

Warships of the Latin Finger

Frigates: Espora Class

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Introduction

The end of the 3rd Rio de La Plata War was proceed by new classes of Argentine ships, while Argentina was able to defeat the Brazilians in the space scenario, the need of newly ships was clear, the *Espora Class* like many other Latin American designs, the *Esporas* were designed to operate in pairs over more than 3 months.

Narrative

There is no trace of the aliens who attacked the human colonies since the victory in Eta Bootis, a tense calm is returning to Aurore, the Kommodore Wilhelm Lutke has returned onboard the MSIF Bassompierre from the Arcturus system, his mission was the search and rescue of the survivors of the Station Arcture.

The Kommodore Lutke ordered to the Argentine frigate squadron to leave Eta Bootis and survey the systems of DM+18 2776 and DM+17 2611, then go to Hochbaden, and wait for his arrival, and specially, to report exclusively to him. Reluctantly, the “Comandate de Fragata” Leonardo Almiron obeyed, he was not accustomed to taking orders from a foreigner.

The NEA Espora and NEA Spiro passed thru DM+18 2776 in their way to DM+17 2611 where they discovered an uncharted habitable planet. During the trek back to Hochbaden, the sensor detected unusual activity that they hadn't seen in his previous visit to DM+18 2776, in their approach to the Gas Giant, the active sensor detected no less than 30 large ships, Kafer warships.

-Almiron- “Madre Santa, return to the inner system, full speed, we must warn the Hochbaden fleet.” -Sensor 1- “They are coming, missiles approaching.” -Almiron- “Screen on, evasive maneuvers...” -Communicator- “Is down, is down Sir, the Spiro is dawn” -Almiron- “Helm prepare to warp...”
The skeletons of the Espora and Spiro were found in 2303.

November 7, 2300 – Wiseman – 1st Kafer War

Development History

In 2240, Argentina followed the Brazilian path and designed a missile frigate class, the *Piedra Buena*, such frigates were developed after the 2nd Rio de La Plata War. The *Piedra Buenas* saw no action until the 3rd Rio de La Plata War (2275 to 2279), the Argentine and Mexican *Piedra Buenas* were decisive to won the war.

By 2280, the “Armada Espacial Mexicana” bought more French-made frigates, *Orage Class* (in 2265 the Mexicans bought a *Ypres class* frigate). Same as the *Piedra Buenas*, such frigates were MHD powered, a handicap patrolling the long path to the Latin Finger. A major improvement provided the *Orages* with fission power, more armament, they were renamed as the *Huracan Class*.

The “Fuerza Espacial Argentina” realized that the *Piedra Buenas* needed to be upgraded, while their performance was better than the *Huracans*, but their endurance was not. Taking advantage of an INAP's reverse-engineering project using the Mexican *Ypres* frigate provided the new frigate class with screen technology and cloned targeting system.

The result was the *Espora* class, a strong armoured, and well armed missile frigate, which in a first sight might be confused with a *Piedra Buena class*, such resemblance attracted a few hostile warships during the Central Asian War (2282 to 2287) and during the War of German Reunification (2292 to 2293), it usually was a deadly mistake.

Design Characteristics

There were a few key design characteristics for the *Espora* design, many of which were shared with his generation little brothers. These were:

- Common hull design using standard composite materials.
- A powerful PBWS cannon in the forward. A heavy missile armament to maximise long range firepower. A heavy laser armament allowing excellent point defence. The classic INAP submunition dispensers along the hull to provide the capability to close and overwhelm opponents at close range.
- Protection in the form of hull armour and screens developed for the *Ypres*.
- Targeting systems developed for the *Ypres* and *Huracan*.
- A commonly produced drive system utilising an Argentine *Meridional Electrico* designed 15MW fission reactor and a purpose built *IES* stutterwarp drive.
- A hangar bay carrying one lander, fighter or drone.
- A twin body spin machinery.

Hull design

- The hull is composed of three distinct parts all of which are armoured.
- The bow contains the bulk of the operational, non-engineering, systems of the ship. Including the bridge, computers, TAC, sensors, stores, life support and almost all of the weapons. It also contains much of the ship's recreation space.
- The stern contains the hangar, the fission power plant and the stutterwarp drive. In addition the bulk of the engineering components and fuel is stored here.
- The unarmored central corridor contains most of the accommodations. Living conditions in the *Espora* are not the best due the lacking of a spin habitat, however, 2 *Esporas* can be attached together to create simulated gravity in both vessels.

Overall dimensions:

- Length: 40 m.
- Tonnage: ~2400 tonnes

Armament:

- 1 x PBWS fixed cannon in the forward.
- 3 x LL-55 laser weapons mounted in masked turrets.
- 2 x LLN-8 sub munitions dispensers.

