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These pages are intended to provide a brief but comprehensive guide to the technical narrative of the Dark Angels faction (including successors) for the 10th edition of Warhammer 40,000.

Such information has been largely left out of recent publications. Communities have as a result seen a great increase in uncertainty among those hobbyists who look to the narrative for guidance or inspiration. Comments are riddled with incorrect or misremembered information, and often based in guesswork or preference rather than official text.

The narrative has changed, several times, since its inception. Sometimes on purpose, sometimes by accident. It is not certain which pieces should be considered 'current' or 'outdated'. Not every question has an answer. Many questions have several different, often contradictory, answers. Some answers have never been made explicit, but can be arrived at via inference based on multiple pieces of evidence.

The following content has been arrived at by taking a holistic view of numerous primary sources released over a period of 30 years. If this manual disagrees with a source, it's because a compromise had to be made to accommodate another source. The priority has been clarity, not nuance.

It is impossible to select sources, interpret them, weigh them against each other, and compose a document of this type without also injecting some personal bias and preference. You cannot be certain that all information presented herein is accurate to the intent of creative agents at Games Workshop.

You *can* be certain that the information will be more coherent and considered than most official publications of similar type. This *will* be the best single source available to you on this topic.

For further studies, you are recommended to use Lexicanum (an online wiki) as a first stop. Codex: Angels of Death (2E), Codex: Dark Angels (7E), Codex: Dark Angels (8E), Codex: Space Marines (8.5E), as well as Insignium Astartes all provide excellent and complementary primary accounts of various sub-topics in the subject.

If you find this document helpful, please make that opinion (politely) known to Games Workshop. If they know this kind of information is desired and appreciated by their customers, there is some hope that we will see it included once more in publications going forward.

UNFORGIVEN CHAPTER ORGANISATION

Rule over an Unforgiven Chapter falls to a council formed by its Supreme Grand Master – the council head and highest ranking officer – and the most senior members of the Chapter's Inner Circle, including all Grand Masters and a small number of Masters. Though nominally independent, Unforgiven Chapters are highly coordinated and under strong influence of their parent Chapter.

As per the Codex Astartes, Unforgiven Chapters are made up of ten companies. Companies are sometimes deployed in their entirety, but their flexible structure and the multitude of war zones in which they are needed to fight often means that squads from different companies are assembled in order to execute a mission. Each company is led by a Captain, who also bears the title of Master if they're part of the Inner Circle. The Captain is supported in his duties by two lieutenants, and will on the battlefield often be accompanied by a Command Squad. A Chaplain and an Apothecary is also attached to each Company.

While the Codex Astartes' mandates concerning organisation and size are followed by Unforgiven Chapters in companies three through ten, the first two companies often deviate. Rumours persist that the Dark Angels 1st and 2nd companies do not conform to the standard company complement of a hundred Space Marines. It is difficult to ascertain the truth of this, as elements of both companies are spread wide, attached to forces across the galaxy.

SPECIALIST COMPANIES, the 1st-2nd Companies

The 1st Company consists entirely of veterans who have been inducted into the Chapter's inner circles. It is both hammer and anvil, unstoppable and unyielding. The Dark Angels stand apart from other Chapters in that they have the resources to outfit their entire 1st company – The Deathwing – in terminator armour, which they do frequently. The Deathwing maintain their own specific heraldry, painting their armour and vehicles a distinctive bone-white colour that differs from the rest of the Chapter's companies.

The 2nd Company is a specialised mobile formation used for scouting and lightning-fast strikes, often working in tandem with 1st Company elements. To this end, every single Space Marine in this company pilots either a teleporthomer equipped bike, a speeder, or an atmospheric fighter. These are organised in unique Attack or Support formations found only among the Unforgiven. Equally unique are some of the archaic vehicle designs employed, dating back to before the Great Scouring. The Dark Angels 2nd Company is dubbed "The Ravenwing", so named because their vehicles, like their power armour, are all painted an ominous black.

BATTLE COMPANIES, the 3rd-5th Companies

Battle Companies generally carry the weight of a Chapter's combat duties. Each consists of six battleline squads, two close support squads and two fire support squads. Most Dark Angels deployments consist of a single Battle Company or Demi-Company, reinforced by elements of the Specialist, Reserve, and Scout Companies.

