

NAME: LORI KYLE

Record No FE-090-01

FACTION: Mercenary DOB: 06/14/3068 REGIMENT: Eridani Light Horse HAIR: Gray VEHICLE: Black Hawk EYES: Blue

Born in the same year as the Blakist Jihad, Lori was the daughter of career soldiers in the famed Eridani Light Horse mercenary unit, a proud legacy of the original Star League that had helped win the Clan War. As fate had it, the Light Horse were on the former Draconis Combine world of Dieron when the Blakists attacked, and a nuclear assault devastated much of the command staff, including Lori's parents. Adopted by surviving members of the Light Horse, Lori was raised in the decimated mercenary unit, trained to pilot a BattleMech as her parents had before her. She received her first BattleMech assignment, a modified Hatchetman, at age 23, and has served well with the Light Horse ever since.

Lori regards the Eridani Light Horse as the only family she's ever had, and fights with a fanatical devotion during

attacking her unit were attacking her personally. When acting on the offensive, however, her tactics are more reserved, as she frets constantly over the lives of the men and women she $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left(1\right)$ commands. Thus, she is reluctant to engage when the odds are too close. Once engaged in battle, however, as either attacker or defender, she fights with decisive action, working to deliver the swiftest victory with the fewest casualties among her troops. Any hesitation prior to the actual shooting seems to vanish completely, and she moves her 'Mech as if it were part of her own body. Her lead inspires the same level of commitment among her command.

any defensive operations with the unit, as if anyone

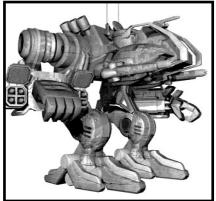
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Now over sixty years old, however, Lori's combat skills have begun to suffer from the ravages of time, and many among her command have begun to fear that the day that will soon come when she will be forced to step down and retire. Lori, in the meantime, insists that she is as $\ensuremath{\operatorname{spry}}$ as $\ensuremath{\operatorname{ever}}$ - an attitude $\ensuremath{\operatorname{few}}$ have the heart to challenge.

MECH: BLACK HAWK

Record No FE-090-02

Serial Number: NC797-09W Mass: 50 tons



Chassis: Type 3 Standard Endo Steel

Power Plant: 250XL Cruising Speed: 54 kph Maximum Speed: 86.4 kph Jump Jets: Grandthrust Mk Armor: Standard YM17

- Armament: 2 Series 1 Extended Range Large Lasers
- 4 Series 2 Extended Range Medium Lasers

Commentary

The Black Hawk is the workhorse medium-weight 'Mech of the Clans, with a solid performance profile that includes good overland speed, jumping capability, and usually a devastating array of weapons. Known among the Clans as the *Nova*, this 'Mech is a walking laser battery, capable of delivering a volley that can cripple or destroy many 'Mechs in one shot - though at the cost of extreme heat and almost guaranteed shutdown. During the Jihad, many elite units, including the Eridani Light Horse, were badly mauled, and as allied forces suffered from attrition, some were absorbed by those less damaged. In the case of NC797-09W, the Nova Cat force the 'Mech (and its warrior) had been attached to was virtually eradicated, leaving only a handful of survivors who were adopted by the Light Horse. Since joining the ELH's ranks, NC797-09W has received the utmost care, and has remained in near-mint condition. Lori Kyle, the sixth owner of the 'Mech since that day, has named it "Kitasha" after its previous owner, a friend of hers who fell in battle some years earlier.