

# *Warships of the Latin Finger*

## Corvette Escorts:

### Cuba Class

By [J.C. Mena](#)

#### Introduction

The use of small, cheap, and easy to repair ships to escort the goods across the long path between the Core and the Latin Finger, rather than use large and expensive large warships, has been the Mexican policy during the last century, the Corvette Escorts fits this purpose. The 3<sup>rd</sup> generation corvettes, *Cuba Class*, were designed to operate over 1 month.

#### Narrative

*This is the fifth convoy of the Mexican Corvette Escort squadron, the squadron commander "Capitán de Fragata" Jesus Delgado is analyzing the last year, since when the AEM commissioned him to lead a group of Corvettes in the French Arm against a savage alien race, named Kafers by the Germans, was weird to aid Europeans.*

*When 2 Argentines frigates were missed in action, they sent an full squadron to the French Arm, in an act of solidarity the Armada sent 4 corvettes. In his first two escort missions, the Cubas hadn't any problems, no Kafer ships showed up. But the last two missions they did it, fortunately they were just small ships and the Cubas were able to handle them.*

*Now his corvettes were escorting French schooners from 61 Ursae Majoris to the Vogelheim system, the corvettes were the NEM Centroamérica, NEM Caribe, NEM Borinken, and his command ship, the NEM Belice. The convoy was discharging their cores at DM+36 3219, suddenly a Kafer cruiser appeared, probably came from the BCV system.*

*The Epsilon in routed to the convoy and deployed missiles and his 2 Foxtrots, the corvettes moved up to face the Kafers and launched their missiles against the cruiser, as result, the Epsilon, Centroamérica and Caribe were destroyed. The fighters succumbed but not before damaging the Borinken, who made an emergency landing on Sans Sourci. Just the Belice completed the mission.*

***February 7, 2302 – Crash on Sans Sourci – 1<sup>st</sup> Kafer War***

#### Development History

In 2210, the aftermath of the 1<sup>st</sup> Rio de La Plata War showed the space as an hostile place, the recently born "AEM: Armada Espacial Mexicana" requested for a small, fast and cheap ship, capable to provided some security to their outpost Gran Calafia island, southern Santa Maria. The response came with the Azteca class, a corvette escort, which travelled between the Core systems.

In 2240, the uncertainty left by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rio de La Plata War, and the project to colonize a planet recently surveyed in the 40 Eridani system showed the need to have a ship with enough endurance to escort colonial ships to Montaña. The result was the *Durango Class*, a capable corvette, carrying 2 missiles and enough fuel to last 4 weeks.

In 2270, Mexico needed to sent more colonial supplies to Kwantung in the Tau Ceti system, the new colony was opened a few years ago. The AEM designed a new corvette using an improvement took from his bigger sister, the *Piedra Buena Class* frigate, a Solar Power System, which provided the new corvette with some extra endurance, the successful *Cuba Class* was born.

The *Cubas* were ready when the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rio de La Plata War started, bravely escorted convoys fighting against the powerful Brazilian forces. The *Cubas* saw action in the follow wars, against privateers during the Central Asian War (2282 to 2287), and the War of German Reunification (2292 to 2293); and against the Kafers in both Kafers Wars (2301 to 2303, and 2305 to 2313) .

## **Design Characteristics**

There were a few key design characteristics for the Cuba design, many of which were shared with older generation brothers. These were:

- Common hull design using standard synthetic materials.
- A missile armament to maximise long range firepower. A laser armament allowing excellent point defence. The classic INAP submunition dispensers to provide the capability to close and overwhelm opponents at close range.
- A commonly produced drive system utilising a Mexican *Diesel Nacional* designed 5MW MHD Turbine and a purpose built *IES* stutterwarp drive.
- A retractable *Diesel Nacional* Solar array and *Diesel Nacional* Fuel Processing plant.

### **Hull design**

- The hull is composed of a two streamlined parts, divided in 2 levels.
- The bow contains the bulk of the operational, non-engineering, systems of the ship.
- The stern contains the MHD Turbine, the, Fuel Processing Plant, the retractable Solar Array and the Stutterwarp Drive. In addition the bulk of the engineering components and fuel is stored here.

### **Overall dimensions:**

- Length: 28 m.
- Tonnage: 1200 tonnes (unloaded)

### **Armament:**

- 2 x LL-55 laser weapons mounted in masked turrets. (upper bow)
- 2 x LLN-8 submunitions dispensers. (port/starboard stern)
- 8 x EM-5D carried in 2 missile bay located in the forward. (2 remote pilot stations).

