



Military and Logistical Assessment of the
Capellan Confederation Armed Forces
OFFICE OF THE SLDFCOM

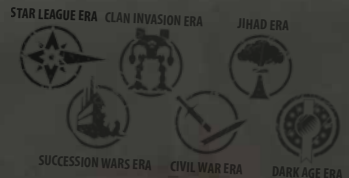
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GATHERING FORCES...

In 2765, the Star League Defense Force was the greatest military ever assembled, unparalleled in numbers and technological prowess—but it was not alone. The House Lords and the rules of the Territorial States in the Periphery each amassed armies of their own. While none of these powers alone could challenge the sheer size and might of the SLDF, each stood ready to defend their own interests against the avarice of their neighbors.

2765 Field Report: CCAF describes the state of House Liao's Capellan Confederation just before the events described in *Historical: Liberation of Terra (Part 1)*, including the overall military and logistical condition of one of the Great Houses that would eventually survive the collapse of the Star League and face a new age of endless war.



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FIELD REPORT 2765: CCAF



TO: Aleksandr Kerensky
FROM: Aaron DeChavilier
Date: 2 April 2765

Alex,

Here is the first of the member-state defense overviews you requested. Barbara may like to rattle a good saber but she's just the same as her old man—all bark and no bite. I don't expect any trouble from the Capellans, at least not directly. With how wild and wooly things have been getting lately, I can't fault your desire for a clear picture of what all the players' cards are, though.

Liao likes to talk tough because they're the weakest member-state on the block and they know it. We'll just have to watch them to make sure they don't feel cornered and lash out.

—Aaron

P.S.: That joke yesterday was terrible. Don't ever quit the service.

TO: All RAF Brigade Commands
FROM: Brigadier General Evan Falange
Date: 23 October 3090

As a follow-up to the SLDF readiness report forwarded to all general officers, we will also be providing this series of military intelligence overviews prepared for SLDFCOM shortly afterward. The purpose of this is twofold: to provide historical perspective for the earlier SLDF report and to allow our commanders to better counter the military forces they may face through understanding the events that have shaped them. Armies, like nations, develop their own cultures and values. Understanding the enemy can mean the difference between survival and total destruction. For the CCAF, this is a lesson they've learned the hard way once too many times. Let's take care not to follow their example, eh, ladies and gentlemen?

—Brigadier General Evan Falange, for the RAFHQ

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Field Report 2765: CCAF is a *BattleTech* supplement designed to provide players with information about the state of the Capellan Confederation Armed Forces (CCAF) just prior to the fall of the Star League. This supplement is designed in conjunction with *Field Manual: Star League Defense Force* and other volumes of the *Field Report 2765* series to follow in order to provide a snapshot of the militaries of the Inner Sphere just prior to the Amaris Coup.

This first section of this book—the *Confederation Overview*—is divided into two broad sections, a *Strategic Update* and the *Goals of the State*. *Strategic Update* is a brief overview of the CCAF's historical condition and perceived objectives, while *Goals of the State* presents the political and suspected military aims the Capellans were believed to be pursuing.

The next chapter, *Logistical Status*, covers the state of *Academies and Command Centers* throughout the Confederation, while *Infrastructural Integrity* will present an overview of the state of CCAF military industry in 2765.

The final chapter, *Military Readiness*, will present a brief overview on the status, officers, and notable events that shaped the various brigades of the CCAF. Included are ratings for the experience and estimated combat strengths of each regiment within the subject brigade.

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Special Thanks: To Peter Smith, who cursed Herb with me. To Herb, who keeps letting me play in his sandbox. Most importantly, to my wife, who puts up with me and enjoys playing a giant robot game with a grown man.

FIELD REPORT 2765: CCAF



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FRAGILE DÉTENTE

"To generations of the Inner Sphere's inhabitants, the Star League has meant peace and prosperity. These twin fundamental values of such powerful benefit to mankind are all too easily taken for granted by those who have benefited from them the whole of their lives. Though we will not bend to those who would oppress us, or bear responsibility for the false accusations of those who have provoked their own suffering, we will not carelessly throw aside the spirit of unity and cooperation which has brought succor and comfort to billions. It is in this spirit that I have agreed with Prince John Davion of the Federated Suns to suspend our current hostilities.

The Capellan people are all students of Korvin. Unlike our neighbors, we instinctively understand and embrace the importance of working together with our fellow man. It was in the spirit of the Greater Humanity that Terrence Liao extended his hand in friendship to Ian Cameron and Albert Marik, men who at the time could easily have been considered his enemies. It was that act of brave magnanimity that brought the Star League into being, an act that extended the Greater Humanity beyond the Capellan borders to touch and influence every corner of space.

