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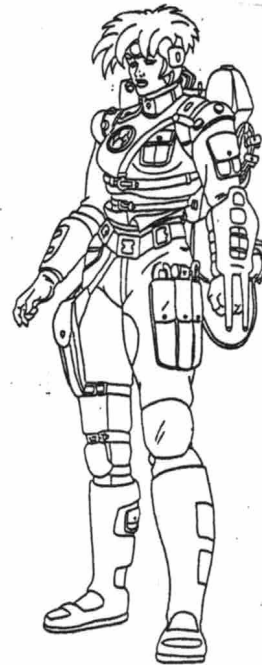
THE TIME: Mid 21st Century. Venus and Mars have been colonized, space travel is routine, and a new race of humans -- Neosapiens -- has been genetically developed. There's the rub! Mentally and physically superior to homosapiens, the "neos" have managed to subjugate their creators, and we now live in a darker time, struggling to defend ourselves, to exist under a brutal and... very resourceful... regime.

MAGGIE WESTON: Age 28-ish. Highly trained, quiet, some would say introverted. Really she's just very "no B.S." And often very blunt.

THE SCENE: A tactics classroom at base camp. Maggie smiles a little as Alec Deleon finishes his part of the presentation and says, "Maggie...?" She moves to the lectern, speaking as she crosses.

WESTON

Well, I guess it's my job to relate Alec's insightful observations... to the use of our hardware. Our E-Frames are already equipped with H-V laser cannon and the armament already has psychic targeting mods. So, if we... (SPOTS A GENERAL NODDING OFF. GETS THE ATTENTION OF THE NODDER'S SEAT MATE) Excuse me, sir, but one of our senior partners there appears to be taking this all in via "mental osmosis." Would you mind bringing him back to the here and now...? (AN OFFICER NUDGES THE GENERAL) Thank you, sir. One of us might have to fly with him some day.



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# MARSALA

EXOSQUAD Audition Sides

ROLE: MARSALA

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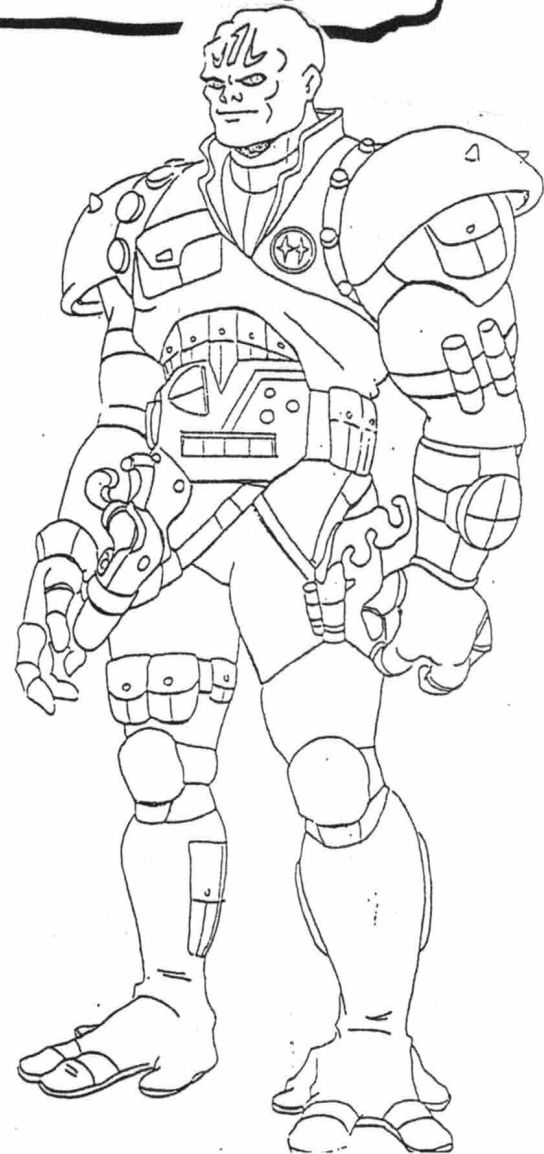
MRSALA: Age: Indeterminate. Marsala is a Neosapien, but he's a trusted member of the Exosquad. Like all "neos," he's about 8 ft. tall, very powerful, with a mind that's brilliant but uncluttered with some of the emotional garbage homosapiens possess. The resulting personality often seems a bit simple, naive. Yes, a large voice, probably made larger with studio elec-trickery. The late Ted Cassidy who played Lurch in "The Addams Family" TV series is a good model.