- 8 x EM-5D carried in 2 bays (2 remote pilot stations).

Electronics:

Active Sensors:

- Phased Active Sensor,

Passive Sensors:

- Spherical Passive Sensor,

Standard Navigation Sensors:

- Navigation Radar,
- Gravitational Scanner,
- Deep System Scanner,

Screens:

- Screen Defence System,

Engineering Systems:

- Power Plant: *Meridional Electrico* 15MW Fission Reactor.
- Drive: *IES* 4MW old military stutterwarp drive.

Crew:

The *Espora* has a total of 48 crew:

- 12 in bridge.
- 9 in TAC.
- 12 in engineering.
- 2 in medical bay.
- 3 in steward section.
- 7 in security section.
- 3 in hangar bay.

Embarked Crafts:

- 1 *Espectro* Class Lander (on magnetic sling).

Service History

Argentina

The “FEA: Fuerza Espacial Argentina” (ASF: Argentine Space Force) ordered 16 *Esporas*, and replaced all the *Piedra Buenas*. Eight frigates of this class were sent to French Arm to support the Terran forces against the Kafers. The *NEAs* of the class were: *Espora*, *Spiro*, *Rapida*, *Veloz*, *Indomita*, *Intrepida*, *Valiente*, *Heroína*, *Agil*, *Audaz*, *Norte*, *Sur*, *Este*, *Oeste*, *Increible*, and *Voraz*.

In late 2299, Argentina sent a couple of *Esporas* to the French Arm, the *NEA Espora* and *NEA Spiro*, those frigates were destroyed one year later on the DM+18 2776 system. In 2301, Argentina formed an Expeditionary Fleet and sent a squadron led by *NEA Argentina*, the squadron included the *NEA Rapida* and *NEA Heroína*, they fought against and defeat the Triumphant Destiny.

In 2305, the tensions with Brazil were too high, however, the return of the Kafer menace was a higher issue to the Argentine authorities. Argentina sent another squadron led by the *NEA Santa Maria* to the Neubayern system as part of the Terran Reserve Fleet. The squadron included the *NEA Indomita* and *NEA Intrepida*.

In 2307, the Kafers invaded the BCV cluster and the *Santa Maria's* squadron disappeared. A squadron led by the *NEA Montaña* was transferred from the Alpha Centauri system to Neubayrn. The *Montaña's* squadron was part of the human fleet in the battles over Neubayern, QAS, DM+34

2342 and BCV systems. The squadron included the *NEA Veloz* and *NEA Valiente*.

While the battles in the BCV cluster occurred, during 74 weeks the *Intrepida* and *Indomita*, along with the *NEA Orcadas del Sur*, patrolled the path between Xi Ursae Majoris and Henry's Star system. While the *Santa Maria*, the *HMS Montrose*, and the NEM Kukulcan remained on the 61 Ursae Majoris, the defence force included two fighter squadrons from Trilon based on Kie-Yuma.

In 2311, when the *Santa Maria* fall into a Kafer ambush at DM+35 2436, in coordination with the *Orcadas del Sur*, the *Intrepida* and the *Indomita* forced the last *India* to withdraw the system. While the battle between large ships occurred, a savage fighters dogfight occurred around the cruiser's escape pods, 6 *Pulquis*, 6 *Golfs* and 4 *Jaguars*, just the Mexican fighters survived.

In 2313, the *Montaña's* squadron, which now included the survivor ships from the *Santa Maria's* squadron, were at Gamma Serpentis systems but none of them used their weapons. 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.

With the advent of a new class of frigates, the *Guajardo Class*, 8 of the 14 remaining *Esporas* were sold to friendly nations, 2 of them were sold to Inca Republic (*Agil* and *Audaz*), 2 to Heidelshemat (*Voraz* and *Incredible*), 2 to Elysia (*Norte* and *Oeste*), 2 to Venezuela (*Este* and *Sur*), while the ASF retains the last 6 (*Rapida*, *Veloz*, *Indomita*, *Intrepida*, *Valiente*, and *Heroína*).

Mexico

The “AEM: Armada Espacial Mexicana” (MSN: Mexican Space Navy) ordered 8 *Esporas*, and like the ASF, they replaced all the *Piedra Buenas*. While the *Esporas* were them most modern warships in the MSN inventory during the Kafer War, none was sent to the French Arm, sadly Mexico fall into her 3rd Civil War, and the *Esporas* remained to secure the Mexican space holdings.

The *Esporas* replaced the *Piedra Buenas* and formed four frigate brigades, each one based on Terra, Tirane-Sheol, Kwantung and Montaña. The *NEMs* of the class are: *Baja California*, *Baja California Sur*, *Sonora*, *Sinaloa*, *Marias & Revillagigedo*, *Alta California*, *Arizona*, and *Nuevo Mexico*. The two *Huracan* brigades were based one in the Core and one in the Latin Finger.

