
SHADOWS OF DFW 2080

Version 4.2
by
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This is a writeup of the DFW area, used in my campaigns set in the DFW area over the years. This writeup draws on the Neo-Anarchist's Guide to North America, Shadows of North America, 6th World Almanac, and the Neo-Anarchist Streetpedia. Only the Neo-Anarchist's Guide to North America gave a detailed write-up, but this is now 30 years out-of-date in game. Subsequent books have only had brief sections pertaining to DFW.

INTRODUCTION

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This writeup has been updated to match the published books up through the mentions in the Neo-Anarchist Streetpedia, through 2080 or so. I've done my best not to conflict too much with anything that has been published, but have probably missed more than a few things - keeping corporate mentions straight is a pain. There are a few hooks in here for things in my campaign(s), but nothing overt or too divergent from the ongoing metaplots. The most significant change from canon is the addition of the Renraku Arcology in Denton, which is not mentioned elsewhere.

The writeup is given in the “standard” Shadowland format, with comments from area shadowrunners, who I often use as NPCs in my game. This is obviously not official in any way.

If you have any comments/corrections/suggestions - let me know at [edpichon at gmail.com](mailto:edpichon@gmail.com)

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DFW VITAL STATISTICS

- **Population:** 21,725,000
 - Human: 56%
 - Elf: 11%
 - Dwarf: 9%
 - Ork: 14%
 - Troll: 7%
- **Population Density:** ~1,200 per km²
- **Land Area:** 18,000 km²
- **Per Capita Income:** 131,000 ¥
- **Below Poverty Level:** 40%
- **On Fortune's Active Traders List:** 1%
- **Corporate Affiliation:** 70%
- **Percent SINless:** 28% (est.)
- **Education:**
 - Dropout: 31%
 - High School: 40%
 - College Degree: 20%
 - Graduate Degree: 9%
- **Bishop's Crime Probability Level:** 7
- **Felonious Crime Rate:** 48 per 1,000 per annum
- **Local Grid Access Numbers:** 1214, 1972

PUBLIC SERVICES

- **Police Services:** Lone Star (Won contract in 2059, and began takeover of DFWPD on January 1, 2060).
 - > Police services are actually contracted by the districts - KE and HC have managed to snake a few contracts over the years.
 - > Anonymous Coward
- **Power:** Texas Power Consortium (owned by PCC ClearPower Associates)
- **Water:** Viterra, Inc.
 - > Percent Potable: 45%.
 - > Youarebeingliedto
 - > For once, you are off by less than an order of magnitude. Don't drink from the taps unless you have an extra filtration system installed.
 - > (In)sanity
- **Waste Services:** Gaeatronics (with Confederacy Recycling and Shiawase Waste Management)
- **Public Grid Services:** NovaTech STS (formerly Fuchi's BellSouth Subsidiary)
- **Public Transit:** Dallas/Fort Worth Area Rapid Transit (DART) (City)
- **GridGuide/Roads:** Dallas/Fort Worth Public Roadway Department (City)
- **Medical Services:**
 - **Primary Contractor:** DocWagon (Los Colinas Medical Center - DFW HQ)
 - **Secondary Contractors:** CrashCart, DFW Med Services

OVERVIEW

The DFW metroplex is the second most influential sprawl in the CAS, second only to Atlanta. The population of the city swelled tremendously following the invasion by Aztlan in 2035, mostly with Houston refugees, but also with a sizable number of Aztlan immigrants. The city was already on the edge of breakdown, having absorbed waves of refugees fleeing the breakup of Mexico in 2011, at the Ghost Dance War in 2018, but the influx of war refugees in 2035 pushed the services of the city to the breaking point. It is only within the past 20 years that DFW has managed to get a handle on its problems and emerge as a cultural and economic powerhouse in the CAS.

> To put this in some sort of perspective, DFW has more than tripled in population in the past 70 years; 10x what it was in 1980. While at the same time actually *shrinking* in geographic area. And after having nearly half of the population wiped out by VITAS back in the teens. That means nearly 15 million people have moved (or fled) here in the 21st century. It's no wonder things started to crack under the strain.

> (In)sanity

In addition to having to absorb large numbers of refugees, there are five other critical factors that have shaped DFW in the 21st century:

> Beyond VITAS, the Awakening, the Ghost Dance War, the breakup of the USA, the Crash, the Aztlan War, the Other Crash...

> MEESA

- Firstly is the sizable Aztlaner population, which forms upwards of 40% of the populace of the city. Confined to low-cost regions of the city, these de facto ghettos have created a vibrant social scene in the city, which is becoming world renowned as the place to go for Mexican music and dance. It is part of their cultural identity that they are not Aztlaner, but Mexican (or Latino), and calling someone an Aztlaner is considered offensive and can be grounds for violence - at least for some.

> That's 40% amongst the SINners. SINless? More like 80%. Holdover from when brown skin was what people were scared of.

> Whitehat

> Bring on the green!

> SithDog2057

> Credit where credit is due - Governor Santiago-Ortega went to the mat to protect the pointy-eared types long before it became popular.

> Whitehat

> Because Texas hadn't managed to strip them of the vote yet!

> MEESA

> I think it may have had more to do with her brother growing horns. And unlike some places east of here, Texas rather firmly came down on the side of metahuman rights in '23.

- > Whitehat
- > Do the math - there's no way the population is only 40% Aztlaner. There must be a couple million refugees unaccounted for. What happened to them?
- > Youarebeingliedto
- > Not necessarily. A lot of the refugees were anglos from the PCC, SSC, Sioux, and the rest of Texas. No need to posit death camps. Not that the barrios are particularly pleasant...
- > (In)sanity
- Then there are the associated tensions with the Aztlan government itself (or rather, Aztechnology). Anti-Aztlaner paranoia is rampant, and is used to justify much discrimination against the Aztlaners, and is the source of much violence within the Mexican/Latino community as well. The problem is complicated by an explicit policy of helping refugees flee Aztlan combined with a propensity for the Aztlan intelligence service to send agents disguised as refugees. There is a significant fear that Aztlan may be planning to start an insurgent campaign in DFW as a prelude to invasion – a fear stoked by the occasional terrorist bombing. Then again, the CAS and various refugee groups are trying to do the same thing to Aztlan.
- The region is unusually dominated by the megacorps, with both formal and informal political roles. This is a result of deliberate policy during Texas' brief independence, and CAS attitudes in general. Saeder-Krupp is the dominant player, followed by Ares and Renraku. Texas Instruments is the primary player amongst the AA's, second only to SK in number of employees.
- > "Unusually dominated" is surprisingly close to the truth. Drek, in DFW, the corps don't bother to work behind the scenes anymore. It's kind of admirable, considering how they normally do things.
- > Anonymous Coward
- > The competition has an upside - it's kept out Aztechnology.
- > Pyrwatcher
- > More than that: the rivalry has kept the area from being completely dominated by one corp. SK has a definite lead, but everybody else works together to keep them more or less in-line.
- > (In)sanity
- > That's not how capitalism is supposed to work!
- > MEESA
- Water is the great constraint on growth. Climate change, pollution and draining of aquifers combined with an expanding population to put a tremendous strain on the water supply across Texas. DFW has been particularly hard hit. After emergency rationing was enacted in the 2040s, metroplex authorities were forced to strictly regulate water usage, and levee a number of taxes on water use. Gone are the fountains, pools and lush lawns of the 20th century.
- > Rather than doing something sensible, like taxing wasteful uses, they jacked up the price for everyone. At the bottom rung, water costs can consume up to 15% of income.
- > Whitehat
- > Bulldrek. Have you seen the Park Cities? I've never seen greener grass.
- > MEESA
- > By making water expensive, they made flagrant waste even more of a sign of status & wealth.
- > Whitehat
- > And every last one of them, public pools and water parks included, add surfactants to the water to reduce evaporative loss. The toxicology is astounding and making its way into the general water supply. The only reason it's not front page news is because they've been able to blame the rise in skin cancers on "ozone depletion".
- > Youarebeingliedto
- > And because certain companies - AG Chemie <cough> <cough> - have spent a bunch of money on disrupting studies into the health effects.
- > Pyrwatcher
- > I can confirm this one.
- > Ain't Tellin'
- > You slitch. How do you sleep at night?
- > Whitehat
- > On genuine Egyptian cotton sheets and bottled water. Ain't cheap, but what else am I going to spend their nuyen on?
- > Ain't Tellin'
- Lastly is the gap between the rich and poor within the sprawl, which manifests in a number of different ways. The small middle class is largely human, corporately affiliated, and rarely leave their gated enclaves. Lower class consists of a mix of Aztlaner immigrants, poor Texans displaced by the Aztlan annexation, and a disproportionate number of metahumans (particularly orks). Obvious signs such as beggars and the homeless are not very visible, as they are gently pushed (or violently forced) into the refugee camps and barrens. The upper class consists of a mix of wealthy Aztlaner aristocrats-in-exile, wealthy CAS natives, and the social "glitterati" of the media industry that dominate the DFW social scene.

GETTING AROUND

The DFW Metroplex is a big area, almost 16,000 square kilometers of urban sprawl. Moving around the city can be a challenge. Even with the advent of Grid Guide, the road network of the DFW area is simply unable to handle the massive amount of traffic in the city. Gridlock is common, and cross-plex trips can take upwards of three hours on the roads.

It is only within the past 10 years that an adequate mass transit system has been built, in the form of a rail network expanding on the old DART system. This is massively popular, with extremely high ridership. The tiered fare structure for the reserved luxury cars allows those willing to pay to travel in comfort, and security.

- > Translation: If you are rich enough, you can avoid the unwashed masses. Bastards.
- > Whitehat
- > I'm not sure it's worth the price, as the "refreshment service" has really cut back on their wine budget. When it first started, they actually had a decent wine selection. These days? Not so much.
- > Nocrimo
- > Do NOT mess with the DART police. HardCorp managed to snake the contract out from under LoneStar. Bad enough, right? It gets worse: Who gets to clean up the mess from HC's normal charming customer service is based on where the body ends up. If it stays on the railbed, it's HC's problem. If it's off the railbed, it's the Star's. It's almost a game to see who can throw a "perp" furthest.
- > Anonymous Coward
- > Nothing "almost" about it. They have a monthly pool.
- > Youarebeingliedto
- > Great, so they not only shoot you, but they throw you off the train too? I want a refund.
- > MEESA
- > Trolls are very much not welcome. Think it's a coincidence that the new cars have lower ceilings?
- > Whitehat
- > I still have a crick in my neck. And the drekheads charge me double.
- > SithDog2057
- > You tuskers being a lot harder to throw.
- > MEESA

DFW also boasts an extensive amount of air traffic, with shuttle services running from region to region for a nominal fee. A number of corporations even have dedicated commuter VTOLs, bringing their more far-flung employees in from the outer edges of the city. Rooftop helipads are common.