THE SCENE: The day room aboard a carrier. Marsala has just seen a video in which a couple embrace and kiss. He has decided to wonder about these humans. He goes to a porthole, stares at space pensively. Marsala's commander, Lt. Mace Corbitt, notices Marsala's mood, and asks, "Que pasa?" Marsala knows the Spanish, but the love scene is more difficult to comprehend.

MARSALA

Mmmmm... The film shows two people... in love. I am very interested. It is difficult for a neo to... to understand... love. Being in love, falling into love it, showing love..! Love gives the lovers... pleasure. And,.. pain too, it seems. Happiness and sadness. Laughter and anger. (SIGHS IN FRUSTRATION) This loving... is not the.. equivalent... of liking. It's different. But how? Someday, maybe I will feel love. (BECOMES AWARE OF CORBITT LISTENING) Oh! My apologies! I was.. away!! Far away.

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# PHAETON

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PHAETON: Age: Apparently 40-ish. By this time in history, the Neosapiens have become a massive force in the civilized worlds. Phaeton (FAY-TAHN) is the head of the Martian Commonwealth. At 8 ft. 6 in. and 400 lb., Phaeton has tremendous presence, with an extremely deep voice (enhanced considerably by our electronics). Not an overt menace, nevertheless we sense evil in the man.

THE SCENE: From his impressive office, Phaeton is about to deliver a short announcement via interplanetary TV. Just before he goes on the air, he confers briefly and coldly with his TV director, then speaks to the Martian audience -- at first like a father, then more like the hammer he is.

PHAETON

~~I want you to open wide... very wide.. so that initially this entire chamber is seen, then during my opening remarks, slowly move in and hold me in a shoulder shot from then on.~~

(CAMERA ZOOMS BACK) Very good. We begin.

Fellow Neosapiens, our race has always understood that war is not to be entered into lightly. But today I must announce that I and your ministers have concluded there is no longer an alternative. As of this moment, the full military strength of the Martian Commonwealth is being marshalled and brought to bear against Pirate forces wherever they are found!

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ROLE: ADM. WINFIELD

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WINFIELD: AGE: 68-ish. Adm. Winfield -- a fleet commander -- is tough as nails, decisive, fatherly, has a wry sense of humor, doesn't suffer fools (Marcus) gladly, and is devoted to his soldiers.

THE SCENE: The bridge of the Exocarrier Tsunami. With some amusement, Adm. Winfield has been patiently listening to Capt. Marcus loudly chew out Lt. Mace Corbitt for making unauthorized flights that he, the admiral, ordered. The Adm. allows Marcus enough rope, then when the captain demands Corbitt tell him who authorized the missions, the admiral takes his cue and rises.

## ADM. WINFIELD

Excuse me, Capt. Marcus. I authorized Lt. Corbitt's flights. I felt we needed some additional reconnaissance prior to drawing up an attack plan. (TURNS TO CORBITT) And now that it's been taken care of, I want both E-Frame flights prepped for possible hostile encounter. Except for Flight One, Able Squad. Lt. Corbitt, you'll take your squad as a search and rescue party. Use a boarding shuttle. (TO MARCUS, A BIT SARCASTIC) That is, if we can spare one...? (TO CORBITT) That's all. Dismissed.

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# CAPT. MARCUS

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ROLE: Capt. Marcus

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CAPT. MARCUS: Age: 46-ish. Marcus, although one of "our guys," is a royal pain in the butt. A mediocrity (and angrily senses it), defensive, bullying, afraid to innovate, a prime illustration of the Peter principle in action.

THE SCENE: Aboard the Exocarrier Tsunami, somewhere in space. Capt. Marcus believes that Lieutenants Mace Corbitt and Nara Burns have been flying some unnecessary sorties. He has used the ship's speaker system to call them to the bridge. They arrive, but not as quickly as Marcus would like. Marcus hears their approach, looks up from an instrument, setting his jaw.

