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# EXO SQUAD

WEIN  
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# EXO SQUAD™

NUMBER ZERO

THE OFFICIAL COMIC BOOK COMPANION TO THE HIT TELEVISION SHOW

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# PRELUDE

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WRITER PENCILLER INKERS LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF

## PROLOGUE:

IT WAS A GOLDEN AGE FOR ALL MANKIND.

BASED ON THE ANIMATED SERIES CREATED BY JEFF SEGAL, AND DEVELOPED BY WILL MELIGNIOT, ERIC LEWALD, ERIC SEMONES, MICHAEL TORRES, AND MARK HOFFMEIER.

THE EARTH KNEW NO HUNGER--

--NO WANT.

TERRA-FORMING HAD BEGUN ON VENUS...

MINING HAD BEGUN ON MARS...

THEN CAME THE GREAT REBELLION--

WAAAAHOOOM!

--AND THE HUMAN RACE WAS PRESSED INTO A NIGHTMARISH WAR OF A SCALE PREVIOUSLY UNIMAGINED.



MANKIND WAS SUDDENLY ATTACKED BY ITS OWN CREATIONS --



--THE NEO-SAPIENS--



--A RACE OF ARTIFICIALLY-CONCEIVED BEINGS BRED TO THRIVE IN THESE HARSH CLIMATES!

THESE NEO SAPIENS TOOK OVER THE MINING TOWNS OF MARS --



--AND OVERRAN MUCH OF VENUS.





BUT THE HUMANS WHO HAD  
CREATED THEM PROVED  
TOO MANY --



--AND TOO  
RESOURCE-  
FUL.



A NEW HUMAN WEAPON--  
THE EXO-FRAME--GAVE  
THEM AN ADVANTAGE THE  
NEO SAPIENS COULD NOT  
OVERCOME.



THE NEO SAPIEN FORCES ULTIMATELY  
SURRENDERED AT OLYMPUS MONS  
ON MARS, THE LARGEST VOLCANO IN  
THE SOLAR SYSTEM.



IN THE END, THE REBELLION  
CHANGED LITTLE FOR THE  
NEO SAPIENS...



BUT THEY  
NEVER  
FORGOT--

--OR  
FORGAVE.

**FIFTY YEARS LATER!**



ADMIRAL WINFIELD,  
INCOMING MESSAGE  
FROM ASIMOV  
COLONY, SIR!

THE EXO-CRUISER  
RESOLUTE, FLAGSHIP  
OF THE EXO-FLEET,  
IN TRANSIT BETWEEN  
MARS AND JUPITER.

IT'S A CODE RED, SIR--THEY  
SAY THEY'RE UNDER ATTACK BY  
PIRATES!



I'VE BEEN WAITING  
FOR SOMETHING LIKE  
THIS!

HELM, SET COURSE FOR  
ASIMOV-- FLANK SPEED!

STEPH, SCRAMBLE  
THE EXO-SQUADS!

AYE,  
SIR!

ON MY WAY,  
ADMIRAL!



COME ON, YOU GRUNTS--  
DOUBLE-TIME IT!

THERE ARE LIVES  
IN THE BALANCE!

LIEUTENANT J.T. MARSH, LEADER OF  
EXO-SQUAD ALPHA, FIRST FLIGHT.



WOLF  
BRONSKI,  
VETERAN  
DEEP  
SPACE ACE  
PILOT.