Bus services are also provided in some sectors of the city. In less secure areas, the schedules are erratic, but provide one of the few ways for the poorer citizens of the city to commute.

The DFW metroplex is connected to the rest of the CAS by a maglev bullet train (referred to as the "Mag"). DFW forms the western terminus of this ultra-fast passenger service that runs through the CAS, before looping south to Houston. Semi-ballistic and suborbital traffic is routed through the DFW Airport, while conventional aviation is typically routed to one of the several regional airports. Cross

country road travel is less popular than it once was, with the fear of awakened fauna attacks (namely, juggernauts) being far greater than the actual risk. Freight shipping makes up the majority of traffic, with upwards of 80% being either completely unmanned, or on autopilot.

BEATING THE HEAT

With global warming, vast quantities of paved roads, and the areas natural climate, temperatures in the summer can reach unbearably high levels – 43° C (110° F) highs are typical in the summer, and can reach 45° or more on particularly hot days. The demand for air-conditioning is tremendous, and while the metroplex no longer suffers from the brownouts that were frequent in the 2050s, staying cool is still a major priority for the area's residents. On particularly hot days, casualties from heat stroke become a major problem.

- > It's awful in the refugee camps and barrens - where utilities are patchy at best. The various charities spend much of their resources in the summer months in providing ice and air conditioning to the suffering residents.
- > Nocrimo
- > Trolls have it particularly bad - the dermal deposits are good at retaining heat...not very good at getting rid of it.
- > SithDog2057

In order to reduce cooling costs, and to provide some aid to pedestrians, many of the buildings in DFW have added large shade structures extending from their roofs. There are number of variation in design, but most of them are some variant of extending support struts that can extended to two or three times the area of the building, stretching netting or more advanced materials between the struts.

- > The view from the air when these extend is lovely - it looks like flowers blooming in the morning light.
- > Ain't Tellin'
- > Holy drek! AT has a poet's soul. Who'd a thunk it?
- > Foxdale
- > Ahem. Less poetically, the things play merry hell with recon - parking an eye in the sky over a building nets you little more than aerial views of the shade. I'm sure the corpsec guys have made sure that the damn things are IR opaque. And a few of them are broadband ultrasound emitters. And trust me - don't expect one of them to support the weight of your average runner.
- > Ain't Tellin'

Competition to provide larger and more distinctive shade structures has created some innovative designs - including shades supported by drones, reflective shades, colored shades, and even photovoltaic arrays.

Proposals for larger-scale solutions to the heat problem periodically arise - from the wildly impractical, to the politically untenable. Mirrors in space, cloud generators, blimps, multi-square mile shade structures - all these and more are

on the table. Collectively known as “Coolers” to area residents, comparing various proposals is a common topic of conversation - second only to complaints about the heat. From time to time, proposals are considered by the City Council, usually to be dismissed as technically risk, technically impossible, cost prohibitive, illegal, or some combination of the above.

- > And in more than a few cases, some fragger (TPA) pays good money to make a proposal look more impractical than it actually is. *Ahem.*
- > (In)sanity

Hope springs eternal that one day a Cooler will get deployed, to make the city a little more pleasant in the summertime. In the meantime, people stay indoors as much as possible.

- > And the poor fraggers who can't afford AC – or have to work outside – die in appalling numbers.
- > Nocrimo

CRIMINAL INFORMATION

The syndicates maintain a fairly low profile in the DFW area. They have their fingers in the usual pies, but typically keep the violence confined to various proxy gangs, which are the public face of criminal activity in DFW. They typically confine themselves to the ghettos and unpoliced areas, with the occasional “raid” in to the more civilized areas.

MAJOR SYNDICATES

- Mafia - Run by Don Miguel “Caesar” Chavez, they stick to the standard rackets of the Mob - transportation, “waste management”, weapon smuggling, prostitution. Don Caesar is known to be virulently anti-Aztlan, and has offered a bounty for Aztlan agents. The mob is primarily responsible for there not being any more organized Aztlaner gangs – the ones that are pro-Aztlan find themselves in a very bad way, while the ones that are anti-Aztlan are get absorbed into Chavez’s operation.
- > Do not try and scam Caesar. Last one to try lived for almost a week.
- > Anonymous Coward
- > Hitchens!
- > SithDog2057
- The “Silver Blade” Yakuza is the local arm of the Sotorugumi. The leader of this group is unknown at this time. Their rackets include prostitution, illegal narcotics, extortion and a thriving slave trade in desperate (or just unlucky) Aztlaner refugees. The Silver Blades are considered racist even by Yakuza standards, and are known to avenge perceived slights against them by metahumans to bloody extremes. It is also rumored that the Silver

Blades have very close ties to Renraku, but how justified those rumors are is anyone’s guess.

- > The old standby: all Japanese are working together. Racism - alive & well in the 21st century.
- > Whitehat
- > Ichido-san is not to be messed with. I think I’m his friend, and he *still* scares the drek out of me,
- > Foxdale

GANGS/OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

- Bushmasters – Irving area go-gang
- New World Soldiers – Narcotics trade and narcotic exposure of civilians
- Mara Salvatrucha – Central American/Anti-Aztlan gang
- Tetcutine – Aztlan refugee gang
- The Red Eaters – Violent barrens gang
- The Amazons – Female only go-gang, based in Arlington
- RangeRovers – Go-gang
- The Feathered – A particularly violent pro-Aztechnology gang, infamous for their brutality, weaponry, and high casualty rate.
- > The Feathered also have a really large bankroll. Can’t imagine where they get it from.
- > Pyrwatcher
- > The Amazons are a lot of fun, as long you have the right plumbing.
- > Nocrimo
- > Violent does not begin to describe the Red Eaters. If you see these nut jobs - red hats being their calling card - run like hell. I once saw one of these fraggers literally chew the tire off a motorcycle. While it was being driven at 180 kph.
- > Youarebeinglitedto
- > Riiaiiiiight.
- > MEESA
- > There may be some truth to YABLT’s story - Ghost help us. Their reputation for cannibalism is well earned. And no, they aren’t ghouls. Or gnawers. I think.
- > (In)sanity.

SHADOW COMMUNITY

There are approximately 100-200 active runners in the DFW metroplex, and the shadow community is considered to be unusually active for a metroplex of DFW’s size, though still less than more famed centers such as Seattle or Hong Kong. The outsized presence is due to a combination of the unusually high megacorporate influence, the simmering tensions with Aztlan and Aztechnology, and the usual political tensions between the CAS and Texas. Toss in the willingness of various CAS agencies to use shadow assets to enforce policy (ERLA and DEP), and there is plenty of work to be done.

- > SK is assumed to be the motivating force behind most runs, but it's just as likely that most "Herr Brakhauses" are Mr. Johnsons pretending to be SK affiliated as a distraction - there are more fake German accents than real ones.
- > Ain't Tellin'
- > Watch out for the ERLA jobs. They like to clean up any loose ends to prevent exposure. And their "German" accents *suck*.
- > SithDog2057
- > A government agency that is less ethical than a corporation?!?! Let me go find some pearls so I can clutch them in shocked outrage.
- > MEESA

GEOGRAPHY

Since the turn of the century, the DFW metroplex has grown to fully absorb some of the outer exurbs that surround the city, but with the Awakening making rural life far more perilous, and rising infrastructure costs, the region's geographical growth has been restrained.

- > Translation: Juggernauts are simply murder on house prices.
- > SithDog2057
- > Never mind the traffic. If you thought it was bad in the naughties...
- > Foxdale

The result is that DFW has started to grow upwards in recent decades, with sections of even the outer boroughs regularly sporting 20-story complexes of offices, high-rise apartments and industrial facilities. Single-story homes and buildings can be found, either in older neighborhoods that have resisted growth, or in the enclaves of the glitterati.

- > On the other hand, your own personal quarter-acre slice of 20th-century suburban heaven can still be yours, and for substantially less than what it would cost you in most of the world's megaplexes. Still out of the reach of 90% of DFW's residents, just not 99%.
- > (In)sanity.
- > True that, but beware the HOAs - they could give some of our scaly, winged friends pointers on backstabbing. Machiavelli has nothing on these guys.
- > Ain't Tellin'
- > So, Ain't Tellin'...any truth to the story that you did a job for your HOA in return for having your dues waved?
- > Foxdale
- > Hells yes! Even talked them into covering landscaping too. That drek gets expensive. And no, it wasn't *wetwork*. Just needed to persuade some people to behave themselves.
- > Ain't Tellin'

DISTRICTS

DFW is divided into 11 major administrative districts, corresponding roughly to the old county jurisdictions. [Note: Letters in parenthesis are the Lone Star security ratings for a region. Z-zones are considered too dangerous to patrol.]

- Collin (B) – Much of Saeder-Krupp's heavy industry and chemical work takes place here, and they own much of Lakes Lavon & Hubbard. Rumors persist of secret underwater facilities in both lakes.
- Dallas (B-D) – The core downtown district of Dallas has expanded over the years, but the south side has gradually slid further down into poverty. The Texas Senate meets at the Dallas County Convention Center, and much of downtown is dominated by Texas State and CAS offices, along with various mega corporate offices.
- Denton (A) – This is where the refugees with money settled. The area is reasonably prosperous. Gated communities abound. Denton is also home to Renraku's Arcology Project #4.
- Ellis (C) – Ellis is where excitement goes to die, at least according to most. Massive blocks of apartments house the middle classes in seemingly neverending rows. Gaetronics handles most of their waste processing in this area, and have generally done a good job of it.
- Fort Worth (A-E) – The southeast portion of FW has slowly succumbed to the rot of the Arlington area, and the area around Meacham Airport is an industrial wasteland. The rest of the city is reasonably well maintained and prosperous, with General Dynamics, BeLTV and the nearby Texas Rangers continually pumping money into the local economy.
- Hill (B) – The southernmost part of the DFW metroplex. This is where most of the food production of the city takes place in massive aquaculture facilities. The Texas Ranger's primary facility in the DFW area - Fort Bush – is located in the southern part of the district.
- Kaufman (D) – Consisting of mostly heavy industry, this district is famous for having the worst air quality in the plex. Filter masks are practically required, and many of the working-class residents can barely afford them.
- Parker (E/Z) – The largest ghettos of DFW. The site of TEMA's first temporary housing for refugees from the Ghost Dance War, and then the Aztlan Invasion - now the Weatherford Barrens.
- Rockwall (AA) – An extremely exclusive area – most of the media stars in the CAS have estates here.
- Somervell (D) – While only slightly less impoverished than Parker, the Somervell District is the vibrant core of the Aztlan refugee population. It is also home to some of the worst labor exploitation in the metroplex.
- Wise (C) – Mostly working class apartment/tenement complexes serving the extensive General Dynamics and Saeder Krupp facilities in the area. Lake Bridgeport was the site of a massive chemical spill in the mid 50's, and the cleanup has been an ongoing fiasco. Cancer rates in the area are significantly above normal.