MARCUS

(PHONY, SARCASTIC CHEERY) Lt. Corbitt!...

Lt. Burns...! How good of you to finally join us! (DROPPING THE PRETENSE) I understand that you consider the aircraft aboard this carrier to be.. how shall I put it..? a form of recreation. Expensive toys -- at your disposal whenever you happen to feel

like burning a few thousand gallons of R-2!

Is that it? (LOWER, TO AVOID LOSING IT, BUT GETTING LOUDER AS HE GOES) It is now 0900.

By 1200 hours, I want a full written report on the purpose and results of every mission you two have flown in the past five days!!!!

(SHAKING) Dismissed!!

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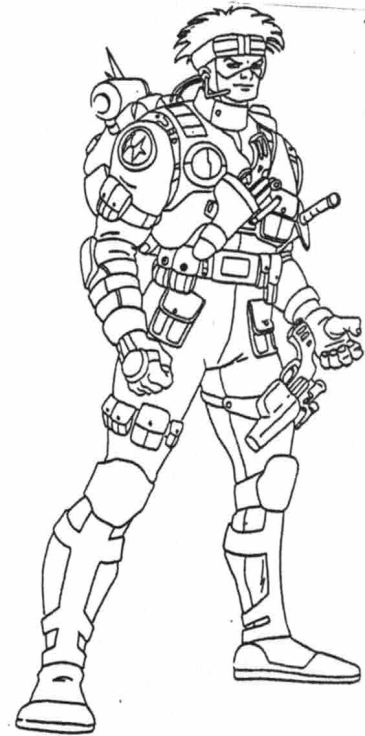
ALEC DELEON: Age 29-ish. A slight French accent reveals his European background. Highly educated in several sciences, he's the unit expert on every aspect of the Neosapiens race -- especially their psychology. Worldly and world-weary, Deleon comes off a little superior, some would say stand-offish. Respects Mace, abides most of his squad mates, feels closest to Maggie, who's equally well educated and similarly quiet of personality.

THE SCENE: Mace Corbitt, the tactical leader of the Exosquad has asked Deleon and Maggie Weston for a formal analysis of how best to combat a recent change in Neosapien strategy. Deleon concludes his part of the presentation and hands it over to Maggie.

DELEON

In assessing their possible strategy in this situation we must look back at their genetic history. First -- although we may tend to forget this fact -- Neosapiens were not developed as invulnerable beings. They are not really "supermen" in the "comic book" sense. And second, and more to the point here, is the fact that their brains are not "wired" as ours are. They have trouble with spontaneous behavior. And that, my friends, is where I believe we can be most effective. Maggie, your part of the plan...?

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# SHAWN NAPIER

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ROLE: NAPIER

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NAPIER: AGE: 26-ish. Shawn Napier grew up in Chicago, served a couple of Exoforce hitches, burned out, came home to the windy city to become a cop, was off duty when the Neosapiens historic take-over occurred, and simply went underground to dedicate his life to fighting the Neos as a leader of the rag-tag resistance. He's still pretty burned out.

THE SCENE: A Chicago bar. Napier sits down morosely on a stool. The bar tender sidles over. On the wall over the bar the TV is tuned to a soap opera, the audio barely heard. The bar tender asks what he'd like.

NAPIER

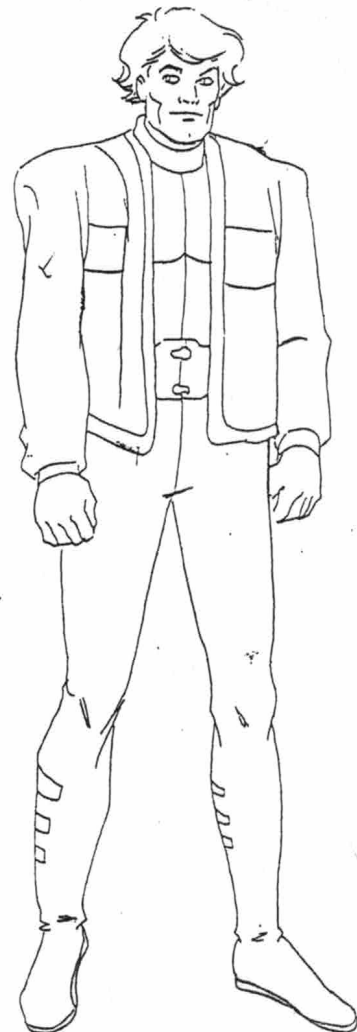
(A DISGUSTED SIGH) Aw, gimme a beer...

