



FIELD REPORT:
C.C.A.F.

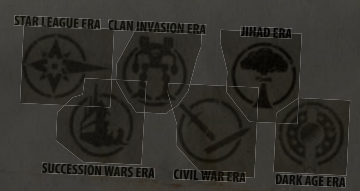
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STRATEGIC ANALYSIS...

Over ten years ago, as the second Star League died, the Word of Blake unleashed its wrath against the combined realms of the Inner Sphere and the Clans. Using every weapon in their arsenal, from strategic misdirection and the exposure of state secrets, to biological, nuclear, and chemical attacks, the Word's war struck every power where it hurt most. Factories were razed, capitals fell, and loyalties were shattered.

But eventually, the leaders of the Inner Sphere's ancient warring factions recognized the true threat, and united behind a bold new freedom fighter to bring down the Word of Blake's bastion of power: Terra. Though the war still rages on, and the Blakists' Master yet lives, the followers of Devlin Stone know all too well that victory today may only pave the way for the wars of tomorrow.

Field Report: CCAF describes the state of the Capellan Confederation in the wake of the events described in *Jihad Hot Spots: Terra*, including the overall military and logistical condition of one of the Great Houses who stood against the Word of Blake menace. Broken, but undefeated, the armies of House Liao remain a force to be reckoned with, as a new age dawns...



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FIELD REPORT: CCAF



TO: Devlin Stone
FROM: David Lear
Date: 12 August 3079

The attached report has been compiled from many sources, including captured or collected Capellan documents or intercepted transmissions, as well as data cores provided by many defectors or former CCAF soldiers who have joined our Coalition's forces. While we have endeavored to confirm as much of it as possible, the accuracy of this report cannot be assumed—even ComStar never managed to be right all the time.

House Liao is our most likely enemy in any future confrontation, and we need to be aware of changes in Capellan doctrine and equipment since the end of the Jihad. The last comprehensive examination of any state's military was completed shortly before the Word of Blake's Jihad erupted into fire and no military emerged from that conflagration without having shifted focus, doctrine, and relative ability. The Liaos will most likely oppose anyone's possession of "their" worlds—as they long opposed the Federated Suns during the Succession Wars—which means that we can expect a near-constant level of deniable, low-level raiding while the CCAF searches for ways to exploit any vulnerability. Vigilance will be required on the Capellan border, lest we find that Tikonov becomes the Confederation's new Chesterton.

Although most of the former Capellan worlds in the former Protectorate appear to be quiescent and content with our authority, it would be folly to not assume Sun-Tzu Liao is fomenting the same sorts of underground resistance cells as he did when the worlds were part of the FedCom's Sarna March. Every effort must be therefore expended to keep discontent cool—else we'll find ourselves embroiled in just the sort of police actions Sun-Tzu used to justify his "reclamation" of St. Ives.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Field Report: CCAF is a *BattleTech* supplement designed to provide players with information about the state of the Capellan Confederation Armed Forces (CCAF) in the aftermath of the liberation of Terra during the Jihad (and before the eventual formation of the Republic of the Sphere). This supplement builds on previous sourcebooks—specifically *Field Manual: Capellan Confederation* (FAS1717) and *Field Manual: Updates* (FPR10796)—which readers may find useful in tracking the recent evolution of the Confederation's armed forces prior to and through the Jihad.

This first section of this book—*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 current condition and perceived objectives, while *Goals of the State* presents the political and suspected military benchmarks the Capellans are likely to use in the future.

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 support units in the wake of the Jihad.

The next chapter, *Military Readiness*, will present a specific update on the status, officers, and notable events of the various brigades of the CCAF, with an eye toward their likely future employment. Included are ratings for the experience and estimated combat strengths of each regiment within the subject brigade.

Finally, *Irregular Forces* covers both the Capellan-allied forces of the Magistracy of Canopus in the Confederation as well as prominent state-employed mercenaries and other irregular forces.

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Special Thanks: This product is dedicated to all *BattleTech* fans, past, present, and future.

Developer's Note: For more information about the Capellan Confederation Armed Forces, or the state of warfare before and during the Jihad, check out *Field Manual: Capellan Confederation*, *Jihad Turning Points: Sian*, any of the *Jihad Hot Spots* books, or *Technical Readout: 3085*.