DFW CITIES

Most of the various city governments in the DFW area have been absorbed into the overall metroplex government's administrative districts. A few of the more wealthy (or poor) have maintained their independence, and tend to be fiercely proud of their status.

- Addison (AA) – This hub of startups and technical innovators is quite popular with meta humans and the more well-off immigrants. It is in intense competition with Plano to be the “Silicon Valley of Texas”.
- Carrollton (A) – High-density commercial/residential area.
- Garland (E) – Highest density of orks and trolls in the metroplex – with several ork and troll only neighborhoods and walled enclaves. Heavy industry dominates.
- Grand Prairie (AA-A) – The center of fashion design in the CAS. Museums, galleries, and trendy shops make Grand Prairie the cultural center of the metroplex, the place to be seen, and the place for all the trendiest clubs. Needless to say, crime is rife – but rarely violent.
- Highland Park/University Park (AAA) - These walled communities are where the richest of the rich live. The Governor's Mansion is here, as are many high-ranking corporate executives.
 - > They pay Knight Errant to provide extra security, and the pawns make sure that the sararimen see what they are paying for. And that they don't see any of the unwashed masses that have such disgusting things as horns or tusks. Keeps are fine....tuskers can get arrested on sight, if they are lucky.
 - > Whitehat
 - > Got paid to do a B&E job a while back in the Park Cities. Johnson didn't care what the target was, they just wanted it to go boom. Rattle some teeth, break a few windows, but no corpses. Paid extra to put some willie-pete in the mix to make it look all wiz and shiny. Still not sure if it was the Star wanting to make KE look bad, or KE wanting themselves to look good.
 - > Ain't Tellin'
 - > Nothing like violating the Geneva Convention for fun and profit, eh?
 - > SithDog2057
 - > I didn't even maim anyone. Bonus!
 - > Ain't Tellin'
- Los Colinas (AA) – Los Colinas has grown and is a gated, privately secured (by Knight Errant) collection of corporate enclaves – mostly AA and A. This area is also home to the Los Colinas Movie Studios, which have become the most productive in the CAS. A number of the wealthier refugees from the Los Angeles floods of 2069 have come to the area, enhancing its prestige.
- Mesquite (B) – Dominated by the chemical industry and support infrastructure, this is where a significant percentage of DFW residents go to work.
- Plano (A) – The self-proclaimed Tech Corridor of DFW. This is where all the cutting edge computer work goes

on. Dominated by skyscrapers corporate complexes, the residential and commercial sector is inextricably mixed together, making for short commute times.

LOCATIONS OF NOTE

The Addison Antenna

Originally built in the latter part of the 20th century, this large blue “sculpture” has become the central point of Addison's cutting-edge Matrix R&D complex, and a weekly AR rave. Urban legends are varied and plentiful regarding who built the antenna and why - with the Crash destroying all records about it, there's no way to know which story is true. If any of them are.

- > Those raves are something else - the AR experience is beyond trippy.
- > SithDog2057
- > Also a favorite spot for technomancers. Creepy.
- > Nocrimo
- > The Resonance gathers here. The antenna is a Strange Attractor, and at its center is the door to deeper pools than most can handle.
- > Raven
- > Well, okay then.
- > Whitehat
- > Which came first: the raves, the VKs, the Strange Attractor or the Matrix shops?
- > (In)sanity
- > Who cares?
- > Whitehat

Arlington Barrio

The smaller of the two refugee “camps” - this slum houses nearly 150,000 refugees in conditions that are at best appalling. “Underserved” is the way the government prefers to describe the area. Completely lacking in sanitation, power, clean water, air conditioning, education, jobs, policing or other public serves, the unfortunate occupants eke out a miserable existence. The initial occupants were primarily refugees from Aztlan fleeing the takeover of that country, but have now been living in the camps for nearly 3 generations. They were joined by refugees from the Aztlan occupation of southern Texas, and now are joined by the SINless and the desperate with no other place to go. Survival is only possible due to the actions of charities and the absolute minimum level of support to prevent mass starvation. Order is maintained primarily by several gangs, but it would be an abuse of the word to call the crime in the area “organized”.

Several attempts over the years to bring some semblance of prosperity have been unsuccessful, due to a combination of apathy, anti-Aztlaner prejudice, and corporations that find

it very useful to have a ready supply of desperate low-skill workers and volunteer test subjects.

Dealy Plaza

The site where President Kennedy, of the old USA, was assassinated in 1963. It, along with the nearby grassy knoll are the central locus of one of the great conspiracy theories of the 20th century. The Sixth Floor Museum is still a popular destination for the historically minded, and fans of conspiracy theories.

- > Over a century later, astral space here is almost as turbulent as it is at the Watergate Rift in DC. Which really doesn't make a whole lot of sense - the manafield should have been too weak back in the day to retain much of an impression, and the level of interest since the Awakening isn't enough to explain it.
- > Foxdale
- > Have you ever exchanged cognition while physically colocated with the sentience that names itself Oswald?
- > Raven
- > Have I met Oswald, you mean? I've run into *something* that called itself Oswald. Not sure what he was. He might be a wild city spirit...but I don't know. Oswald has no idea either. Wait. How the frag do *you* know about Oswald?
- > Foxdale
- > There is a being not entirely unlike a sprite in the Matrix there too, that names itself Oswald. Speaks in naught but riddles, few of which have answers.
- > Raven
- > You two must get along like a house on fire!
- > MEESA

DFW Airport

This is one of the largest airports in the world, with the largest number of flights per day in North America. Over 3,000 flights a day depart DFW; 4,000 if you include the several satellite airport that are part of the DFW Airport System. Flights are of all types - conventional, commuter, semi-ballistic and suborbital. Security is provided by Knight Errant, after HardCorp lost the contract in 2072 after a series of high-profile incidents resulted in the deaths of a couple of civilians who were improperly detained.

- > By which, several travelers were beaten to death and the videos leaked.
- > (In)sanity
- > HardCorp still claims that the videos were faked. Not sure what I got paid more for in the aftermath - destroying evidence, or planting it.
- > Ain't Tellin'

Security under Knight Errant is no less tight than it was under HardCorp, but they have a much better reputation for using the velvet glove, rather than the iron fist of their predecessors. At the very least, there haven't been any security-

related fatalities since KE took over. Security at the airport is extremely tight, with multiple layers and inspection points.

The long conflict with Love Airfield was resolved in 2065, when DFW Airport bought out Love, joining the previously acquired Meacham Airport. Rather than the long-feared shutdown, DFW Airport integrated Love into a single, extended airport, linked by a dedicated high-speed maglev train that can whisk travelers to Terminals M, N and O in less than 5 minutes.

- > Their matrix security is pretty impressive too - the demiGODs take their job seriously. Don't let them converge on you. It sucks.
- > Techm0nkey
- > They run through air spirits like you wouldn't believe. Most are tasked with securing takeoffs and landings, but a couple are on astral patrol. Meanest spirits I've ever met.
- > Foxdale
- > Gunfire is strongly contra-indicated. It gets the attention of a lot of people, *really* fast.
- > SithDog2057
- > So that was you?
- > (In)sanity

The Drains

In the 20th century, a number of the creeks and streams that crossed the city were buried to make way for more subdivisions. With the passage of time and the destruction of data from the Crash, the location of many of these subterranean waterways has been lost. Lack of maintenance, and increased flooding, have caused many of these complexes to collapse, but some are rumored to still be intact.

- > Rumored my muscular buttocks. There ain't no better place to lay low than underground. As long as you can make nice with the ghouls, harvesters and gnawers.
- > SithDog2057
- > When these tunnels collapse, get silted or clogged up, the water has to go somewhere. So what it's done is carve out some very impressive cave systems under the city. I took some geology classes back in the day, and it really should *not* be happening - ground is all wrong for it - but there are some scarily large caverns under the city that just should not be there.
- > Techm0nkey
- > I've encountered some weird spirits down below that might explain some of it. Unusually single-minded, even for rocks. I even had an earth elemental shake loose on me when I was down there a few months back.
- > Foxdale
- > Note to self: don't go in the sewers. And check the toilet before sitting down. I met a harvester once. Not fun.
- > MEESA
- > Don't go down there when it rains either. It's an experience I do not care to repeat.
- > Whitehat

Eight Flags Over Texas

This amusement park is one of the biggest tourist destinations in the state, serving millions of visitors each year.

In addition to the rides, shows and games, EFOT is where the Alamo now resides. Come see the relocated landmark, moved brick-by-brick from San Antonio - under fire - defended by the brave men and women of the Republic of Texas during Aztlan's invasion. Come see the landmark that heroic Texans have died for – twice!

- > Come get your hate on for Aztlan!
- > (In)sanity
- > If they didn't want to be hated, they shouldn't have invaded. The Alamo will go back to its proper place. One way or another. Aztlan has a lot to answer for. It may not be soon, but that debt is going to be repaid.
- > Pырwаtсhеr
- > If they redesign the CAS flag again, does that count as another flag?
- > MEESA

Fort Bush

This large complex is the primary facility for the Texas Rangers in the metroplex. The Ranger's 1st Mechanized Infantry Division is headquartered here. Generally speaking, one regiment is "on-site" performing reset and training, with the others operating forward along the Austin frontier. The Urban Warfare Training Center is considered one of the most realistic in the country, with CAS units frequently training here.

- > Because the UWTC is actually part of the Johnson County Refugee Center. Convenient, eh?
- > MEESA
- > Needless to say, security is tight, but if you absolutely need some military grade hardware...well...bored soldiers can be awfully good to know sometimes.
- > Anonymous Coward
- > You know Simmons, too, eh?
- > SithDog2057

Fort Carswell

Located just west of downtown Fort Worth, Fort Carswell is the largest Texas Ranger's installation in the metroplex, behind Ft. Bush. It serves as the primary headquarters of the Ranger's Air Forces, the home base of the 301st Air Wing, as well as several battalions of the 1st Mechanized Infantry Division. Unfortunately, no tours are open to the public, except on special holidays.

- > One of the worst postings in the Rangers, by all accounts. The most pressing duty is to provide a backdrop for Texas politicians looking to score points for being "strong". Or overflights for sporting events and the like. So it's all spit-and-polish, all the time.

- > SithDog2057
- > Better than getting shot at right?
- > MEESA
- > The CAS military is still bitter that the Ranger's snagged Carswell during the breakup of the USA. The Ranger's go out of their way to deny the CAF access to the airfield.
- > Whitehat

Fort Worth Stockyards

One of the premier tourist destinations in Fort Worth, where you can get a taste of the Old West, and experience Texas as it once was. The twice-daily cattle drive is a treat for the whole family. And don't miss the Stockyards Championship Rodeo - the largest rodeo in Texas.

