

Ashen Stars: Drives

Altruism

You instinctively act for the benefit of others, especially when they're unable to help themselves. As far as you're concerned, the fees the crew earns for its cases are just a means to an end: making the Bleed a better place for everyone.

Atonement

You did something shameful, and you believe you can only erase its emotional burden by acting to make the world a better place. The need to atone might be religious in nature, or it might just be a desire to clear your name.

Avenger

Lawless men hurt or killed someone you cared about deeply, and you resolved to hunt them down and punish them. You are either still searching for them or now seek to exact vengeance for all the other victims of terrible crimes throughout the Bleed.

Bleedism

The days of the Combine are over for good, you believe, and it is time for the worlds of the Bleed to form a federation of their own. In the meantime, every problem you help solve proves that the Bleed needs local solutions, not rule from afar.

Civilizer

Civilization took a series of devastating blows during the Mohilar War and someone has to step in to make the Bleed liveable again. Only when people feel safe can businesses flourish and the economy rise once more. And until the rule of law is restored, that won't happen.

Chronicler

Ever since you were a little kid, you knew you were destined for greatness as a writer or artist. When the war ended, you sought the toughest, most exciting and romantic job in the furthest corner of the universe, all in search of material for your magnum opus.

Combinism

As a fervent believer in the Combine and its ideals, you took a post as a Laser in order to bring order back to the Bleed. By reducing its chaos, you will pave the way for the inevitable day when the Combine recovers and reasserts its authority in deed as well as in name.

Comradeship

You might have been motivated by abstract or material concerns when you first signed on but over time that all fell by the wayside. Your crew might have started out as a motley band of outcasts but deep down the ties you've forged are in many ways stronger than blood.

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Derring-Do

Why are you a Laser? Because that's where the action is! Only when your back is up against the wall do you feel truly alive. People say "adrenaline junkie" like it's a bad thing. The true thrill comes when the stakes are high, and people are depending on you.

Entrepreneurial

You probably grew up desperately poor during the bad old days of the war. Or perhaps your family once had it all and now you want it back. Maybe there are safer ways to fatten your bankroll but none of them carry the same high risk, high reward factor.

Exploration

Before the War, a primary mission of the combine was the exploration of the unknown; those ideals fell by the wayside during the long years of the war, but they never lost their place in your imagination.

Faith

You subscribe to one of the many metaphysical doctrines that have sprung up in the wake of the War. You see your Laser service as the means to bring something valued by your creed to the people of the Bleed. Successful action as a Laser is the best advertisement for your beliefs.

Family Tradition

Generations of your family have served the public as warriors, law enforcers, and protectors. But for some reason you and the Combine have parted ways. Whatever the reason, you do what you can to make your family proud until you and the Combine reconcile your differences.

Footloose

You don't like to stay too long in one place. Struck by wanderlust, there's no sweeter gig than being a Laser. You're always moving around. You meet new people, go to fresh places, do a few exciting things, and then disappear from their lives forever, no strings attached.

Hotshot

Nobody does it better than you. Some might say you are arrogant or overconfident, but ever since you were young you showed a natural flair for every activity you deigned to dabble in. Naturally you chose a glamorously hazardous line of work as befits someone with your talent.

Hunger Tourism (Kch-Thk)

Your life is driven by the need to feed but you are discriminating, forever seeking new vistas of flavour. So it was logical to seek out a job which could permit you to help yourself to whatever unusual forms of organic matter you can conveniently and legally ingest.

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Integrationist (Cybe)

You belong to the small faction that identifies with the human race and seeks acceptance within it. Your post not only provides you an outlet for skills picked up in the War, your duties also allow you to demonstrate that cybes can contribute positively to rebuilding the galaxy.

Justice-Seeker

Combine space used to be a place where the virtuous were rewarded and the unjust punished. Now no such certainties apply. You do your small part to rebalance the scales. You are not the law, but are only its humble instrument.

Meditative Reconciliation (Tavak)

Few devote themselves as thoroughly to the pursuit of a state of inner peace as you do. The the second stage of *gahud* you explore the world, experiencing the extremes of physical reality and putting your mind and body to the test against the universe.

Nowhere Else To Go

Until you signed on with your crew, you were a directionless, unable to make a go of it in civilian life. But now the ship, the crew and the job is your life. You attack each problem as if afraid that a single failure will send you spinning back into those days of soul-crushing despair.

Phase Rider (Durugh)

You are the bearer of a rare genetic variance that confers ecstatic psychedelic visions whenever you Phase. The glorious visions only come after you've used the ability under stress; your post guarantees a steady succession of dangerous situations in which to use your ability.

Professionalism

You do a job and do it well, and that's all the philosophy you need. You take your position seriously and expect others to do the same. Nothing is worse than crews who do sloppy work, fail to execute according to contract parameters, or, worst of all, engage in corrupt activity.

Pursued

Somebody's looking for you, and you don't want them to find you. If they do, you want the solid backup only a crew of heavily armed freelance law enforcers can bring. Although you've always got one eye out for your pursuers, you don't let that interfere with your duties.

Programming

Your brain has been altered or designed to make you the ideal law enforcement agent. You may or may not be conscious of this. You tackle mysteries, entering hazardous situations when necessary, because this is what your deepest instincts tell you to do.

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Re-evolution (Vas Mal)

You seek the means to reverse the effects of your people's deevolution from near-omniscient beings to malformed creatures of flesh and blood. The Vas Mal know that the answer to the enigma will be found somewhere in the Bleed by a Laser crew, and you are part of the search.

Role Model

You are a member of a minority whose youth are, at least in your opinion, unused to seeing themselves in positions of competence and authority. You went into law enforcement to show the next generation that they are just as worthy and capable of leadership as the majority.

Scientific Inquiry

The beautiful thing about science, the pursuit that defines your life, is that every answer leads to a new question, and new vistas of knowledge. The dangers of your new job make you less a lab-coated scholar than a two-fisted modern Darwin. And that's just the way you like it.

Self-Exclusion (Balla)

Balla who cannot suppress the outward display of their feelings are dangerous to themselves and to other Balla, provoking a chain reaction of mental breakdown. Unable to properly control your emotions you have gone into self-exile, seeking answers to your condition.

Sexual Adventure

You signed up as a Laser after cluing in to one essential observation: lots of beings get turned on by the sight of a uniform. As far as you're concerned, the entire purpose of a starship is that you can use it to cruise around, meeting and bedding the sexiest creatures in the galaxy!

Social Engineer (Cybe)

You are of the dominant evolver faction that sees itself as a new species and seeks to create a utopia for its genetically engineered, potentially immortal people. As a social engineer, you seek the mathematically ideal social and constitutional structure for your people.

Something To Prove

All your life you've been written off, disregarded, and underestimated. Now, even though you've won the trust of your comrades, you can't help but throw yourself headlong into any task. Those jeering voices still ring in your head. You cannot and will not let them win.

Tech Hound

Let others have their Shakespeare, their Keats, their Rovalion-8. To you, true poetry lies in the engineering of devices. And now you've discovered that your understanding of technologies is not only useful, but can help solve mysteries and make exciting new discoveries.