RESERVE COMPANIES, the 6rd-9th Companies

All reserve Companies are composed of one hundred marines of a single designation. Squads from the Reserve Companies are often attached to a Battle Company in order to bolster a force's capabilities. In such instances they typically take on the livery of the Battle Company they reinforce, and are identified as the 11th Squad, 12th Squad, and so on, up to the 20th squad. On rare occasions, Reserve Companies are fielded in their entirety in truly apocalyptic confrontations of colossal importance.

The 6th and 7th Companies consist of ten battleline squads each. These act as a reserve which may be used to bolster the front line, launch diversionary attacks or stem enemy flanking moves. Warriors of the 6th are additionally trained to crew battle tanks, while those of the 7th can be deployed in gunships or speeders. This allows commanders to field entire companies of such vehicles – provided that their Armoury is sufficiently well-equipped.

The 8th Company consists of ten close support squads. This Company is used wherever a strong hand-to-hand fighting force is needed, and is often equipped with jump packs, bikes, and speeders. The 9th Company consists of ten fire support squads. It is the most heavily equipped company in the Chapter, and its heavy-weapon bearing troopers provide suppression and raw destructive power.

SCOUT COMPANY, the 10th Company

The majority of 10th Company members are neophytes – those whose combat training, physical transformation, and cultural initiation is still incomplete – but the Company also contains a standing force of ten Vanguard Space Marine squads. Recruits will take to the battlefield as scouts under the tutelage of a Sergeant, often alongside the strike forces of other companies. The Codex Astartes dictates no formal size for the 10th Company, as the rate of recruitment is not fixed.

COMPANY SUPPORT

All of the companies, save the 2nd and the 10th Companies, maintain dedicated transport vehicles for each of their squads. Each Company also maintains the wargear needed for their squads to take to the field in any of the various forms allowed by their designation.

Additional transports and other vehicles are held centrally by the Armoury, while drop pods, orbital landers, and void-craft are held by the Fleet. Although maintained by the Armoury, it is customary for dreadnoughts to remain a part of the company in which the warrior served before being interred. When not active, dreadnoughts can be found powered down in the Halls of Silence.

A Chapter will include a large number of support staff, the great majority of which are human serfs, though there are a few Space Marines amongst their number. Most of these are non-combatants of advanced years, tasked with leading the day-to-day administration of the Chapter.

SUPREME COMMAND² Lion El'Jonson² Inner Circle Companions² **CHAPTER COMMAND** Chapter Master Honour Guard¹ 1st COMPANY 2nd COMPANY **RECLUSIAM LIBRARIUS** Captain Captain Master of Sanctity Chief Librarian [Strikemasters] [Talonmasters] Reclusiarch¹ **Epistolaries** [Command squad] Command squad Interrogator-Chaplains Codiciers Interrogator-Chaplain³ Chaplain Chaplains Lexicaniums Apothecary Apothecary Judiciars² Acolytum Serfs¹ and Servitors¹ (Deathwing) Knights (Black) Knights **APOTHECARION** LOGISTICIAM Chief Apothecary Veteran squads² Attack squadrons Apothecaries Warden of the Gates Dreadnoughts Support squadrons Initiates1 Chapter Equerries³ Serfs¹ and Servitors¹ Serfs³ and Servitors 1 transport per squad Atmospheric fighters **VETERAN RAPID ASSAULT FLEET ARMOURY COMPANY COMPANY** High Huntsman of the Void Master of the Forge Techmarines Suprema¹ Command Crew¹ **UNFORGIVEN SPECIALIST COMPANIES Techmarines** Pilots and Gunnery Officers¹ Navigators¹ Apprenta¹ Serfs¹ and Servitors Serfs and Servitors Techno-mats¹ Various void-craft

Orbital landers

quick lore guides

DARK ANGELS TITLE REPLACEMENTS

CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS SECTION

Various vehicles

HONOUD CHADD

1st COMPANY COMMAND SQUAD

(Deathwing) Veterans
1 (Deathwing) Champion
1 (Deathwing) Ancient

THE CIRCLES³

Master of the Forge – Master of the Rock

Master of Sanctity – High Interrogator

Chief Apothecary – Master Apothecary

The Chapter Master will also be the Supreme Grand Master of the Chapter's Inner Circle

The Master of Sanctity, Chief Librarian, and the Captains of the 1st and 2nd companies are normally also Grand Masters of the Inner Circle

All Interrogator-Chaplains, most Captains, and some Librarians will also be Masters of the Inner Circle

Librarians, the 1st Company, Talonmasters, and Black Knights will be members of the inner circles, but not the Inner Circle **HONOUR GUARD**

squad composition guides

Veterans
1 Chapter Champion
1 Chapter Ancient

ATTACK SQUADRONS

Outriders² or [Bikers]
1 Storm Speeder² or [Land Speeder]
1 Invader ATV² or [Attack Bike]