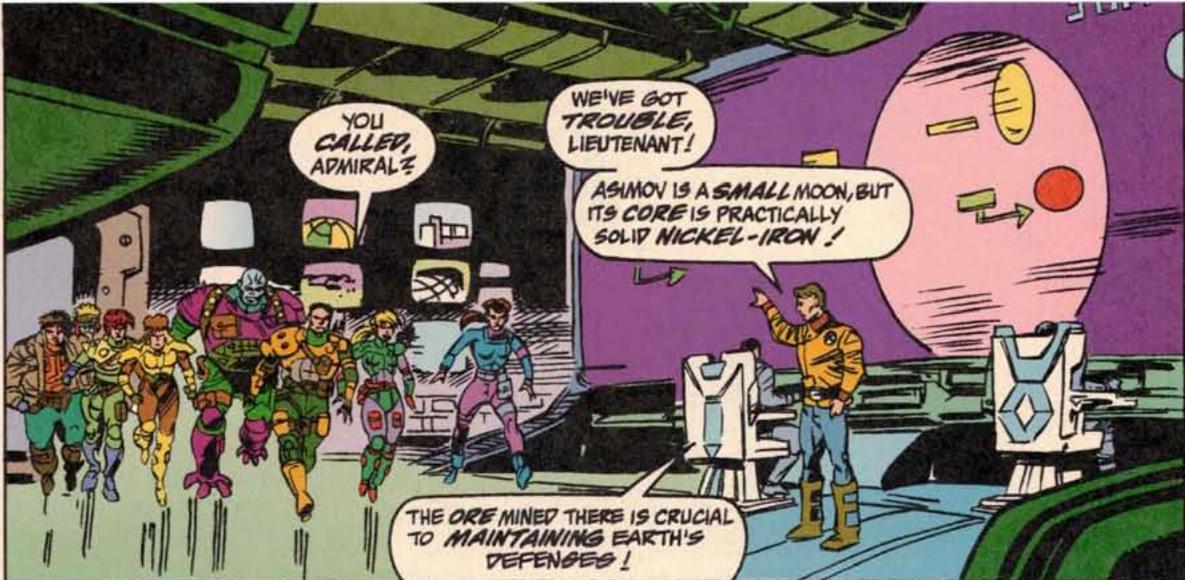
JUST ANOTHER CASE OF  
"HURRY-UP-AND-WAIT"  
IF YA ASK ME!



NOBODY DID  
ASK YOU,  
BRONSKI!--

--NOT THAT THAT'S EVER  
STOPPED YOU BEFORE!

SERGEANT  
RITA TORRES,  
SECOND-IN-  
COMMAND OF  
EXO-SQUAD  
ALPHA.



YOU CALLED, ADMIRAL?

WE'VE GOT TROUBLE, LIEUTENANT!

ASIMOV IS A SMALL MOON, BUT ITS CORE IS PRACTICALLY SOLID NICKEL-IRON!

THE ORE MINED THERE IS CRUCIAL TO MAINTAINING EARTH'S DEFENSES!



BUT, SIR, THE PIRATES AREN'T MINERS!

WHAT WOULD THEY WANT FROM ASIMOV?

LIEUTENANT NARA BURNS, RESOURCE TEAM MEMBER.



BECAUSE OF ITS IMPORTANCE, ASIMOV IS A VERY WELL-STOCKED COLONY.

AND OUTLAW PIRATES CAN'T JUST DROP BY THE LOCAL COMMISSARY TO PICK UP WHAT THEY NEED, LIEUTENANT.



THE RESOLUTE WILL CARRY YOU TO WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF ASIMOV.

FROM THERE ON, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!



WE'RE GETTING USED TO THAT, SIR.

ANY DATA ON THEIR ARMAMENT, ADMIRAL?



PRETTY MUCH THE USUAL, LIEUTENANT.

THE PIRATES' GREATEST WEAPON IS THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.

YES, SIR--HIT-AND-RUN ALL THE WAY!



WELL, JUST LET ME HIT 'EM, LOOTENANT--

--AN' THEY AIN'T GONNA BE IN ANY SHAPE T' RUN!



ADMIRAL, ASIMOV SAYS IT CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER, SIR!

SEVEN MINUTES AND COUNTING, SIR.

HOW LONG TILL WE'RE IN RANGE?

EXO-SQUAD, PREPARE TO LAUNCH!



E-FRAME LAUNCH BAY.

I WANT EVERYBODY IN FORM BEHIND LIEUTENANT MARSH IMMEDIATELY AFTER TAKEOFF, PEOPLE!

AND THAT INCLUDES YOU, BRONSKI! NO GRANDSTANDING THIS TIME, HEAR ME?



CLEAR AS A BELCH, SARGE.

HEY, MAGGIE--YOU FIX THIS NEURO-FIBULATOR?



I SAID I WOULD, DIDN'T I?

IT'S WORKING AT 113 PERCENT NOW, WOLF--SO STOP COMPLAINING!

MAGGIE WESTON, WEAPONS TECHNICIAN SPECIALIST.



RESOLUTE COMM-OP, THIS IS DELEON. HOW DO YOU READ ME?

LIKE YOU WERE SITTING IN MY EAR, HAND-SOME.

