swimming

CP Cost: 50

Cost: Expensive (50,000 minimum)

Synthmorphs

New Mechanics

Saturation Attacks

Some weapons attack a broad area, but not like a blast. These "saturation attacks" include traditional flamethrowers, dragon's breath shotgun rounds, and a variety of energy weapons, plus some exotic weapons.

Saturation attacks work differently from normal attacks; weapons with a saturation quality have two ratings: width and distance. A final saturation quality on a weapon might look like: "Saturation: 10/40". Ratings are assumed to be in meters, unless otherwise stated. Attacks made with a saturation weapon do not require a roll.

Instead, a character targeted with a saturation attack makes an REF*SPD test to avoid the harm. This only applies if the character can move out of the effect's area entirely, or if there is some sort of cover available within a couple meters. Characters who anticipate a saturation attack and get out of the way can take cover as a quick action to avoid the attack. Moderate and major will completely negate any incoming fire, while being in minor cover provides a +20 modifier to the REF*SPD roll to avoid the attack.

Radiation

People often come into contact with radiation in space, especially when radioactive materials leak into a sealed habitat or when radioactive weapons such as nuclear bombs or enhanced radiation weapons are deployed to the battlefield. Poor radiation containment in nuclear reactors, including both fission and fusion reactors, can also cause high levels of irradiation to morphs and equipment, as can exposure to stellar bodies and other natural, alien, and transhuman-made phenomena.

Radiation in Biomorphs

Transhuman medicine can reduce or entirely negate most of the health factors of long-term radiation exposure, sometimes automatically as a result of the modifications made to even the most basic splicer to prepare them for space colonization, or sometimes with the assistance of healing vats or other nanotechnology, as well as drugs designed for that purpose. As even basic biomods empower morphs to fight off cancer to an extent that would be a miracle by early twenty-first century standards, the largest threat comes from acute radiation sickness.

Acute radiation sickness tends to come about as a result of exposure to very high amounts of radiation very quickly. Speed of exposure plays a critical role in the development of symptoms. ARS has four levels: Minor, Major, Critical, and Extreme. Morphs with basic biomods suffer ARS at thresholds equal to twice those at which flats suffer it. The radiation resistance augmentation (p. 189, *Rimward*) multiplies these thresholds by a further 30 times their original ratings, making ARS significantly less likely. Medichines can protect

against infection and some of the other side-effects of radiation sickness, but do not help with symptoms by themselves, partly because exposure to radiation will damage them as well.

Minor radiation sickness occurs at 4 grays for most biomorphs. One to two hours after exposure, morphs experience nausea and vomiting, and have a small chance of suffering diarrhea, as their gastrointestinal tract is thrown into disorder; this lasts for a day or two. This is followed by headaches beginning 3-8 hours after exposure, which are accompanied by cognitive impairment and fever, which last for a day and cause a -10 penalty to all rolls, including tests involving a morphs durability or mental resistance. At this point, radiation poisoning tends to be fatal after a month or two without care, mostly due to infections and hemorrhage; bruise-like features called purpura and the loss of hair are obvious signs of minor radiation sickness.

Major radiation sickness occurs at 12 grays. Ten to sixty minutes after exposure, morphs suffer nausea and vomiting, likely having diarrhea as well. Headaches, fever, and cognitive impairment follow, which last for multiple days, conferring a -10 penalty to all rolls and decreasing all aptitudes by -5. Death is likely even with care, barring a healing vat or medichines. In addition to hemorrhage and hair loss, major radiation sickness includes dizziness, disorientation, and immune system failure. Death usually occurs after 2-4 weeks.

Critical radiation sickness occurs at 16 grays. Within minutes of exposure, nausea and vomiting begin. Within an hour, diarrhea follows. Within an hour, morphs also suffer severe headaches and incapacitating CNS function loss, preventing them from taking actions and conferring a -10 penalty to all aptitudes. Any rolls they must take suffer an additional -20 penalty. Death is certain without medical care, and permanent damage will likely result even with the assistance of a healing vat. Medichines are insufficient to provide care, if they even survived the exposure to ionizing radiation that impacted the morph.