10 marines per squadron

2nd COMPANY COMMAND SQUAD

(Black) Knights
1 (Ravenwing) Champion
1 (Ravenwing) Ancient

SUPPORT SQUADRONS

Storm Speeders² or [Land Speeders] Invader ATVs² or [Attack Bikes]²

10 marines per squadron

COMPANY COMMAND SQUADS

Company Veterans
1 Company Champion
1 Company Ancient

Notes

- ¹ Imported from Codex: Space Marines on the assumption that it's true for Unforgiven Chapters as well.
- ² New narrative, miniature, or gaming elements don't fit neatly into old structures. This is my best attempt at integrating them faithfully.
- ³ Sources contradict each other. This is my best attempt at a holistic compromise.
- ⁴ Company Veteran squads are not present in the 1st Company.

[bracketed] entries have been completely removed from the game or moved to Legends, but remain (as far as we know) in the narrative universe.

3rd COMPANY

Captain
2 Lieutenants
[Command squad]
Chaplain
Apothecary

[Company Veterans]

6 Battleline squads 2 Close Support squads 2 Fire Support squads Dreadnoughts

1 transport per squad

4th COMPANY

Captain
2 Lieutenants
[Command squad]
Chaplain
Apothecary

[Company Veterans]

6 Battleline squads 2 Close Support squads 2 Fire Support squads Dreadnoughts

1 transport per squad

BATTLE COMPANIES

5th COMPANY

Captain
2 Lieutenants
[Command squad]
Chaplain
Apothecary

[Company Veterans]

6 Battleline squads 2 Close Support squads 2 Fire Support squads Dreadnoughts

1 transport per squad

10th COMPANY

Captain
2 Lieutenants
Chaplain
Apothecary

10 Vanguard squads
Scout squads
[Scout bike squadrons]
[Land Speeder Storms]
Neophytes

SCOUT/VANGUARD COMPANY

6th COMPANY

Captain
2 Lieutenants
[Command squad]
Chaplain
Apothecary

[Company Veterans]

10 Battleline squads Dreadnoughts

1 transport per squad

BATTLELINE COMPANY

7th COMPANY

Captain
2 Lieutenants
[Command squad]
Chaplain
Apothecary

[Company Veterans]

10 Battleline squads Dreadnoughts

1 transport per squad

BATTLELINE COMPANY

8th COMPANY

Captain
2 Lieutenants
[Command squad]
Chaplain
Apothecary

[Company Veterans]

10 Close Support squads Dreadnoughts

1 transport per squad

CLOSE SUPPORT COMPANY

9th COMPANY

Captain
2 Lieutenants
[Command squad]
Chaplain
Apothecary

[Company Veterans]

10 Fire Support squads Dreadnoughts

1 transport per squad

FIRE SUPPORT COMPANY

battlefield role unit lists

RESERVE COMPANIES

'COMMAND' UNITS

Chapter Master
Captains
Lieutenants
Command squads

vanguard squads list

Infiltrator squads Incursor squads Reiver squads Eliminator squads Suppressor squads

'VETERAN' UNITS

Terminator squads Bladeguard Veteran squads Vanguard Veteran squads Sternguard Veteran squads [Company Veteran squads]⁴

'BATTLELINE' UNITS

Tactical squads
Infiltrator squads
Intercessor squads
Heavy Intercessor squads

'CLOSE SUPPORT' UNITS

[Assault squads]
[Bike squadrons]
[Attack Bike squadrons]
[Land Speeder squadrons]
Centurion Assault squads
Incursor squads
Reiver squads
Assault Intercessor squads
Outrider squadrons
Invader ATV squadrons
Storm Speeder squadrons
Inceptor squads

'FIRE SUPPORT' UNITS

Devastator squads
Centurion Devastator
squads
Eliminator squads
Suppressor squads
Hellblaster squads
Desolation squads
Infernus squads³
Aggressor squads
Eradicator squads

Notes

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ASTARTES AND UNFORGIVEN LIVERY

Codex Astartes-compliant livery (Ultramarines) 1st squad, 5th co. (left), 3rd squad 2nd co. (right)



Unforgiven livery (Dark Angels and Consecrators) 4th squad 3rd co. (left), 2nd squad, 6th co. (right)



Unforgiven specialist company livery (Deathwing and Ravenwing) Unknown squad, 1st co. (left), 1st squadron, 2nd co. (right)











The Codex Astartes dictates not only organisational and tactical dispositions to its adherents. It also provides guidance on uniform standards. Variations occur, but the most common standard will be described here.