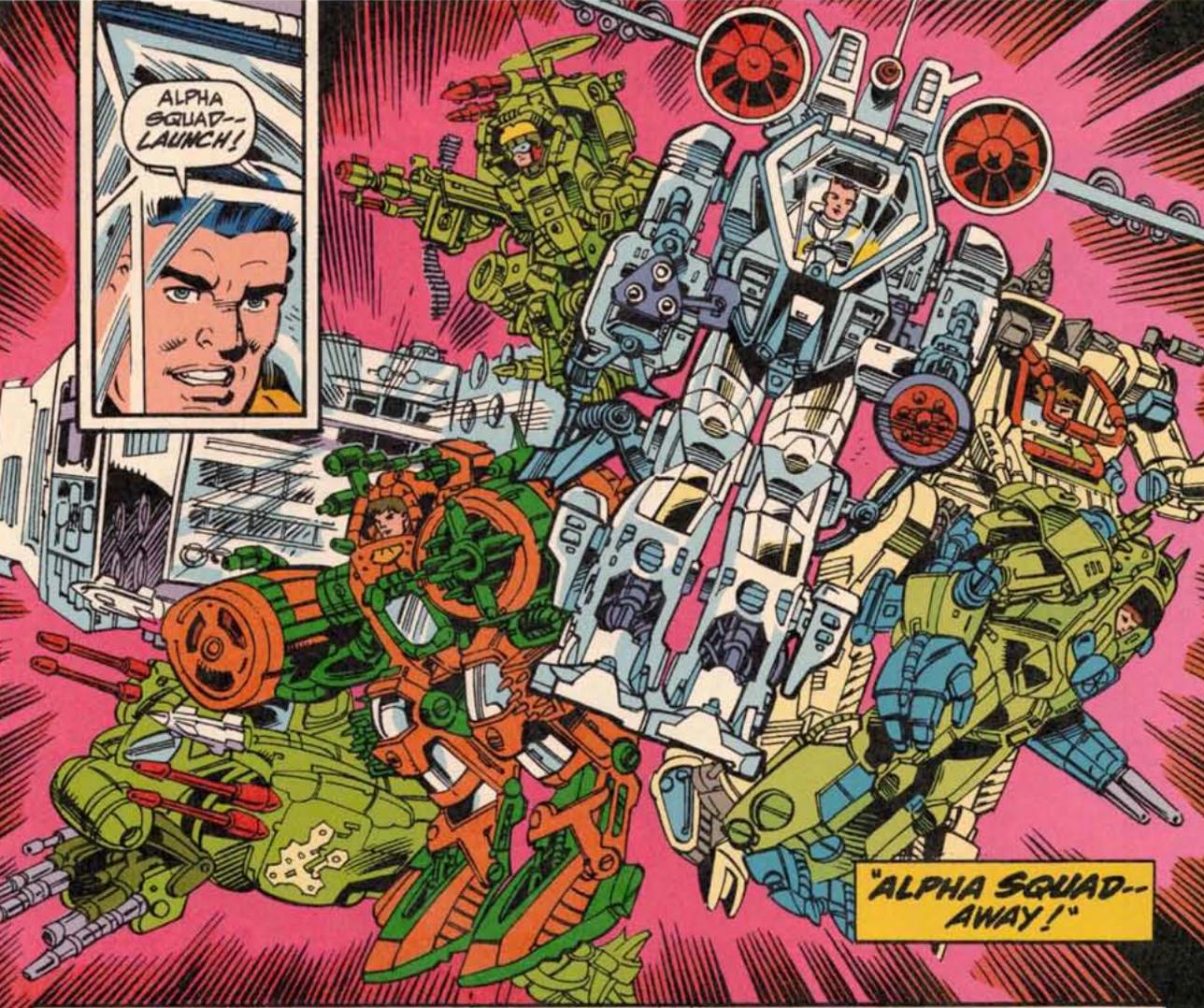
ALEC DELEON, INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.



READY, MARSALA?

CAREFUL, LIEUTENANT--TOO MUCH EAGERNESS CAN BE A DANGEROUS THING.

MARSALA, LOYAL NEO-SAPIEN ALLY.



ALPHA SQUAD--  
LAUNCH!

"ALPHA SQUAD--  
AWAY!"

I SCAN FOUR PIRATE  
VESSELS ON THE  
SURFACE, LIEUTENANT--  
AND FIVE MORE  
PATROLLING NEAR SPACE!

SIMBACCA CLAN,  
FROM THE LOOKS OF  
THEM!

LEFT FLANK, TAKE OUT  
THE FOUR ON THE  
GROUND!

