

STARSIEGE 2845

**Compendium Filler Document
Compendium_MachinesofWar_Tanks_Final.rtf**

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1. PURPOSE

To provide a brief overview of the role of Tanks on the 2845 battlefield for use within the Compendium. Word limit of approximately 250 words to fit within the confines of the page layout.

2. MACHINES OF WAR - TANKS

Twenty-ninth century tanks have evolved into highly specialized fast-attack vehicles. While HERCs provide a ground force's primary staying power, tanks excel at deep reconnaissance and quick-response roles. Their lack of shields makes them more vulnerable than a HERC, and their limited hardpoints handicap their firepower and versatility. The tank's high speed and agility compensate for these deficiencies however, making it an indispensable element of modern warfare.

These descendants of the Stormtanks that preceded HERCULAN warfare owe their existence largely to advances in construction technology which allow them to carry considerable firepower and heavy armor at high speeds. Nevertheless, the tracked or agrav platform remains less efficient than a bipedal design. Conventional tanks must balance firepower, speed, and defensive equipment far more delicately than a HERC. On the other hand, tanks boast a lower drag coefficient than HERCs, and their drives are better optimized for speed. Engineers, commanders, and tankers alike have thus settled on the prototypical two-gun, high-speed, shieldless design as the best exploitation of the tank's unique strengths.

A tank can expect to be outgunned by a HERC of similar weight, making one-on-one confrontations a risky proposition. Moreover a tank's lack of shields means that HERCULANs can employ exclusively anti-armor loadouts against tanker foes. It is therefore in joint-force groupings that the tank finds its unique abilities best employed. A battlefield group operating tanks within its squads is made considerably more dangerous for its ability to adapt to the evolving shape of the battle and to exploit momentary weaknesses in enemy formations.