At exposures to more than 60 grays, extreme radiation poisoning occurs. Patients become nauseous and vomit within minutes of exposure, and suffer diarrhea, headaches, fever, and loss of CNS function within an hour, accompanied by seizures, tremors, and loss of motor control. Cortical stacks are typically corrupted beyond repair, any implants fail, and attempts to prevent the morph's inevitable death are pointless.

Radiation in Synthmorphs

Attacking Thresholds

EMP weapons used against communications, firefighting gear, and certain other weapons attack thresholds. If the target's threshold is exceeded by the attack's damage, then the target is "destroyed" (in the case of communications equipment, antennae are damaged, decreasing their range to a tenth of normal, while most other threshold attacks are instantaneous).

Extinguishing Fire

Extinguishing fire is done with a threshold attack, or by taking special actions to extinguish flame on a morph (akin to the "stop, drop, and roll" popular in habitats with enough gravity to permit such things).

Fighting fires is very different in microgravity; one advantage that many vacuum-surrounded habitats have is the ability to vent portions of a habitat to deprive flames of oxygen; habitats may also use air mixtures that have less propensity to feed flames and have lower environmental pressures to limit the amount of oxygen available to fires.

Water foam and "fog" extinguishers are used in microgravity, at least on class A fires. Microgravity fires have wildly different profiles, and can be frighteningly hard to spot in well-lit environments. Thermal vision and scanners are used to spot fires or chemicals are added to the air supply that provide distinctive smoke when fires are burning to allow for more rapid responses to fire.

Any fire on a station or asteroid with microgravity will almost certainly be dealt with in an automated or wide-scale manner; it is practically impossible to extinguish an individual who has caught flame in vacuum; small fires may be smothered by touch, but attempts to smother larger flames have the undesirable side effect of sending ignited matter scattering. CO₂ based systems are not uncommon among older habitats, while more advanced flame retardants are used on later habitats.

On any habitat with at least half of Earth's gravity (simulated or not), it is possible to "stop, drop, and roll" (special variants exist for non-humanoid morphs as appropriate) to extinguish a flame; this is a complex action that does $1d10 + (REF \div 10)$ damage against the fire. Synthmorphs have an inherent resistance to flame, and gain an additional +5 damage on this test.

Ordinary Combustibles (A)

These fires consist of the majority of fires; your traditional burning trash barrel or wood campfire, for instance, are fires made with ordinary combustibles. They do 1d10 ÷ 2 damage per turn, and can be extinguished normally. Combustible fires can spread in microgravity, but may not cause secondary fires if their temperature is lower than the flashpoint of the things that they come into contact with. These fires have an extinguish threshold of 5.

Flammable Liquid/Gas (B)

These fires have liquid or gaseous fuel, which makes it necessary to fight them using different methods. Applying water, even NotWater, can spread the fuel around, spreading the flames. In order to fight these fires, a dry chemical extinguisher or smothering foam agent must be used. These fires typically cause 1d10 damage per turn. Fires involving cooking oils, fats, or other high-flashpoint liquids can be extinguished using a liquid mist of water or NotWater, though pouring water or NotWater straight on them is not recommended. These fires have an extinguish threshold of 8.

Electrical Fire (C)

Caused by electrical equipment short circuits or sabotage, electrical fires have the additional threat of electrocution. Water, NotWater, and foam should not be used to fight electrical fires, because they may conduct electricity back to the user and cause shocks or electrocution. Shutting off electrical power to the source of the fire will reduce these concerns. Electrical fires typically cause 2d10 damage per turn. Otherwise, electrical fires can be fought using any non-conductive firefighting agent, such as dry chemical extinguishers. These fires have an extinguish threshold of 12, which is reduced to 5 if power is removed; unpowered class C fires can usually be treated as class A fires; otherwise they usually are handled as class B fires.