RIGHT FLANK, FOLLOW  
ME! WE'LL TAKE  
OUT THE COVER!

CAREFUL, LIEUTENANT--  
THEY KNOW WE'RE COMING!

THEY'VE LOCKED  
ON TO US--

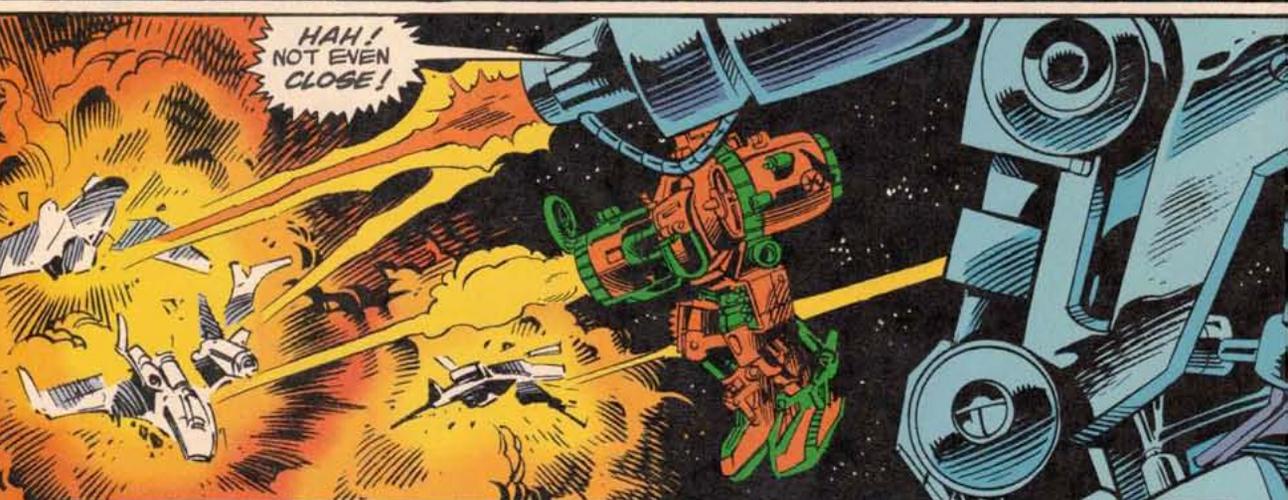
--LAUNCHING  
GAMMA  
VIPERS!



ACTIVATE CONFUSERS!



TAKE YER BEST SHOT NOW, SUCKERS!



HAH! NOT EVEN CLOSE!



INCOMING, PEOPLE!

CHOOSE YOUR TARGET CAREFULLY--



--AND GO FOR IT!

WHAP WHOOOM!



TORRES--BE CAREFUL!  
THAT SHARK STILL HAS TEETH!

AND I'M JUST THE DENTIST TO PULL THEM!

WHUD UD UD AH!



NICE SHOOTING, SERGEANT!

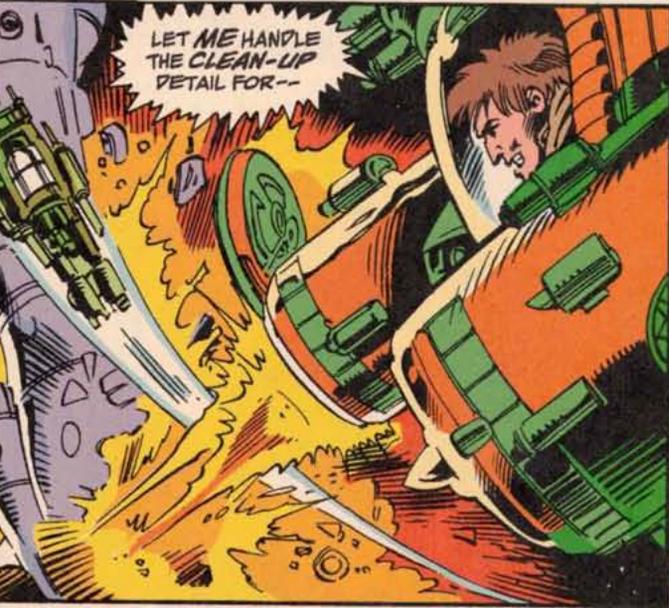
**THWAROOM!**

BANDIT AT TEN O'CLOCK LOW, LIEUTENANT!



NO! THEY'RE TIGHT ON OUR TAIL!