- > And the longest continuously running protest in PETA's history!
- > MEESA
- > Not sure why; at least half the cattle in the drive are drones.
- > Youarebeingliedto
- > Say what you will, but there aren't that many places where you can get a genuine steak for a reasonable price.
- > Anonymous Coward
- > Billy Bob's is not a bad place to do business. The music is an acquired taste, but they have a few rooms reserved for private engagements that work well.
- > Ain't Tellin'

Lake Arlington

Lake Arlington has suffered badly since the Awakening. With the refugee camps nearby, and local authorities turning a blind eye, the Lake became the preferred dumping ground for several large industrial complexes. The Lake is now polluted beyond repair, a morass of sewage and toxic waste. Swimming in the lake is not recommended if you want to live a life without cancer. On the positive side, the toxins in the lake kill off bacteria from the sewage runoff, so at least the smell isn't too bad. But the impact on life expectancy in Arlington Barrio is measured in decades, and contributes just a little extra misery to the lives of its occupants.

- > During summer, you don't have to worry about drowning. Smothering is the real risk.
- > MEESA

Lake Lewisville

Lake Lewisville is a critical component of the metroplex's infrastructure, supplying nearly 30% of the fresh water storage capacity of DFW. The 10km-long dam has recently finished a decade-long repair and refurbishment project, extending the design life of the dam past 2150.

- > And keeping whatever is at the bottom of the lake safely hidden for another 70 years. There's something *nasty* at the bottom, and

judging from how much SK and TI contributed to the repairs, I'd say they are the ones with the most to hide.

- > Youarebeingliedto
- > As much as I hate to say it, you may be on to something. It's never really been explained why the 2017 flood was so toxic.
- > (In)sanity
- > It *might* have something to do with the native ruins that got drowned when they built the lake. Which sounds like a really stupid trid plot, but there really are ruins down there. And they have some weird effects on astral space. Hard to tell with all the drunken boat-orgies that take place on the weekends, but there's something...off in that area.
- > Foxdale

Santiago-Ortega Metahuman Resource Center

When originally opened in 2024, this was a first-of-its-kind facility, devoted to helping metahumans adjust to their new lives, provide treatment for those that needed it, and job and psychological counseling. Recently renamed after the Governor that was instrumental in making the center a reality, it is now also a museum of the metahuman rights movement.

- > Psych counseling? Racist drek. They mean: reprogramming to be submissive little sheep.
- > SithDog2057
- > Not so much. This was just three years after goblinization. The transformation left a lot of people seriously messed up. It wasn't exactly pain-free growing tusks and horns. Never mind doubling (or more) in size.
- > Nocrimo
- > Like you'd know, keeb.
- > SithDog2057
- > Sigh.
- > Nocrimo
- > It's also not a good place to post racist propaganda, as Humanistypes learn every few years. The hard way.
- > (In)sanity

Texas Christian University

A top ranked education institution, the campus of TCU is one of the bright centers of Forth Worth. They maintain an active research program, in coordination with multiple area corporations, and their Solid State Physics program is considered one of the best in the world. Their recent campus expansion and renovation project has restored the distinctive "buff" bricks and red tile roofs that had become discolored from years of exposure to polluted air.

- > You better believe that SMU pays well to knock TCU down in the academic rankings whenever they can. Not having a thaumaturgy program doesn't help...but it does make mucking about in the Astral a lot easier. Their fault for being anti-Awakened bigots.

> Foxdale

- > I've got the meet with that Mr. Johnson booked on my calendar every year like clockwork. I shift the job around a few weeks, just to keep them on their toes.
- > SithDog2057
- > You too? We should coordinate to make sure we don't step on each other's toes.
- > Foxdale
- > Their lack of a thaumaturgy program has nothing to do with bigotry - the Disciples of Christ are more open minded than most when it comes to the Awakened, and have been since the beginning. It has more to do with the fact that for about 20 years, anytime they hired any professors that could sling a spell, they got poached/kidnapped or geeked. They just gave up around 2060. Might want to look in a mirror, Foxdale, before you start throwing insults around.
- > (In)sanity

Texas Motor Speedway

Having completed long-overdue renovations in 2078, the TMS's main track and combat biking arena are considered one of the best venues in their respective circuits. Capacity is over 200,000 - so if you going to be in Denton on a race weekend, plan for traffic jams. Their proposed F1 course is still being reviewed by the Formula One Group - it remains to be seen if they will approve the inverted track segments.

- > Renraku provides matrix and sensor services for the Speedway, and the data volumes are *insane*. And the bleeding edge of what you can shove over the air. The telemetry that these guys are pulling makes Desert Wars look like the stone age. They can register ground pressure to the milli-Newton, for every square millimeter of the track. In realtime. It's made TMS one of the prime test tracks for a number of ground-vehicle makers, and the track's designers are prime targets for getting poached. Which is probably why they very rarely leave the Cuatro.
- > TechM0nkey
- > The streams have coiled into a Resonant Pool above the main course, if your psyche is not overwhelmed by the torrential flow.
- > Raven
- > So that's why I see you there on race days!
- > MEESA
- > Indeed - it is joyous to abandon yourself in the flood of data. The songs are...liberating. The machines are in ecstasy. It borders on the erotic.
- > Raven
- > Remind me not to let you touch my drones.
- > MEESA

Perches

Saeder-Krupp has several facilities around the metroplex, and several buildings in downtown Dallas, including Perches, the tallest building in the city. Housing SK Prime's North American, as well as residences for SK executives, this Neogothic revival building is nearly 550 meters tall. The stone

facade is an architectural achievement in itself. The building was completed just a few years ago. It towers over the city, at least 100 meters taller than any other building downtown. Its name comes from the helipads that crown the building, providing landing for SK aircraft, and Lofwyr himself from time to time.

- > The magical security is something else. There are some air elementals bound to the building that are able to deflect tornados, probably bound by Lofwyr. That was an amazing sight to see last summer.
- > Foxdale
- > They ain't just for deflecting tornados, love. Word of advice: don't try an aerial insertion.
- > SithDog2057
- > For what it's worth, those same elementals made sure none of the debris made it to the ground. Casualties would have been significant.
- > Foxdale
- > Tell that to my parachute. And my ride.
- > SithDog2057

Renraku Arcology Project #4 - The Cuatro

An awe-inspiring construct, a truncated pyramid over 350 meters in height, with over 100 floors, sides nearly a kilometer long, integrated power plants, water and sewage, a roof top park, and living spaces for over 90,000 people. Clad in black chrome with yellow accents in both neon and AR, it dominates the skyline of Denton, and most of the surrounding area. Perhaps the most impressive thing about it is that it's actually smaller than originally designed. Renraku put all seven of their archeology projects on hold, in light of the horrors at Renraku's flagship archeology in Seattle in 2060, the SCIRE, where (according to rumor at least) a rogue AI sealed off the entire arcology, and proceeded to systematically experiment on, torture, and murder almost all of the newly opened SCIRE's 100,000 occupants. Renraku's arcology ambitions were scaled back significantly, and the opening of the DFW archeology was delayed by nearly a decade. After nearly 30 years under construction, Texas' first true arcology finally opened in 2071.

In a marketing coup worthy of Horizon - or perhaps sheer blind luck - Renraku managed to shed the dark reputation of their arcologies and instead turned the Renraku Arcology Project #4 into something of a joke. They attempted to brand the project relaunch using the Japanese word for 4 - "Shi", or "シ". This went over like a lead balloon, and resulted in any number of "Name the Death Trap" contests and jokes. The local hacking community took it as a point of pride to hack the massive displays, AR and physical, on the outside to display whatever nickname or meme struck their fancy. One of the more spectacular series of hacks riffed on the arcology as a "Four Seasons" hotel ("Your Last Four Seasons", "Four Seasons of Death", "Fourth Circle of Hell", etc. with increasingly bizarre and disturbing animated graphics), with the final "Cuatro Estaciones" taking several weeks for

Renraku engineers to even partially purge, leaving the massive building wrapped in massive renditions of "Cuatro" for nearly 3 months...with an audio track of Vivaldi's Four Seasons playing in AR in increasingly deranged arrangements. The name stuck. Figuring that it was better to be a source of amusement rather than fear, and noticing that with each hack more residential properties were being sold, Renraku caved and now refers to the site as "The Cuatro" in their official literature.

- > They chose the lame memes to mention here. Most of the hacks were more...adult in nature. Fragging funny too. "Dank" as the old folks say. The one with the hedgehogs still brings tears to my eyes.
- > Techm0nkey

Today, the Cuatro is home to some 90,000 people, and is the largest shopping center in Texas. The first 5 floors are open to the public, including dozens of restaurants, a concert venue, several nightclubs, and several hundred stores in the aforementioned mall. Below ground is an automated parking facility, manufacturing, and the largest data center in North America. The floors above the mall are for corporate offices with the upper 150 floors housing the majority of Renraku's DFW staff and their families. The offices and residential areas are dominated by Renraku, but non-Renraku citizens and companies are welcome to apply for entry. The top levels are the luxury penthouses and offices, with the roof serving as a garden and park, open to all residents. Multiple landing pads for VTOL aircraft extend as needed from the sides of the arcology, with internal hangar space.

- > Don't forget UNT - they have about half of the 8th floor.
- > Nocrimo
- > So much for academic independence.
- > Youarebeingliedto
- > Academic whatsit?
- > MEESA

Security is tight, with access to the public areas requiring screening as good as at DFW Airport. The private areas are notoriously difficult to enter. One attempt in 2074 to enter the arcology from the roof by a group of terrorists revealed the existence of a surface-to-air missile defense system that surprised the unfortunate group of shadowrunners rather fatally. Burned by the disaster in Seattle, the security is much less tightly integrated than originally designed, with fewer automated systems, and with no ability to seal off the arcology (at least, according to Renraku's publicity). ERLA has been granted unprecedented levels of access to the facility, as part of a deal with the CAS in response to the Seattle "incident". ERLA has an office in the Cuatro, and has staff permanently assigned to monitoring security.

- > The only way I'm going into that death trap is if somebody pays me to do it. And preferably to do some damage while I'm there. I had family in the SCIRE.

- > Ain't Tellin'

Southern Methodist University

One of the premier educational institutions in the South. This is where the best and the brightest come to be educated. Degrees are offered in fine arts, matrix engineering, architecture, mechanical engineering and one of the oldest thaumaturgical programs in North America.

