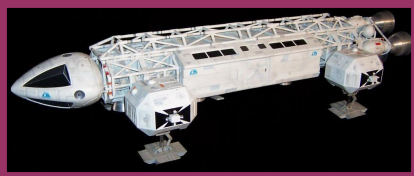
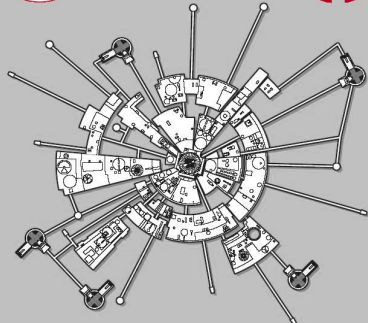


MOONBASE ALPHA TECHNICAL READOUT

PAGE 4: PODS & RESCUE EAGLE



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BACKGROUND

The Eagle is one of several classes of interplanetary spacecraft (others include the Hawk warships, Swift support vessels, and deep space probes), originally authorized by the international Lunar Finance Commission and constructed by the Engineering and Technics section of Moonbase Alpha using materials and components either shipped from Earth or manufactured on the Moon. Completely modular, the crafts are divided into three basic sections: the command module, the service pod, and the superstructure - containing the landing gear, main fuel tanks and boosters. Eagles, standard reconnaissance craft for all extralunar activity, are powered by four nuclear fusion rockets and carry fuel reserves for 48 hours of flight. Artificial gravity force fields built into the Eagle enable it to accelerate up to .15% of the speed of light, giving it a maximum range (with extra fuel reserves) of several light-days. The Eagle also has the capability to enter the atmosphere of a normal gravity planet, land (using its chemically-fueled landing rockets), and return to Alpha. Although the Eagle was not designed as a military vessel, it carries as standard equipment a laser gun and an arsenal of space-to-space missiles.

Eagles are piloted by an astronaut with the official designation of Eagle Pilot and a rank of no less than Captain. The pilot receives his orders directly from Mission Control, and employs both the onboard and Alpha computer systems for guidance, astronavigation, and interpretation of sensor data. The right seat in the Eagle cockpit is usually occupied by the copilot, although the Eagle can normally be flown by a single operator. In an emergency, when both pilots are incapacitated, an Eagle may be operated from a slave-station in Command Center.

Eagles are housed and serviced in the mammoth hanger complexes directly beneath the four main launch pads. A crew of Eagle engineers is responsible for repairing or replacing damaged components, and maintaining the flight-ready condition. Alpha supports a fleet of twelve Transporter Eagles, twenty-six Reconnaissance Freighters, and two Rescue Eagles on 24-hour alert status.

In the event of Operation Exodus - the immediate and complete evacuation of Moonbase Alpha on the personal order of Moonbase Commander - all available Eagles are employed to transport colonists and supplies from Alpha to a habitable planetary environment. Until such time, the Eagle remains the workhorse of Moonbase Alpha - as indispensable to the 311 men and women of Alpha as the Conestoga wagon was to the settlers of America's western frontier.

TYPE "B" RESCUE EAGLE

