

STARSIEGE 2845

**Compendium Filler Document
Compendium_MachinesofWar_HERCs_Final.rtf**

**By
Eric Lowe,
N. David Griffin**

**STARSIEGE 2845 Project © 2004
ClanCore Design Group, LLC**

14 July, 2004

1. PURPOSE

To provide a brief overview of the role of HERCs 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 - HERCULANS

HERCULANS (Humaniform-Emulation Robotized Combat Unit with Leg-Articulated Navigation) date back to the 25th century as the premier armor vehicle. When the dust of the Starsiege settled, the bipedal goliaths that had seen humanity through its darkest days were firmly ensconced as kings of the battlefield.

A HERCULAN's unique leg-articulated drive provides more than all-terrain navigation. The leg configuration, combined with flexor technology, gives a HERC the unprecedented load-bearing capabilities that ensure its battlefield supremacy. Large chassis can devote more of their mass to weapons, shields, and armor than an equivalent mass of tank, while no tracked or agrav vehicle can possibly boast the firepower and speed of a light HERC while still incorporating rechargeable shields.

Shields in the form of modulated electromagnetic fields have been standard equipment on HERCs almost since their invention, and are in many ways key to the success of the humaniform design. Tracked vehicles surrender too much in the way of usable space to make mounting a shield generator and its associated electronics worthwhile, a feat that even the humblest HERC accomplishes thanks to its upright design and bipedal drive. A shielded HERC is largely immune to weapon configurations which are designed only to defeat armor, forcing an enemy to divide his firepower between multiple weapon types. This defensive capability, combined with the versatility offered by its multiple weapon mounts and the all-terrain capability of its drive system, makes the HERCULAN the most powerful and survivable weapons platform on the 29th century battlefield.