- > Adding the hermetics program caused quite the scandal amongst its very conservative alumni back in the day. Still affects the program today. They don't teach summoning spirits: they invoke elementals. They even offer a joint degree with the theology department in theurgy, to keep the church-going folk happy. Don't laugh. Those guys summon avenging angels when they get mad enough. Intimidating AF.
- > Foxdale
- > They are officially part of University Park (the name is a clue), so the pawns keep an eye on the student body too. Extractions are not easy.
- > SithDog2057
- > They get paid well to make sure any youthful indiscretions on the part of the spoiled-brats of the .0001% don't cause any permanent harm, or scandal. Even if it means permanent harm to their victims.
- > Whitehat
- > Corporate influence is high, just not overt. Anybody that shows any promise or talent has plenty of job offers come graduation. The more a corp donates, the sooner they get access to student records.
- > Youarebeingliedto

The Swamp

The Great Ghost Dance of 2017 made its mark on the DFW area. A highly-localized earthquake cracked the Lake Lewisville dam and several levees, causing massive flooding in Carrolton, Farmer's Branch, Valley Ranch and west Dallas. Several thousand were killed in the immediate flooding, and the property damage was in the billions. The lake was actually a bit low at the time of the earthquake, otherwise the damage would have been far more extensive. Cleanup efforts were hampered by the fallout of the Ghost Dance War, and by the flood waters being far more toxic than anyone expected. Hardest hit was Valley Ranch, where much of the water settled. In the decades since, nature has taken over and run wild. The former Valley Ranch is now simply known as the Swamp, and is teeming with a variety of flora and fauna, mundane and awakened. Rumors swirl of toxic critters, mutated animals, and worse, but there have been few confirmed reports of anything getting past the fences and warning signs.

Repeated campaigns to "Drain the Swamp" have failed due to the projected cost – and because the area actually appears quite picturesque from the outside. Some have even campaigned to "Save the Swamp", pointing to the teeming wildlife that has settled into the area. For those of a more criminal mindset, it is an excellent place to dispose of bod-

ies, and for the truly desperate it is a good place to hide from the authorities. Despite warnings from Awakened observers of the damage to the local manafield, DFW appears to be content to leave things alone.

- > The background count is actually surprisingly weak, at the perimeter. Go in a few dozen meters, and it gets far stronger than it has any reason to be. And it's aspected. Stay away, or the mosquitos will be the least of your problems. Trust me on this.
- > Foxdale
- > Even the Resonance swirls strangely here.
- > Raven

The Trinity River

A central feature of the metroplex's geography, the Trinity River has branches running through all but two of the metroplex's districts. The floods of the 2060s spurred a number of infrastructure projects to help prevent future flooding, and there haven't been any major floods since 2072.

- > Snort. Those infrastructure projects basically use the Arlington Barrio as additional "surge" capacity. Nobody cares if a few hundred Mexicans drown.
- > Whitehat
- > Not mentioned here - The Trinity is also one hell of a mana line when it floods. Not sure anyone has the gonads to try and tap into it. But it is telling that all of the infrastructure projects have very carefully not screwed with the flow of the line.
- > Foxdale

University of Texas at Dallas (UTD)

The premier engineering school in Texas (whatever SMU to Texas A&M may say), UTD has been supplying top rate engineers to DFW's corporations for more than a century. Texas Instruments and Saeder-Krupp jointly support the school, and have provided it with some amazing facilities, including the newly reopened O'Donnel Engineering Center.

- > Read: After fighting a decade-long shadow war that ended up in the destruction of the engineering building and a number of students blown into small pieces, they called a truce and started dividing the students between them in whole units.
- > Techm0nkey
- > Good times. In my defense, it was just supposed to be a distraction.
- > Anonymous Coward
- > You put a bomb next to a tank of triethylborane, what did you expect to happen?
- > Techm0nkey
- > Not for the building to collapse, that's for fragging certain. Drek, I didn't know what pyrophoric fragging *meant* at the time. Who knew some things burn on contact with *air*? It was *supposed* to just be a distraction. It just turned in to a *wee* bit more distraction than we had intended.
- > Anonymous Coward

Weatherford Barrens

The Weatherford Barrens is the result of a massive influx of successive waves of refugees from the Aztlan, the Ghost Dance War and the 2035 Aztlan Invasion. The original camp was adequate to the needs of the first wave, but the second and third waves overwhelmed the complex. The temporary shelters and hastily erected low-income housing have now become permanent structures. Inadequate water and sanitation led to a VITAS outbreak that completely overwhelmed what medical services there were, and forced the area to be quarantined in 2040. The area is still largely ungoverned. The population is unknown, but estimates range from 500,000 to 2,000,000. Conditions are not as bad as the Arlington Bario, but they still aren't pleasant. Corporate enclaves provide some employment opportunities, while local gangs and organized crime syndicates (particularly the mafia) provide some semblance of order.

TEXAS AT LARGE

With Austin partially occupied, the capital relocated, and Houston plagued by flooding from rising sea levels (and the occasional tsunami), DFW is the leading city of Texas, and dominates the economic and political life of the city. But there is more to Texas than just the DFW Metroplex.

- > Lies!
- > Pyrwatcher

AMARILLO

Gateway to the PCC, home of the CAS nuclear weapons program, and the anchor of the western end of the CAS defense against Aztlan. The wind farms surrounding the city provide a significant percentage of the state's power.

- > It's also home to about 90% of the state's truly weird drek. Astral space is an absolute nightmare - between Pantex's bomb factories, the Cadillac Ranch, the Floating Mesa and the Native ruins that nobody can figure out who built, and a bunch of patrolling spirits from the military...well, you should be really careful wandering around in the astral. Hell, you should be careful just peeking through the veil. There's some stuff staring back at you that isn't pretty. Or friendly.
- > Foxdale

AUSTIN

The divided city, and the bleeding wound in the pride of Texas for nearly fifty years. Only a single bridge over the Colorado River connects the two halves of the city. Spies and agents abound.

HOUSTON

Houston has not been well treated by the 21st century. Rising sea levels brought frequent flooding. Then the petrochemical industry shifted, bringing new areas - and corporations - to the fore. The Aztlan-Texas war resulted in the shelling of the city Aztlan naval vessels. And the 2064

Tsunami that devastated the Yucatan didn't do any favors. Houston is still a major shipping port, and refineries still pollute the air, but it long ago ceded the status of the biggest city in Texas to DFW.

- > And they are still bitter about it.
- > MEESA

WACO

Sitting squarely on the main transit line between Austin and DFW, Waco is an army town. The CAS military - and the Texas Rangers - have multiple installations around the city. Constant vigilance is the order of the day, all dedicated to making sure the next war with Aztlan goes very differently than the last one.

THE WILDS

Outside of the major cities, many of the small towns and communities that were scattered around the state have been abandoned. Between fears of Aztlan invasion, the devastation of VITAS, and the ever-present scourge of juggernauts has made life in the countryside too hazardous for most. Those that remain are extremely hardy, and take a great pride in being "real Texans".

- > Juggernauts suck. Hit a regular armadillo with your car - bad day for the armadillo. An awakened armadillo? They will do to your tricked-out Roadmster (and you) what you did to the armadillo.
- > Whitehat
- > No drek. Those armored bastards are why the Rangers were so intent on getting those shiny new Davis tanks. Worryingly, it takes more than one of 'em to get the job done.
- > SithDog2057
- > Don't bother going into one of those small towns if you don't have a hat, a gun, and a twang. They don't like strangers, and they really don't like "Azzies, Injuns, and Yanks". Which, from their perspective, covers about 99% of their fellow Texans.
- > Nocrimo
- > They aren't real fond of elves either.
- > Foxdale

CORPORATE CITIZENS

DFW has long prided itself on being "business friendly", much like Texas as a whole. In the aftermath of VITAS and the Awakening, the corporations stepped in to help provide critical services. In return, the newly created metroplex government granted significant formal representation to the area corporations. This has been a surprisingly effective arrangement, and has helped greatly in DFW's economic expansion and recovery.

- > Translation: The price of saving the mayor's collective asses was to get a seat at the table.
- > (In)sanity

- > The corporations were also a key driver in unifying the regional governments back in 2014. They took the old NTCOG, and transformed it into the DFW Metroplex Unified Government that we all know and love today.
- > Fox-dale
- > Probably just to cut down on the number of bribes they need to pay out. Instead of 50 mayors, a dozen sheriffs, and hundreds of city councilors. That adds up!
- > MEESA

This makes DFW one of the top-rated “most friendly to business” regions in North America, and largely explains the unusually high corporate affiliation rate.

- > Most friendly to large corporations, maybe - small companies and startups...not so much. Saying that new competitors face major bureaucratic and regulatory barriers to entry is a major understatement.
- > Whitehat
- > I'm not going to complain - it covers about half of the gigs we do.
- > Ain't Tellin'
- > Which is why pretty much every park and public facility in the region is covered in corporate logos. And I can't really fault the corporations too much for it - the least they can get out of their investment is some marketing out of it.
- > (In)sanity
- > “Out of their investment” - that's what we use to call “taxes”.
- > Foxdale
- > Potato, potato.
- > MEESA
- > Irritates the hell out of me that text-to-speech programs can't handle that.
- > MEESA

Saeder-Krupp is the largest employer in the DFW area, and has had a significant presence for almost three decades. In response to this, the other megacorporations have formed a semi-unified alliance under the leadership of Texas Instruments to protect their own interests. This balance of power has been surprisingly effective, and has prevented anyone company from completely dominating the area.

- > Surprisingly effective for everyone but TI, which drew much of SK's ire.
- > Anonymous Coward
- > The alliance against SK is hardly stable, or particularly unified. The political infighting is epic. SK is also constantly picking off companies, making deals with individual corps in order to pursue whatever their agenda is at the time.
- > Nocrimo

- > I think that is the key to the stability - it forces SK to spread the nuyen around enough to keep everyone from ganging up on them.
- > Whitehat
- > And it's all going to be blown to drek when Spinrad and Ares start moving in. But it'll be good for business...our business at least.
- > SithDog2057

The following list is some of the key corporate players in DFW - those with more than 3,000 employees. Where a corporation is known to be a division or subsidiary of another organization, it is so noted.

AAA MEGACORPORATIONS

Ares Macrotechnology (75,000 employees)

Ares has gobbled up a number smaller defense contractors in the DFW Metroplex of the years...at least the ones that Saeder-Krupp and Lockheed weren't able to grab. The city has been aggressively courting Ares to expand their operations in the area, much to the irritation of SK.

- Ares Integrated Solutions – Manufacturing systems and processing facilities.
- Flèche Armaments – Personal firearms (primary fab for Predator series is in FW).
- General Dynamics – In addition to their consumer goods lines, General Dynamics is a major military contractor to the Texas Rangers and the CAS Armed forces. Much of their heavy manufacturing (armor, heavy weapons, etc.) is in the Fort Worth area. The joke is that SK finances General Dynamics' training programs by hiring so many runners to attack the facility.
- Knight Errant – private security.
- Wolverine Security – private security.
- > Ares is not happy that SK got a bigger bite of DFW than they did. They were hoping to keep CAS for themselves. No such luck.
- > SithDog2057

Aztechnology (16,200 employees)

Aztechnology keeps a very low profile in the city, and faces significant political hostility from metroplex, the state and the CAS as a whole. Due to the delicate political situation, Aztechnology takes great pains to downplay links to its subsidiaries, and tends to let them have unusually free rein.