- -The armour of a Space Marine is typically painted in colour and pattern associated with the Chapter.
- -The left pauldron carries Chapter marking.
- -The pauldron trim carries Company marking.
- -The right pauldron carries squad markings. These identify battlefield role and squad number.
- -The helmet carries rank or status markings.

Certain features may disturb this standard, such as on mkVI 'Corvus' pattern power armour or 'Indomitus' pattern Tactical Dreadnought (Terminator) Armour.

The standard will then typically cascade, so that the Chapter badge moves to right pauldron, squad markings move to the left knee, and anything on the left knee moves to the right. Some details may merge (e.g. company colour moving from pauldron trim to squad number), share space (e.g. right pauldron carrying both chapter and squad markings), or be left out (usually battlefield role marking).

Army badges, Campaign badges, and honour markings such as Battle badges may also adorn Astartes armour. These are tyically placed on greaves, forearms, or the center of the power pack. Army badges in particular are commonly placed on the outside of the right leg greave.

Insignium Calibanus

The Dark Angels and their successors follow mostly the same standard as the Ultramarines. Some details differ.

- -Helmet markings do not identify status or rank.
- -Pauldron trim does not identify company markins. A Company badge is instead displayed on the left knee.
- -Arabic numerals are used in place of roman numerals
- -Other icons are favoured to identify battlefield role.

Unforgiven specialist companies may differ further. Among the Dark Angels, they have their own associated colours, and they display their Company badges in place of the Chapter badge. Deathwing squads tend not to display a squad number. They may instead display squad heraldry on their left knee. Ravenwing units, similarly, do not display battlefield role markings at all.

Some Deathwing Knights replace the company heraldry with their own personal iconography. This heraldry would often also be found on their shield. Their pauldrons may also bear a thin green trim near the edge. Ravenwing members of the inner circles stand out by the vertical gold bar on their pauldrons.



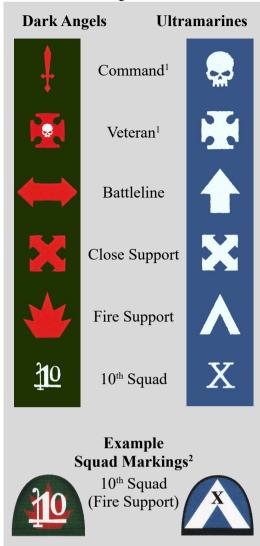


Deathwing Knight (left) and Ravenwing Knight (right) pauldrons

COMPANY BADGES (with associated names or coulours)



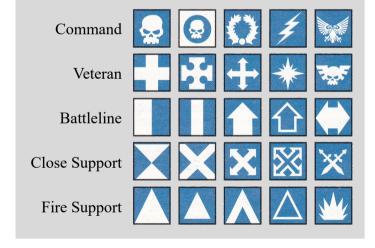
STANDARD SQUAD MARKINGS



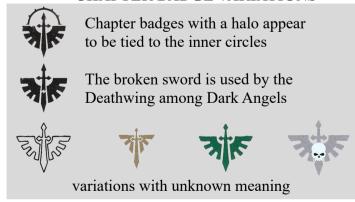
SIMPLIFIED INFANTRY LIVERY SUMMARY

Greenwing³ Ravenwing Left pauldron: left pauldron: Chapter badge Company badge right pauldron: right pauldron: battlefield role badge NO battlefield role badge squad number squad number left knee: left knee: Company badge NO Company badge **Deathwing Deathwing** (power armour) (terminator armour) left pauldron: left pauldron: Company badge **Crux Terminatus** right pauldron: right pauldron: battlefield role badge Company badge NO squad number NO battlefield role badge NO squad number <u>left knee:</u> NO Company badge <u>left knee:</u> squad heraldry

BATTLEFIELD ROLE BADGE VARIATIONS⁴



CHAPTER BADGE VARIATIONS⁴



- ¹ Markings for Dark Angels Command and Veteran units are extremely speculative. There are few sources and they constantly contradict each other..
- ²Note that in Battle Companies, squads 1-6 are always Battleline, squads 7-8 always Close Support, and squads 9-10 always Fire Support.
- ³ 'Greenwing' is an unofficial moniker among hobbyists, not a term within the narrative. It roughly refers to units not in the 1st or 2nd Company.
- ⁴Many of these variations carry specific meaning. They will often be known in-universe, but are almost entirely unknown to us out-of-universe.