Metal Fire (D)

Metal fires are caused by flammable metals conducting. Typically, large bodies of metal will conduct heat away from a single point, so metal fires are common where there are shavings, sawdust, or other small metal particles present. Metal fires cause 2d10 damage per turn, and require special dry powder extinguishers (distinct from dry chemical extinguishers). The extinguish threshold of these fires is 12.

Firefighting Gear

Firefighting gear usually belongs to the Spray Weapons category. Each piece of gear is effective against different fires, which is an important consideration for the installation of new habitat modules and their fire suppression systems. Using firefighting gear is a complex Spray Weapons action, and uses up one point of ammunition from the tank.

Each of the following is available as a tank for a sprayer (*p. 341, EP*); each is effective in different volumes and therefore has different ammunition counts. Extinguishing material tanks do not require a sprayer, however, having a built-in nozzle that has a third the range of a normal sprayer.

Dry Chemical: Dry chemical extinguishers attempt to interrupt the chemical reaction that is part of the combustion process. They are effective against class A, B, and C fires, though some old pre-Fall models may not work on class A fires. [**Low**]

Water/Foam: Water and foam extinguishers take away heat and sometimes oxygen from a fire. Although only recommended for use on class A fires, synthmorphs or particularly desperate biomorphs can use them on class C fires, incurring the risk of a Shock attack on a critical success or failure. Sprayers protect against this. [**Trivial**]

Carbon Dioxide: Carbon dioxide extinguishers remove the heat and oxygen from an area, and can cause frostbite to biomorphs. Class B and C fires respond well to carbon dioxide extinguishers; Class A fires can be "extinguished", but often smolder and reignite. [**Low**]

Halogen/Clean Agent: Useful against A, B, and C fires, Halogen or "clean agent" extinguishers interrupt the chemical process of combustion. Their poor capacity is a limitation to their effectiveness. [**Low**]

Dry Powder: Dry powder extinguishers are used on metal fires, removing heat and oxygen from the fuel. Unfortunately, they are entirely ineffective against other fires. [**Moderate**]

Water Mist: Purified deionized water is used in these extinguishers, which prevents the risk of electronic conductivity. Otherwise, they function as a Water/Foam extinguisher. [**Low**]

Reloading Heavy Weapons

Reloading many weapons is a task action with a time of one Action Turn (not Action Phase); no skill test is required,

but the prohibitively long reload time of these weapons mean that they are best used when the user is able to avoid retaliation during reloading periods or with a sidearm or ally on overwatch at the ready to cover the user while they reload.

Reloading heavy weapons requires two hands, but it does not necessarily prevent the user from taking mental actions.

Automatic Seekers

Typically, seeker weapons do not have automatic or burst fire modes. The grenade machine gun and other seekers added in *An Ultimate's Guide to Combat* may defy this rule. Automatic seekers add double the normal damage bonus for fully automatic fire; rather than increasing damage by 1d10 for burst fire and 3d10 for fully automatic fire, increase damage by 2d10 for burst fire and 6d10 for fully automatic fire. Ammunition consumption and accuracy bonuses for burst and automatic fire are not effected. This rule does not apply to micromissiles or minigrenades.

Combat Maneuvers

Combat maneuvers are special abilities unlocked when a character hits a certain rank with the appropriate weapon skills.

Kinetic Weapons

Combat Maneuvers and Recoil

After Fall weapons provide great benefits to a practical shooter due to their lack of recoil. As a general rule, weapons with the Recoil quality suffer a -10 penalty on all shots that occur after the first in a combat maneuver. The maximum distance that a recoiling weapon can perform combat maneuvers at is equal to the upper end of the weapon's Medium range. Typically, most of these drills are intended to be done with weapons that only require one hand, but recoilless weapons mitigate many of the concerns with using these with larger weapons.

