ALIEN SPECIES

Most alien species are humanoid and many species can interbreed despite evolving on different planets (don't question the space opera!). The Federation's laws grant all sentients, including artificial sentients like artifolk, the same civil rights and legal protections.

The most common species, other than humans, in the Academy are the following:

Artifolk (also known colloquially as "Androids") - Artifolk come in many colors, materials, sizes, and more or less human shapes. Artifolk are produced by other artifolk or by various not-for-profit and for-profit companies. Most artifolk are raised by individual parents or by corporate surrogate parent groups. The Federation enlists and trains many artifolk, especially in its engineering corps. Their resistance to radiation and tolerance for vacuum and low pressure situations are highly useful in diagnosing and repairing problems in the field.

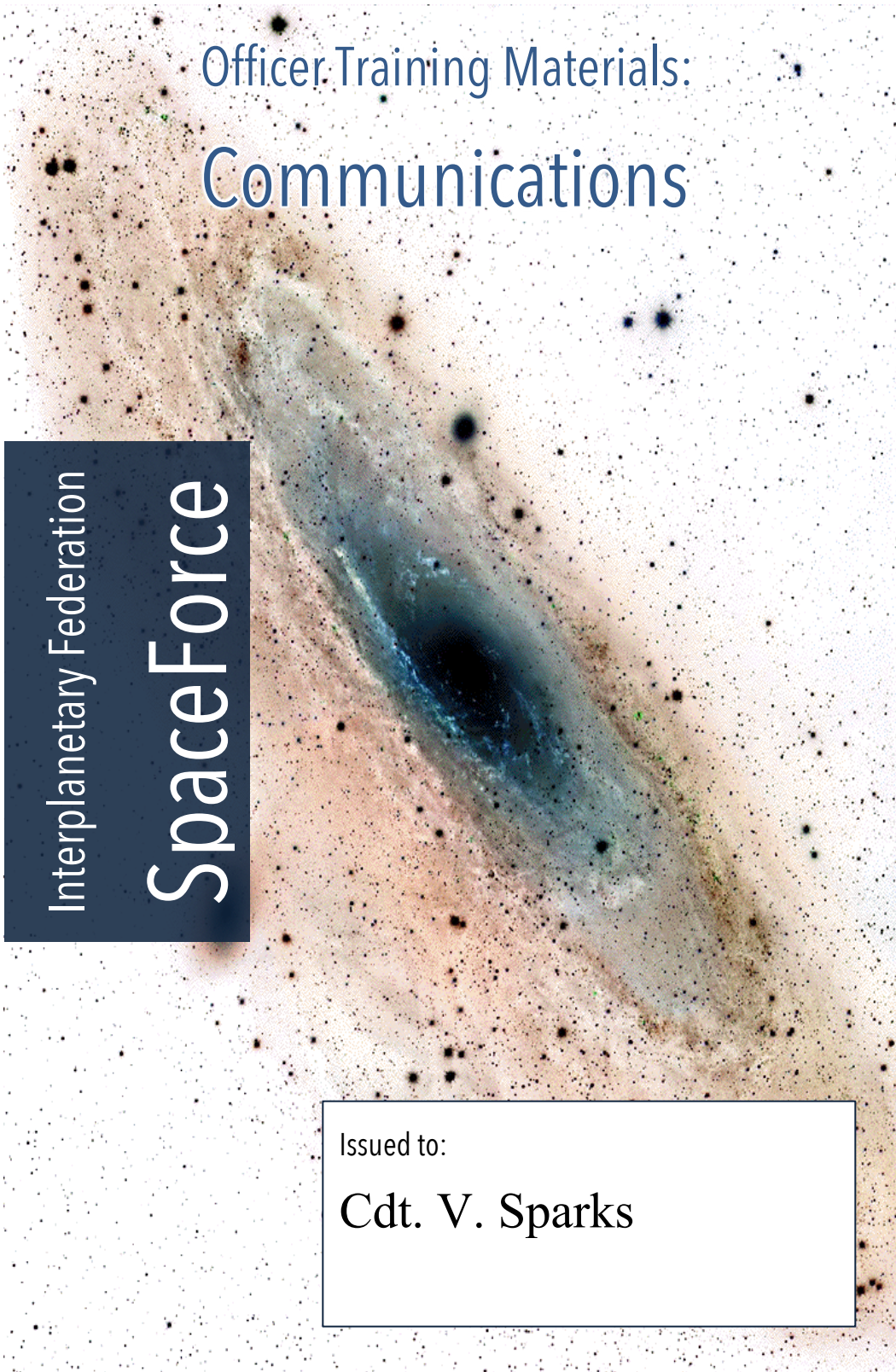
Dwari - The Dwari are a newly contacted species that have recently been granted membership into the Federation. They are humanoid and tend to be slightly shorter than humans. All genders of Dwari pride themselves on their prolific and immaculately groomed facial hair.

GiyGiy (pronounced "Jee Jee" and sometimes abbreviated GG) - While marked by the feathers of their flying ancestors, the GiyGiy long ago adapted to a grounded existence. They retained, however, a skill for 3D spatial orientation that is very helpful in zero-G.

Kina'Kar - The feline Kina'Kar come from a highly scientific and logical culture. Other cadets may have some difficulties communicating with the Kina'Kar at the Academy due to their traditional modes of emotional expression. All cadets are expected to remain respectful and learn to work together regardless of any cultural confusion.

Saurapin (colloquially referred to as "Lizard People") - The Saurapin are best known to humans as the first alien species to contact humanity. They are able to shape shift into more human forms and observed humans for many generations before Earth reached for the stars. While less numerous than humans, Saurapin were one of the founding species and today's young Saurapin cadets are a great asset to the Federation.