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HALLORAN

We came out of transit into orbit around Halloran without any real opposition—a few fighters, some DropShips, but nothing strong enough to challenge the *Franco Martell* or anything small enough in enough strength to overwhelm our CAP fighters. The *kong-sang-shao* ordered us to drop stations and we went to the 'Mechs, but before we could get more than two pods out alarms starting blasting. I dropped my com onto the inter-ship frequency and heard a skycop screaming about heavy particle fire from the surface. Incoming missiles. The *kong-sang-shao* was cursing him for a fool, screaming at his plotters to ID the enemy WarShip, but there wasn't one. Someone screamed the *Franco's* back was broken—a *Feng Huang!*—and then my pod launched. I couldn't wait for the ablatives to pop so I could sweep the sky, and then I saw the tracks.

Halloran had a functional space defense system. Gods above and below, I knew we were in for it then...

—After-action debrief of Sao-wei Luther Grange, Fifth McCarron's Armored Cavalry, 3077

ANDURIENS, WHERE?

[Sian Jump Control]: "Incoming vessel, identify yourself."

[Contact 147]: "JumpShip Lancaster, out Andurien."

[SJC]: "Lancaster, state your business."

[C147]: "Escort, Control!"

[SJC]: "Those are Andurien military DropShips, then?"

[C147]: "That's a rog, Control."

[SJC]: "Come to strike while we're weak, eh? I'm scrambling fighters now—"

[C147]: "Negative, negative, Control! We're escorting Capellans home!"

[SJC]: "Nice story, Lancaster. We've had a lot of liars through here—"

[C148]: "Sian Control, this is Magestrix Naomi Centrella-Liao."

[SJC]: "New contact this net, say again."

[C148]: "The Andurien JumpShip is escorting my DropShip and is under the Magistracy's protection, Control. Stand down the fighters and stand by to receive a download for retransmission to the Forbidden City. Authorization is *Chrysanthemum-Omega-one-seven*."

[SJC]: "Authenticating... That's the chance!—Roger that, my lady. Lancaster and accompanying vessels are welcome to Sian space, and may I add, my lady: welcome home!"

—Recorded nadir jump point, Sian, 30 March 3076

CONFEDERATION OVERVIEW

The Capellan Confederation has come a long way from the shattered shell of a nation Hanse Davion left in 3030, and even succeeded beyond the goals of Sun-Tzu Liao's 3060 *Xin Sheng* program. Indeed, we may count the simple survival of the Confederation through the Jihad—attacked on all sides from the Blakists, the Federated Suns, and rogue former Free Worlds League proto-states—as proof that the Capellan nation has rebounded in spirit, if not area, from the Fourth Succession War.

STRATEGIC UPDATE

The Confederation's boycott of the Coalition against the Word of Blake is proof enough of their intentions: despite being as threatened by the Jihad as any other Inner Sphere realm, Chancellor Sun-Tzu Liao declined to place his troops amongst ours, instead focusing all of his energies on reclaiming Confederation worlds taken by the Word without our help. In the Confederation, this plays as reinforcement of the new Capellan confidence: the CCAF didn't need the rest of the Sphere's help to push the Word of Blake off its worlds.

What's most of interest to us are the tactics used during the Capellan counterattacks into the Protectorate; Sun-Tzu's counter-invasion of the Capellan March showed us he's not afraid to use naked force, but in facing the Protectorate Militia, the Capellan military pulled out all the stops. Many worlds were harshly bombarded from space, or nuked, or laced with targeted chemical or biological attacks to lessen the conventional casualties. Certainly they suffered enough at the space defense systems at Halloran and Zion.

The CCAF's posture of active hostility toward the AFFS units they encountered on worlds like Nanking (where both nations' militaries were present) we can take as indicators of their likely actions against our forces, when we announce the annexations. When faced with both Blakist and Davion forces, the Capellans often let the two grind each other down before attacking the victor—and, of course, your reception on Sian tells you more about Sun-Tzu Liao than this report can. He let our Coalition batter down the gates of the rimward Protectorate, and then sent his troops in like jackals to claim what we had taken. We'll face a hard battle on many of those worlds, without the influxes of troops we got from the other states.

Observation tells us Sun-Tzu's military will only strike when it is advantageous to them to do so. We saw several ill-advised assaults in 3076 and 3077, but those were primarily against the Blakists and the CCAF had momentum to maintain, whether or not the conditions were favorable. We'll need to watch the Capellan border closely to make sure we don't give Liao a chance to build any of that momentum.

