

THE IMPERIAL MILITARY

Though the Order of The Light is undoubtedly the most feared and well-respected organization in the galaxy, it has a close competitor in the ranks of the Imperial Navy. Vast and powerful, the Navy and its legions of warriors stretch the rule of the Empire far beyond the more limited reach of the Guardians. While these two organizations are intended to be separate, a long history of conflicts have often driven them together.

A NEW FIGHTING FORCE

With the birth of the Sellonian Empire in 407 OL, the need for a galactic military became immediately apparent. Though the Tallunian Peace Conference had called for unified laws and rights, it had little means of enforcing them. Regional conflicts still raged throughout the galaxy, and independent planets – such as the Rogue Sisters – threatened to oppose the new imperial state. After the near-century of fighting caused by the Sellonæ War, planets and regional governments continued to cling to independent fighting forces. Though undoubtedly exhausted and battered, these local militias posed a significant threat to the hegemony of the new Empire.

In the early weeks of 408, the Senate passed the Military Establishment Act, which formally established a new Imperial Navy. All member states of the new empire – both regional and planetary – were required to surrender the entirety of their arsenals. All starships, ground vehicles, and heavy weapons became the exclusive property of the unified state. Standing armies were dismissed as the Empire began an aggressive recruitment campaign to re-enlist warriors into ranks of their own. Within months, new training practices began to be introduced, quickly trying to standardize the otherwise ragtag masses of soldiers. Fighting units were integrated between various species, creating a fighting force as cosmopolitan as the new empire it served.



The Crest of the Imperial Navy

ARMED RESISTANCE

“THIS WASN'T ALL RAINBOWS AND JULIFLIES, MIND YOU. MANY SYSTEMS – ESPECIALLY THOSE STILL COMMANDED BY WARLORDS AND AUTO-CRATS – RESISTED THE NEW IMPERIAL ORDER. IN SOME CASES, RESISTANCE TURNED VIOLENT, FORCING THE EMPIRE TO INTERVENE WITH FORCE. FORTUNATELY, MOST POPULATIONS SUPPORTED THE NEW REGIME AND MANY ROSE UP TO SUPPORT THE SHIFT TO IMPERIAL OVERSIGHT AND PEACE...”

THE LURIAN WARS

Not every planet agreed with the new Empire's demands. While minor political concessions were made to sway planets like Vyxex and Riik to conform, the monarchy of Lurio refused outright. Having avoided the Sellonian War entirely and boasting a robust military and deep-seeded warrior culture, the Lurian king immediately withdrew from the Tallunian Agreements and boldly declared his independence.

Further tensions escalated into the bloody Lurian Wars (410-425) for the next several years. Lurian warships strangled imperial supply lines in Khi'Hinese, Arboran, and Koleon space, testing the mettle of the new navy. The results proved disappointing, prompting the Empire to accept Lurian independence but also depend more heavily on the Order of The Light for peacekeeping efforts.

When the conflicts had subsided in 425, the Gatrellian Reforms changed the military at its core. Army battalions were re-established as Imperial Legions, with more rigorous training programs for legionnaires. New weapons, uniforms, and armors were introduced, creating a streamlined and brutally efficient

military machine. New warship designs were developed at the shipyards of Rho, slowly replacing the now-outdated vessels that had once served local systems.

THE NAVY AND THE ORDER

As the new military developed, so too did its relationship with the Guardians. Effectively the rulers of the new order, the Guardians began to assert a more active role in the Imperial Navy after its failures in the Lurian Wars. The Bellati and Vindori were especially influential in this, though Empress Novana forbade them from assuming command outright. In her eyes, the Order and Navy should always act as two separate entities; each relying on the other but never dominating the other's affairs. The Guardians oversaw the Gatrellian Reforms and their implementation but stopped short of commanding troops and issuing orders.

This relationship persisted through the so-called "Golden Age" of the early Empire. Generally, the Navy busied itself with securing the imperial borders and combating piracy while the Guardians handled more delicate and tactful matters. Together, they effectively prevented all but the most minor conflicts between imperial worlds, and successfully held back the threats of planets like Lurio and the Rogue Sisters. Numerous occasions saw the cooperation of both groups, with Guardian prisms being sent into battle alongside Imperial Legionnaires. Though the Order did maintain a cadre of its own vessels, naval warships often ferried Guardian prisms into conflict zones. Though rivalries certainly existed — and were sometimes even promoted — they were never enough to



The Crest of the Imperial Legion

create longstanding tension between the two organizations.

