Examples of Tech Tree entries.

By Tim Macauley. © Red5 Studios.

Assault

Spatial Combustion Applications
(Rocket Jump)

With material science advances (specifically the development of crystite carbon hybrids), flame-resistant boot platings were developed with a very high temperature tolerance, enabling the use of jumpjets. The potential advantages to these boot platings was not fully appreciated until the documented case of Pvt. Matheus Mendes, who in a moment of desperation, accidentally discharged his plasma weapon at the ground. The plating on his boots absorbed the brunt of the force and actually blasted him skyward like a rocket. Realizing that the temps of jumpjets were still far below the melting rate of the crystite carbon boot casings, the Accord began to experiment with unconventional applications. This eureka moment led to the development of an entirely new field, spatial combustion applications. Engineers soon discovered that jumpjets could be submitted to even more intense thrust, albeit requiring substantial power reserves (or better yet, a dedicated module for just such an overdrive).

Crystite as an Accelerant
(Burn Jets)

Realizing the need for an area-of-effect attack at close-range melee distances, the Accord set about adding six additional small nozzles on the base of each jumpjet boot plate. Each new nozzle was angled at a different pitch, with the sole purpose of raining rocket fire down on the heads of enemies all around. The main jumpjet nozzle continues to provide the thrust necessary to support the weight of the merc in flight. The design works frightfully well—so much so that the Accord has been trying to cripple the hardware such that the six weaponized nozzles cannot spray when other friendlies are in the vicinity. Unfortunately, the after-market mod community has run rampant with variations on it and it's unlikely that Burn Jets will ever be regulated effectively again.

Biotech

Repatterning Field Rally Points (Field Hospital Proxies)
(Healing Pillar)

Aware of the drawback of the one-on-one nature of the biotech's healing abilities, the Accord sunk countless resources into exploring the means of less-personalized repatterning services. From a field of five semi-finalists, the Accord selected the ‘healing pillar’ design as the style of field rally point that they thought most promising in the theater of war. Like every field hospital or triage system, this one came with its pros and cons. Biotechs could now deploy a crystite-powered canister in the field which, after a short boot sequence, would send out an explosive surge of repatterning nanites to boost the battleframe repair rates of local allies. However, a boot sequence remains, making for a slight delay

between deployment and nanite delivery. The device also relies on patients to manage their own health, often to their chagrin.

Survival Avionics
(Evacuate)

Faced with staggering biotech casualties, the Accord raced to improve their survivability. A mass study found that time and time again, biotechs were being cornered on the field of combat with no way to escape. The solution: the Evacuate module, a reserve power supply which, upon use, administers a blackout-inducing up-and-over thrust at a nauseating 7g's. The biotech may land unconscious, without the faintest memory of the moments before, but at least they'll be alive. Additionally, one unintended byproduct of this module is the considerable splash damage that occurs at the moment of boost, burning nearby adversaries with a fierce flame.

Dreadnaught

Geometric Damping Techniques
(Armor Lock)

Accord engineers made a remarkable advancement in defensive measures when they perfected the means of using perfect geometric conduit shields to dampen and channel incoming hostile energy into the planes of a geometric surface. The shape of a geometric shield is so effective at redirecting the currents of energy that it absorbs nearly 90% of incoming damage. The tradeoff is that the recipient of the damage is immobilized during the moment of damping. At the end of the process, the geometric electrical shield explodes outward, doing damage equivalent to that which was absorbed.

Indiscriminate Ballistics (Holistic Ballistics)
(Explosive Bullets)

Borrowing a page from the 'bunker buster' bombs from the days of yore, this field of ballistics focuses on projectiles that have a secondary charge, releasing a low-yield explosion upon impact. Once the secondary charge is fired, an interior weak metal casing is shredded, projecting metal shrapnel all around the initial target. Caution is advised, especially near civilian quarters.

Engineer

Field Supply Logistics
(Repair Station)

Traditional deployables always required a certified engineer to be on hand and involved a 13-step process for activation. Recently, however, the Accord has finally streamlined the process, making it a truly one-step 'fire and forget' process. Engineers as a whole feel mixed about the change; thrilled with the speed with which they can deploy while under fire, but concerned that this is but one more step toward making their role obsolete.

Aerial Warhead Barrage
(Homing Missile Cluster)

Akin to the partitioning of fissionable material into multiple warheads within a single ICBM, Accord statisticians realized that it was far better for field deployable rocket kits to divvy their payloads up into smaller but numerous delivery systems, as opposed to a single large one that delivered the most wallop. Far better for 5-7 mini-rockets in a cluster of 10 to hit their target than to gamble everything on a single larger rocket of comparable yield. Additionally, statisticians recognized that there was no objective means by which they could rate the psychological impact of being on the receiving end of a barrage.

Recon

Holographic Sensory Substitutes (Holographic Sensory Warfare, Holographic Field Applications, Holographic Sensory Leverage)
(Decoy)

Pinching from Kisuton's advancements in light refraction, the Accord took the field of holography to a whole new plane, allowing recons to place a decoy in their stead. By placing a discus-sized projector on the ground, the recon has roughly half a minute to relocate while a holographic copy of himself remains, fidgeting in his place. The device works by observing the recon's previous behavior and reproducing it, while sampling ambient lighting and applying it to the hologram in order to make the facade more convincing. Due to the demanding power requirements to project such a life-like hologram, the device has a finite period of use, after which it detonates with deadly force.

Nanite Transfer Tactics
(Tag Buff)

Modular parallel computing has existed for centuries, but it took the crucible of war to give innovation another kick in the arse. Ballistic engineers realized that they could deliver boosts of nanites from one location remotely to another, whereby the target could be given a sudden boost in computational ability —like an adrenaline shot to the heart. This surge of nanites could result in burst of intensity to weapons systems, faster repatterning or even a brief sudden efficiency surge from jumpjets.