GOALS OF THE STATE

The stated goal of the Capellan military hasn't changed materially in forty years: to reclaim the worlds lost to the Confederation during the Fourth Succession War. To be fair, if one considers the Chesterton worlds and many of the smaller duchies lost during the Succession Wars, the Confederation's strategy hasn't changed in hundreds of years. The difference now, of course, is that the Capellan Confederation Armed Forces have the muscle and the experience to actually attain those goals—much as they did during the 3060s after the fragmenting of the Sarna March.

Despite the continuing actions against Blakist strongholds in the former Protectorate, the CCAF is currently concentrating on consolidation. The press of the Jihad scattered much of the logistical capacity in the Confederation, trying to support troops across the Confederation and deep into the Magistracy of Canopus. Current activities on former Protectorate worlds are limited to police actions and hunting down pockets of resistance, especially now that the action on Halloran has been decided. Any intentions gleaned from the current deployments and intercepted orders seem to point to the Strategios ordering



its troops to hold-in-place and refit, although we cannot say if that's just to come back up to strength or to prepare for another leapfrog into the region around Terra.

Given the Word of Blake's early penetration of the Confederation's HPGs, and the year of terror that filled the Confederation as the citizenry reacted to the Jihad by slaughtering HPG operators, one of the Confederation's priorities has to be reestablishing the hyperpulse generator network. Without the ComStar assistance we've spread around the former Protectorate, and extended to the states that offered support for the Coalition, the Confederation has a hard road ahead of it. We have unconfirmed reports that captured Blakist HPG operators are being used as skilled labor and forced to train Capellan HPG operators. Considering we're doing the same thing, I don't doubt the veracity of this supposition.

If any way can be explored to accomplish it, we should look into encouraging Sun-Tzu to spend as much of his attention as possible on the Magistracy and Andurien areas. Although his marriage to the Magestrix means his alliance with the Magistracy is secure, both the Confederation and Canopus have long histories of distrust with Andurien, and Sun-Tzu Liao has never been a man who trusts his allies. If we can keep at least some of the CCAF's attention focused on the rimward Periphery, it would pay significant dividends over the next few years. This task will be complicated by Sun-Tzu's historical attention to the worlds of the former Blakist Protectorate, but even one regiment moved rimward would make our plans easier.

The lack of frontline Capellan soldiers in our forces has limited our ability to accurately gauge the likely response by Confederation regiments to our plans. Although many of the former Protectorate worlds in the Capellan Zone have declared for us, we cannot take their reactions as indicative the whole Confederation—many of those worlds have seen several rulers in the last decades, from Capellan to FedCom and back. We must recall always the example of Denbar: when the Confederation is weak, Sun-Tzu will turn to subterfuge to meet his goals; should a Denbar-like situation develop on one of the former Confederation worlds, close attention must be paid to watch for the tiger leaping in the reeds.



ON DEALING WITH COALITION FORCES

When dealing with the various claimants to the title "Coalition Forces," it is important for all Capellan officers to recall the following facts:

1. Many of the worlds these forces are fighting over are rightful Capellan possessions, stolen from us by cowardice and deplorable betrayals; our *janshi* will shortly free our citizens from oppression or, failing that, remind the Word of Blake why the Capellan spirit has been so strong since Capella Prime.
2. Despite the appearance of cohabitation, each of the corrupt nations represented among these various forces retains their own distinct agendas and goals, and those goals are almost always counter to the goals of the State. The Chancellor has refused to distract us from the task at hand by involving the CCAF in this "Coalition."
3. When operating in the same theater as a "Coalition" force, all Capellan officers are reminded of their duty to protect Capellan interests and citizens. Operations against the Word of Blake or other Capellan oppressors take precedence, but we cannot allow these outlanders to claim what is rightfully ours.
4. The man known as Devlin Stone is recognized by no established government, and his so-called Kittery Prefecture sits astride worlds rightfully Capellan. Capellan officers are not directed to obey orders or entertain requests from the forces this man commands.
5. Despite his upstart claims, Devlin Stone shares a common enemy with the Capellan Confederation in the Word of Blake, and every opportunity should be afforded him to do the Confederation's work in destroying them and their occupation of the Confederation. Care should be taken, however, to see that he does not claim any additional Capellan territory.

—Intercepted regimental orders, Fifth Confederation Reserve Cavalry, 3077



ELASTIC DEFENSE REDUX?

As the Jihad continued year after year, the small Capellan merchant marine became stretched to its breaking point. JumpShips were lost ferrying troops toward the front, not only from enemy action but also from lack of maintenance. As transport assets became scarce, the Strategios resurrected an old defense concept from the Succession Wars and enacted it in a limited fashion. Several regiments were held at alert, combined with scant JumpShips and DropShips, and tasked with responding to further attacks. While the idea was sound, the destruction of the Liao HPG network meant that news of an attack proceeded too slowly for those forces to react, and the elastic defense concept was again quickly abandoned.