Verantir - Most Verantir belong to the Verantian Empire, but several worlds opted to join the Federation during the Bantog Peace Talks and remain loyal citizens to this day. Verantir culture prizes strength, discipline, and physical combat training, so many Verantir cadets will be significantly ahead of their fellows in the martial arts. Verantir tend to be physically stronger than humans and unlike humans do not naturally grow hair on their heads.



Officer Training Materials:

Communications

Interplanetary Federation SpaceForce

Issued to:

Cdt. V. Sparks

Name: V. Sparks
Species: Human
Age: 20
Assigned Team: Blue
Assigned Station: Communications

About the Cadet:

You've always been a people-person, that's how you met J. Cooper. They were on an elective debate team you joined last year. The two of you struck it off almost immediately and you could feel the sparks flying. Things moved pretty quickly from there, you were head-over-heels in love within a month.

That's when things went terribly wrong. J. is a Saurapin. They told you right away and it never bothered you. But when you took them to meet your parents it was... bad. After J. left you got a two hour lecture from both your parents about how Saurapins didn't feel or think like humans and your father threatened to disown you if you saw J. again. You felt like your life was over and your heart was already shattered, but ever the dutiful child you ended the relationship the next day and couldn't bring yourself to tell J. why. You've avoided speaking to them in the months since then.

Portraying the Character:

You've been rather depressed since the break up, so be sure to sigh a lot and be kind of mopey whenever J. can't hear you. Since J. is the communications officer on the other team you're going to have to talk to them, even though you'd really rather not. Try to keep things all business and steer them away from personal subjects for the first hour or so of the game. If you want to have a bit of a breakdown and tell them why you dumped them and that you still love them in the second half of the game, go for it!

Costuming: Wear a solid colored blue shirt. The exact shade of blue isn't important.

About the Other Cadets:

L. Finnegan - The blue team captain, Cadet Finegan is human and their family tree is chock full of Federation top brass. Looks like they are going to be fast tracked into command too.

T. Meyer - The blue team science officer, Cadet Meyer is human and seems excited to visit space. You have trouble being excited about anything now-a-days, but their enthusiasm is kind of comforting. It's nice to know happiness still exists in this world for others.

P. Cristatus - The blue team helms-person, Cadet Cristatus is a GiyGiy and has an excellent head for 3D spaces. 3D thinking has never been your strong suit, so you're glad to have someone like them at the helm.

M. Wogura - The blue team weapons officer, Cadet Wogura is a Verantir and seems awfully trigger happy. Maybe it's a good thing they are on your team, since they can't easily fire on their own ship!

A. Yurdabek - The blue team engineer, Cadet Yurdabek is a Dwari (the first you've met in person). They seem very competent, so what if they're not artifolk? If they can do the job why should it matter?

The Yellow Team: J. Cooper - Your ex, who you secretly still love.

Humanity and the Interplanetary Federation

Many generations ago humanity reached for the stars and discovered that they were far from alone in the universe. Other species of sentient aliens live all around us, but hid their activities from non-star fairing cultures.

Once humanity developed faster than light drives, they began to meet and befriend friendly species and clash with less friendly ones. Human settlement and the associated terraforming technology that humans use to make worlds hospitable grew in leaps and bounds. Soon the human colonies spanned a hundred worlds and were beginning to bump into the territories of other civilizations.

This is when the **Interplanetary Federation** formed, to bind together the first 125 worlds, many human and some not, for mutual protection and trade. Individual worlds retain their own cultures and administration, but share a single interplanetary force that explores and protects the civilization.

Some species, like the **Saurapin** and **Kina'Kar** joined the Interplanetary Federation and traded peacefully with the humans. Individual aliens even immigrated to human worlds and began to form a stable part of human society. Humans developed **artifolk** and over several hundred years artifolk reached a level of sophistication that lead to them being recognized as persons, with all the legal rights of other species. Artifolk make up about 10% of the population of the human worlds and coexist peacefully with humans and other alien species.

Some species do not get on peacefully with humans. Territory disputes with the **Verantir** were ongoing and violent for more than two hundred years before a stable border was agreed upon during the Bantog Peace Talks 50 years ago. Some humans are still wary of the Verantir. Currently the peace is holding and ongoing treaty talks are held each year along the border to address grievances and keep the civilizations from returning to open conflict.

The Interplanetary Federation follows Saurapin traditional laws when it comes to contacting young civilizations. When a species develops space flight they're carefully monitored and when they develop faster than light travel they're contacted by Federation Agents and welcomed into the interstellar community. Many young worlds, like those of the **GiyGiy** and **Dwari** are offered a place in the Interplanetary Federation and most accept.

There are some species, like the hyper-aggressive **Kraliens**, who have never honored calls to diplomacy. The Kraliens have conquered several other civilizations, including the **Argonians** and **Torgoth** and often force them to participate in their raids. Scientific outposts in the distant corners of the Interplanetary Federation, especially those positioned in remote areas studying strange local phenomenon, often have problems with Kralien incursions and occasionally supply shipments are destroyed. Opportunistic **Skaraan** pirates are problematic as they often travel near Kralien fleets. There are also many sections of space categorized as Federation territory which are largely unpopulated and have been poorly explored.

This is where the **Federation SpaceForce** comes in. They keep the peace, monitor young worlds and protect them from the interference of other space fairing species, explore Federation territory, and identify threats to Federation worlds and outposts. The SpaceForce is recruited from all the Interplanetary Federation worlds and trained in the **Federation Academy** on Earth. About half of Cadets are human (the same as the general population) and the others are various alien species that make up the rest of the Federation worlds.

You are one of these bright young souls who aims to join the ranks of the SpaceForce and make the Federation a better and safer place.