

The Team

Fire Team Delta Six, EDI

Valdís Hansdóttir
Ranged Support Specialist
Age: 22
Ziusudra Parahuman
Nationality: EU (Icelandic)
Prior Experience: none



Soraya Mlambo la Grange
Systems Specialist
Age: 32
Genefixed human
Nationality: South African
Prior Experience: VeldtKorp
information security



Jack Mushareef
Team Leader
Age: 29
Alpha genetic upgrade
Nationality: EU (British)
Prior Experience: Royal Marines
Commachio Group



Han Shigen
Microbot Warfare Specialist
Age: 26
Baseline Human
Nationality: Chinese
Prior Experience: PLA 67th
Space Infantry Division



Roberto de Sousa
Point Man
Age: 26
Genefixed Human
Nationality: Brazilian
Prior Experience: Sao Paulo SWAT

Microbot warfare specialist

Age: 26

Baseline Human

Nationality: Chinese
(North Manchurian)

Prior Experience: PLA
67th Space Infantry
Division

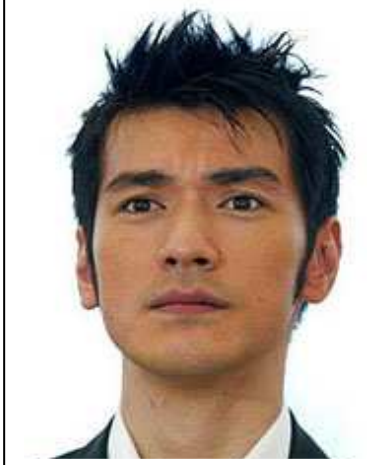
Skills/Assets

Soldier, trained in ground and space combat, battlesuits and rifle.

Robotics engineer and mechanic, very capable in tactical use of remotely operated robots (mostly microbots and buzzbots).

Biomodifications - DNA repair, immune boost, genefixed, microgravity adapted.

EDI Virtual Interface Implant



Han Shigen

Han was born without genetic modification to peasant farmers in the Manchurian village of Qanzhou in the People's Republic of China. At the age of 18, he enlisted in the People's Liberation Army to see the world and learn a trade.

Although his more urban companions sometimes mocked him as a "hick", Han's farming background meant that he had a lot of hands-on experience working with microbots and simple cybershells, and this (together with a lot of drive and talent) helped him complete his training as a microbot technician with top honors.

Following a tour of duty on the Vietnam border, cleaning up mines and other hazardous remnants from the Pacific War, Han applied and was accepted to an elite space infantry unit, the 67th Spaceborne, stationed in "Rust China" on Mars. Han found this part of his service hard: while he adapted well enough to space operations (thanks in part to some basic biomods provided by the PLA), he discovered that the 67th had a very high proportion of bioroids, all of them very eager to excel and genetically privileged to do so. The 67th, it seems, is one of the places where bioroids can distinguish themselves in Chinese society.

However, for Han, the competition was too much. He found himself resenting his bioroid companions very much. The turning point was when a bioroid saved his life during a training exercise. Confronted with his helplessness, Han decided not to re-enlist. Instead, he signed on with EDI, the leading security consultancy in the outer system. Not only does this provide excellent medical benefits (which paid for a very generous set of genemods), the company prefers to employ humans.

Motivations

Han loves working for EDI because the work is interesting, the pay good, and he gets to use first-class equipment. He's got issues with competing with people that were genetically modified from birth and he has some prejudices against bioroids and also against AIs (most of his experience is with the fairly low-intelligence AIs used by the PLA).

Han is under considerable stress in trying to prove himself; he also trusts technology (his microbots, buzzbots and other devices) and is very confident of his skill to operate it.

Han feels he is still young and adventurous, but he is saving money (more out of habit and upbringing

than any concrete plan) for some distant day when he may want to settle down.

Team Leader

Age: 29

Alpha genetic upgrade

Nationality: European Union - British (mixed Welsh and Pakistani ancestry)

Prior Experience: Royal Marines Commachio Group

Skills/Assets

Commando training, skilled in using battlesuits, rifles, missiles and in close quarters combat.

Trained in counterterrorism, hostage rescue and asteroid assault and defense operations.

Command training at EDI.

Biomodifications - DNA repair, immune boost, genefixed, microgravity adapted.

