

# Towns and Locations in the Active AOR (Oct. 6)

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# Port of Mehland

**Mehland Port** is a large, fortified harbor located on the western coast of Vandros-7. As one of the original strongholds of the Iron Star Union, Mehland has grown into the economic heart of the Union's operations, serving as the primary hub for trade, smuggling, and supply distribution across the archipelago. Its strategic importance has made it one of the most heavily defended locations on the planet.

## History

Originally established during the early days of Vandros-7's colonization, Mehland Port was a key trading center for the export of the planet's natural resources. Over the years, it evolved into a bustling commercial hub, supporting the local economy and serving as a gateway for interstellar trade. When the Iron Star Union formed in response to UEG exploitation, the port quickly became a central base of operations for the Union's activities.

With its deep harbors, extensive warehouses, and vast dockyards, Mehland provided the Union with a secure location to receive shipments, stockpile supplies, and launch operations. As the Union solidified its hold on Vandros-7, Mehland transformed into a self-sustaining economic fortress, critical to the Union's survival and expansion.

## Economic Role

Mehland Port is the lifeblood of the Iron Star Union's economy. The port manages the import and export of essential goods, including food, medical supplies, ammunition, and salvaged equipment. Its bustling market district is known for its underground trade in smuggled goods, including high-value technology and weapons.

Additionally, Mehland serves as a major processing center for resources extracted from Vandros-7's mines and salvage yards. Granite, metal ores, and repurposed technology flow through its warehouses, fueling the Union's military efforts and maintaining its financial stability. The revenue generated by Mehland's operations allows the Union to purchase weapons, equipment, and information from off-world sources, circumventing UEG blockades and restrictions.

## Defenses

Recognizing Mehland's crucial role, the Iron Star Union has heavily fortified the port against potential UEG and UNSC assaults:

- **Perimeter Fortifications:** Anti-armor emplacements, bunkers, and reinforced checkpoints guard all approaches to the port. Roads leading into Mehland are monitored, with hidden trap points to delay and weaken any advancing force.

- **Naval Defenses:** The harbor is patrolled by armed vessels and protected by sea mines, making it nearly impossible for unauthorized ships to enter without risking destruction. Union naval crews are highly trained in interception and defensive maneuvers, ensuring that Mehland remains secure.
- **Air Defense:** High-powered anti-aircraft batteries and jamming equipment have been installed throughout the port to thwart airstrikes, reconnaissance, and guided munitions. The high ground surrounding the port provides strategic vantage points for these defenses, creating a comprehensive anti-air network.
- **Manpower:** The port is manned by elite Union fighters, including hardened veterans trained in urban and maritime combat. They are supported by a well-organized logistics network that maintains a steady flow of supplies and reinforcements, keeping Mehland in a constant state of readiness.

## Strategic Importance

Mehland Port's location and fortifications make it the cornerstone of the Union's control over the western coast of Vandros-7. Its secure trade routes and fortified defenses enable the Union to sustain its military operations and extend its influence throughout the archipelago. The port also serves as a crucial point for coordinating smuggling operations and bypassing UEG blockades, allowing the Union to maintain contact with sympathetic groups and off-world allies.

## Current Status

As of the latest reports, Mehland Port remains firmly under Iron Star Union control. Despite increasing UEG and UNSC efforts to weaken Union strongholds, the port has withstood numerous attempts at infiltration and assault. The Union has doubled down on its defenses, reinforcing the port's perimeter and stepping up naval patrols to ensure its continued dominance in the region.

**Mehland Port** continues to stand as a symbol of the Union's resolve and resourcefulness. It is not just a logistical hub but a testament to the Union's ability to thrive despite the UEG's efforts to stifle their independence.

# Berg Airbase

**Berg Airbase** is a strategically located airfield situated on the northern reaches of Vandros-7. Initially established and operated by the UEG (United Earth Government) to support air superiority and logistics across the northern archipelago, the base has since been hastily abandoned, leaving behind a wealth of aircraft and equipment. Now lying in a state of partial ruin, Berg Airbase is a potential game-changer in the ongoing conflict between the Iron Star Union and UEG forces.