—From *An Attitude Toward War: Mistakes, Blunders, and Old-Fashioned Thinking During the Jihad*

THE CHILDREN

Father—

Things are much changed here, now that Terra has fallen. The proctors informed us this morning that our graduation will not be this July, as expected, but in 3080. As you can imagine, there was much grumbling among the cadet corps as we were all anxious to get into the field and do our duty for the Confederation. I was just as guilty as the rest of my peers until I spoke with a head steward, Citizen Ruskov. He had served with the Capellan Hussars in the Fourth Succession War, and told me stories of young officers rushed to the field. He could remember the faces of at least seven *sao-weis*—subcommanders, as he called them—that were killed.

He'd never learned their names; they had come and died so quickly.

"Take your year, young master," Ruskov told me, "and learn what you need to survive. All young officers should be anxious for combat, but temper that anxiousness with knowledge." He limped away, then. His leg was bothering him—it was raining that day.

His words struck me. Your stories always showed me the heroism of the Capellan soldier, but Citizen Ruskov made me think; I am not afraid to die for the Confederation. I would like to be remembered by the men around me, though.

—*Personal correspondence from Cadet Li Soo Quan, Capella War College, 3079.*

LOGISTICAL STATUS

The Capellan Confederation's small size has always been a mixed boon to the Capellan Confederation Armed Forces in times of war, and the Jihad was no exception.

ACADEMIES AND COMMAND CENTERS

Every commonality capital in the Confederation felt the caress of the Word of Blake before the Jihad's end. Sian itself, throne world of the entire Confederation, was attacked several times by the Word of Blake. Blakist divisions battered St. Ives, with casualties in the millions. Liao was a battleground for almost the entire Jihad, struck both by Federated Suns and Word of Blake forces. Even Victoria suffered a lightning attack that heavily damaged the Shengli Arms factories there. Each of these attacks was eventually thrown back, but the combined effect was to remind the Capellan people that they were not out of reach, even on heavily garrisoned capital worlds.

The effect of the massive drain on manpower that was the Jihad is just starting to be made good in the Confederation, as the lapse of active warfare has meant that the Confederation's service academies have begun to resume a more normal curriculum. The classes of '73, '74, '75, and '76 at all the Martial Sciences academies in Capellan space were abridged, focused on nothing so much as turning out adequately-trained junior officers for the line regiments. With the Blakists defeated on Terra and the Federated Suns too battered and self-absorbed to launch any serious attacks, the CCAF has directed its academies to return to the normal curriculum. This is interesting to our analysts for two reasons: first, because it shows a disconcerting attention to the future—none of these students will be graduated for several years, which means the CCAF expects to not need them for that long, and second, because it doesn't show any downward pace of enrollment. Academies elsewhere have already instituted more rigorous admission standards, but Capellan academies are accepting nearly every applicant.

The St. Ives Academy of Martial Sciences was particularly hard-hit during the Word of Blake attack on St. Ives, with significant damage to its campus and the complete annihilation of its training battalion. The SIAMS has recently completed repairs to its buildings, but replacing the cadet corps lost in combat is taking more time. Fewer than a third of the reconstituted training battalion slots are filled, although there are rumors that other academies are transferring students to St. Ives to fill its depleted ranks.

Both the Sian Center for Martial Disciplines and the Liao Conservatory of Military Arts were also damaged in Blakist raids, although the LCMA is having more trouble getting back up to speed; its student body was weaned during the hostilities with the Federated Suns and hadn't quite recovered when the Blakists struck Liao. The Capella War College was unharmed but has more than quadrupled its' class size—we predict it will be hard for the College to scale back its admittance rates, which will keep the quality of its graduates low. We expect the Victoria Academy of Arms and Technology, which has also suffered from greatly increased enrollment, to have the same problems.

INFRASTRUCTURAL INTEGRITY

The Word of Blake's targets, across the Inner Sphere, primarily included high tech production facilities and infrastructure. They were zealous in their campaign to reduce the Inner Sphere to barbarism so they could bring us the light, and although we fought back they were devilishly efficient at destroying what they couldn't capture. The Confederation's production facilities were not spared, with the largest loss being the Aris Yards over Necromo. Many other production and maintenance stations, both ground-bound and orbital, were also damaged, and the scale of rebuilding after the Jihad has shown that the remaining capacity is inadequate.