



NORTHERN VEHICLES 1

HEAVY GEAR

RUNNING OUT OF GEAR DESIGNS?

Are you running out of new machines to pit your players against? Tired of playing the same old machines? Need to spice up your campaign with never-seen-before designs? Running out of time to create your own Gears?

Wait no more! This is the book you've been waiting for.

The Terra Nova Field Guides series showcases the most common pieces of equipment used by the armies of the G2nd. Combat and utilitarian vehicles, Heavy Gears, striders: it's all there! This first 48-page volume presents eighteen of the most common Heavy Gears used by the armed forces of the Northern hemisphere. Six new vehicular weapons are also examined in depth, from the Field Mortars to new close-combat armament. Ready-to-play record sheets and 24 counters are included for all eighteen vehicles. A must-have for all Heavy Gear players, regardless of their allegiance!

- Armored Hunter
- Bear
- Den Mother
- Headhunter
- Jaguar MP
- Strike Jaguar
- Assault Grizzly
- Black Cat
- Ferret
- Hunter Commando
- Rabid Grizzly
- Weasel
- Assault Walker
- Fire Jaguar
- Hunter Paratrooper
- Strike Cheefah
- White Cat

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The use of the male gender throughout this manual should not imply exclusion of the female gender. It is meant only in order to avoid pronouns like "him/her/it" which make reading easier. It is our hope that female gamers will find this book just as interesting as their male counterparts.

Dream Pod 9 can also be reached through the internet — check the rec.games.mecha conference for support and information about Heavy Gear. Feedback is welcome.

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INTRODUCTION



Caporal Barton frowned. This might mean trouble. "Sergeant, I think you should come take a look at this."

Rising up in the damp coolness of the *Caïman*, Sergeant Axelsson took a deep breath before opening the hatch. Light and heat rushed in as he walked out of the APC's back door. Higher up, Caporal Barton and Soldat Finks scanned the horizon for signs of enemy activity. "What's up, Caporal?"

"Well, there seems to be some activity along the Grenberg Ridge, Sergeant. At least eighteen northern Gears."

The Sergeant scratched his scruffy beard, climbing up the dune. Saluting his superior, Caporal Barton handed the binoculars to Soldat Finks.

"Sir, it's my assumption that this is a northern border patrol, sir."

"Very well, then. Go to the meatwagon and radio C&C."

"What if they intercept our signal, sir?"

"Bah! We're too far away, they can't reach us."

With a vigorous salute, the Caporal rushed down to the APC. Soldat Finks was looking through the binoculars.

"Not to disagree with Caporal Barton, sir," said Finks to the Sergeant, "but I don't think this is a simple patrol. There are at least four *Rabid Grizzlies* and two *Fire Jaguars*. These are not regular northern patrol Gears."

"Let me see that!" answered the Sergeant, grabbing the binoculars. He focused on the distant Gears for a few moments. "I see. Well, it would seem you're correct, Soldat. This looks more serious than...wait. One of them is coming towards us...Is that a Cheeta? I can't tell...Here, you take a look."

He handed the binoculars back to Finks.

"I see it, sir. I'm pretty sure it's a *Weasel*. Electronic warfare Gear. You can tell by the satellite dish on its back..."

"...For long-range artillery and orbital strikes. Nasty stuff. You really know your Gears, Soldat."

"Thank you, sir, but I'm still..."

Horror flashed across the soldiers' faces.

"RUN! RUN!" screamed the Sergeant as they both scrambled down the dune, away from the APC. Inside, Caporal Barton watched them flee, confused.

"Now where the hell are they going?"

A barrage of supersonic shells tore right through the *Caïman*'s body. It burst into a ball of red and yellow flames, leaving a vast crater in the blackened sand.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The **Terra Nova Field Guides** are meant as a set of quick reference manuals for students of military history on Terra Nova. They will find within these books the statistics and specifications for the most common military equipment used by the armies of Terra Nova. This volume is dedicated to Heavy Gears that saw service in the armies of the leagues of the Northern hemisphere. The only models listed here are those that are common to all the leagues. Designs or variants that are used by a single league will be examined at a later date in another manual.

