

DEATHWATCH FIRST FOUNDING™



ROLEPLAYING IN THE GRIM
DARKNESS OF THE 4¹ST MILLENNIUM

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INTRODUCTION

The First Founding Legions were crafted by the Emperor himself in the image of his twenty Primarchs. They forged the Imperium in bloody combat as they waged the Great Crusade across the galaxy. Many Space Marines fell to the malignant seduction of Chaos during the Horus Heresy, but those that stayed loyal formed the base from which all Space Marine Chapters would be created. Those Chapters that still hold the loyalist Legions' names and colours are the oldest and the most revered of all the Adeptus Astartes.

The strong heritage of the First Founding Chapters is important for those Battle-Brothers who have been seconded to the service of the illustrious Deathwatch. For them, as with all Space Marines, there is little distinction between the identity of self, and that of the Chapter. A Space Marine's Chapter is their family, their heritage, and their home. As they serve the Deathwatch, Battle-Brothers leave their right shoulder pad with its Chapter markings, proudly displaying the colours of their home Chapter. Even the mysterious Black Shields, who have forsaken their Chapter's identity by blacking out their right shoulder pad—leaving no identifying marks as to their progenitor Chapter, are still inheritors of its gene-seed and everything it entails.

Those Space Marines seconded to the Deathwatch in the Jericho Reach have many opportunities to fight alongside Battle-Brothers of other First Founding Chapters, as well as their progenitors, and demonstrate what makes each Chapter unique. From the martial prowess of the Ravenwing of the Dark Angels Chapter to the wisdom of the Wolf Priest of the Space Wolves, the fighting traditions of each brotherhood of Space Marines come together to make the Deathwatch stronger.

WHAT'S IN THIS BOOK?

FIRST FOUNDING goes into detail on the nine Chapters directly formed from the loyalist Space Marine Legions, detailing new rules from solo modes to new advanced specialities. It also explores the background of the nine Traitor Legions and their fall to the seduction of the Ruinous Powers. Later chapters provide new wargear and rules for Battle-Brothers to have followers, ensuring that the players' Kill-team is extremely diverse and prepared to take on the fiercest foes the Jericho Reach has to offer.

CHAPTER I: HONOUR THE CHAPTER

This chapter explores the final four Chapters from the First Founding not discussed in previous DEATHWATCH Rulebooks. Here you will find the cold and calculating Iron Hands, the guileful Raven Guard, the dutiful Salamanders, and the savage White Scars. This section provides new rules for players to create a Battle-Brother from one of these celebrated Chapters.

CHAPTER II: CHAPTERS OF THE DEATHWATCH

Delving deeper into the other First Founding Chapters originally outlined in the DEATHWATCH core Rulebook and RITES OF BATTLE, this chapter provides greater details on their compelling pasts as well as new Advanced Specialities for characters of those Chapters to better hunt the vile xenos. From Wolf Scouts to Librarian Dreadnoughts, players will find a plethora of new options for their Battle-Brothers.

CHAPTER III: THE TRAITOR LEGIONS

This chapter explores the tumultuous pasts of the Space Marine Legions that betrayed The Emperor during the Horus Heresy and turned to the Ruinous powers of Chaos. Here you will find background information on the nine Traitor Legions and profiles for their more powerful members operating in the Jericho Reach.

CHAPTER IV: WARGEAR

Providing players with access to new and varied Chapter Wargear, this chapter guarantees that each Battle-Brother will be fully equipped and prepared to represent his Chapter amongst the ranks of the Deathwatch. This chapter also describes followers—loyal servants and warriors that accompany the Battle-Brothers on their mission, lending their unique aid to the Kill-team. With these rules, players can build up an entire retinue under their command to lead into the field as they embark on dangerous missions in the Reach.

CHAPTER V: THE CHAPTER IS ALL

This chapter delves into the complex relationship between Chapters and the Deathwatch, as well as exploring intra-Chapter relationships within the Jericho Reach. This chapter provides details for the GM to craft Chapter-related plot hooks and missions to explore the heritage of individual Battle-Brothers. These details and plots add a greater sense of depth to any campaign.

CHAPTER VI: TRAITOR'S DAWN

This book includes an engaging adventure on the world of Rheelas. The Kill-team must deal with the conflicting interests of three different Chapters operating over the planet. This adventure provides GMs with a great opportunity to explore the varying philosophies of the Chapters, throwing the Kill-team into a mysterious conflict for the fate of of an entire world.



HONOUR
THE
CHAPTER



- IRON HANDS
-
- RAVEN GUARD
-
- SALAMANDERS
-
- WHITE SCARS



CHAPTER I: HONOUR THE CHAPTER

"Children of Vulkan, you fight not just for the Emperor and the Primarch, but for the Battle-Brothers that have come before you. May your deeds today honour their names and echo down through the millennia."

—Sergeant Kal'ir of the Salamanders

The nine loyalist Space Marine Legions are soldiers of legend, heroes who waged epic wars that decided the fate of the entire galaxy. Every Space Marine who bears the name of one of these Legions carries the legend with him as he serves alongside his Battle-Brothers in the Deathwatch. He is an example not only to his fellow First Founding chapters, but to the Chapters that have inherited their gene-seed. This makes the swearing of the Apocryphon Oath a monumental responsibility, for the Battle-Brother doesn't just represent his Chapter, but its entire legacy forged over millennia.

In this part of **FIRST FOUNDING**, the remaining four Space Marine Chapters from the legendary **First Founding** not covered in previous **DEATHWATCH** Rulebooks are examined in detail. The Iron Hands, Raven Guard, Salamanders, and White Scars all have their pasts, motivations, and tactics explored, along with a complete set of rules for creating a Battle-Brother from one of these illustrious Chapters.



Without the Dark, there can be no Light,
We have Purpose
Without the Lie, there can be no Truth,
We have Purpose
Without War, there can be no Victory,
We have Purpose
Without Death, there can be no Sacrifice,
We have Purpose
Without Hope, there can be no Future,
We have Purpose
Without Loyalty, there can be no Chapter,
We have Purpose
Without the Emperor, there is nothing...
And we would have no Purpose.

—Ritual and Responses, Tomb of Truths Foretold