BADGES OF OFFICE

Select individuals, such as Chapter specialists, replace squad markings with a badge of office.

Officers

Lieutenants are the only officers with a formal badge.1

Captains and Chapter Masters usually display personal heraldry in place of a badge of office, usually integrating the badge of their command (the Company for Captains or the Chapter for Chapter Masters). Other alternatives would be to display the 'Command' badge, an honour badge, or intricate iconography.





Lieutenant²



₩ **?**

Techmarines







The Opus Machina

alternate examples

Apothecaries







The Prime Helix

alternate examples

Chaplains







[name unknown]

alternate examples

Librarians







The Horned Skull

alternate examples

SPECIALIST LIVERY

Chapters employ Astartes not only as warriors, but also as various specialists who service the Chapter in daily operations. These specialists replace or combine their Chapter livery with that of their office.

Specialists all display Chapter markings in some way. Usually on a pauldron via badge and colour, sometimes on a knee. They may also display additional iconography via regalia such as tabards, cloaks, etc.

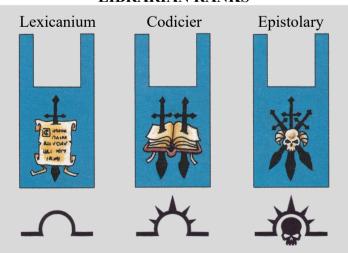
Specialists assigned to a task force from their department use Chapter colour and badge where applicable (pauldron, knee, etc).

Chaplains and Apothecaries who are in the service of a Company may replace the Chapter markings with the livery of their assigned Company.



Techmarines carry entirely red armour, and iconography affiliating them with both the Chapter Armoury and the Machine-cults of Mars.

LIBRARIAN RANKS



¹Older sources from the early 2000's list the Iron Skull as the Codex insignia for Sergeants, and the Iron Halo as the Codex insignia for Captains.

² Strikemasters and Talonmasters are Lieutenants, but it is not known whether or not they use the same badge of office as regular lieutenants.



Apothecaries carry white armour, varying from just a helmet to the entire suit, and iconography of the Apothecarion.



Chaplains carry entirely black armour, and iconography of the Reclusiam.



Librarians carry entirely blue armour, and iconography of the Librarius. Note that the rightmost librarian is an Ultramarine.

HONOUR BADGES

In addition to previously mentioned livery, a Space Marine may display a number of honour badges on his armour. Some honours are simply painted onto the armour, while others are elaborate carvings and artefacts. Many can also be integrated into the heraldry of a Space Marine, a squad, or Company.

Marines are awarded badges of distinction for all manner of heroic deeds. Each Codex-compliant Chapter maintains the full list of honours listed in Guilliman's epic tome, and many have developed their own unique variations which have been born out of their history and traditions.

In addition, badges are often given to allied participants of crusades, campaigns, or battles. These function as symbols of identity and unity among allies for the duration, and as commemorative marks of honour once victory has been attained.



The Crux Terminatus is the badge of Terminator Space Marines, and one sits on the left pauldron of each such suit. It is said that each badge houses a small fragment of the Emperor's own suit of armour.



The Iron Halo is awarded for strategic displays and initiative beyond expectation. It typically adorns a pauldron or helmet, and is mostly associated with Captains.



Terminator Honours are smaller representations of the Crux Terminatus. They are worn by veterans who have trained to use Terminator armour, often on a pauldron or knee.



The Iron Skull is awarded for acts of leadership, and bears close association with Sergeants in particular. It is typically placed on a pauldron or helmet. Convention dictates that it is represented in red as a heraldic device.¹



Crosses of various designs are closely associated with veterancy among the Adeptus Astartes. They may be inscribed onto armour, worn as amulets, or integrated into heraldry.



The Imperial Laurel is awarded for acts of great bravery and valour. It is a required achievement before a marine can serve as Ancient. They are often worn on a helmet or pauldron.



The Icon of the Deathwatch may be worn by those Space Marines who have served or are currently serving in the Deathwatch. It is typically worn on the left pauldron, often combined with a fully silvered left arm.



The Marksman's Honour is earned via remarkably accurate shooting or consistent targeting. They are both a reward, and an indicator so that Commanders know whom to call upon when infallible aim is needed.



Purity Seals are blessings presented to marines prior to battle by Chaplains under ceremonious liturgical chanting. They have traditionally been given to those marines who have shown themselves to be morally pure in word and deed.