YOU JUST LEAD 'EM, KID!



LET ME HANDLE THE CLEAN-UP DETAIL FOR--



..YOW!

**THWANG!**



YOU OKAY, WOLF?

YEAH, J.T. -- TOP DRAWER!

AIN'T NOTHIN' WRONGS HERE MAGGIE CAN'T KISS AN' MAKE BETTER!

BETTER NOT LET HER HEAR YOU SAYING THAT!



THEY'RE TURNING TAIL!

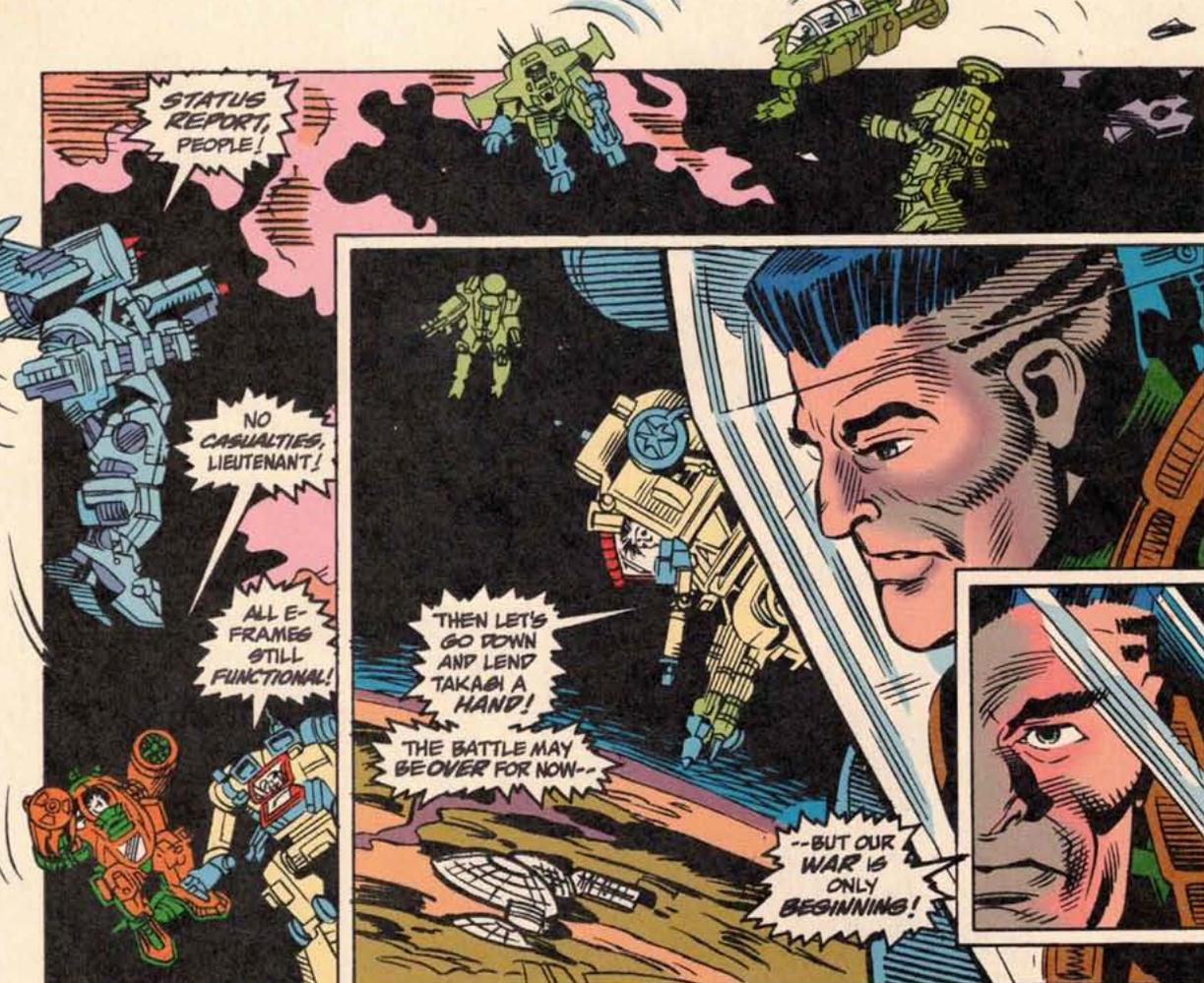
BUT WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ASIMOV COLONY?