The lack of a spin habitat in the *Esporas*, a handicap according to the Mexicans, the design of a new frigate was showed up in 2301, the *Guajardo Class*, Mexico sold their *Huracans* to the Inca Republic (*NEM Huracan*, *NEM Tormenta*, *NEM Trueno*, and *NEM Ciclón*), but the project was postponed due Argentina's involvement in the Kafer War, and the start of 3rd Mexican Civil War.

Heidelshemat

Is unusual to sold an INAP ship to a non-Hispanic nation, specially to a ex-Bavarian one, however, the Heidelshematians share a common rival with INAP, the Texans. The hostilities forced the Raumwaffe to bought new warships, 2 of the 4 vessel purchased from Argentina were *Esporas*, and were renamed as *Heidelshemat* and *Geroellblock*.

Inca Republic

Is common to see INAP ships in the “AEI: Armada Espacial Inca” (ISN: Incan Space Navy) inventory, they bought 2 second hand *Esporas*, Were renamed as the Incan island territories in Terra and Tirane, *NEI Galapagos* and *NEI Colon*, and are based in the Sol system. When they are sent to the Chinese Arm, the frigates of the Alpha Centarui system took their place at Sol.

The Incan *Orages* are merely *Orages* carrying missiles in the cargo bay, the *NEI Machu*

Pichu and *NEI Sechura* are based in Alpha Centauri. The Incas also purchased the 4 Mexican *Huracans*, *NEI Peru* and *NEI Ecuador* are usually based in Hiedelsheimat, while the *NEI Colombia* and *NEI Panama* are assigned to Austin's World.

Elysia

Is unusual to sold an INAP ship to a non-Hispanic nation, specially to a ex-French one. The Elysia Defence Force needed to replace their destroyed frigates, the *Espora* was chosen, the Elysians already saw how the *Esporas* defended them from 2309 to 2311 they bought 2 second hand frigates to the ASF, they were renamed as *ESE Espérer* and *ESE Liberté II*.

Venezuela

Venezuela entered to the space scenario in late 2310's, while the Venezuelan settlements are small, they received many resources by the government, unfortunately the long path to those settlements was crowded with pirates and privateers. Initially the Venezuelan transport ships were escorted by some friendly nations.

The start of the 4th Rio de La Plata War turned the escorts to take care of they own ships, as result the “FEV: Fuerza Espacial Venezolana” (VSF: Venezuelan Space Force) was created, composed by a few old missile boats and the jewels of their force, a pair of *Esporas*, bought from the Argentine Space Force, those frigates were renamed as *NEV Caracas* and *NEV Maracaibo*.

Other nations

Some of friendly Tier-4 nations requested for military ships, while they budget just included enough to buy 2nd or 3rd hand ships, the *Piedra Buena* was the best option.

Spain was the most interested due her enclave on Tirane, Nuevas Chafarinas, they created the “AEE: Armada Espacial Española” (SSN: Spanish Space Navy), the fleet consisted of 3 *Piedra Buenas*, the Spaniard ships were named according to their space holdings, there are *NEE Chafarinas*, *NEE Perejil*, and *NEE Alboran*.

Chile as an INAP member requested for warships, and bought 2 *Piedra Buenas*, and they became the proud of the “AEC: Armada Espacial Chilena” (CSN: Chilean Space Navy), those ships were renamed as national independence heroes, *NEC Bernardo O'Higgins (O'Higgins)* and *NEC Miguel Estanislao Soler (Soler)*.

Uruguay like Chile is an INAP member, they followed the Chilean way and formed their own “FEU: Fuerza Espacial Uruguay” (USF: Uruguayan Space Force), and bought 2 *Piedra Buenas*, the *NEU Montevideo* and *NEU Sacramento*. When the 4th Rio de La Plata War started, the *NEU's* were at 40 Eridani.

A unexpected buy request came from Polisaria, the “FEP: Fuerza Espacial Polisaria” (PSF: Polisarian Space Force) bought 1 *Piedra Buena*, such was renamed as *NEP Sahara*.

General Statistics

Basics:

Design Date: 2275

First Example Laid Down: 2279

First Example Completed: 2282

Fleets in Service: Argentina, Mexico, Heidelshemat, Inca Republic, Elysia, Venezuela.