## History

Berg Airbase was constructed during the early colonial expansion of Vandros-7, designed to support aerial operations and facilitate rapid deployment across the northern industrial zones. It served as a vital hub for transporting goods, medical supplies, and personnel, while also housing a variety of aircraft capable of providing air cover and reconnaissance.

During the early phases of the current insurrection, Berg Airbase played a key role in UEG efforts to maintain control over the northern territories. However, as conflict intensified and Union forces pushed back against UEG outposts, the base was deemed unsustainable. In the ensuing chaos, UEG forces evacuated hastily, leaving behind a trove of aircraft, helicopters, and supplies that now lie scattered and unused across the tarmac.

## Current Status

Since the UEG's withdrawal, Berg Airbase has remained largely abandoned, with minimal presence from either UEG or Union forces. However, this status could change rapidly, given the significant assets still present at the site. The airbase is littered with hastily abandoned equipment, including:

- **Aircraft:** Several **D77-TC Pelican** dropships, **AV-14 Hornets**, and **SkyHawk VTOLs**, all in varying states of disrepair. While many are likely non-operational, some could be salvaged and restored with time and effort, potentially tipping the balance of air superiority in favor of the faction that gains control of them.
- **Helicopters:** A variety of transport and attack helicopters, including **UH-144 Falcons**, left behind during the evacuation. These could provide rapid deployment and close-air support capabilities, vital for any operations across the northern region.
- **Equipment and Supplies:** Hangers and storage facilities contain a mix of weapons, spare parts, and munitions, many of which are still usable. Fuel reserves, although partially depleted, could support limited flight operations if accessed.

## Strategic Importance

The current state of Berg Airbase presents both a risk and an opportunity. Its proximity to the northern archipelago makes it an ideal staging ground for air operations. If the Iron Star Union were

to secure the airbase and restore its aircraft, they could establish a significant air presence over the northern territories, challenging UEG and UNSC air superiority. Conversely, if UEG forces were to reclaim and reactivate the airbase, they could solidify control over the northern skies and bolster their counterinsurgency efforts.

With Union scouts occasionally reported in the vicinity, both the UEG and Iron Star Union are keenly aware of the base's potential. The question remains whether either side can secure Berg Airbase before the other and bring its assets back into the conflict.

## **Potential Threat to Air Superiority**

If left unattended, there is a growing risk that Union engineers and mechanics could restore some of the aircraft at Berg Airbase. This could drastically alter the aerial dynamics in the region, giving the Union an upper hand in operations around the northern archipelago. ONI analysts have flagged the airbase as a critical point of interest, warning that a significant delay in securing the area could lead to a loss of UEG air superiority.

# Sondre Fort

**Sondre Fort** is an old but strategically crucial naval gun station situated on the coast of Vandros-7's northwest island. Built during the early colonial expansion era, the fort was designed to protect the sea routes vital to Vandros-7's trade and defense. Despite its age, Sondre Fort remains fully operational and serves as a key defensive asset for controlling access to the **Berg Airbase** and the central region of the northwest island.

## History

Sondre Fort was originally constructed in the late 2400s as part of the UEG's coastal defense network on Vandros-7. Its primary function was to safeguard the sea lanes from pirates, smugglers, and other hostile forces, ensuring the smooth flow of goods and resources from Vandros-7's thriving ports. Over the years, the fort has undergone several upgrades, adapting to changing threats and technological advancements.

During the planet's descent into conflict and the rise of insurrectionist activities, Sondre Fort remained a steadfast guardian of the northwest island's coastal routes. Its location near the main sea channel leading to **Berg Airbase** made it a focal point for defending against naval incursions, ensuring that key supply lines could be maintained even in turbulent times.

## Current Status

Today, Sondre Fort is a fully active and heavily fortified military installation under the control of the **Iron Star Union**. The fort is equipped with an array of coastal defense weapons, including:

- **Naval Guns:** The fort's main batteries consist of old but reliable **MK28 naval guns**, capable of engaging surface targets at long range. These guns can provide a devastating deterrent to any sea-based approach, including supply ships and amphibious landing craft attempting to breach the sea route to **Berg Airbase**.
- **Anti-Aircraft Emplacements:** Sondre Fort is outfitted with **M85 anti-aircraft guns** to protect against aerial threats, particularly UNSC and UEG aircraft that might attempt to overfly the region or conduct naval bombardment.
- **Shoreline Defenses:** The fort features a network of bunkers, trenches, and minefields along the coast, creating a formidable barrier against potential amphibious assaults. Patrols regularly monitor the surrounding waters to identify and repel any intruding vessels.