- Austrafarm - Urban vertical farming, providing fresh produce to those that can afford it.
- > And low-cost soy-protein concentrate for the rest of us.
- > Youarebeingliedto
- Genetique – Specialists in improving agricultural efficiency through genetic manipulation of crops.
- Televisa – Spanish language news for rebroadcast in Aztlan.
- Stuffer Shack - Where else are you going to get your favorite stuffers?

- Trés Chic Cosmetics - Maintains a broad array of cosmetics stores, spas and fashion advisors.
- > This list is laughably short, and the number of employees off by at least an order of magnitude. Just about every known subsidiary of AZT operates in DFW, though often under a different name. Renaissance is a front for their BioWare products, to cite just one of a few dozen examples. And most of the sheeple fall for it.
- > Pyrwatcher

Evo (47,000 employees)

This advanced augmentation (and post-human advocate) provides their usual services in the area. DFW isn't a key aspect of their operations or organization, but they still have a non-trivial presence here.

- Crashcart - Crashcart-Baylor Medical Center – Crashcart's long-term care center. The second largest medical consortium in the DFW area.
- Ersatz! – This simsense production house maintains a significant presence in the city, supporting Las Colinas Studios and the fashion industry.
- Pensodyne – They do everything from cosmetic surgery to implants – anything you don't have to have done, they'll do.

Horizon (23,350 employees)

Horizon isn't a particularly big player in the metroplex, but dominates trideo and simsense production after taking over Las Colinas Studios about ten years ago. They also fund and support a number of fashion designers and studios.

- Horizon Las Colinas Studios – Primary operator of the Los Colinas Movie Studios (LCMS). Formerly of Cross Applied Technologies. Many of Horizon's media companies operate in one way or another at the studios.
- Esmerelda – One of the up and coming fashion labels in the Grand Prairie district, and the label behind an advertising and marketing campaign that makes Abercrombie & Finch look like amateurs.
- Trend – This local viral marketing firm specializes in social engineering and promotions. See a couple of supermodels in a bar talking about the hot new thing? Probably working for Trend.

Mitsuhama (95,000 employees)

After taking the top spot in AAAs, Mitsuhama has begun expanding their operations in the DFW Metroplex, if for no other reason to push back against Saeder-Krupp's dominance in the area.

- Confederate Broadcasting Company – Local entertainment and news production company.
- Fairlight - The famed electronics maker has a major development site in Irving.
- HermeTech Associates - Magical consulting and services. They have a number of offices in the area.
- Sikorsky-Bell – Manufacturer of military attack and transit craft, as well as civil-use helicopters.
- Zen-Marsh Chemicals – By far the largest Mitsuhama operation in DFW, they focus on fertilizers and household chemical manufacturing.

- > Mitsuhama has ownership of the two schools (Gifted & St. Ignatius) in the DFW area that specialize in Awakened education, which explains why metahuman children so rarely meet their entry criteria.
- > Whitehat

Renraku (105,000 employees)

The second largest of the Big Ten in DFW, by employees at least. DFW is their CAS headquarters.

- Architectural Dynamics – Building design consulting firm.
- Festival Foods – Soy food processing and processing systems.
- Iris Firmware – IC development and operations, in addition to their usual development services.
- Nereid Technologies - Investment house and incubator of new technology startups.
- Renraku Arcology Systems – The official owner of the Cuatro.
- Tetradyne Matrix Systems – Matrix system development and deployment.

Saeder-Krupp (>420,000)

The North American headquarters of the largest of the AAA's, SK has a massive footprint in the metroplex. Their influence over politics and culture is difficult to overstate. A significant percentage of the areas manufacturing capacity and overall economic activity is tied to SK. If SK has a division or subsidiary, they have a footprint in DFW.

- Angelic Entertainment – Interactive Simsense Studio, associated with LCMS.
- BeLTV – Manufacturer of military attack and transit craft, as well as civil-use helicopters.
- Phillips – Largest manufacturer of lighting in North America.
- Raytheon - SK acquired Raytheon decades ago, to Ares' great annoyance.
- Siemens – Custom machinery and heavy manufacturing.
- Triox – Materials and chemical manufacturing. Pure chemicals, composites, gases, household chemicals, etc.
- Textron - The other large defense contractor that SK managed to snake out from Ares.
- Viterra, Inc – Water supplier for metroplex.

- > Don't recommend wetwork jobs against SK, unless you relish the thought of being hors d'oeuvres for senior management. A little property damage is just business. You slag a wageslave in the Prime office, they take it personal.

- > Ain't Tellin'

Shiawase (35,500 employees)

Shiawase's operations are relatively small, compared to other AAAs. They managed to miss out on a number of key government supply contracts, and have spent the past decade slowly inserting their way into more and more sectors as a secondary provider.

- > Probably figure that it's safer to play for table scraps. SK is happy to let them fill in the gaps, but if they try take the lead in SK's backyard, they are likely to get bitten. Hard.
- > Nocrimo
 - Shiawase Fashion – Based out of Garland, they support a number of design houses in the area.
 - Desert Storm Security – Leading private security firm, though Knight Errant is a close second.
 - Nemesis Arms - Supporting the Texas Rangers and CAS military.
 - Shiawase City Services - Secondary support for multiple city services.
 - Toyota – Toyota's operations in the metroplex have held steady for many years, even with its repeated transfers of ownership. DFW is Toyota's North American headquarters, and they also have several factories located in various locations around the area.

Spinrad Global (15,000 employees)

The newest of the AAAs, Spinrad doesn't have a particularly large presence in DFW, but it is expanding.

- Regency Megamedia – Multimedia production and distribution. Recently acquired by Spinrad
- Ifrit Services - Travel and tourism services, focusing on the Middle East.
- PetroGas – Petroleum production services and financing.
- > SK is stomping hard on Spinrad's attempts to expand in DFW. PetroGas has had, what, three office buildings burn down in the past month?
- > (In)sanity
- > Never mind that Spinrad isn't exactly popular around these parts, after what the Marauders did to the Red Devils last year. And Johnny's little "hate traveling to that drekhole" comment about Texas. Hell, I'd rather give money to AZT that give that ass any nuyen.
- > Pyrwatcher

Wuxing (31,250 employees)

The Chinese mega isn't a major player in the metroplex, but they do have some operations, mostly as branches of their many logistics subsidiaries.

- Wuxing Worldwide Shipping – NA Headquarters, Distribution. They own the major rail freight lines across the state, and a significant percentage of the CAS's total rail system.
- Jam-Bo Games
- Albion Mutual Funds

AA MEGACORPORATIONS

- Alpha Plassteel (Salish-Sidhe) (18,500 employees) – Construction materials manufacturer. Their DFW site is their largest facility outside of Salish-Sidhe.
- AMR (American Airlines/Southwest) (155,800 employees) – Primary civil transit in and out of DFW and Love fields.

- Lockheed (21,000 employees) – Manufacturer of advanced strike aircraft and drones. Also in the transorbital transport aircraft business, but the Fort Worth facility is the military aircraft division.
- NeoNET (41,000 employees)
 - The downrating of NeoNET has triggered a major change in the status of many of its subsidiaries.
 - FTL Technologies – Matrix site development and servicing.
 - Novatech STS – Telecomm system provider for DFW LTG.
 - Nightingales - Cosmetic modifications and enhancement.

> Major change, my ass. "Feeding frenzy" is a more accurate description. Nightingales should be changing hands soon (Spinrad, I'm guessing). I need a vacation.

> Ain't Tellin'

> This list is already out of date. Probably not worth updating, as it'll be out of date within about 5 minutes. Once things have settled down a bit, I'll put something together.

> Nocrimo

> Wait, did you write this?

> Foxdale

> No, but I have been consulted.

> Nocrimo

- Omnistar (77,000 employees) - The result of the merger of LoneStar, DocWagon and Manadyne. As LS and DW both hold major city service contracts in the metroplex, they've become one of the larger employers in the region.

> Great - they get paid to shoot you, and then get paid to patch you up. How could this possibly go wrong?

> Whitehat

> *My sister sells condoms to sailors,
My brother pokes holes in their heads with a pin,
My daddy performs the abortions,
My Ghost how the nuyen rolls in!*

> MEESA

- Phoenix Biotechnologies (PCC) (24,000 employees) – Agriculture and soy food products. Environmental cleanup.
- Texas Instruments (230,000 employees) – Electronics components, Optical chips, RF components, component construction systems. Self-contained headquarters compound at intersection of 635 and 75. TI and SK waged a quiet shadow war during the 50s and 60s before coming to a truce. SK sold several of their related businesses to TI in the CAS, and in return TI gives SK significant price discounts on chips and licensing deals. Over the past 10 years they have been cooperating more and more, and form a significant power block in the CAS. Relations with Renraku have been deteriorating, and it is rumored

that TI is planning on building an arcology to rival Renraku's.

- > "Quiet" isn't how I'd describe it. More like TI's employees started wearing earplugs around the office to dampen the sound of gunfire. I did so much work for so many Herr Brackhauses that I started to develop a German accent. Still not sure what the hell TI did to convince SK to make a deal.
- > SithDog2057
- > On the plus side, it did mean that the local bars started stocking some good beers.
- > Whitehat

A MEGACORPORATIONS

- Armanté Fashion - Premier luxury fashion brand. Headquartered in DFW.
- Black Cat Cargo Lines - Shipping and logistics across North America. Headquartered in DFW.
- Brikssen (German) - Construction materials.
- Burlington Santa-Fe (PCC) - CAS Headquarters, Main switchyard
- Business Computers International - Custom hardware, matrix services and software development. Headquartered in DFW.
- Dr. Pepper - Carbonated beverages. Headquartered in DFW.
- Gagliardi Group - Architectural Firm
- Grey Eagle Water Systems (PCC) - Private water filtration systems.
- JBC Inc - Store displays.
- Kaman Manufacturing - Short run manufacturing.
- Mary Kay, Inc - Global cosmetics distribution/manufacturing firm. Employs approximately 15,000 people in the DFW area, with several million sales-people around the world.
- > Do not frag with Mary Kay - you'll have a couple million fanatics gunning for you. Hard. Impeccably made up, and dressed to the nines fanatics. But definitely fanatics.
- > Whitehat
- > And their corpsec is...disturbing. They take security at their Addison HQ, and at their production facilities, quite seriously. Their director of security apparently looks to Mitsuhama for inspiration. Sneer all you like at their pink armor - the Mary Kay Commandos are more than happy to use lethal force.
- > Ain't Tellin'
- > And they look *fabulous* while they do it too!
- > MEESA
- Motorola-Hiatsu - Consumer electronics and communications systems. Headquartered in DFW.
- Northrop-Grumman - Drones and aircraft manufacturing.
- Solaris Group - Programming and systems design firm.
- Tandy Corporation - Low end commlinks, IC development and manufacture and server systems. Headquartered in DFW.

