

While the military composition of the Coalition is complex, with separate system-states operating different levels of assets, the **Frontier Protection Bureau** has remained a staple of the Coalition's central government since the post-independence days, consisting of two primary branches. Both halves of the Bureau are headed by the Chief Marshal, who is nominated by the Office of the Chief Representative and then voted in by the House of Members.

The first and perhaps better-known organization is the **Coalition Rangers**, which traces its lineage to Solarian trained and equipped maritime patrol units formed during the early periods of colonial expansion. Fledgling settlements often lacked the supplies, training, and manpower to effectively combat threats such as pirate raids or carp migrations, and since the ASSN could not reasonably commit enough of its ships to defend the entire human frontier, they relied instead on colonial volunteer units, colloquially referred to as "Rangers", to help keep the peace. Specializing originally in EVA operations, their role gradually grew to that of small, highly-autonomous patrol teams, each assisted by an experienced Solarian military advisor.

Their intimate knowledge of the systems they patrolled would prove crucial to their success in the upcoming Interstellar War, and at the onset of hostilities, many Rangers turned their weapons on their Solarian advisors and defected rather than be forced to fight their fellow frontiersmen. It was here that they cemented their reputation in frontier history while helping to conduct the Coalition's successful defensive war against the Sol Alliance, where they were notable for their tactical aggressiveness and expertise in unconventional warfare.

With the Coalition's formal recognition in 2287, the Rangers found themselves exhausted from nine years of near-constant battle, but as the frontiersmen rebuilt their worlds, one of the priorities of the central government was to replenish the ranks of these units and legitimize them as the sole government law enforcement entity in the Coalition. Subject to oversight by the House of Members, Ranger teams are strictly prohibited from involving themselves in the affairs of individual member-states unless explicitly asked, and the extent of their duties largely remain the same as in the past. Romanticized depictions of these Rangers persist well into the modern day, typically in popular entertainment media around the Spur.

Included in the original Frontier Alliance Defense Pact was the establishment of a government-sanctioned intelligence office to help carry out the will of the Coalition, known as the **Frontier Marshal Service**, which makes up the other half of the FPB. Marshals act on direct orders from the Chief Representative and are employed in various clandestine operations. While Rangers can carry out field-level investigations pertinent to their duties, the majority of operational intelligence gathering and larger-scale investigations are conducted by Marshals, who work in tandem with Rangers to provide them target locales along the frontier, be it pirate hideouts or dangerous fugitives. In the event that criminals are brought to justice alive, Marshals oversee prisoner transportation to more secure facilities within the Central Coalition in preparation for trial. The Chief Representative's protection detail has also historically been composed of Marshals, rather than Rangers or planetary security forces. Due to the covert nature of most of their tasks, however, with only Chief Representatives and their selected Chief Marshals of past and present being privy to the details, there can only be speculation about their true purpose in the FPB. The lack of any overseeing agency holding the group accountable makes it difficult to ascertain exactly how far some operations have gone, a fact that the CFP has denounced multiple times to no avail, but the average

frontiersman considers the Marshal Service to be a product of increasing government bloat rather than a genuine threat to their freedoms.

Internally, the FSB is supplied through a quota expected of every core member, scaled depending on a system's individual military capacity. This includes everything from weaponry and manpower to ships and raw materials. While this would theoretically make the Bureau one of the most well-funded forces in the galaxy, in reality, the sheer size of the Coalition means that the average Ranger or Marshal sees very little of this money and end up relying on either outdated or dilapidated equipment, often forced to resort to "field-expedient" solutions to their supply woes. Many operations only continue to persist due to the zealous nature with which frontiersmen adhere to their traditions, as well as their strong esprit de corps. As such, the selection process for the Bureau is aimed at finding volunteers that are particularly committed to upholding the Coalition's values, often poaching established sub-groups from their nations of origin, such as particularly well-performing Gadpathurian cadres or Vysokan Host-men eager for adventure outside of the Steppes. While much more unusual, Scarab Rangers have been respected in the past for their self-sufficient lifestyle and effectiveness in Zero-G conditions, and there have even been notable Rangers and Marshals of other species, such as Himean Tajara, who are often employed in missions that cater to their highly-specialized skill sets.

While some continue to push for the Bureau to have the reach it needs to establish stability, others warn against the expansion of an interstellar police force that could unwind the very ideals the Coalition was built upon. Both the Rangers and Marshals are indeed not spared from political infighting, and many within their ranks struggle to internalize whether they are a symbol of the grand ideals of the Coalition, or a possible tool for those who wish to see the frontier quelled. As it stands, the FPB lacks the manpower and equipment to defend the entire Coalition—only major trade lanes—and so local defense largely still remains in the hands of individual member-states or, in more desperate times, hired mercenaries.