Mozambique Drill

Two shots in the body, one in the head. The Mozambique drill originated with a mercenary fighting in Mozambique. The practice is simple; aim twice for center of mass, and then once against another point on the target that looks particularly squishy (the forehead or neck on most biomorphs, for instance). A Mozambique drill can only be attempted with a weapon with the semiautomatic firing mode, and consumes three rounds of ammunition. The attack is

treated as if the weapon had the Reliable quality (if the weapon has the Unreliable quality, it loses it instead of gaining Reliable), and gains a +10 accuracy bonus as if it were a normal burst. All three shots are treated as a single attack.

El Presidente

The "El Presidente" drill was intended for bodyguards on earth to master and use in defense. Consisting of six shots against three targets, the El Presidente drill is typically practiced using two six-round magazines and doing two of the maneuver back-to-back. It requires a one-handed weapon with a semiautomatic firing mode, used with both hands. Each target must be within one meter of the prior target, and all targets must be within short range. Each attack against each target is rolled separately.

The El Presidente maneuver has two variants: one for less-skilled shooters that only allows one attack against three targets, and then one for more-skilled shooters that repeats the attacks and allows the shooter to reload between the two separate barrages. Shooters capable of using the El Presidente II maneuver may use the original El Presidente maneuver as a Simple Action. Reloading is optional, if the user has a full magazine, though choosing not to reload does not confer bonuses.

Dozier Drill

The "Dozier" drill was created as a counter-terrorism training technique; it requires users to take down five targets in the time it takes for a simulated terrorist to ready a sub-machine gun. The Dozier drill requires five rounds, and results in five separate attacks made against five different foes. Each attack against each target is rolled separately.

Appendix

An Ultimate's Guide to Combat is a massive piece of homebrew, and as such it reflects my personal tastes and preferences, as well as how I think things should be. As a result, I keep a nice little appendix of all my justifications and reasonings for things that don't necessarily make sense to other people, including why I include some things in here that may not make sense.

AUGC strays a little from Eclipse Phase's normal design principles; it's not particularly minimalist (though it's not heavily oriented around simulation), it doesn't even touch Firewall, and it focuses on physical stuff more than egos and the like. The reason for this is because AUGC attempts to bring in combat scenarios and plausible battlefields, as well as flesh out some hazards. The main reason for this is to have consistent rules in my personal games, and since I'm already recording them I figured I may as well type them up in a quasi-neat fashion and put them out for publication.

Weapons

One of the core focuses of AUGC is including an obscene number of new weapons and pieces of kit for players. Some of this stuff warps the known AF tech of Eclipse Phase to achieve goals that are perhaps not possible using the setting as written, but certainly make combat much more interesting.

Weapon Qualities

Weapon qualities are really common in other tabletop games, but Eclipse Phase has never had any. As a result, I add a few in here to give some slightly more interesting combat situations without the need for special rules on each individual weapon, and to give a few more interesting traits.

The reliable damage trait exists to let weapons be substantially more dangerous without increasing the maximum amount of damage they do; reliable weapons won't do insane hits for massive damage, but they'll usually put out enough to ignore light armor, for instance.

The unwieldy trait exists to give players opportunities to use weapons that are really too big to just waltz around with, but that also are really a necessity

HMGs, AMRs, & Assault Cannons

Eclipse Phase lacks the big guns. While there are some interesting and highly lethal weapons, there's not much that can actually pose a threat to a morph like a remade or

rabbit, much less a reaper, in the same way that modern weapons can to a soldier. AUGC adds things that make battlefields horrifying abattoirs.

EMP Weapons

EMP weapons are anti-nanite in focus, but they also have nonlethal suppression capabilities. Their role to knock out communications in combat is worth noting as well.

ER Weapons

ER weapons are built to be walking little war crimes in a can. If someone's using one of these, they're desperate or crazy, and you can play them as such. Also, they do a very good job at taking out hardened morphs. AUGC is built around shortening lifespans, and ER weapons are a great way to do that. Theoretically, they're also good at taking down nanoswarms, since they typically just ignore walls and the like.

Augmentations

Glow glands exist for the sake of adding to tension and horror. They're the things that go off when stuff's gone really wrong.