GOTCHA, LOOTENANT!



BETTER NOT LET HER HEAR YOU SAYING THAT!

**THWANG!**



STATUS REPORT, PEOPLE!

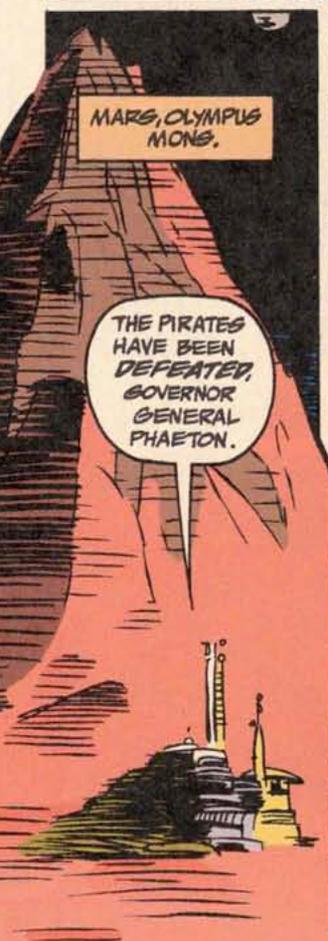
NO CASUALTIES, LIEUTENANT!

ALL E-FRAMES STILL FUNCTIONAL!

THEN LET'S GO DOWN AND LEND TAKASHI A HAND!

THE BATTLE MAY BE OVER FOR NOW--

--BUT OUR WAR IS ONLY BEGINNING!



MARS, OLYMPUS MONS.

THE PIRATES HAVE BEEN DEFEATED, GOVERNOR GENERAL PHAETON.



A TEMPORARY SETBACK AT WORST, LIVIA.

THESE HUMAN OUTLAWS-- THESE SO-CALLED PIRATES-- ARE DOING MOST OF OUR WORK FOR US--

--HELPING TO DEplete THE HUMANS' RESOURCES!

AND THE BEST PART OF IT ALL IS THAT EVEN THE PIRATES DO NOT KNOW IT IS WE WHO HAVE BEEN SUPPLYING THEM!

SOON NOW, WHEN HUMANITY'S RESOLVE IS AT ITS WEAKEST--

--WE NEO-SAPIENS WILL TAKE BACK WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS!



TO BE CONTINUED-- IN THE PAGES OF EXO SQUAD #1, ON SALE NEXT MONTH!



The year is 2119. Mankind had already begun to achieve its greatest dream, the conquest of space. To help it colonize planets and explore the stars, Mankind created the superpowerful Neosapiens. For a time, Neosapiens were content to aid their creators. Then they rebelled. Led by the brilliant, charismatic Phaeton, the Neosapiens seek to crush Mankind, destroy the renegade human Space Pirates, and make themselves the ruthless overlords of space. Only one group threatens the Neosapiens' mad dream of conquest and power -- the human freedom-fighting organization called Exoforce. And within this organization, one group is respected and feared above all others -- Exosquad. Led by Lt. J.T. Marsh, the heroic young men and women of Exosquad are Mankind's last hope. If they fail, Exoforce would be wiped out and Mankind destroyed. But they have vowed to fight until Mankind is free! Thus begins the saga of Exosquad.

Written by Len Wein, penciled by Joe Staton, and inked by Bill Anderson EXOSQUAD is the four-issue series based on the epic syndicated television animation series. Jeff Segal, President Universal Cartoon Studios, said, "Exosquad is the ultimate animation action adventures series. It has a lot of action and adventure and it's state of the art for television animation." Will Meugniot, Executive Producer, added that the epic-scope stories are among the most exciting and compelling ever done. "By the time you see the end of the thirteenth episode, you'll feel that you've read a novel," he said. "It's a very complex piece of craftsmanship. We're trying for a much more intense level of detail and color in the show. It has a much better special effects look than anything else I've worked on. There'll always be a cliffhanger. If you miss an episode, you'll be sorry." These facts, and a great new action figure toy line from Playmates help explain why Exosquad almost immediately became a fast-rising phenomenon after its syndicated TV debut in September, 1993.

Like the animation studio, Topps Comics assembled one of the most talented and creative teams to produce all-new

stories about Lt. J.T. Marsh and his fellow freedom fighters. Starting with EXOSQUAD #0, fans of Exosquad will discover how the Topps Comics creative team has taken the TV series' intense level of action and adventure to even greater heights of drama and excitement.