On this day, as Richard Cameron reaches his majority and assumes his rightful place as First Lord of the Star League, I know that it is my duty to carry forward the spirit of Terrence Liao. As it was his power to prevent the deaths of millions with the touch of his hand and the stroke of his pen so too is it mine. I shall be an example to the masses of the Inner Sphere, so that they may know the just nature of the Capellan people, and the righteousness of our cause. I extend my hand now, with a challenge to Prince Davion and First Lord Cameron to clasp it in friendship, and to accept the sincere and peaceful desire of Capellans everywhere to have our worlds recompensed."

—Chancellor Barbara Liao, speaking at the celebration of Richard Cameron's majority, 2762.

CONFEDERATION OVERVIEW

Created from the sudden and drastic merger of several smaller states, the Capellan Confederation experienced almost constant turmoil throughout the Age of War. Only after Terrence Liao accepted Ian Cameron's offer of alliance in the mid-twenty-sixth century was the Capellan state able to put the threat of foreign invasion behind it and build an increasingly stable and peaceful nation. House Liao's support for the League is strong, because the benefits of the League are readily visible to every Capellan. Care must be taken to not confuse this support for loyalty, however. Throughout the history of the Liao dynasty, the friendship or animosity of House Liao is a function of purely which will be of greater benefit to them.

STRATEGIC UPDATE

The repeal of Council Edict 2650 has seen the size of the military expand precipitously in every member-state. Ever wary of their neighbors, House Liao has scrambled to keep the CCAF on par with other member-state militaries by any means necessary. Given that the Confederation lacks the raw industrial might of the Free Worlds League or the technological expertise of the Federated Suns, this has proven no easy task.

Chancellor Barbara Liao has largely continued her father's policy of using quality training and Terran aid to compensate for Capellan material weakness. The culture of the Confederation gears its people to accept constant personal sacrifice for the good of society, and CCAF personnel tolerate harsh physical training and repetitive skill familiarization exercises which would drive other troops to mutiny. The average Capellan soldier scores higher in such tasks as marksmanship, physical training, and Mech hand actuator operation than that of any other League member-state. Unfortunately for House Liao, this same conditioning affects the commissioned officers of the CCAF as well. Joint SLDF-CCAF exercises have revealed many Capellan officers readily consider massive casualties a natural cost of combat, and will throw away huge sums of manpower and equipment to make only meager gains. A Capellan colonel is likely to throw their regiment headlong into a frontal assault that will kill half their troops in it means accomplishing their assigned objective, where an SLDF officer would hold fast and await reinforcements or some other form of tactical advantage.

Ultimately, the Capellan Confederation Armed Forces are a military with limited power projection and offensive potential, ideally suited to halting a hostile invasion and forcing its eventual withdrawal. A shortage of fleet assets, poor strategic initiative, and insufficient reserves make the CCAF only able to accomplish the most limited offensive objectives. The threat posed to the Hegemony by the CCAF has been virtually nonexistent since the twenty-fifth century, and House Liao is wholly aware how much it depends upon the SLDF to protect its sovereignty. The recent tribulations the League has experienced has led to a somewhat panicked attempt by the CCAF to achieve true military parity with its neighbors, but thus far the best they've been able to accomplish is avoiding falling further behind.

GOALS OF THE STATE

Enlightened self-interest has long been the guiding principle of House Liao's foreign policy. Their alliance with the Terran Hegemony has paid major dividends over the past two centuries. Membership in the Star League has secured the borders of the Capellan state, halted threats to its sovereignty, invigorated its economy, and has increased the standard of living for the average Capellan citizen. With Terran support, the Confederation has even achieved its major goal of having Andurien restored to their control, long the focus of Capellan military action. This continued positive association is reflected in the strong support shown to the Star League by Chancellor Barbara Liao and the Capellan people. Possessing a naturally insular society, the Confederation is largely content with the unprecedented stability and prosperity afforded them by the alliance of all the Inner Sphere powers.



However, it would be unwise to misconstrue this arrangement as guaranteed. The continued support of House Liao for the League and House Cameron are wholly contingent on the association remaining beneficial for them. A number of events have shaken House Liao's traditional cooperation with Terra. Our inability to suppress the simmering hostilities between House Kurita and House Steiner led Chancellor Warex Liao to advocate the abolition of Council Edict 2650. Despite our reassurances, Warex remained unconvinced of the SLDF's ability to protect his nation's sovereignty. More idealistic than her father, Barbara Liao has come to possess similar doubts following the Demeter incident that sparked a brief war between the Confederation and Federated Suns. Richard's recent attempt at disbanding the house militaries has further soured our relationship with the Chancellor.