## Strategic Importance

Sondre Fort serves a critical role in the ongoing conflict on Vandros-7. Its primary purpose is to secure the vital sea route leading to **Berg Airbase** and the central regions of the northwest island,

ensuring that Union supply lines remain open. This protection extends to troop movements, resupply efforts, and any maritime logistics required to support operations in the northern territories.

Control of Sondre Fort gives the Union a strategic advantage, enabling them to:

1. **Deny UEG Naval Access:** By dominating the sea lanes, the fort prevents UEG and UNSC forces from using naval routes to stage assaults on the northwest island, limiting their ability to project power in the region.
2. **Protect Supply Routes:** The fort's guns cover the primary maritime approaches, safeguarding critical shipments of ammunition, food, and other supplies destined for Union strongholds like **Berg Airbase**.
3. **Maintain Coastal Dominance:** The Union's ability to patrol and defend the coastline from Sondre Fort gives them control over a wide swath of the northwest island, reinforcing their operational capabilities.

## Current Activity

Reports indicate that Sondre Fort is fully staffed with seasoned Union gunners, engineers, and security personnel, maintaining a constant state of readiness. Regular drills are conducted to ensure the swift deployment of naval and anti-aircraft firepower in response to any incursions. The fort also serves as a coordination point for Union naval patrols in the surrounding waters, providing real-time intelligence and fire support as needed.

ONI analysts have flagged Sondre Fort as a high-priority target, recognizing that neutralizing its defenses could open up the sea routes for a UEG counteroffensive. However, the fort's heavy fortifications and skilled crew present a significant obstacle, making any direct assault a costly endeavor.

# "The Mountain"

"**The Mountain**" is the codename for a highly secretive former ONI (Office of Naval Intelligence) facility nestled deep within the rugged terrain of Vandros-7's central mountain range. Little is known about the installation's original purpose, as much of the information regarding its operations remains heavily redacted in UEG archives. The site's mysterious nature and the classified status of its activities have fueled speculation about its role in the ongoing conflict on Vandros-7.

## History

Constructed by ONI in the late **2510s**, "The Mountain" was established as a remote and fortified facility, purposefully isolated from the planet's populated regions. Initial records indicate that the facility was designed to house advanced research and reconnaissance operations, though the exact nature of these activities is obscured by layers of redaction and classified documentation.

According to scattered fragments of information, "The Mountain" was abandoned by ONI forces during the early stages of the conflict on Vandros-7. UEG and UNSC personnel withdrew from the site under unknown circumstances, leaving behind what many believe to be sensitive equipment and data. Since then, "The Mountain" has been subject to rumors and speculation, ranging from tales of advanced weapons testing to alleged Forerunner technology studies.

## Current Status

Despite its abandonment, "The Mountain" has maintained an aura of impenetrability. Its entrances are sealed with blast doors and reinforced by layers of security systems, some of which still appear to be active. Occasional patrols have reported seeing automated defenses along the outer perimeter, suggesting that remnants of ONI's security protocols remain operational.

Scouts from the Iron Star Union have cautiously approached "The Mountain," but their efforts to breach its inner workings have so far proven unsuccessful. The facility's outer structures show signs of wear, yet the absence of any overt activity has led to increased intrigue about what might still be hidden within its depths.

## Purpose and Speculation

The true purpose of "The Mountain" remains a matter of speculation. All official documentation retrieved from UEG archives is extensively redacted, with only vague references to "**Project Sable**" and "**Deep Veil Reconnaissance**" – both projects that remain classified under ONI's highest security protocols. This veil of secrecy has led to several theories among both the Union and independent analysts:



1. **Advanced Weapon Testing:** Some believe that "The Mountain" was used for the development and testing of experimental weaponry, potentially including energy-based weapons or AI-controlled defense systems.
2. **Forerunner Research:** Given Vandros-7's suspected connections to Forerunner artifacts, it is widely speculated that ONI utilized "The Mountain" for the study of ancient technology, hoping to reverse-engineer discoveries for military applications.
3. **Surveillance and Espionage:** Others suggest that the facility was a hub for surveillance operations, with sophisticated equipment designed to monitor insurgent activity across the archipelago and gather intelligence on Union movements.