Though the bold freedom fighters of Exosquad are few in number, this disadvantage is far outweighed by their amazing E-Frames. The E-Frames are a breath-taking combination of weapons-packed battle armor and transportation. Once strapped into an E-Frame cockpit, the Exosquad member can transform the E-Frame into an incredibly mobile all-terrain walker, or an astonishingly swift space flyer. In addition the Exosquad member has at his or her command missiles, energy cannons and lasers that can destroy almost any defense and neutralize any enemy. That's the good news.

The bad news is that the Neosapiens have their own E-Frames as well as a vast military space armada. Still, with their E-Frames, the Exosquad has kept the Neosapiens' dream of conquest still just a dream.

The Neosapiens were "born" in the year 2040. Human scientists, led by the brilliant Dr. Kav Maginus, had succeeded in breeding a number of human "variants" -- mutations -- that were stronger and, in some cases, more intelligent than normal humans. These human mutations were called Neosapiens and were then cloned to create the legions necessary to work in hostile environments and extend humanity's exploration of space. For decades, the Neosapiens willingly followed the orders and directions of their human creators. Then the Neosapien called Phaeton was created. Establishing himself as the spokesman, then the leader, and finally the unquestioned ruler of the Neosapiens, Phaeton transformed the heretofore peaceful Neosapiens into an unstoppable military force. With unrivaled swiftness, Phaeton succeeded in conquering almost all Mankind. They key is "almost all." Phaeton will not rest until Exosquad is destroyed, and then he can claim to be the conqueror of all Mankind.

Now let's meet the members of Exosquad and some of their Neosapien enemies.

# EXO SQUAD





# NEOSAPIENS

## Shiva



**GOVERNOR GENERAL,  
EARTH OCCUPATION FORCE**

Home Town: Unknown  
and suspect

Because of his cruelty, Shiva is the most hated Neosapien on Earth. Shiva delights in war and all the destruction it brings. The truth about Shiva's birth is unknown, though it is whispered that he came from the same Neosapien birth "brood" as Phaeton. Whatever ambitions Shiva

harbors, he keeps to himself. Though one thing is certain, no one completely trusts him -- not even Phaeton.

## Typhon



**MINISTER OF NEOSAPIEN  
BATTLE FORCES, MARS**

Home Town: Mars Neosapien  
Birthing Center

A loyal and faithful ally of Phaeton, Typhon directs all aspects of the "Homeworlds" occupation. Typhon was charged with the responsibility of carrying out the "Homeworld" campaign of conquest, a task he performed with breathtaking swiftness and ruthless efficiency. Only the

name of Phaeton strikes more terror in the hearts of humans.

## Livanus



**NEOSAPIEN ORAL HISTORIAN**

Home Town: Mars  
Neosapien Birthing Center

Like Livia, Livanus is a member of Phaeton's inner circle of advisors. He has been entrusted with recording and keeping the "Living History" of the Neosapiens. Unlike almost all other Neosapiens, Livanus has a handicap. He is blind. When human scientists were breeding Neosapiens for superabilities the result for Livanus was

telepathy with the consequence of having no normal vision. Livanus also suffers from the affliction of having a highly-developed conscience. This at times places him at odds with Phaeton's plans for Mankind.

## Praetorius



**DIRECTOR OF NEOSAPIEN  
MINISTRY OF GENETICS,  
MARS**

Home Town: Mars Neosapien  
Birthing Center

Dedicated to the perfection of the Neosapien species, Praetorius the brilliant and ambitious Neosapien scientist who oversees the Ministry of Genetics. It is there, near the Martian city of Jullanus that new Neosapiens are "grown." Praetorius admires humans for what they have created, after all, without them there would be no Neosapiens. Nonetheless, he believes that the future belongs only to the Neosapiens.



# EXO SQUAD™



IN THE ULTIMATE  
BATTLE FOR  
CONTROL OF  
PLANET EARTH,  
MANKIND HAS  
ONLY ONE HOPE.

## EXO SQUAD™

#1 OF 3

THE SUPERTEAM  
OF THE FUTURE  
IS HERE TODAY

BY  
**LEN WEIN**  
**JOE STATON**  
AND  
**BILL  
ANDERSON**

BASED ON  
THE EXCITING  
NEW ANIMATED  
SERIES

32 PAGES  
FULL COLOR



ON SALE FEBRUARY

