

# Iron Star Union

The **Iron Star Union** is an insurrectionist faction operating on Vandros-7, primarily in the northern archipelago. Composed of former scrappers, laborers, and other disgruntled workers whose union was dissolved by the UEG, the Iron Star Union has evolved into a well-organized militant group opposing UEG and UNSC influence on the planet. Driven by deep-seated grievances and a desire for self-determination, the Union seeks to control Vandros-7's valuable resources and establish autonomy free from UEG interference.

## Origins

The Iron Star Union traces its origins to the *Vandros Salvage Workers' Union* (VSWU), which represented the scrappers, miners, and other laborers working on Vandros-7. For years, the VSWU advocated for fair working conditions and protections against exploitation by corporate interests and UEG policies. However, with the UEG's increasing need for resources to support the ongoing Human-Covenant War, the union was forcibly dissolved in **2529**. The UEG claimed that the move was necessary to streamline resource extraction and meet wartime demands, but many workers viewed it as an attack on their livelihoods and rights.

In the wake of the VSWU's collapse, a faction of former union members banded together, initially to protest and seek the restoration of their rights. When diplomatic efforts failed, and as UEG policies grew increasingly harsh, this group radicalized, forming the Iron Star Union. Naming themselves after the rusted machinery they once operated, the Union adopted the symbol of an iron star to represent their resolve and struggle against UEG domination.

## Ideology

The Iron Star Union is grounded in a populist, anti-UEG ideology that emphasizes workers' rights, autonomy, and local control over Vandros-7's resources. They argue that the UEG has sacrificed the interests of frontier workers in favor of corporate profits and the war effort. The Union's members believe that Vandros-7's wealth should be harnessed to benefit its residents, not shipped off-world to support the UEG's distant and seemingly indifferent leadership.

The Union rejects UEG taxation, regulations, and UNSC military presence on the planet, advocating for self-governance and a local economy free from what they see as exploitation. While not explicitly aligned with other insurrectionist movements in the Outer Colonies, the Iron Star Union shares similar grievances and has been known to cooperate with outside factions when it serves their goals.

## Structure and Organization

The Iron Star Union is organized into semi-autonomous cells, each responsible for specific regions of Vandros-7's northern archipelago. These cells coordinate through a central council known as the *Iron Council*, which sets strategic objectives, allocates resources, and oversees larger operations. The council is composed of former union leaders, seasoned scrappers, and community organizers who have transitioned into military and political roles within the Union.

## Operations and Activities

The Iron Star Union engages in a range of operations designed to disrupt UEG control, gather resources, and fortify their presence on Vandros-7. Their primary activities include:

- **Sabotage:** The Union targets UEG infrastructure, including power lines, communication networks, and transport routes, to weaken UEG authority and create an atmosphere of instability.
- **Smuggling:** Utilizing their extensive knowledge of Vandros-7's terrain and waterways, the Union runs smuggling operations to bring in supplies, weapons, and occasionally high-value salvaged technology from other insurrectionist groups.
- **Salvage:** The Union continues to operate salvage yards in secret, repurposing old UNSC and Covenant technology to bolster their military capabilities. Their technicians are adept at modifying plasma weapons, shielding systems, and communication devices for Union use. **ONI considers this their most grave infraction.**
- **Propaganda:** The Union conducts propaganda campaigns aimed at recruiting new members and swaying local sentiment. They emphasize themes of workers' rights, self-determination, and resistance against UEG exploitation, often disseminated through intercepted radio broadcasts and printed leaflets.

## Territory and Key Strongholds (Updated for Oct 5.)

The Iron Star Union exerts its influence primarily in the northern archipelago of Vandros-7, where they have established several strongholds and areas of activity:

- **Langoya Radar Station:** The Union's primary intelligence hub, used to intercept UEG communications, monitor naval movements, and conduct electronic warfare. The station is heavily fortified and guarded, serving as both a strategic asset and a symbol of Union defiance.
- **Ellisoya (Status Unknown):** Rumors suggest that the Union may have taken control of the Ellisoya Disciplinary Barracks, using it as a prison for UEG personnel or a training ground for new recruits. However, the exact status of Ellisoya remains unconfirmed.

## Relationship with Other Factions

The Union has a complex relationship with other groups on Vandros-7:

- **UEG and UNSC:** The Iron Star Union views the UEG as an occupying force and the UNSC as its enforcer. They actively resist both through sabotage and direct confrontation, seeking to undermine UEG operations and establish control over critical infrastructure.

- **Steel Hands:** Once part of the same labor force, the Union now sees the Steel Hands as traitors who have sided with the UEG. Skirmishes between the two groups are common, particularly near strategic locations like Midjordet and the Langgrunn Power Plant.
- **ONI:** Despite ONI's efforts to monitor and counter Union activities, the faction remains elusive due to its decentralized structure and local support.

## Local Support and Sentiment

The Iron Star Union enjoys varying degrees of support among the population of Vandros-7, particularly in areas historically neglected or exploited by the UEG. Towns like **Langgrunn** and **Langoya** harbor sympathizers who view the Union as a force fighting for their rights and autonomy. However, the Union's methods, including sabotage and smuggling, have also led to fear and resentment among residents wary of UEG reprisals and the potential for escalating conflict, particularly in **Kilen**.

## Current Status and Objectives

Currently, the Iron Star Union is focused on consolidating its control over the northern archipelago, fortifying key strongholds, and disrupting UEG operations on the central island. Their ultimate goal is to force the UEG to cede control of Vandros-7, allowing the Union to establish an independent, self-governed society. With access to salvage operations and the remnants of Covenant technology, the Union believes it can withstand UEG counterattacks and maintain a sustainable resistance.

The UEG and ONI view the Iron Star Union as a significant threat to stability on Vandros-7, particularly due to their control of strategic assets like the Langoya Radar Station and their ability to disrupt communication and supply lines. Plans for potential operations to neutralize the Union are under consideration, but the faction's entrenched position and local support make such efforts complex and risky.

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