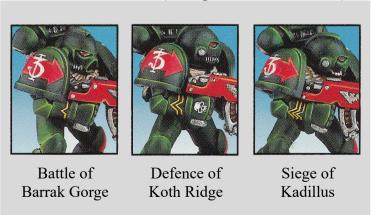


Service studs can be stamped into the cranium to record 10, 50, or 100 years' service, depending on design and Chapter traditions. As they are not mandatory, their absence is not necessarily an indicator of youth.

ARMY, CAMPAIGN, AND CRUSADE BADGE EXAMPLES²



BATTLE BADGES (examples from Piscina IV)



¹Bear in mind that skulls are a common feature in Imperial culture. Not every skull is an Iron Skull.

² Army and Campaign badges might be different names for the same thing. Sources are unclear.

ADDITIONAL REGALIA



Winged helmets are iconic to the Unforgiven. There is no recorded meaning to them, but they are almost exclusively worn by Captains and Chapter Masters.¹

Similar winged structures can be seen on the backs of Deathwing Terminator Sergeants, and the bikes of the Ravenwing.



Scrolls are a common feature on Astartes armour and banners. They typically feature names, mottos, or battlecries.

Robes and tabards are a way of expressing rank, role, or position within the convoluted structures of most Unforgiven Chapters. There is no single meaning to them, but they are usually worn by veterans and officers.

Relics of various shapes, sizes, and function are a common sight on the belts or backpacks of Space Marines. Books, keys, daggers, and feathers are favoured among the Unforgiven. The true nature and meaning of these items is rarely known to us out-of-universe.



VEHICLE LIVERY

Vehicles, like infantry, bear livery according to certain approximate standards. These vary slightly across mainly three (unofficial) categories: transports and mounts, warmachines, and Dreadnoughts.

Transports and mounts (such as bikes, warsuits and speeders) share the same squad markings as the marine(s) they are attached to. They may also display any crusade, campaign, army, or honour badges possessed by said marine(s).

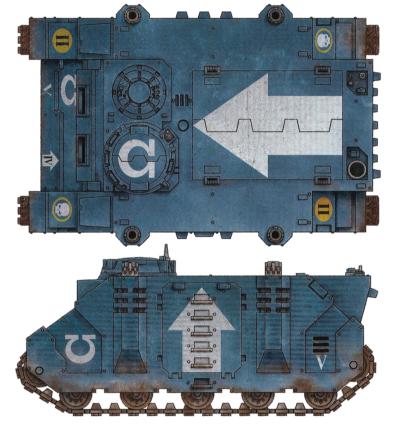
In addition, these vehicles will bear the colour and badge of the Chapter and Company under which it is currently placed. Transports and warsuits will also be assigned a unique number and are frequently named.

Warmachines (such as Battle Tanks and Gunships) typically do not display squad markings. They otherwise confirm to the aforementioned standard. There are badges associated with older tank designs which may also be displayed. These were typically placed on the top of the tank, one on each side over the tracks.

Dreadnoughts, likewise, do not display squad markings, but may carry the personal heraldry of the marine interred within. Furthermore, some Chapters do not assign them an identification number, viewing it as disrespect to not refer to them by their name. The standard otherwise applies.

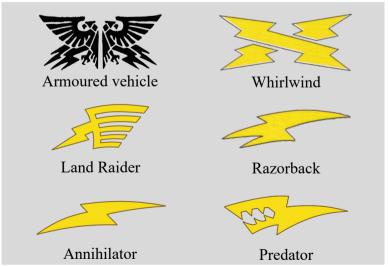
Dreadnought chassis of all kinds are found in all Companies but the 2^{nd} and 10^{th} . They will remain part of the Company its ward was assigned to upon interment, and carry its livery.

Similar to infantry, any vehicles part of the Deathwing or Ravenwing will substitute the Chapter colours and badge with those of the Company. Deathwing transports assigned to squads identified by heraldry rather than squad number and/or battlefield role markings will adopt this same scheme. Ravenwing mounts will similarly not display battlefield role markings, just as their riders and pilots.



5th Rhino of the 2nd Ultramarines Company, assigned to the 4th Tactical Squad, bearing an unknown campaign badge.

VEHICLE BADGES²



¹The only documented exception in 40k is the Ravenwing Champion model. There are several more in the 30k range and narrative.

² These icons date back to the 1990's. There are no official badges for vehicle designs released after that, but you can invent your own.