Mjölmir systems are designed to give melee combatants a chance to close, and serve as a second chance for people who screw up on an EVA. For the most part, the point of them is to give a high-impact, high-octane tool in the melee combatant's arsenal.

Whiplash tendrils are something that I added (unrelated to the whiplash morph) to give a bit of range to asynchs, who tend to get left out by the massive combat supplement.

Morph Construction

These notes show my work for the custom morphs I made according to the rules in Transhuman. These represent some common military morphs that you are likely to see on a battlefield, so I included them here.

Rabbit

The point of the rabbit is to create, effectively, a special forces-friendly morph that is capable of infiltrating in almost any terrestrial environment (space adapted versions exist as well, ergo the choice between freerunning or free fall variants), though because they are intended for military morph use there isn't any choice between bonus attributes. The incredible durability is intended to reflect the fact that the

rabbit/elf morphs are built to be nigh-indestructible, and they are made to be able to go basically anywhere on Earth.

Now, of course, the places in Eclipse Phase where rabbits may find practical application are somewhat limited; they probably make decent enough gatecrashing morphs, because of their nature as combat-oriented survival, mobility, and stealth morphs.

Normal Size

DUR 50 (+20 Real CP)

Aptitude Max: 30

Freerunning/Free Fall +10 (+5 Real CP)

Infiltration +10 (+5 Real CP)

Climbing +10 (+5 Real CP)

Swimming +10 (+5 Real CP)

Cortical Stack (1k cred)

Basic Biomods (1k cred)

Enhanced Hearing (.25k cred)

Enhanced Smell (.25k cred)

Echolocation (.25k cred)

Polarization Vision (.25k cred)

Eidetic Memory (.25k cred)

Enhanced Vision (.25k cred)

Basic Mesh Inserts (1k cred)

Chameleon skin (.25k cred)

clean metabolism (1k cred)

grip pad (.25k cred)

eelware (.25k cred)

medichines (.25k cred)

oracles (1k cred)

respirocytes (1k cred)

skinlink (1k cred)

high-g adaptation (1k cred)

toxin filter (1k cred)

temperature tolerance (improved cold) (1k cred)

total cred cost (12.5k — 13 Real CP)

Pain Tolerance I (+10 Adjusted CP)

Neurachem I (+5 Adjusted CP)

REF +5 (+42.5)

COO +5 (+42.5)

Adjusted CP: 49.5

Final CP: 49.5 → 50

Cost: Expensive (50,000 minimum)

Combat Maneuvers

Combat maneuvers are one of the features of AUGC that I pictured would be fairly controversial, as well as pretty much a balance breaker.

Combat maneuvers favor highly trained characters over characters in good morphs with high-end gear; they're why the Jovians can compete with anyone else in terms of military power or the Ultimates are in high demand.

They also basically reflect the fact that semiautomatic weapons effectively fire as quick as you pull the trigger, which is often overlooked. A MAC-10 modified to be civilian legal will likely still have the twelve hundred rounds per minute firing rate of its military equivalent, it just won't use it. A skilled shooter can put that speed to good use.

