

The Black Riders (*Marcachi Dubh*) are a small, roving fleet of Eldar *Anhrathe*, under charter to [REDACTED] as of this writing. Their force balance tends to skew towards more strategically mobile, less logistically-bound assets — either swift-moving jetbike-mounted raiders, speeders, or *pedites*. Their colors are as riotous and non-uniform as expected of Corsairs, yet a distinct preference for darker tones has been noted fleet-wide.

Overall, the temperament of the *Marcachi Dubh* could be described as phlegmatic for Corsairs. This could be attributed to the marked presence of former members of the Eldar's religio-military orders in their ranks, or to the philosophy they hold. Unusually for Outcasts, the several Coterie of the Black Riders encourage a sort of martial code of honor amongst their lot. While this restrains the worst impulses one might expect of their sort, it does not lessen their savagery against their foes.

The fleet of the Black Riders is quite substantial. Each individual coterie can at least boast multiple cruisers to its name. Typically, these ships are either of the ubiquitous Naiad-class or the various types referred to generally as Dragonships. Prince Ra'Tar himself commands his coterie and the fleet as a whole from a modified Void Stalker battleship, the *Blood of Eldanesh*. An Ordos Xenos estimate puts the total fleet strength of the *Marcachi Dubh* at around 750 warships, varying depending on defections and recruitment from those dissatisfied with the Path of the Mariner. While nowhere near the size of the Eldritch Raiders or Void Dragons, this is an impressive force by Corsair standards, and deadly when a large portion of it is marshalled together by Ra'Tar's will.

*Hard to tell what they want, these Eldar mercenaries. Seems like they're just here for the scrap, sometimes. They sure cut through the Partisans like Betcher's Bugs, though!*

[//Anonymous]

In terms of foreign relations, the Black Riders maintain close ties with the craftworlds of Saim-Hann and Iyanden. The latter, strapped for resources and manpower, relies on the tough, experienced mercenary warbands of the *Marcachi Dubh* to supplement its forces on the field of battle. As for the former, the Falcons, Vypers, and Hornets of the Black Riders are often seen alongside Saim-Hann's mobile warhosts on raids in the Mavor Sub-sector and elsewhere on the Eastern Fringe.

Notably, the *Marcachi Dubh* had a marked rivalry with the *Dain-Mir* Eldar, for a variety of reasons. Firstly, it seems that the two had chosen opposing sides of the War of the False Primarch, with the Black Riders choosing to seemingly throw their weight behind the loyalists. Secondly, there seemed to be the element of vendetta. At some point, the *Dain-Mir* appeared to have wronged the Riders, such that the wrath of the entire band was turned upon the Craftworld. Powerless to put paid to their foes, their alien psyches collectively turned to obsessive vengeance-seeking:

*You pay — in blood or goods, Dhain-Muir. Since the latter is out of the question...*

[///Baron Ra'tar]

