

CRUSADER: NO REGRET

HISTORY.DOC

NOTE: Anything in italics is based on material gathered from research.

Lunar Mining Cartel (LMC) History:

The first lunar mining base (Darkside) was originally established in **Mare Nubium* at the end of the 21st century by a group of multi-national corporations. As Orbiting Production Platforms became necessary for the zero-gravity production of super conductor material, as well as the production of neural circuitry, so to grew the need of extra terrestrial prefabricated construction materials. The moon not only provided an excellent source for such raw materials for the platforms, but with the discovery of Di-corealium deposits, the lunar base had the potential to become an economic power house.

Seemingly a rich resource of materials, lunar mining ventures had their drawbacks and never reached their full potential. Though ferruginous and precious metals were easily surfaced mined, refined, and transported to the orbiting platforms at the Lagrangian points, the true mineral wealth, Di-corealium, was never totally exploited. Due to the harmful effects of Di-Cor, it was most impractical to mine and process the ore, and still turn a healthy profit for the parent corporation. Mining unions lobbied for extremely high wages and benefits for their employers due to the toxicity of the ore.

That is, until the formation of the WEC. In 2050, after the formation of the World Economic Consortium, the lunar mining bases came under the direct control of the newly established Lunar Mining Cartel. Under the control of the LMC, a deal was arranged through the WEC and a mutually beneficial arrangement was struck with the Security Cartel. The Lunar Miner Workers Union was broken, and the work force was replaced with inmates from individual prison franchises. With a cheap, and bountiful work force, Di-corealium as an energy source became a profitable enterprise.

**Mare Nubiun is known for its concentration of radioactive elements even today.*

Di-corealium:

History: Di-Corealium, or Di-Cor as it is most commonly referred to as, was first discovered late in the 20th century during the United State's Apollo moon landings. Though commonly labeled as, "trace element," Dr-Cor was *found among the most unusual Apollo samples known as KREEP, (K standing for potassium, REE for rare earth elements, and P for phosphorus,) known for its high concentration of radioactive elements.* Unfortunately, due to the lack of funding after the Apollo program was canceled, the study of the element as a potential energy source was left undiscovered.

Di-Cor's true potential was not realized until it was separated and isolated by a Dr. Brindel Krycheiv working with moon rocks collected through the CCCP's unmanned moon missions. Though his work was lost after the fall of the Soviet Empire for 64 years, his work is credited with the development of cold fusion as a viable energy source.

Location: Di-Cor is an material that is formed by the combination of many rare elements along with a high degree of gamma radiation. Due to the earth's protective atmosphere, Di-corealium is only found off-world. Though it has been discovered on many asteroids within the solar system, the largest known deposits have been found to in the top layer of the lunar surface, with some deposits descending to a dept of a quarter of a kilometer.

Uses: Due to its proximity, the Earth consumes the majority of lunar Di-Cor in the 1,013 various cold fusion reactors around the globe. In its pure form, Di-Cor is the fuel in the fusion's Sub-Atomic Exciter Chambers (SAECs) that starts and perpetuates the fusion reaction in the Ion Gathering Vessel. Though Di-Cor is very radioactive in its pure form, once it has broken down, it is only as dangerous as spent uranium from primitive atomic reactors. Used Di-Cor is safely stored away from the populous in hollowed out salt-domes in the surface of the Earth.

Mining: The ore is extracted, separated, and refined while on the moon. It is then shipped aboard freighters in shielded containers to various locations throughout the solar system. Like most of the metals on the moon, Di-Cor is "collected" rather than mined, since the lunar composition is not metal based as is the earth's. *Most of the mined elements are located in the first quarter of the lunar crust having been deposited there by a billion years of meteoritic bombardment, rather than in formation of the moon's crust.*

Dangers: Because of the high release of gamma charged particles from its natural decay, Di-Cor deleterious effects on organic matter are greater than those of plutonium in its refined form. Exposure to even the smallest amounts of pure Di-Cor will result in death within 72 hours. Exposure to raw Di-Cor ore is much different. Due to its scarcity, (one gram per 700 tons of lunar soil) Di-Cor's effects are less noticeable. It will only cause genetic mutations, and organ malignancies only after months of repeated exposure. Curiously, due to the electromagnetic fratricide caused by Di-Cor's natural decay, equipment containing super-conductivity elements, (such as Nueral-Synapes Memory circuits) are practically useless. No ARTIES (Artificial Intelligent servomechs) are allowed in the mines, storage areas and the fusion reactors where Di-Cor is housed do to its ability to scramble their Neural-Nets.