Tables

Weapon Ranges				
Firearms	Short Range	Medium Range (-10)	Long Range (-20)	Extreme Range (-30)
Revolver	0-15	16-50	51-80	81-160
Designated Marksman Rifle	0-180	181-300	301-600	601-1000
Heavy Machine Gun	0-150	151-400	401-1200	1201-2000
Anti-Materiel Rifle	0-300	301-800	801-2000	2001-3500
Assault Cannon	0-200	201-600	601-1200	1201-1800
Underbarrel Shotgun*	0-10	11-30	31-40	41-50
Shotgun Pistol*	0-15	16-30	31-60	61-90
Hunting Shotgun*	0-80	81-150	151-250	251-400
Assault Shotgun*	0-60	61-100	101-200	201-300
Railguns	Short Range	Medium Range (-10)	Long Range (-20)	Extreme Range (-30)
Revolver, DMR, HMG, AMR, and Assault Cannon as Firearm equivalents plus 50 percent range				
Underbarrel Flak Cannon*	0-20	20-40	41-50	51-60
Flak Cannon*	0-150	151-250	251-400	401-500
Beam Weapons	Short Range	Medium Range (-10)	Long Range (-20)	Extreme Range (-30)
EMP Pistol	0-30	31-80	81-150	151-300
EMP Rifle	0-50	51-150	151-300	301-450
EMP Saturator	0-80	81-200	201-400	401-600
Seeker Weapons	Short Range	Medium Range (-10)	Long Range (-20)	Extreme Range (-30)
Grenade Launcher	0-100	101-150	151-200	201-250
Grenade Machine Gun	0-150	151-300	301-400	401-500
Self-Launched Minimisile	5-17	18-45	46-200	201-500
Self-Launched Micromissile	5-37	38-75	76-250	251-750
Bows	Short Range	Medium Range (-10)	Long Range (-20)	Extreme Range (-30)
Bow	To SOM	To SOM x3	To SOM x5	To SOM x8
Compound Bow	To SOM x2	To SOM x5	To SOM x8	To SOM x12
Smartbow	To SOM	To SOM x3	To SOM x5	To SOM x8
Automatic Bow	0-30	31-90	91-150	151-240
Crossbows	Short Range	Medium Range (-10)	Long Range (-20)	Extreme Range (-30)
Crossbow	To SOM x2	To SOM x6	To SOM x10	To SOM x12
Automatic Crossbow	0-60	61-180	181-300	301-360
Miscellaneous	Short Range	Medium Range (-10)	Long Range (-20)	Extreme Range (-30)
Fire Extinguisher	0-2	3-5	6-10	11-17

*Shotguns and flak cannons lose -1d10 damage at long range and -2d10 at extreme range

Kinetic Weapons

Firearms	DV	AP	Average DV	Firing Modes	Ammo	Qualities
Revolver	2d10+6	-5	17	SA	6	
Designated Marksman Rifle	2d10+8	-10	19	SA/BF	20	
Heavy Machine Gun	2d10+9	-8	20	FA	100	Unwieldy
Anti-Materiel Rifle	2d10+14	-14	25	SA	5	
Assault Cannon	3d10+16	-20	32	SS	2	Unwieldy, Recoil
Railguns	DV	AP	Average DV	Firing Modes	Ammo	Qualities
Revolver	2d10+8	-8	19	SA	6	
Designated Marksman Rifle	2d10+10	-13	21	SA/BF	20	
Heavy Machine Gun	2d10+11	-11	22	FA	100	Unwieldy
Anti-Materiel Rifle	2d10+16	-17	27	SA	5	
Assault Cannon	3d10+18	-23	34	SS	2	Unwieldy, Recoil

Firefighting Gear

Exotic Ranged Weapons	DV	Effective Classes	Notes	Ammo	Qualities
Dry Chemical	2d10	A, B, C	Archaic models may lack class A	5	
Water/Foam	2d10	A, C*		5	Saturation 5/10
Carbon Dioxide	2d10+2	B, C		3	
Halogen/Clean Agent	2d10+4	A, B, C	- 10 against class A fires	3	
Dry Powder	2d10+4	D		5	
Water Mist	2d10	A, C		5	Saturation 5/10

* Users attempting to use this against a class C fire may be subject to electrocution, treated as a shock attack, at the GM's discretion.

Ammunition

Chambering	DV Modifier	AP Modifier	Ammunition Capacity	Qualities
Small Caliber	-2	-1	Standard X 1.4	
Large Caliber	+2	—	Standard X 0.8	
Load	DV	AP	Range Modifier	Qualities
Subsonic	-2	+3	Standard x 0.8	
Hypervelocity	+2	-2	Standard X 1.2	Recoil*

*Firearms with the hypervelocity adaptation modification negate this effect.

