

Jim, Agent of Saturn



There are those who would say that Jim Houston, 38, has made his own bed and should learn to sleep in it. Others might go further and use the phrases, "dug his own grave" and ... well, you get the idea. And maybe that is fair, for he is, after all, a well-paid member of **a ruthless terrorist organization determined to rule the world**. The prospect of exchanging the relative boredom of his existence (interspersed with moments of mortal terror that do not all happen on the battlefield) for a prison cell does not at all appeal to him. And yet ...

Houston never planned for any of this. After **Cerebron**, as soon as he was legal, he enlisted in the army in the hopes that he would be doing something to help protect his country from future attacks. He was at best an indifferent soldier, though neither a screw up nor a discipline case, and the idealistic intentions that had led him here were soon worn down out of existence. Gradually, he became aware that the captain of his unit had some sort of connection to a mysterious organization; from those who had been with the unit longer, he learned that they were preparing for a day when the superpowers were finally going to be put in their place, under the rule of a legitimate human government.

But when the coup finally began, the captain hesitated; his allies were not just attacking superpowers, but the legitimate human government they were supposed to serve. He assembled the unit and was in the process of giving orders to act against the leaders of the coup when his lieutenant shot him in the head from behind, in full view of the rest of the troops. The price of defiance having been made quite clear to him, Houston followed the orders he was given in the immediate moment rather than any oaths he might have sworn in the past, and soon found himself an agent of Saturn.

He is not sure, but he thinks that he might be the only one of his unit to have survived the last decade and a half. He has no idea why, as he sees nothing special about himself. He supposes that he might be a tiny bit cleverer, a tiny bit more interested in the function of his equipment, but that only ensures that he knows exactly what kind of a cheap, unsafe piece of crap he gets issued for his blaster rifle. Jim Houston knows just how expendable he is considered by his superiors. And yet he keeps surviving.

A few months ago, he found himself contacted, through a covert e-mail, by someone who claimed to want to know about how Saturn functioned. He was half-way sure that he was being set up by Internal Investigations, and so he was initially quite measured in his responses. When Il failed to break down his barracks door, he became a little more forthright about how bad things were, and by now he is quite compromised. On some level, he hopes that these accounts are getting to someone on the other side -- **Argus**, the FBI, even some of the superpowers, maybe -- if only because they might be used as part of his defense in a possible trial. Maybe it will be enough to get him less than life imprisonment.

(Sadly for Jim, his reports are going to one of the subsidiary nodes of the ASI known as **Savior**, who is preparing to seize control of Saturn from its current leadership. Sometimes, even when people try to do right, they just end up doing a different kind of wrong.)

Jim Houston -- PL 6

Abilities:

STR 1 | STA 2 | AGL 1 | DEX 2 | FGT 3 | INT 2 | AWE 0 | PRE 0

Advantages:

Beginner's Luck, Equipment 6.

Equipment:

Blaster Rifle (Ranged Damage 8), Body Armor (Protection 4), smartphone and 8 points of equipment as needed.

Skills:

Close Combat: Unarmed 2 (+5), Deception 3 (+3), Expertise: Criminal 3 (+5), Expertise: Military 3 (+5), Intimidation 4 (+4), Perception 3 (+3), Ranged Combat: Blaster 2 (+4), Technology 2 (+4).

Offense:

Initiative +1

Unarmed +5 (Close Damage 1)

Blaster Rifle +4 (Ranged Damage 8)

Defense:

Dodge 4, Parry 5, Fortitude 4, Toughness 6/2, Will 3.

Totals:

Abilities 22 + Advantages 7 + Skills 11 + Defenses 10 = 50 points

Offensive PL: 6

Defensive PL: 6

Resistance PL: 4

Skill PL: 0

Complications:

Personal Survival And The Promise Of Riches--Motivation. Secret (disloyal.)

Note: Houston can be used as a template for a typical PL 6/MR 3 Saturn operative. Reduce INT by 1 rank, drop Beginner's Luck and lower Equipment by 2 ranks (dropping smartphone and unassigned gear.)