Perhaps the biggest Capellan objective left unfulfilled and perpetual thorn in Capellan-Terran relations has been House Liao's refusal to drop their territorial claims to Chesterton, Sonnia and Demeter. The Capellan Chancellor has proposed a motion to return control of the worlds to the Confederation at every Star League Council session since the induction of the Federated Suns. Since 2582, the council has refused to hear the motion. Attempts by the council to adjudicate the Demeter incident broke down when Barbara Liao insisted that the political status of the worlds be reviewed alongside the investigation. House Liao has long regarded the Camerons' refusal to support their claims to Chesterton as inconsistent with their support for Liao control of Andurien and blatant pandering to the Davions. For our part, we've generally avoided antagonizing the Liaos over the ludicrous nature of their claim to a world that wasn't originally part of the Confederation, in the interest of continued good relations.

LOGISTICAL STATUS

The Confederation has never been known for the depth of their resources, but continued efforts to expand the industrial and military infrastructure of the state have yielded significant returns.

ACADEMIES AND COMMAND CENTERS

In addition to hosting the regional government, nearly every commonality capital boasts its own military academy and brigade military headquarters. All of the CCAF forces assigned to a commonality report to the senior colonel of the commonality, with the exception of the Capellan Hussars, who fall under the direct command of the Chancellor.

The oldest and most highly regarded academy in the Confederation is Capella War College. Established centuries ago just after the creation of the Capellan Hegemony, the school is easily one of the best MechWarrior training centers in the Star League, and many of the SLDF's finest BattleMech pilots got their start on its rolling training fields and extensive simulators. The school's faculty is dominated by adherents of the Lorix Order. As a result, curriculum outside of the realm of BattleMech operation and company level tactics are somewhat wanting.

Sarna Martial Academy turns out large numbers of disciplined graduates every year. SMA cadets spend days performing rote drills and mastering tasks instinctively, all under the harsh oversight of their cane wielding instructors. Graduates follow orders to the letter, but are noticeably lacking in individual initiative. Few are accepted to the SLDF except as armor crewmen and support personnel.

Unsurprisingly, political orthodoxy is one of the most important qualities expected of a student of the Sian Center for Martial Excellence. The pride of the Confederation capital requires the center to turn out well trained, capable officers, but the achievements of the school's alumni rarely match those of the Inner Sphere's other most prestigious military academies. Many graduates of the center nevertheless go on to serve in the Capellan Hussars, owing to their virtually unquestionable loyalty.

GUNS FOR HIRE: THE CCAF DURING THE STAR LEAGUE YEARS

One thing DeChavilier left out of his review of Capellan military assets was House Liao's numerous "independent defense contractors", a euphemism commonly used in the twenty-eighth century for mercenaries. House Liao became a major employer of mercenaries almost immediately following the birth of the Confederation. Numerous internecine power struggles played out within the new Capellan government, and many troops loyalty to the Chancellor was considered suspect. As a bulwark against aspiring usurpers, Franco Liao hired a number of regiments of Terran and Commonwealth mercenaries at his own expense to keep the balance of power firmly in his favor. This arrangement continued throughout the Age of War, with mercenaries forming a veritable second guard corps for the Chancellor, supplementing the CCAF in combat while simultaneously discouraging insurrection by the same troops.

By the twenty-sixth century any internal threat to House Liao had been neutralized long ago, but the employment of independent defense contractors had become institutionalized. With peace settling in across known space and opportunities drying up, the Capellan Confederation became the favored customer of many remaining mercenaries. Supplied from the CCAF supply chain, paid by the Capellan treasury and in many cases wearing barely modified CCAF uniforms, several regiments of mercenaries became virtually indistinguishable from Capellan line troops. Many served on long-term retainer contracts that automatically rolled over unless one party or the other cancelled it. Others were part of a revolving door of small time groups with considerable combat experience brought in to pass their skills on to the line regiments. This integration of contractors into the CCAF was so widespread and seamless that few in the CCAF even really thought much of the distinction. By 2765, House Liao employed no less than nine regiments of "independent BattleMech specialists" and an even larger host of contractors with various other skill sets.



THE HOME GUARD

One unique aspect of the CCAF is the Home Guard, a force of intermediate defensive regiments which falls between the CCAF's line BattleMech regiments and the local planetary militias. The Age of War taught the Capellan Strategists that no matter how quickly news of an invasion arrived it would take significant time to organize a counterattack which could drive the attackers from the besieged world. Unable to garrison every system one jump from a border with a full BattleMech regiment, the Home Guard was created as a corps of regiments that contained the absolute bare-minimum forces necessary for a world to hold out until reinforcements could arrive. Each regiment possesses a battalion of mixed light 'Mechs and heavy tanks, two to three battalions of anti-BattleMech trained infantry, an artillery company and a squadron of conventional fighters. On average, each Capellan duchy boasts three such regiments, although this number fluctuates depending upon the perceived threats to the area.