### **Electronics:**

Active Sensors:

- Phased Active Sensor,

Passive Sensors:

- Spherical Passive Sensor,

Standard Navigation Sensors:

- Navigation Radar,

- Deep System Scanner,

### **Engineering Systems:**

- Power Plant: *Diesel Nacional* 5MW MHD Turbine.
- Power Plant: *Diesel Nacional* Fuel Processing Plant and Solar Array.
- Drive: *IES* 2MW old military stutterwarp drive.

### **Crew:**

The Cuba has a total of 24 crew:

- 10 in bridge.
- 6 in TAC.
- 3 in engineering.
- 1 in medical bay.
- 1 in steward section.
- 3 in security section.

## **Service History**

### **Mexico**

The “AEM: Armada Espacial Mexicana” (MSN: Mexican Space Navy) ordered 16 *Cubas*, and replaced all the *Durangos*. All the corvettes in the class were sent to French Arm in different stages of the Kafer Wars. The *NEMs* of the class were: *Cuba*, *Panama*, *Costa Rica*, *Nicaragua*, *Dominicana*, *Honduras*, *El Salvador*, *Guatemala*, *Belice*, *Borinken*, *Centroamerica*, *Caribe*, *Los Altos*, *Antillas*, *Lucayas* and *El Canal*.

From 2275 to 2279, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rio de La Plata War, the *Cubas* played an important role escorting Mexican and Argentine ships along the Chinese Arm, which was crowded with privateers, pirates and specially Brazilian warships, many were attacked, but 2 were severe damaged, the *NEM Los Altos*, and *NEM Lucayas*, just *Los Altos* returned to service.

From 2282 to 2287, during the Central Asian War, the Chinese Arm became again a war zone. The *NEM Borinken*, *NEM Caribe* and the *NEM Centroamerica* and the were attacked by Japanese privateers, while the *Los Altos* was attacked by French privateers, their reparations lasted a full year. The *NEM Antillas* was destroyed by Brazilian privateers, they were no survivors.

From 2292 to 2293, during the War of German Reunification, the 3<sup>rd</sup> war in the last 2 decades in the Chinese Arm. The *NEM Belice* was attacked by German privateers, and the *Los Altos* was attacked again by French privateers, their reparations lasted for a few months. The *NEM El Canal* was destroyed by Brazilian privateers, the survivors were rescued by an ex-Bavarian ship.

In early 2298, a corvette squadron escorted a diplomatic ship to the Hochbaden system, while 3 corvettes remained in orbit, the *Los Altos* was sent to Eta Bootis escorting a courier carrying an ambassador to the Auroran nation of Tanstaafl, but none arrived to Aurore. The current status of the *Los Altos* is “unknown”, presumed destroyed by the Kafers.

In 2300, the construction of the 4<sup>th</sup> generation corvettes began, the *Moctezuma Class*, some *Cubas* were decommissioned. In 2301 Argentina sent a squadron to fight against the Kafers, in solidarity Mexico sent a corvette squadron, in their 5<sup>th</sup> escort mission the *Centroamerica* and *Caribe* were destroyed, the *Borinken* was abandoned, just the *Belice* survived intact.

In 2305, the Kafers returned, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mexican Civil War began, the feeling inside the

AEM was preferable to fight against an alien race rather than fight with their own countrymen. Many voluntaries offered to fight against the Kafer, a super-freighter carrying *Fantomas* and *Jaguars* was sent to aid the Argentines, while the *Cubas* were recommissioned, and 2 squadrons were formed.

In 2307, the “Escuadrón Aguila” (Eagle squadron), included the *NEM Dominicana*, *NEM Panama*, *NEM Nicaragua*, and the command ship, the *NEM Costa Rica*. The “Escuadrón Aguila” escorted several freighters to the risky Beta Canum Cluster. The *Dominica* was damaged around Dunkelheim, but was repaired at Nibelungen orbital base, and returned to the squadron.

In 2309, the Kafers smashed the Beta Canum Cluster, the contact with the *Kukulcan* and the Argentine squadron was lost. Both squadrons, “Aguila” and “Serpiente”.(Snake) retreated as the rest of the Terran forces to Queen Alice's Star. Back to Human space, the *Belice*, included in a *Moctezumas* squadron was sabotaged and was abandoned.

In 2311, the “Escuadrón Serpiente” were the first Mexican ships to cross into the Kafer Sphere. The squadron was conformed by the *NEA Cuba*, *NEA Guatemala*, *NEA El Salvador*, and the command ship, the *NEM Honduras*. The *Cuba* suffered a fuel leaking failure and was stationed on Aurore's orbit for several months.