- United Oil - Petroleum and petrochemical production. HQ.
- XO Communications Systems - Matrix services and ICE hardware manufacturing.

OTHER MAJOR EMPLOYERS

- A.C.T. Cleaning Services - Maid services.
- Brand Institute Inc - Market research.
- Consortium Matrix Services - Matrix -uh- services.
- Dallas Stone - Stone extrusion, molding and construction.
- David Smith Construction - Housing construction.
- Fabela Advanced Construction - Pre-fabricated building components.
- Machine Automation Technologies - Robotic manufacturing systems.
- Nitenday Industries - Lighting systems
- Oevae Marketing Services
- Spectrum Holofix Entertainment Systems - Projector/reader systems for simsense and trideo. Headquartered in DFW.
- Spentro Industries - Aircraft maintenance tools
- TXInsure - Insurance

SPORTS TEAMS

The DFW Metroplex has teams that compete in all the major commercial sports. Here's a listing:

DALLAS MAVERICKS - BASKETBALL

<#Content Not Found#>

- > Nope, nope, nope. Not going to read about how awful they are. Trust us, we already know.
- > Techm0nkey

DALLAS RED DEVILS - COMBAT CYCLING

They haven't been having the best season - rebuilding after the disastrous quarter-final defeat that left their lead striker paralyzed.

- > Still brings a smile of pride to my face.
- > Ain't Tellin'
- > That was you? Man, I lost 5 large on that match.
- > (In)sanity

DALLAS COWBOYS - FOOTBALL

The Cowboys glory days of the 2060s are starting to fade, it being nearly a decade since they last won a Super-bowl. Having not even made the playoffs last year, rumors are starting to swirl of a major shakeup in management.

- > We'll see if they can con Frisco. Again.
- > SithDog2057

- > Their shadow-ops budget is astounding. No idea how they account for it in their annual statements...but I'm going to retire to Hawaii from my share of it.
- > Ain't Tellin'
- > I too have been paid well to bring coherence to their ledgers. The numbers dance when the song demands.
- > Raven

TEXAS RANGERS

After their amazing pennant run last year, hopes are high that they will make the playoffs again.

- > ...and maybe dispel the memory of that little scandal with the adept pitcher whose name shall not be mentioned? Having the only pennant they've won in 30 years stripped still hurts.
- > Anonymous Coward
- > Hitchens still claims he didn't know he was a physad.
- > SithDog2057
- > What did I JUST say? You are NOT supposed to use his name!
- > Anonymous Coward
- > Yeah, and he just managed to develop some of the best masking I've ever seen "by instinct".
- > Foxdale
- > I have experienced stranger things.
- > Raven
- > Hitchens! Hitchens! Hitchens!
- > SithDog2057

DALLAS OUTLAWS - URBAN BRAWL

After an amazing run through the playoffs last year, the Outlaws are preparing to dominate once again. Tickets are already sold out for the entire season.

- > Page me if you want to know where the playoffs are. I've already got a prime viewing spot.
- > SithDog2057
- > I hope it isn't like last year. Final round was on top of one my boltholes. Still can't go back.
- > Pyrwatcher

FC DALLAS - SOGGER FOOTBALL

Hopes run high this year that FC Dallas will make it through the quarter-finals.

- > Oh good. I need a nap.
- > MEESA

CITY POLITICS

City politics are reflective CAS politics as a whole - corporations jockeying for influence while political parties strive to harness that influence for their own ends - with the added complexity of Texas state politics thrown in. And a hostile foreign power a mere 250 kilometers away.

- The New Nationalist Platform (The Southern Democrats and Southern Conservatives) - The former "True Southerner" parties, their message is an appeal to being the true patriots that will restore CAS honor and pride. They have been enjoying a great run at the confederation level, particularly after distancing themselves from the more extreme policlubs. They are poised to take over the governor's seat next go around.
- Southern Democratic Party - Broke off from the Democratic Party in 2024 as a prelude to the 2034 secession, which they orchestrated with the Republican Party.
- Conservative Party - Broke away from the Republican Party in 2038 for not being sufficiently anti-megacorp.
- > Nothing says patriotism like white hoods, and the CP is joined at the hip with Humanis. If you want static on these chummers, I give discounts.
- > Whitehat
- > Get with the times - the Conservatives rather forcefully broke off from Humanis back in '76. Partly why they are doing so well at the polls these days.
- > (In)sanity
- > And if you believe *that*, I have a bridge I'd like to sell you.
- > Whitehat
- The Technocrat Party - A vaguely millenarian group, they hold that technology and magic will allow for governments to engineer a new and better society. Historically, the party's roots are in the UCAS, but they came to the forefront in the early 2070s in the Confederation as an alternative to the moribund True American Coalition. Fueled by popular anger at the corruption and incompetence of the TAC, they experienced a meteoric ascent in 2072, and secured several executive offices in the CAS, as well as sizable legislative blocs. They never managed to snag the mayor's seat in DFW, and have been badly back-footed by the New Nationalists, but they still have the largest block of seats on the city council. Their business-friendly attitude is now turning into a liability, and any number of political consultants are scrambling to find a new focus that will appeal to the voters.
- > Translation: They sold out, and got punished for it.
- > Anonymous Coward
- > I think it's more they want the megas inside the tent pissing out, rather than outside and pissing in.

- > Whitehat
- Green Party – Environmental activism and protection. The biggest challenge facing the party is to distance themselves from the extremists that are associated with the party. They have little direct power, but can be a vote splitter and spoiler in tight races.
- > The Green Party: When results don't matter.
- > (In)sanity
- The True American Coalition (The Republican and Democratic Reform parties) - The TAC is in extreme disarray, after suffering crushing defeats by the Technocrats, and now the New Nationalists. Many are predicting that the coalition is going to come apart in the next few years. Where they end up is anyone's guess.
 - Republican Party - The Republican Party was the primary force behind the 2034 secession. Fiscally conservative.
 - Democratic Reform Party ("Reformists") – The center-leaning part of the Southern Democratic party split off in 2040 when the Southern Democrats took no action in response to the Night of Rage. Metahuman rights and corporate regulation are their primary foci.

METROPLEX MAYOR JOSEPH ELLIOT TOVAR, DEMOCRATIC REFORM PARTY

Elected to current office during the True American Coalition's rise in 2060. He's now been in power for nearly twenty years, and has been dogged by scandal since he served on the city council. Repeated investigations have failed to find anything conclusive, and Tovar has managed to turn each one to his advantage. The most recent, of sexual harassment, he turned into a bonus, playing up his bona fides as a "real red-blooded Texan who likes to play with the fillies".

- > A case study in how sleazy you can be. The corruption of politics actually improved his morals.
- > Foxdale

CITY COUNCIL

This elected body has one representative from each major district, 1 "at large" generally elected representative, and an additional 6 corporate representatives. One rep from the 4 top employers (that don't have city contracts), and 2 elected by the remaining corporations with >3,000 employees.

City Representatives

- Collin – David Morita, Republican Party. Formerly part of the Conservative Party, but left the party in disgust in 2062. He re-won his seat in the special election. He is an outspoken advocate of metahuman rights and government restraint, and was the champion of the Lonestar police contract.
 - > Morita's "disgust" was with the impact being in the Conservative party had on his polling number. The racist xenophobia was perfectly fine by him before that.
 - > Whitehat
- Dallas – Stephanie Elmore, Technocrat Party. She has so many special interest groups behind her that she doesn't have time for a real agenda. The jury is still out on whether or not she is genuinely motivated by any of the policies she advocates, or just mindlessly (if effectively) pandering.
- Denton – Jitendra Patel, Technocrat Party. Primarily concerned with education and family services. Publicly she has the reputation of being the nicest member of the council. This is a carefully maintained façade for what might be the most ruthless schemer in DFW politics.
- Ellis – Jason O'Brien, Democratic Reform Party. Widely regarded as the most eloquent member of the DRP, he was crucial in solidifying the TAC in Texas. He is widely expected to run for governor next election.
- Fort Worth – Cristofor Ivanov, Southern Conservative Party. Recently revealed links to the Humanis Policlub have turned him into a lame-duck, and the least influential member of the council. Some are calling for him to resign.
- General – Earl Pasarelli (Owl Shaman), Green Party. The only Awakened member of the council, and the first shaman in elected office in Dallas. He is the foremost (some say only) environmental activist in the council. Reported links to Terra First have been repeatedly disproved, but rumors persist.
- Hill – Mary Ann Keating, Republican Party. Longest standing member of the council, having been in her position for almost 18 years. Rumor has it that she was not entirely pleased at being passed over for Tovar when the True American Coalition united, and that she refused the deputy slot because of it.
- Kaufmann – Andrea Odom, Technocratic. Former employee of Triox, and SK's Council representative. Left Triox in a bit of a cloud when she questioned safety processes at the Triox plant. She then ran on the Technocratic ticket, and got back on the council.
- Rockwall – Sofia Cruz (Elf), Democratic Reform Party. Former fashion designer that got involved in politics several years ago – some say because it had become fashionable. "Cruz" is one of the more recognizable fashion labels in NA, and Sofia is quite wealthy.
- Parker – Jorge Melendez Esparza, Democratic Reform Party. Widely believed to be controlled by one of the Hispanic gangs operating in the area (Mara Salvatrucha, or Tetcutine – nobody is certain which), and Saeder-Krupp.
- Somervell – Ernesto Guitterez, Republican Party. Virulently anti-Aztlan.
 - > Smoke-screen. This tusker is completely in the bag for the Big A. I'll pay well for proof.
 - > Pyrwatcher

- Wise – Dr. Cory Jennings, Technocrat Party. Advocate for fair-hiring practices by corporations. Known to be dating Silvia Platt, simsense star.

Commercial Representatives

- General Dynamics (Ares) – Amanda Miller. Longest-term corporate representative at 8 years. As a result of internal politics, the position was given to VP-Public Relations Miller rather than a member of the board because the Ares' Board was unable to agree on a choice.
- General Representative 1 – Josi Brumbalow (CEO, XO Communication Systems). An adroit politician, she was one of the core group that assembled XO from the ruins of the telecom industry after the Crash – and kept it from getting consumed by TI. Widely respected within the corporate and public communities.
- General Representative 2 – Sean Yun Kim (COO, Kaman Manufacturing). An intense, workaholic man who tirelessly fights any control or regulation of any corporate activities. Not well liked by the city representatives.
- Renraku – Akiko Toshida. Coming after a rapid string of Renraku representatives, Ms. Toshida was the first to serve for longer than nine months in almost a decade. Now entering her fourth year as representative, she has developed a reputation for playing extremely rough politics.

> “Rough” is one way of putting it. People that piss her off tend to have life expectancies measured in weeks. She knows more hitters than I do.