EDI Virtual Interface Implant



Jack Mushareef

Jack was born in Cardiff, the third and youngest child of a VR Avatar designer and an Intellectual Property lawyer; while his older sister and brother were just genefixed, Jack is an Alpha genetic upgrade. This is a moderate and time-tested upgrade (the oldest living Alphas are about fifty years old), providing improved health and longevity.

From an early age, Jack has been struggling with a crushing need to prove himself, to justify his family's investment and expectations. However, he excelled in athletics, and had a long-held ambition to travel to space, and this lead him to join the army at 18. After passing extensive tests, he found his way into the Royal Marines, and underwent the extensive training program of the Commachio commando group.

After training, Jack was posted with a troop in earth orbit, and took part in operations against bioroid traffickers in earth orbit. He also did a tour of duty in Alethia Station, the British industrial research center in the asteroid belt.

Three years ago, Jack found himself dissatisfied with the very slow promotion rate in the Royal Marines. The EU has laws against discrimination on the basis of age, and with extensive biomodifications, the typical career soldier in Commachio Group often spent up to 15 years as a regular before being promoted even to sergeant, let alone officer. This led him to accept EDI's offer. EDI was very pleased to get someone with Jack's background, put him through command training, and assigned him to lead fire team Delta Six.

Motivations

Jack is very eager to prove himself in this command; he is very concerned with bonding this group of talented individuals into a strong team. His main problem so far is with delegation: When the operation is something within his field of expertise (and he definitely knows more about space operations than anyone else), he tends to rely too much on himself and not enough on his team.

Jack comes from the EU, so he has a pretty liberal outlook on pansapient rights (Bioroids are people and using them for indentured labor is slavery; AIs are people and should be treated as equals, etc). He does however know that sometimes he has to work for less liberal clients, and is tactful enough to

respect his clients' views.

Point Man

Age: 26

Genefixed Human

Nationality: Brazilian

Prior Experience: Sao Paolo SWAT

Skills/Assets

SWAT experience counterterrorism and hostage rescue training.

Trained by EDI in zero-gravity operations.

Police SWAT training in martial arts and close quarters combat.

SWAT training in battlesuit operation and SWAT weaponry.

Biomodifications - DNA repair, immune boost, genefixed, microgravity adapted.

Biomodifications - increased speed and reactions.

EDI Virtual Interface Implant



Roberto de Sousa

Roberto comes from a middle-class family in Sao Paolo, the second of three kids, the child of a cybershell garage owner; He joined the police force both the action and the satisfaction of making a difference, and was eventually assigned to the SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) unit, where he distinguished himself during several operations, including one where he brought down a rampaging cybershell that had been hacked by script kiddies. This incident earned him not only a commendation, but also a lot of media attention, and a reputation as a "hero cop", which politicians (both within and outside the police department) tried to co-opt for their own purposes, much to Roberto's chagrin. Roberto was uncomfortable with the situation, and things came to a head when an apparent drunk resisting arrest baited him and later sold an uplink of the experience of being beaten up by "Roberto the hero cop".

The media attention was a lot less favorable now, and Roberto decided to accept an offer from EDI, which had been tendered earlier (following his good publicity). EDI turned him down, because of the bad publicity, but hired him when he reapplied a year later. He was discreetly placed in a team operating in the Asteroid belt, and so far has avoided any incidents related to his reputation as a beating cop.

Motivations

Roberto is still somewhat resentful of EDI for rejecting him the first time. Although their terms were good enough that he swallowed his pride and reapplied, he isn't all over it.

Roberto tries to maintain as professional an attitude as possible, and was assigned the position of point man because he has a proven ability to keep his cool in stressful situations and react quickly and correctly. He doesn't lose his cool when there are civilians between him and his target, and usually knows when to talk rather than shoot - he has a good eye to pick out his fights. As a Brazilian citizen, Roberto has no problem with Bioroid labor, and also doubts that AIs are "real people" that should be treated as equals. However, he has no problem working with them.

Ranged Support Specialist

Age: 22

Ziusudra Parahuman

Nationality: European Union (Icelandic)

Prior Experience: none

Skills/Assets

Ziusudra model parahuman, has improved health, endurance, intelligence, reactions; decreased need for sleep.

Soldier - trained by EDI in use of battlesuit, rifle, small team tactics

Sniper training

Biomodifications - DNA repair, immune boost, genefixed, microgravity adapted.