In 2313, Mexican and Argentine ships were at Gamma Serpentis system. As the war apparently ended, the remaining seven Argentine ships returned to the Argentine Space Force, and the Mexican corvettes, freighter, fighters and voluntaries returned to the Mexican Space Navy. Before their arrival to the Core, they were noticed that the Civil War ended too.

The *Cubas* were decommissioned in 2316 giving way to the *Moctezumas*, some went to the reserve or used as training ships. There were interest from some nations to buy a few, but in 2319 when the 4<sup>th</sup> Rio de La Plata War started, the *Cubas* were reactivated, the can been seen across the Chinese Arm escorting convoys side by side with the *Moctezumas*.

## **General Statistics**

### **Basics:**

Design Date: 2270

First Example Laid Down: 2270

First Example Completed: 2271

Fleets in Service: Mexico.

Number in Service: 8

### **Performance:**

Warp Efficiency: 1.9,

Power Plant: 5 MW MHD,

Fuel: 450 Tons ,

Range: 7.7 light years,

Endurance: 4 weeks,

Mass: 1,197 tons,

Cargo Capacity: none,

Crew: 24 (10 Bridge, 6 TAC, 3 Engineering, 1 Medical, 1 Stewards, 3 Security);

Passengers: 0.

Comfort: 0,

Emergency Power: 4 days,

Life Support: 30 days (24 personnel),

Price: 21.24 Mlv.

### **Ship Status Sheet:**

Move: 4,  
Screens: 0,  
Radiated signature: 3(4),  
Radial Reflected: 5(6),  
Lateral Reflected: 6(7),  
Targeting Computer: +1,  
Radial Profile: -2,  
Lateral Profile: 0,  
Armour: 2,  
Active: 5,  
Passive: 10,  
Manoeuvrability: ?,  
Other: Solar Array.

### **Hits:**

Bridge: Captain, Navigator, Helm, Communications, Computer.  
TAC: Active Sensors, Passive Sensor, 2x Fire Control, 2x Remote Pilot.  
Hull Hits: 19/10/5  
Power Plant Hits: 15/3  
Damage Control: 0 teams (2 parties from bridge)

## **Crew**

### **Puente de Mando:**

The command Bridge of the Cuba includes 5 stations, where the Con station is usually under the command of a *Capitán de Corbeta*. The XO is a *Teniente de Navío*. The “Navigation Officer” is a *Teniente de Fragata*, the senior Helm is a *Guardiamarina*, the senior Communications Officer is a *3<sup>er</sup> Maestre*, while in the “Senior Computer”, “Navigator-2”, “Helm-2”, “Communications-2”, and “Computer-2” are all *Astronautas*.

### **Centro Táctico:**

The Cuba's Tactical Center includes 6 stations, the TAC Officer is also the Phased Active Sensor Officer, such responsibility is under a *Teniente de Corbeta*. The 2 Remote Piloting stations are operated by *Cabo Espaciales*. The Spherical Passive Sensor Officer is under a *2<sup>do</sup> Maestre*. The 2 Fire Control stations operates the laser turrets and/or the submunition dispensers, such Gunners are *Astronautas*.

### **Ingeniería:**

The Cuba's Engineering Room includes 3 stations, 1 per power plant. The Turbine Drive station and whole engineering room is in charge of a *1<sup>er</sup> Maestre*, while each of the Turbine Electrical and Mechanical stations are in charge of *Astronautas*.

### **Enfermería:**

The Cuba's Sick Bay includes 1 stations, which is for the ship's doctor, a physician who has the rank of *Teniente de Corbeta*.

### **Servicio Administrativo:**

The Cuba's Steward Service offers comfort in a ship without spin habitats. The sole station is assigned to the ship's cook, an *Astronauta*.

**Seguridad:**

The Cuba's Security has 1 station, and 3 crew member, the "Security Officer" is a 3<sup>er</sup> *Maestre*, which is merely the guardian of hand guns onboard, and is aided by 2 *Astronautas*.

**Acknowledgements**

The Piedra Buena, Epsilon, and Foxtrot are mentioned in the GDW's "Invasion" and "Star Cruiser". The Azteca, Durango, Serie-4000 (super-freighter), Fantasma and Jaguar are concepts from Gregory Hunter's works "Argentine-Mexican Starship Design" and "Ships of the Chinese Arm".