# Sjoskogen and the Refugee Camp

**Sjoskogen** is a small, remote village situated deep within the forested regions of Vandros-7. Nestled along the eastern shore of a secluded fjord, the village has long been known for its quiet, self-sufficient lifestyle, surrounded by dense woodlands and frigid waters. In recent years, however, Sjoskogen has transformed into a sanctuary for displaced civilians and serves as the de facto headquarters for the **Silent Path**, an enigmatic faction dedicated to preserving the natural landscape of Vandros-7 and resisting the exploitation wrought by ongoing conflicts.

## The Refugee Camp

Adjacent to the village, a large refugee camp has grown amidst the trees. The camp houses civilians fleeing the violence between the UEG-backed forces, the Iron Star Union, and various other factions operating on Vandros-7. Makeshift tents and shanties stretch across the forest floor, blending with the natural surroundings as their occupants strive to remain hidden from prying eyes.

While the conditions in the camp are harsh, the residents have worked together to establish a semblance of community, building communal kitchens, medical tents, and schooling for the children. Supplies are scarce, with the residents relying on foraging, fishing, and the occasional support from sympathizers to survive. Despite its hasty construction, the camp has become a beacon of refuge for those seeking to escape the relentless conflict consuming the rest of the planet.

## Silent Path Headquarters

Sjoskogen and its surrounding forest serve as the main base of operations for the **Silent Path**, a faction known for its secrecy and commitment to non-violent resistance. Composed mainly of environmentalists, displaced farmers, and former miners, the Silent Path opposes both the UEG's and Iron Star Union's activities, which they believe are destroying Vandros-7's natural beauty and resources.

- **Leadership:** The faction is led by a council of elders and experienced environmental activists who prioritize the welfare of the refugees and the preservation of the local ecosystem. They maintain strict neutrality, refusing to ally with the warring factions that threaten their way of life.
- **Operations:** The Silent Path operates quietly, using guerrilla tactics to disrupt mining, logging, and other activities they see as harmful to the environment. While they avoid direct confrontation, they are known to sabotage machinery, plant traps along deforested

routes, and assist refugees in escaping conflict zones.

- **Security:** The village and camp are well-hidden in the forest, with natural camouflage and a network of sentries who monitor the surrounding areas. The Silent Path's defenders are skilled in using the forest to their advantage, employing traps, signal systems, and stealth to ward off intruders. They have adopted a "leave no trace" policy, ensuring that their presence remains undetected.

## Strategic Importance

Sjoskogen and the refugee camp represent more than just a place of shelter; they embody the ideals of those seeking peace amidst the chaos of Vandros-7. The Silent Path's neutrality and focus on environmental preservation have garnered the sympathy of some local civilians, making them a key player in the conflict's social landscape. Their knowledge of the terrain and the natural resources around Sjoskogen also make them valuable to both the Union and UEG forces.

# Grev PT Grounds

**Grev PT Grounds** is a key training facility operated by the **Iron Star Union** on Vandros-7. Located deep within a secluded forested valley on the northwest island, this site is designed to prepare Union recruits for the harsh realities of combat against UEG forces and their allies. The facility plays a vital role in transforming raw recruits into disciplined soldiers capable of defending Union-held territories and advancing their cause.

## History

Grev PT Grounds was originally part of an old Colonial Military Authority (CMA) outpost, abandoned when UEG resources were reallocated to the war against the Covenant. Following the rise of the Iron Star Union, Union forces repurposed the grounds into a training center to bolster their military strength. Over time, it evolved from a basic drill site into a full-fledged training compound, providing comprehensive combat and survival training tailored to Vandros-7's challenging environments.

## Strategic Importance

Grev PT Grounds plays a central role in sustaining the Union's fighting capability. The facility not only trains new recruits but also serves as a refresher course for seasoned fighters returning from the front lines. Its location in the dense forests of the island provides natural concealment, making it difficult for UEG forces to detect and disrupt the training activities.