GUARDING THE VAULT OF HEAVEN

The current Capellan Navy consists of thirty-seven WarShips: five *Du Shi Wang* battleships, a vintage *Black Lion* battle cruiser; ten of the new *Soyal* and six older *Aegis* cruisers; three *Baron*, two *Carson*, two *Lola I* and two *Essex I* destroyers; and six corvettes; three *Vincent* and three *Vigilant class*.

Organizationally, the fleet is divided into six squadrons, one for each of the five commonalities, and a reserve squadron. Each of the commonality squadrons is built around one of the ancient but still formidable battleships, a pair of cruisers, and two to three smaller WarShips. In contrast, the reserve squadron consists of the CNS *Typhon* battle cruiser purchased from the Hegemony, reinforced by six cruisers and three smaller vessels. As most of the commonality squadrons are made up of relics of the Age of War, it falls to the reserve squadron to reinforce the commonality fleets in the event of major military action.

This naval vulnerability is well understood by House Liao, who are currently compensating with increased purchases of assault DropShips and fighter carriers while desperately attempting to acquire WarShip hulls however they can.

Most of the attendees of the St. Ives Martial Academy hail from the upper crust of Capellan society, and compared to the students of other academies, the young men and women attending the SIMA are treated with relative kid gloves by the faculty. In large part, this serves the academy well, as most of the students value their personal and family honor too highly to act out, and the freedom afforded the attendees actually cultivates some of the Confederation's better tactical minds.

The Tikonov Martial Training Institute is known for instilling a stoic and practical outlook in its graduates. The school's extensive military history courses strive to impress upon students a pragmatic outlook on military strategy that encourages coordinated execution over complicated planning. This solid core doctrine has seen many cadets go on to serve both the CCAF and SLDF with distinction.

INFRASTRUCTURAL INTEGRITY

The Capellan Confederation has never possessed a reputation as a major manufacturing power, but the state's economic alliance with the Terran Hegemony has seen a steady increase in both the volume and quality of Capellan industry, both civilian and military. League trade policies have allowed many of the Hegemony's largest manufacturing concerns to take advantage of lower Capellan labor costs and construct large assembly and fabrication plants within the Confederation. Terran industrial giants such as Ceres Metals, HildCo Interplanetary and StarCorps Industries have all set up factories in Capellan space to produce bulk manufactured goods for export throughout the League.

This cost savings has seen a number of SLDF manufacturing contracts assigned to Capellan manufacturers or Terran companies with Capellan production centers. Hegemony laws prevent the exporting of classified manufacturing methods, but the overall savings achieved is significant enough to warrant the cost of shipping completed components to the Confederation for final assembly. HildCo's St. Ives plant, for example, relies on imported parts for assembly of their signature *Pillager* BattleMech. Native manufacturer *Holds Incorporated* requires similar arrangements for the manufacture of some of the more advanced models of their *BattleMaster*.

These arrangements have not been without benefit for the CCAF. Most of the combat equipment issued to the CCAF comes from the very same factories, and are of the same or similar models. *Thunderbolts*, *Griffins* and *Thugs* coming off Earthwerks' Tikonov production lines serve in both the SLDF and CCAF. Ceres Metals factory on Indicass supplies Galleon and Goblin tanks to the CCAF between production runs for the Star League Regular Army. Kallon Industries' decision to open multiple plants in the Confederation has made their *Crusader* as likely to appear bearing the dao-wielding arm of Liao as the Cameron star.

While this reliance on foreign manufacturing companies has allowed the Confederation to increase their military infrastructure at a significantly reduced cost, it also saddles them with a severe strategic weakness. Terran companies aren't interested in shipping parts any further than is absolutely necessary to gain the cost benefits they desire. As a result, most of the Confederation's major military industry is clustered near the borders of the Tikonov and St. Ives Commonalities, with only a handful of small time local manufacturers like Hellspont in the safely guarded interior. If a conflict were to break out between the Confederation and another member-state, the Capellan's essential supply apparatus is virtually indefensible and heavily dependent upon components imported from the Hegemony.

Unfortunately, this arrangement has also accelerated the rate at which our advanced technologies are gradually reverse-engineered by the member-states. Corporate interests continue to lobby in favor of moving component manufacturing to the Confederation to decrease their production overhead, and Maskirovka agents and industrial spies have ready access to advanced materials and weapons systems stockpiled awaiting assembly.