'N toss a shot in it, Chuck. Yep, some days ya got it, some days ya don't. Today, I sure don't got it... Went over to the Exoforce Recruiters like you suggested..?

No soap. (SMALL BITTER LAUGH) They say I'm too old. I say what's "too old?" They don't know. I do. They got an electroprint on me that says nope, de nada, sorry, get lost.

(DOWNS THE DRINK) Thanks, Chuck. On my tab okay? (CHUCK NODS) Thanks. See ya.

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MCKENNA

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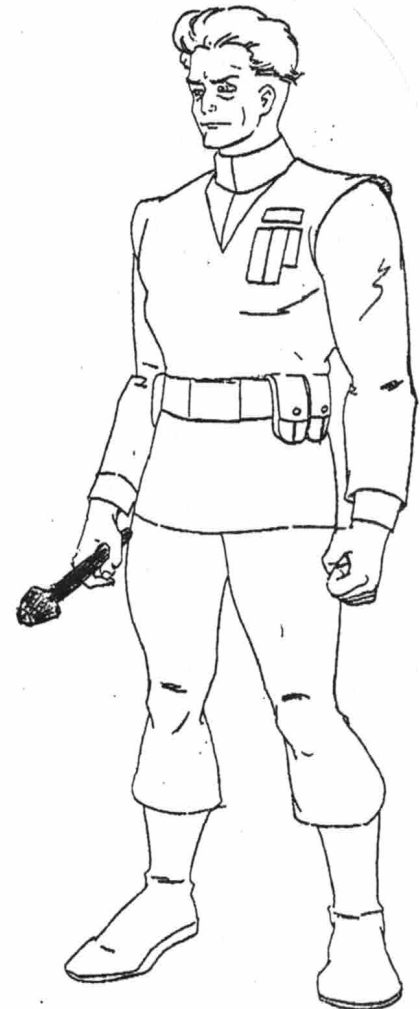
MCKENNA: AGE: 37-ish. He's an in-your-face TV field reporter (Geraldo style) for the HBC news network. Anything to get -- or create, or fabricate -- a story. With his hover-cam, McKenna roams the decks and haunts the halls of the Exocarrier Tsunami.

THE SCENE: An interplanetary crisis "may" be unfolding. At least McKenna's hoping. We're on the flight deck of the Tsunami. McKenna's been shadowing a group of pilots who have just returned from a mission, trying to corner one of them for an interview. But, HBC control now calls for an update. McKenna yanks the front of his sea jacket down, hits the trans switch on his hover-cam, and steps into the shot.

MCKENNA

This is Charles McKenna, HBC News Live. We're on the flight deck of the Exocarrier Tsunami, somewhere in the 4th spacial quadrant. Within minutes I'm expecting to talk with Lt. Mace Corbitt. Word has it that Corbitt was the leader of a squad that actually landed on the Exo Danube within the past hour. In fact, it may have been his unit that touched off a powder keg in terms of inter-planetary relations. More as soon as we have it on these potentially questionable actions of Corbitt's unit. Charles McKenna, aboard the Tsunami.

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BRONSKI: Age 23-ish. Wolf's his first name. No one uses it. From a tough youth -- south side of Chicago orphanage, mean streets, etc. -- Bronski's risen to diamond in the rough and Exosquad pilot. He enjoys just about everything -- and tends to share it with an infectious, boisterous laugh. Bronski's not terribly complicated. "What's to figure, huh?! We kick butt! Then we party! Right?!" Complicated people sometimes momentarily mystify Bronski, but what the hell, gotta get on with the big parade, so, "Hey, Bartender! Another brewski for Bronski! Who's overweight?! Me? Come on! It's this crummy flight suit!!"