Securing Grev PT Grounds has become a priority for Union Command, as the base is pivotal to their strategy of cultivating a dedicated, well-prepared fighting force. The facility's presence also boosts the morale of Union forces, serving as a symbol of their self-sufficiency and defiance against UEG control.

## Current Status

While the UEG and UNSC forces are aware of the existence of Union training sites, the exact location and layout of Grev PT Grounds remain unknown to them due to its remote placement and strict operational security. Union scouts patrol the surrounding woods constantly, monitoring for any signs of enemy movement and maintaining the secrecy of the training operations.

# Kanalen Bay

**Kanalen Bay** is the largest and most populous town on the northwestern island of Vandros-7, known for its deep-seated loyalty to the Iron Star Union. Nestled along a sheltered bay, the town has grown into a crucial hub for Union activities, supporting both the local population and the broader Union's military and logistical operations. With its staunchly Union-aligned residents and strategic location, Kanalen Bay plays a vital role in the ongoing conflict against UEG forces.

## History

Kanalen Bay has its roots in the early colonial days of Vandros-7 when settlers were drawn to the area's rich fishing waters and dense forests. Over time, it developed into a bustling port town, serving as a commercial hub for traders, fishermen, and local artisans. When the Union movement began to take shape, Kanalen Bay was quick to align with the cause, rejecting UEG interference and taxation that threatened the town's way of life.

As the conflict on Vandros-7 escalated, Kanalen Bay transitioned from a peaceful coastal settlement to a key Union stronghold. Its residents, united by a common disdain for UEG exploitation, rallied to support the Union's struggle for independence. Today, the town embodies the spirit of Union resistance, with nearly every household contributing in some way to the ongoing efforts.

## Geography and Layout

Situated on a natural bay with steep cliffs on either side, Kanalen Bay is protected from harsh ocean winds and prying eyes, making it an ideal location for Union operations. The town sprawls along the shoreline, with narrow streets winding up the surrounding hills, providing natural defense points and lookout positions.

Key areas within the town include:

- **The Harbor District:** The heart of Kanalen Bay, bustling with fishing boats, small freighters, and Union patrol craft. The harbor serves as a landing point for supplies smuggled in from the surrounding islands and the open sea. Warehouses along the docks are used to store and distribute goods to support Union forces.
- **Market Square:** Despite the ongoing conflict, the town's market remains active. Union loyalists trade local produce, fish, and handcrafted goods, keeping the local economy running. The market also doubles as a hub for exchanging information and recruiting new supporters to the Union cause.
- **Residential Quarters:** The homes of Kanalen Bay's inhabitants, many of whom are staunch Union supporters. These neighborhoods have become a bastion of Union loyalty, with locals frequently volunteering for labor, surveillance, and defense duties.

# Strategic Importance

Kanalen Bay is more than just a town; it is a vital logistical and strategic asset for the Iron Star Union. Its well-protected bay allows for the discreet arrival and departure of supply ships, evading UEG blockades and surveillance. The town's loyal population provides a steady stream of manpower, intelligence, and resources to fuel Union operations across the northwestern island.

The Union has heavily fortified Kanalen Bay to safeguard its critical role:

- **Coastal Defenses:** The natural cliffs surrounding the bay are equipped with lookout posts and fortified gun emplacements, ready to repel naval or aerial assaults. Anti-aircraft batteries are positioned on high ground to ward off UNSC air patrols.
- **Local Militia:** Kanalen Bay's inhabitants have formed a civilian militia, trained and organized by Union military advisers. These local defenders patrol the town's outskirts and maintain a watchful eye on the sea, ensuring early detection of any UEG advances.

## Economy and Daily Life

Despite its militarized state, Kanalen Bay has managed to preserve elements of daily life for its residents. Fishing remains the primary livelihood for many families, with boats heading out to sea under the protection of Union patrols. Small-scale agriculture on the hillsides and trading at the market square help sustain the town's food supply.

The town also serves as a center for Union propaganda, fostering a sense of community and resistance among its people. Public gatherings and speeches are common, reinforcing the ideals of independence and self-determination. Schools and public spaces have been repurposed to support the war effort, educating the next generation in Union ideology while providing essential services to the populace.