While meticulous care was taken to ensure a most accurate and up-to-date manual, the ever-changing nature of the Heavy Gears and the secrecy of military-related designs make this task utopian at best. The reader must also take into consideration the fact that most of the information contained within the guides originates from the manufacturers themselves and reflects generic, minimally trained Gears. Depending on individual machines and maintenance records, field performances might differ from those published here.

1.1.1 HEAVY GEAR MANUFACTURERS

While there are almost a hundred companies involved in the manufacturing, marketing and distribution of Heavy Gears — civilian and military models alike — only a few companies have consistently demonstrated their skill and expertise, such as Northco and Shaian Mechanics.

• Northco

This highly successful company is one of the largest multinational conglomerates on Terra Nova. Founded in Rapid City in 1618 TN (5908 A.D.), Northco's big break occurred in 1674 TN (5948 A.D.), when it responded to a request for proposal about a "BOT" (Bipedal One-man Tank) for the United Mercantile Federation military. Based on a combination of the successful *Prairie Dog* used by the Badlands raiders and the reliable *Groundhog* (a all-purpose chassis designed by one of Northco's subsidiaries, Elementech), their *Hunter* design became the first military Heavy Gear and served as model for all following machines. The *Hunter* was designed by Kurt Galland and was chosen over the *Raccoon* (Galland's personal choice) despite its heavier weight and slower speed (much to the chief designer's chagrin). Although Northco never held any monopoly on the fabrication of Heavy Gears, its valuable expertise helped it get many other Gear design contracts and ensured its dominance on the northern market.

Being one of the two largest military contractors in the North, Northco now has quite a bit of leverage.

• Shaian Mechanics

Shaian Mechanics, founded in 1813 TN (6047 A.D.), was specialized in actuators and articulated frame systems. When the CNCS military asked for submissions for the *Cheetah* model, many small companies protested against Northco's apparent monopoly of the Gear design industry. Since the *Cheetah* was to be a rather limited production model, an agreement was made with Northco to award the design contract to another smaller company. It was rumored that Northco's withdrawal was bought by the promise of a more lucrative contract later on.

The *Cheetah* was thus assigned to Shaian Mechanics. This was fortunate since the *Cheetah* would need the best actuators possible if it was to attain the 60 kph that was one of the contractual requirements. When the prototype was completed, the engineers had a machine that could move at 91.6 kph, the fastest Heavy Gear ever built.

• Elementech

Elementech was bought by Northco in 1653 TN (5933 A.D.). Northco's main interest was the *Groundhog* work frame they had designed and marked five cycles earlier and which had done moderately well on the market. The lack of financial backbone of Elementech, however, was threatening to kill the design and the company turned to Northco for help. After much haggling, the larger corporation accepted to buy Elementech on the promise that the company would keep its staff for the following five years and would retain its creative integrity.

When Northco applied for the BOT project, Elementech was not doing very well. The *Groundhog* frame was showing its age and the sales had begun decreasing. Northco was on the verge of selling Elementech, until it was Kurt Galland who suggested handing them some of the work for the BOT chassis. Elementech was only too glad to give it a try, with the results that we know.

• Hyperion Werks

Hyperion is probably one of the most recent companies to be involved in the concept and manufacturing of Heavy Gears and their related parts. Founded nearly fifty cycles ago, it was commissioned by the Norlight government to design a revolutionary, compact detection and sensory array. The resulting system, called "Watchdog," was installed on the top secret *Black Cat* Heavy Gear. Its efficiency is such that the *Black Cat* is undoubtedly the most efficient Gears in the Confederate Northern City-States.

While not currently involved in any specific, Gear-related designs, Hyperion Werks is actively investing in the research and development of electronic warfare systems. They have advertised that the Watchdog Mk 2, a toned-down version of the *Black Cat* system, will be soon available at an affordable cost to other northern companies.

• Racetech

Until last century, Racetech had very little to do with Heavy Gears. Founded as a subsidiary of Century Corporation, it specialized in the making of customized tires for racing vehicles. It later expanded into the field of track vehicles — for the most part, bikes and cars. When the Norlight government initiated the *Black Cat* project, Racetech was contacted and asked to provide the military with some specific tires and radar absorbing materials.