THE SCENE: Bronski's in one of his favorite situations -- one arm on the bar supporting a glass, the other free to "fly." He's telling a story he's told before, but the audience is probably new. Not drunk, just enjoyin'.

## BRONSKI

(SEMI-INTERNALIZED LAUGH. BRONSKI'S TICKLED) So,..so I grabs this turkey by the shirt collar and hauls his butt up outta what's left of the E-frame, you know, like some wet-behind-the-ears kay-det still learnin' to taxi!!

(CHUCKLES AT MEMORY) He's covered with this stuff!! 'N he starts scrapin' at it like it was after 'im. And then I see this insignia showin' through, and I realize... this ain't no turkey. It's a bird colonel... but... but he's had his wings clipped!!! (PUNCH LINE LAUGHTER

FOR FADE OUT)



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KAZ TAKAGI: Age 22-ish, with a trace of Japanese ancestry in his speech, Kaz is a hip, charming scam artist, a can-do top gun pilot, and mechanically and strategically a most inventive hustler. In one evening at the officers' club, dressed as a visiting Japanese business man, Kaz sells 10,000 square kilometers of "prime Jupiter resort land" to near-retirement age staff officers.

THE SCENE: The base officer's club. The entrance hallway. Kaz reviews the details of the above mentioned bit of chicanery to his roommate who's been persuaded to join in the fun.

TAKAGI

(WITH CONSPIRATORIAL ENTHUSIASM)

Okay, just introduce me as Mr. Watanabe, of the well-known Tokyo Realty Institute. We're developing "retirement property" on Jupiter's famous Moon Lake! They don't know it's volcanic!! Besides, two weeks later, they all get their checks back with a note from Tokyo explaining that the Interplanetary Protection Agency has found a colony of the rare spotted salamander nesting at Moon Lake. The deal's off!! No one.. Not a soul will ever mention it! No one gets hurt. We have a ball! Yes, salamanders! Let's go!

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RITA TORRES: Age 28-ish. Hispanic trace to her speech. More experienced than the others, hot tempered, impatient with any procedure that's not by the book. Not a ball of fun, but she might just save your butt.

THE SCENE: Rita is to lead a patrol checking out a suspected Neosapien ambush base. It's an extremely dangerous mission. Takagi's always on his pers-phone about things that don't pertain. Bronski too is a bit of a goof-off.

TORRES

Okay, you thumb-suckers, listen up! This is going to be done by the book! (SNAPS) Takagi!! Stow that phone and give me your undivided attention. We are not going to straggle in there and get our rear rends shot off. We did it that way when we boarded the Lincoln. As Bronski can confirm, it was not successful. Right, Bronski? (GRIM CHUCKLE) Now, gather 'round and take a look at my vid-map. (INSTANT HOT!) Damn it, Takagi, now!! Move your butt!! (QUIETER, GENTLER) Okay, can you all see? Here's where we are now. There's the trail down to the wreck. We'll hold up here just before our assault. Questions..? Follow me.

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NARA BURNS: Age 22-ish. Nara is from a large family with rural origins. Possesses the innocence of a dreamer and has a love of nature's beauty, the mysteries of the universe. Nara can even empathize with the Neosapiens. It's not them, it's Phaeton, their repressive leader we battle. Though young, Nara's often a sort of a "big sister" to some of the Exosquad's less stable members. She has a strong sense of duty, but longs for the end of fighting and the day she can return to home and family.

THE SCENE: Nara's in her quarters at base camp. Very soon she'll be at the controls of her E-frame fighter on one of the most dangerous patrols yet. This is a pilot's letter home (a videogram, spoken not written) composed with an awareness of the realities of war. She addresses a small vid-cam.

Hi, mom... Hi, dad. Well, we're  
 somewhere about seven hundred million  
 miles from Venus, so it'll take over  
 a{ hour for this videogram to get there.  
 By that time... I may... I'll..I'll be in  
 action somewhere out there. Just  
 wanted you to know how I miss you,  
 and the whole family, and our farm.  
 I've seen a lot on this assignment  
 with the Exo-forces,... things I never  
 would have seen otherwise. Just wanted  
 you to know I still haven't seen anything  
 more beautiful than the sun when it breaks  
 through the clouds of Venus.  
 G'night now,.. and my love to all.



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