> Ain't Tellin'

- Texas Instruments – Ron Santiago. Recently promoted by TI's board to the post of Chief Relations Officer. He is still feeling his way around on the council, but his access to TI's information files is rumored to give him an unusual amount of throw weight.
- Triox/Saeder-Krupp – Gustav Havel (Dwarf). It is unclear if Gustav is a member of Saeder-Krupp Prime, or just way up in Triox – even Gustav may not know. It is assumed that anything that Gustav says is dictated by Lofwyr...which makes people pay attention.

> I have it on good authority she is actually a dandelion eater.

> Pyrwatcher

> Got a problem with that?

> Nocrimo

> Not really, but anybody that gets their ears cut down for political gain makes me twitch.

> Pyrwatcher

> Says the slot that got her legs cut off so she could run faster.

> MEESA

CAS GOVERNMENT

The CAS has a tendency to leave things to individual states, and Texas is notoriously touchy about protecting their sovereignty. Due to DFW's key strategic positioning (on several fronts), several CAS agencies have no choice but to maintain a significant presence in the DFW area, to the constant irritation of state and local government.

Extraterritoriality Registry and Liaison Agency (ERLA)

The ERLA is responsible for administering all relations with extra-territorial entities (e.g. megacorps) within the CAS. ERLA has sizable offices in the DFW area, and is constantly sending inspectors into corporate territory to ensure that they are compliant with the terms of their leasing contracts. Their job is complicated by the need to interface with the state government, which frequently interferes with their operations. ERLA is not above using shadowrunners to obtain information about suspected violations of leasing agreements (“audit-jobs”). Nor are they above using shadowrunners to plant incriminating information.

Department of Domestic Investigation (DDI)

The DDI has their primary training complex north of DFW at Fort Roberts. Their operations in Texas have gained a reputation for arrogant, brutal incompetence in their overly zealous pursuit of suspected Aztlan agents. The DDI's feud with the Texas Rangers is fueled by mutual antipathy, and more than a little envy of the hardware that the Rangers get to play with.

Department of Strategic Intelligence (DSI)

The CAS' intelligence agency. They have facilities scattered about the metroplex for the purpose of supporting operations in Aztlan and the Pueblo Corporate Council. While they are technically responsible only for operations outside the CAS, the line gets kind of blurry with Aztechnology & Aztlan, leading to legendary turf wars between DDI, ERLA and DSI.

> These guys generally go to the shadows for wetwork inside the CAS. They have their own mechanics for when it's outside.

> SithDog2057

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

The DEP has a significant presence in the DFW area, and works closely with ERLA to monitor pollutant levels. Or at least, that's the theory. The “Deeps” are generally considered to be the most corrupt branch of the Confederate government.

> The only good thing that can be said about them is that at least the bribes are expensive enough that compliance with the law is actually more cost effective.

> Whitehat

STATE POLITICS

After the Aztlan invasion of 2035, Texas relocated the state capital to Dallas as an emergency measure. Over forty years later, the government still resides in Dallas, and officially this is still an entirely temporary measure. Texas loyalists can be particularly touchy about the subject, and often refer to the parts of DFW devoted to state affairs as Austin.

Governor Theresa Vasquez (Technocrat)

Theresa is a dyed-in-the-wool Texan. She was an officer during the 2035 Aztlan War, and was badly wounded during the Battle of Corpus Christi. She wears her cyberarm with no small amount of pride (and a mind for PR), and is often addressed by her friends as “the Major.” Her career in politics has been a long, slow rise to what is probably the top of her game. She lost her first attempt at the governor’s slot in 2064, but won in 2068. Her main platforms are anti-Aztlan, defense spending, and corporate cooperation. Word in the shadows is that Vasquez isn’t above hiring mercenaries to perform “freelance” work against Aztlan/Aztechnology interests.

- > God bless her miserable, shriveled, putrid soul for it.
- > Pyrwatcher

Texas Rangers

Comprised of four divisions (2 Mechanized Infantry, 2 Light Infantry) with air support assets, and various auxiliary support units. They directly report to the Governor, not the Secretary of Defense in Atlanta, making them effectively an independent Texas Army. They provide security for state governmental functions, and also handle embassy and corporate border security services within the state (causing fits with ERLA). The Texas Rangers are quite prestigious, and are comprised largely of former regular CAS army personnel. The white hats of their dress uniforms are quite distinctive, and are the source of their nickname. Their current commander is Lieutenant General Marshall “Marsh” O’Malley.

- > Care to tell us something?
- > Youarebeingliedto
- > Last fragging time: I do not work for, nor have I ever worked for, the Rangers.
- > Whitehat
- > That you know of.
- > MEESA
- > Fair point. These slags do like to use deniable assets quite a bit.
- > Whitehat
- > No drek. Once did a slime job on an ERLA rep, and I’m pretty sure it was the Rangers that paid for it. They go out of their way to mess with ERLA on general principal.
- > SithDog2057

- > Be warned - the “mechanized infantry” is infantry in name only. More like armored cav. At least one regiment in each division is equipped with fragging Davis tanks. The rest are in Stonewall APCs. Do not frag with them.

- > Ain’t Tellin’

- > The light infantry divisions are more accurately airborne paratroopers - watching them do deployment exercises from thunderbirds at ludicrously high ground speeds, and equally stupidly low altitudes, is impressive as hell. I’d love to know what kind of smart elastomer they are using for “speed ropes”. When/if the ball drops with Aztlan, it’s going to be ugly.

- > TechmOnkey

- > The regular CAS Army folks are still hacked off about the Rangers getting the Davis before they did. I’d love to know how O’Malley managed to pull that off.

- > Whitehat

Legislative Bodies

Composed of a House of Representatives (123 members), which meets in Fort Worth, and a Senate (54 members) that meets in Dallas. No formal corporate representation at this time.

- > Translation: Cheaper to bribe congressman than it is to change the constitution.

- > Anonymous Coward

- > Hitchens!

- > SithDog2057

FOREIGN RELATIONS

As the capital (in exile) of the State of Texas, and the capital of the short-lived Republic of Texas, many foreign nations maintain some sort of presence in DFW. Save for Aztlan and the Sioux Nation, every country in North America has a consulate or embassy here.

- > While Aztlan doesn’t have a formal consulate here (and Texas probably wouldn’t let them have one if they asked), they do maintain a very understated “Cultural Exchange Office”.

- > Pyrwatcher

Anti-NAN sentiment is relatively low, with most anger and resentment from the Ghost Dance War and the dismemberment of the old USA directed at Aztlan. The alliance between the Pueblo Corporate Council and CAS, the aid the PCC has provided against Aztlan, and a shared corporate-friendly attitude, has resulted in unusually high levels of goodwill between the two countries.

POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Beyond the parties described above, there are a number of non-corporate political organizations operating in the DFW area.

Major Policlubs & Non-Corp Organizations

- ACLU – Still going, but fighting a losing (lost?) battle against the gradual corporatization of society.

- Atlantean Foundation – Founded in Atlanta in 2012 as an organization devoted to “restoring the glory of ancient Atlantis.” Funds numerous archaeological expeditions, documentaries and education programs.
- Aztlan Freedom League – This humanitarian non-profit once ran a major smuggling operation to get refugees out of Aztlan, under the guise of providing aid to impoverished areas of Aztlan. Its underground railroad is but a shadow of its former self, and the more militant wing splitting off to form Libertad Mexico in 2059. Now primarily focused on providing aid and support to the refugee communities in the DFW Metroplex.
 - > A bunch of useless prats.
 - > Pyrwatcher
 - > Donations are tax deductible, so not entirely useless.
 - > MEESA
- Church of the Undying Light – A genuinely benevolent organization of social activists that arose during the Year of the Comet – despite rumored ties to the Mob. Small groups have spread to a number of cities across North America, spreading the teachings of their founder, Ellen Barai.
- Children of the Dragon – A group devoted to carrying on the “fight against darkness” that Dunkelzahn waged. Initially an effective group devoted to helping the poor, they have since become split over theological issues and have turned to endless bickering.
- Libertad Mexico – One of many anti-Aztechnology groups of former Aztlaners in CAS, and the largest in Texas. They mostly confine themselves to rallies and pickets, but they have been accused of taking more covert action against Aztechnology personnel and assets. It’s an open secret that they provide funds to the Yucatan rebels and resistance fighters in northern Aztlan.
 - > Rife with double agents. A few less after last month’s operation.
 - > Pyrwatcher
 - > And about a half dozen innocent bystanders.
 - > Nocrimo
 - > They weren’t innocent.
 - > Pyrwatcher
- Humanis Policlub – A fear/hate group against metahumans and the Awakened. Widely loathed in public forums, it still has a disturbingly large number of members, many of whom take great care to conceal their identities. Overt acts of violence activities are rare, but do happen. They walk an extremely fine legal line. It is widely considered to be operating as a front organization for more belligerent organizations and gangs.
- Illuminates of the New Dawn – This millenarian group seeks a transformation of society through magic and technology. They are much like the Technocratic Party, but are centered around a core group of mages. Membership is relatively small (10,000 or so in the UCAS and CAS), but they move in extremely powerful circles.
 - > Squishes welcome. No keebs.
 - > SithDog2057
- Mothers of Metahumans – A human/metahuman alliance organization. Involved in public advocacy as well as providing social services to underprivileged metahumans. Has meeting houses/organizations all over North America.
- Ork Rights Committee (ORC) – A goblinized (trolls and orks) advocacy group. Has a slightly militant air, along with a distinct anti-elf streak amongst some members. Operates primarily in the UCAS/CAS area.
- The Seventh Seal – An extremist arm of the Humanis Policlub, with distinctly apocalyptic overtones. Primarily based in Seattle, but they are slowly spreading their message of hate to other sprawls and have a significant presence in DFW.
 - > An extremist version of Humanis Policlub?!?! WTELF? Who wrote this?
 - > Whitehat
- Sons of the Alamo – The most belligerent Anti-Aztechnology/Aztlan policlub in Texas. Primarily composed of native Texans and those displaced by the Aztlan War, they undertake numerous actions against Aztlan and Aztechnology, including support of “freedom fighters” in the “occupied territories,” guerrilla warfare, and making raids against Aztlan and Aztechnology assets within the CAS and Aztlan. Their actions are becoming ever more violent. Their motto: “El Paso: Never surrender. Never forget. Never forgive.”
 - > I can’t argue with their objectives, but their methods are questionable.
 - > Pyrwatcher
 - > Questionable? Poisoning the water supplies of a town of innocent civilians strikes me as a bit more than questionable. They killed nearly 600 people.
 - > Foxdale
 - > Point taken, but I’m not sure that was them. They specifically disavowed that one. I’m inclined to believe them over whatever propaganda Aztlan spits out. Just as likely to be some Aztechnology screw-up.
 - > Pyrwatcher
 - > It was SIRRURG. Classic.
 - > Youarebeingliedto
 - > Since simply pointing out that SIRRURG is dead won’t convince you, I’d point out that SIRRURG generally goes for larger body counts, and isn’t exactly shy about claiming responsibility.
 - > (In)sanity