Number in Service: 22

Performance:

Warp Efficiency: 1.94,
Power Plant: 15 MW fission,
Fuel: 100 Tons (for lander),
Range: 7.7 light years,
Endurance: 13 weeks,
Mass: 2,250 tons (unloaded),
Cargo Capacity: 9.17 cubic meters,
Crew: 48 (12 Bridge, 9 TAC, 12 Engineering, 2 Medical, 3 Stewards, 7 Security, 3 Hangar);
Passengers: none.
Comfort: 2,
Emergency Power: 5 days?,
Life Support: 90 days (48 personnel),
Price: 37,4 Mlv (exclusive of small craft/drone and ordnance).

Ship Status Sheet:

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

Hits:

Bridge: Captain, Navigator, Helm, Communications, 2x Computer.
TAC: Active Sensors, Passive Sensor, 4x Fire Control, 2x Remote Pilot, 1x Flight Control.
Hull Hits: 32/16/8
Power Plant Hits: 20/4
Damage Control: 2 teams (plus 2 parties from bridge)

Crew**Puente de Mando:**

The command Bridge of the Espora includes 6 stations, where the Con station is usually under the command of a *Comandante de Fragata*. The XO is a *Comandante de Corbeta*. The Navigation Officer is a *Teniente de Navío* while the “Navigator-2” is a *Suboficial Mayor*. A special station is used as a dual Communications-Computer station according to the needs and is called the DCC station, the “DCC-1” is a *Suboficial Principal*. The senior Helm, Communications and Computer Officers are *Guardiamarinas*, while in the “Helm-2” and “Communications-2” are *Cabos Segundos* and the “Computer-2” and “DCC-2” are *Astronautas Primeros*.

Centro Táctico:

The Espora's Tactical Center includes 9 stations, the TAC Officer is also the Flight Controller, such responsibility is under a *Teniente de Navío*. The PBWS is under the “Fire Control-1” a *Suboficial Segundo*, the other 3 Fire Control stations operates the laser turrets and/or

the submunition dispensers, such Gunners are *Astronautas Terceros*. The Phased Active station, the Spherical Passive station and 2 Remote Piloting stations are operated by *Astronautas Segundos*.

Ingeniería:

The Espora's Engineering Room includes 6 stations, 2 per each section, the Drive section and whole engineering room is in charge of a *Teniente de Fragata*, while the second watch is in charge of a *Suboficial Primero*, the other drive station is operated by an *Astronauta Segundo* in the 1st watch and by an *Astronauta Tercero* in the 2nd watch. The Electrical section is in charge of a *Teniente de Corbeta*, while the second watch is in charge of a *Cabo*, the other station is operated by an *Astronauta Segundo* in the 1st watch and by an *Astronauta Tercero* in the 2nd watch. The Mechanical section is in charge of a *Teniente de Corbeta*, the other station is operated by an *Astronauta Segundo* in the 1st watch and by an *Astronauta Tercero* in the 2nd watch.

Enfermería:

The Espora's Sick Bay includes 2 stations, 1 for the ship's doctor, a physician who has the rank of *Teniente de Fragata*, the other station is for a nurse or a crew member with medical training, usually an *Astronauta Segundo*.

Servicio Administrativo:

The Espora's Steward Service offers comfort in a ship without spin habitats. The 3 stations are assigned to the "Supply Officer", an *Astronauta Segundo*, and to the cook and janitor under 2 *Astronautas Terceros*.

Seguridad:

The Espora's Security has 1 station, and normally 7 crew members, the "Security Officer" is a *Cabo Primero*, aided by 2 *Astronautas Segundos*, while the other 4 crew member are *Astronautas Terceros*.

Ala Espacial Embarcada:

The Espora includes an Embarked Space Wing, with no Hangar bay, the craft is on a magnetic sling, usually the craft is an Espectro Class lander, the lander crew members are, the "Craft Pilot Officer" a *Teniente de Corbeta*, the "Load Master Officer" a *Cabo Primero*, and "Craft Maintenance Officer" an *Astronauta Segundo*. In some occasions the Espora carries a Sensor Drone or a Fighter.

Acknowledgements

The [Nelson \(Montrose\)](#) and the [India](#) are mentioned in articles found in the *etranger* site.

The Ypres, Orage, and Golf are mentioned in the GDW's "Ships of the French Arm" and "Invasion".

The Hercules (Santa Maria, Montaña, Argentina), Antartida (Orcadas del Sur) and Espora are based on Matt Scull's work "Argentine Space Forces".

Pulqui is based on Demetrios Rammos's work "Fuerza Espacial Argentina 2003".

The Serie-4000 (Kukulcan), Guajardo, Huracan, Espectro, and Jaguar are concepts from Gregory Hunter's works "Argentine-Mexican Starship Design" and "Ships of the Chinese Arm".

I read four different Espora designs, one from Matt Scull, one from Demetrios Rammos, and two from Bryn Monnery. I liked the idea of the Espora as an upgrade of the Piedra Buena.