## Current Status

Kanalen Bay is firmly under Union control and is regarded as one of the most fortified and loyal towns on Vandros-7. Despite repeated attempts by UEG forces to destabilize the region, the town's natural defenses and the fierce resolve of its inhabitants have kept it secure. Surveillance from UEG forces and ONI operatives has increased, but so far, direct assaults on Kanalen Bay have been met with staunch resistance.

# Jarlsby Barracks

**Jarlsby Barracks** is an isolated military installation located on the outskirts of dense forestland in the northern region of Vandros-7. Originally constructed as a standard training and housing facility for the Colonial Military Authority (CMA), the site has fallen into the hands of the Iron Star Union and is now believed to be serving a new, more controversial purpose. Recent intelligence suggests that Jarlsby Barracks has been repurposed as a temporary holding site for prisoners of war (POWs) captured by Union forces during the ongoing conflict.

## History

Jarlsby Barracks was established decades ago as a CMA outpost designed to support local military operations, including training exercises and housing for garrisoned forces. During the initial stages of the Iron Star Union uprising, the facility was abandoned by the CMA as resources were pulled to defend more strategically vital locations. Seizing the opportunity, Union forces quickly occupied the barracks, adapting it to fit their logistical and operational needs.

The barracks served as a base of operations and supply depot for Union forces moving through the northern territories. However, as skirmishes between the Union and UEG-backed forces intensified, the barracks' role appeared to shift toward a more ominous function: detaining captured enemy combatants.

## Rumored Use as a POW Camp

Recent reports from UEG and UNSC intelligence indicate that **Jarlsby Barracks** may be operating as a temporary POW camp. Intercepted communications and testimonies from escaped prisoners suggest that Union forces have been holding UEG soldiers, suspected informants, and other detainees within the barracks' confines. The camp is believed to serve as a waystation, where prisoners are processed and interrogated before potentially being transferred to more permanent Union facilities or used as bargaining chips in negotiations.

Key rumored features of the facility include:

- **Makeshift Holding Cells:** Intelligence indicates that the Union has converted old storage rooms and bunkhouses into makeshift cells. Detainees are reportedly held under minimal conditions, with basic rations and restricted movement. Guards are drawn from Union militia forces and are known to be vigilant in their duty to prevent escapes.
- **Interrogation Chambers:** There are unverified reports of small rooms within the barracks used for questioning prisoners. These chambers are believed to serve the Union's need to extract information on UEG troop movements, supply routes, and strategic plans.

- **Limited Medical Care:** Some sources suggest that medical facilities within the barracks are rudimentary, with only minimal care provided to POWs. This has raised concerns among UEG humanitarian observers, who fear for the wellbeing of captured personnel.

## Strategic Importance

The location of Jarlsby Barracks makes it an ideal site for the Union's suspected operations. Nestled within the northern forests, it is far from major UEG and UNSC strongholds, making any direct assault difficult and risky. The surrounding terrain offers natural cover, allowing the Union to move prisoners in and out with a low risk of detection.

By operating a temporary POW camp, the Union gains a tactical advantage, using prisoners for intelligence gathering and as leverage in their ongoing struggle against UEG forces. Furthermore, the existence of such a facility serves as a psychological tool, demonstrating the Union's ability to not only resist UEG military efforts but also capture and detain their personnel.

## Current Status

The UEG and UNSC have identified **Jarlsby Barracks** as a point of interest and are actively seeking more concrete intelligence about its operations. However, the Union has maintained a tight security perimeter around the facility, with scouts and sentries regularly patrolling the surrounding woods. Recent reconnaissance flights have been unable to gather detailed imagery due to both natural cover and the presence of anti-air defenses nearby.

While the Iron Star Union officially denies the use of Jarlsby Barracks as a POW camp, their tight-lipped stance and the facility's heightened security suggest otherwise. For now, the true nature of Jarlsby Barracks remains shrouded in mystery, contributing to the ever-growing list of concerns for UEG command as they attempt to counter the Union's expanding influence on Vandros-7.

## Humanitarian Concerns

Rumors surrounding the barracks' use as a POW camp have sparked concerns among neutral parties and humanitarian groups on Vandros-7. Calls for independent inspection and oversight have gone unanswered by the Union, further fueling speculation about the conditions and treatment of detainees held within its walls.