Biomodifications - increased speed and reactions.

EDI Virtual Interface Implant



Valdís Hansdóttir

Valdís is a parahuman, which means that her mothers spent a great deal of money to produce a child that has more than just a better set of human genes. Valdís has a set of additional non-human genes from the *Ziusudra* model, which was designed for high intelligence and a lengthened lifespan. As a *Ziusudra*, Valdís has a redesigned heart, arteries, spleen and gastrointestinal tract; Her need for sleep is reduced; She never gets acne or bad breath or a bad body odor; She even has innate control over her reproductive cycle.

Growing up, Valdís accepted that her genetics set her apart from her peers, and developed a conscious "in your face" attitude and style. She was very much a loner, and also rejects socializing over VR. Instead, she became fascinated with extreme sports, testing the limits of her superior genetic design. Although she tried her hand at a few jobs, she never quite found her niche until signing with EDI.

EDI usually prefer recruiting employees with a military or police background, but Valdís impressed them with her enthusiasm and aptitude. Her decision to join the military came as a serious blow to her mothers, and she is now estranged from them: since she left Earth, they have not made contact with her.

EDI invested considerably in training her as a "ranged support specialist" (which basically means, a sniper) and even gave her additional biomodifications to enhance her combat abilities. The Delta Six fire team, operating in the asteroid belt, is her first assignment. So far, Valdís has proven worthy of EDI's vote of confidence, despite a tendency to take "too much initiative".

Motivations

Valdís can be reckless, and is always testing the limits of her ability, something that sometimes gets her in over her head. She tries to be a "good soldier", but sometimes her ego gets the better of her.

All her life she has done and said what she wanted, and she is now struggling to curb that side of her, to adapt to working closely in a small military team.

Valdís has problems relating to people, she can like them, she knows that there are ways of expressing it, but she has little patience for the practice - her smiles are too short, and she flinches from strong emotional displays, although she can sometimes have bursts of generosity.

Systems Specialist

Age: 32

Genefixed human

Nationality: South African

Prior Experience: VeldtKorp information security

Skills/Assets

Soldier - trained by EDI in use of battlesuit, rifle, small team tactics

Expert in Information Systems Security

Trained in operation of surveillance and communications equipment and electronic countermeasures.

Genetic modifications - DNA repair, immune boost, genefixed, microgravity adapted.

Shadow of Marcus le Grange, her husband loaded into her Virtual Interface Implant (very much against regulations).



Soraya Mlambo la Grange

33 year old South African.

Soraya (the name is Iranian, like her grandmother) was born in Capetown, South Africa; both her parents were scientists, and a formative incident involving a family friend who was ruined by data theft lead to Soraya developing an interest in Information Systems Security.

Self trained, Soraya applied for a job at Ithemba Biotechnology by hacking into their surveillance system; she got hired, and after a couple of years was moved over to VeldtKorp, Ithemba's military applications sister company.

Soraya had a remarkable career in VeldtKorp, heading the IT security division and reorganizing it into a model of efficiency. Her special achievement was in designing and overseeing the set-up of on-site systems security during field tests, which sometimes involved military exercises and hazardous (and top-secret) weapons testing. But more importantly, at VeldtKorp Soraya met researcher Marcus la Grange, whom she later married.

However, three years after they were married, Marcus was involved in an accident that exposed him to an experimental virulent nano-weapon; he was hospitalized and struggled with his injuries for three months before deciding to upload as a ghost. In addition to this tragedy, Soraya was fired after it was discovered that she had tampered with surveillance recordings that showed that le Grange was at least partially responsible for the accident that lead to his death. Unemployed and facing considerable medical charges, Soraya accepted a job at EDI, which was recruiting computer security specialists for its operations in the asteroid belt. Marcus found employment in Canada, but Soraya keeps a shadow copy of his ghost loaded into her EDI Virtual Interface Implant.

Motivations

Soraya isn't a regular soldier, although EDI has trained her in squad operations. She is also very confident in her abilities and has a strong "take charge" attitude when it comes to her field of expertise, which she defines fairly broadly. In the field she will focus on establishing communications and coordinating reconnaissance and intelligence gathering efforts, and in securing her teams communications and data systems.

She does suffer from a certain attitude that rules do not apply to her, but so far she has usually proven that she knows what she's doing.