Melee Weapons

Clubs	DV	AP	Average DV	Qualities
Power Sledge	2d10 + 4 + (SOM ÷ 5)	-10	15 + (SOM ÷ 5)	Unwieldy
Exotic Melee Weapons	DV	AP	Average DV	Qualities
Kinetic Gauntlets	1d10+5 + (SOM ÷ 5)	-4	10 + (SOM ÷ 5)	Area (0-10)
Scour Sword	2d10+5	All	16	

Scour swords cause an additional wound on a critical hit.

EMP Weapons

Beam Weapons	DV	AP	Average DV	Firing Modes	Ammo	Qualities
EMP Pistol	2d10+4	—	15	SA	50	
EMP Rifle	2d10+6	—	20	SA	20	Reliable
EMP Saturator	3d10+8	—	24	SA	10	Saturation 10/40

EMP weapons only effect nanoswarms and radio communications equipment. Radio communications equipment damaged by EMP has its range reduced to 10 percent of its normal until it is repaired.

Shotguns

Firearms	DV	AP	Average DV	Firing Modes	Ammo	Qualities
Underbarrel Shotgun	2d10	—	14	SA	1	Reliable
Shotgun Pistol	2d10	—	14	SA	2	Reliable
Hunting Shotgun	3d10	—	21	SA	5	Reliable
Assault Shotgun	2d10	—	14	SA/BF/FA	20	Reliable
Railguns	DV	AP	Average DV	Firing Modes	Ammo	Qualities
Underbarrel Flak Cannon	3d10	-2	21	SA	1	Reliable
Flak Cannon	4d10	-4	29	SA	4	Reliable

All ratings given are for flechette ammunition.

Bows

Bows	DV	AP	Average DV	Firing Modes	Ammo	Qualities
Bow	1d10 + (SOM ÷ 10)	-2	5 + (SOM ÷ 10)	SS	1	Reliable
Compound Bow	1d10 + (SOM ÷ 5)	-5	5 + (SOM ÷ 5)	SS	1	Reliable
Smartbow	1d10 + (SOM ÷ 5)	-3	5 + (SOM ÷ 5)	SS	1	Reliable
Automatic Bow	1D10 + 8	-5	13	SS	1	Reliable
Crossbows	DV	AP	Average DV	Firing Modes	Ammo	Qualities
Crossbow	2d10 + (SOM ÷ 5)	-4	11 + (SOM ÷ 5)	SS	5	Multi-Mode*
Automatic Crossbow	2d10 + 8	-7	19	SA	5	Multi-Mode*

* These weapons can be used as kinetic weapons if the user is meshed to an attached smartlink (purchased separately).

Kinetic Weapon Maneuvers

Technique	Effect	Minimum Skill	Action
Mozambique Drill	Add Reliable or lose Unreliable, + 10 Accuracy, consume 3 rounds	30	CA
El Presidente	Make single attacks against three targets, consume 6 rounds	35	CA
El Presidente II	Make double attacks against three targets, consume 6 rounds, reload, consume 6 rounds.	45	CA
Dozier Drill	Make single attacks against five targets, consume five rounds.	40	CA

Seeker Weapons

Seeker Weapons	Projectile	Firing Modes	Ammo	Qualities
MPMLMS	Missile	SA	4	Unwieldy
Reusable Missile Launcher	Missile	SS	1	
Grenade Launcher	Grenade	SS	6	
Grenade Machine Gun	Grenade	FA	40	Unwieldy
Self-Launched Seekers*	Micromissile/Minimissile	SS	—	

*Self-launched seekers have one quarter of the usual range.

Grenades and Seekers

Grenade/Seeker Type	DV	AP	Average DV	Armor Used to Resist	Qualities
Flare	2d10+4	-3	15	E	Flame (1d10)
Defab	—	—	—	—	Defab (2d10)*

*DV doubles for full missiles, and is decreased by 1d10 for micromissiles and minigrenades.
 These qualities are doubled for full missiles, and are halved for micromissiles and minigrenades.

Kinetic Ammunition

Ammo	AP Modifier	DV Modifier	Qualities
Defab	+2	-3	Defab (2)