THE DOMINARI REBELLION

With the death of the Emperor Lucius II, this relationship would be changed dramatically. As the Dominari prepared for their rebellion, their most skilled Guardians manipulated millions of legionnaires and officers to join their cause. Within weeks, a sizeable portion of the Imperial Navy had fallen into complete obedience, with entire fleets rallying to the Dominari defense. When the Bellati likewise joined the fray, they seized a more direct military approach, replacing the most elite divisions with their own shock troops. A new flotilla of massive Rhonian warships — intended for deployment in the Distant Worlds — were finalized and commandeered by the Bellati outright. While the Dominari readied their loyal non-Radiant followers, the Bellati now crewed a state-of-the-art fleet all their own. Within months, half of the empire's planets surrendered to Dominari manipulation and Bellati intimidation.

The remnants of the Imperial fleet quickly realized the strength of their new enemy and plotted a means of countering it. With the approval of the Emperor Decius, the Supreme Master of the Order, and the non-Radiant High Command, the Imperial Navy and Guardian Order fused themselves like never before. Guardian Knights and Masters soon took positions of authority on every capital ship, and began to command entire legions directly. Guardian Prisms — now composed of only four individuals — began to take to the battlefield en masse, often alongside battalions of legionnaires. Despite initial protests by non-Radiant officers, the Guardians bolstered the Imperial Navy to unprecedented victories and eventually to outright success.

AFTERMATH

Following the Dominari defeat, great strides were taken to restore the independent relationship that had once existed between the Navy and the Guardian Order. The Bellati were forced to surrender their newfound fleet, turning the vessels over to non-Radiant command and crew. Guardian prisms were removed from the Na-

WON'T DO THAT AGAIN

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vy's regular responses and command was once more placed in non-Radiant hands. The famed Myssrynian Trials rooted out the most nefarious Radiant and non-Radiant war criminals, though nearly all of the rebel rank and file were granted amnesty to account for the effects of Dominari mind-bending.

Despite these recent difficulties, the Vindori Dynasty has attempted to maintain a closer connection between the Navy and the Order, hoping to prevent similar catastrophes from happening again. As the new dynasty struggles to assert its authority, both organizations stand at the ready.



RANKS OF THE IMPERIAL NAVY

OFFICER RANKS

STELLAR ADMIRAL	Based at the Imperial Palace on Sellonae; Traditionally only one serving Stellar Admiral at a time (appointed by the Empress)
GRAND ADMIRAL	Sit on the Imperial Military Council; Command one of the Four Fleets (Northern Fleet, Southern Fleet, Eastern Fleet, Western Fleet). Additional Grand Admirals are assigned to fill Senior Joint Military positions
ADMIRAL	Command a sub fleet or space station; Can also be assigned to lead Imperial Legions, or other Logistical/intelligence departments as needed
FLEET CAPTAIN	Officers who designate the ability, maturity, and aptitude but do not yet have the time in service to become an Admiral
CAPTAIN	Command individual ships (traditionally cruiser classes and higher). May also run subdivisions of the Navy as a whole. May also run low-tier stations like refueling depots and repair yards
COMMANDER	Command subdivisions of the Military as a whole (Counter Intelligence, Internal Affairs, Logistics) or command small ships like light cruisers, destroyers, and frigates. Commanders also serve as the XO or Senior staff on larger ships or stations
LIEUTENANT	Act as Junior staff on ships, stations, and military sub divisions or departments
ENSIGN	Typically assigned to act as juniors to lieutenants and assist them in duties
CADET	Training rank assigned to individuals training on the Fleet Academies on Sellonae, Eriss, or Khi'han. Upon completion of their first cruise, cadets are promoted to Ensign

ENLISTED

MASTER NAVAL STELLAR TESSARIO	Head of all enlisted naval officers
MASTER NAVAL TESSARIO	Head of a ship's enlisted crew or work as a chief-of-staff of a senior officer
NAVAL TESSARIO	Head of a division of a ship's enlisted crew (Engineering, gunnery, engines, etc.)
NAVAL SIGIO	Assists a tessario and acts as their second
NAVAL GARGIO	Acts as a specialist in their field for the navy; serves under a sigio and a tessario
NAVAL LEGIONNAIRE	The lowest-ranking member of the navy; Does grunt work as assigned by a gario. Has not yet specialized in any duties. Legionnaires are given the opportunity to leave honorably after three years of may choose to serve an additional five