

Robot Studies

The modern technologies of the different species also include advanced robots. However, there are different types and shapes of robots that differ in several ways. Recruits need to know the differences in order to effectively combat or utilize each of these variants.

With Kova, there was always new learning content. In addition to HUD and hacking, they had an excursion into robotics the following day. She showed them various types of robots and explained the differences in the names. »A robot is basically any form of functioning automatism. These can be simple robot arms that perform repetitive tasks in factories or completely movable things such as cleaning bots or guard bots. A bot is simply the short form used for smaller robots and drones. Drones are robots that can float or serve as unmanned military reconnaissance aircraft. A robot is usually regarded by humans as physical, but actually describes the program through which the machine functions. We also use bots for hacking, where we simply mean automatically running programs.«

This explanation was more complicated than they suspected. Actually, Carter always thought a robot was human-like. When he asked Kova about it, she giggled.

»A common idea. Human-like machines are called androids or simply droids. Their purpose is to simulate human life or certain aspects of it. This of course also exists for Salvani and all other species.«

Rod laughed: »We've been wiping out such stupid mechs by the dozen on Nirvana! That was madness!«

Kova raised her chitin claw: »Mechs are something completely different again. These are mechanical vehicles that have to be controlled by an organic pilot. By remote control it would be a drone, if the pilot himself has to sit in the vehicle, it is a mech. And then there is virtual and artificial intelligence. A VI is only a limited adaptive program, which is very often used in military operations as a coordination aid. An AI, on the other hand, is completely adaptive and can even make independent decisions. Humans have banned this research because it was ethically and morally questionable on the one hand and on the other hand one could not limit the free development of an AI. The T'zun have already have a lot of experience in this field and therefore field experiments with AI are being carried out in the meantime, but this is far from being ready for serial production.«

The recruits found the AI topic particularly exciting, but there was neither an AI nor a VI on the basis, so they could not get an idea of what dealing with such a thing would be like at the moment. »The whole issue of robots and humans is becoming a problem in the field of optimization, isn't it? The question of whether one can still be regarded as a human being with mechanical parts or not. Whether one is ... something else.«, Kelly thought out loud.

Kova put her claws together and nodded slowly.

»Yes, this topic has been discussed very often by both humans and other species. Humans are currently the only ones who use synthium for it, but the rest of us also have such programs. Our voice synthesizers are already an intrusion into nature and some of the old orthodox traditionalists of the Salvani are strictly against such technologies. The question of whether you are still yourself with technical upgrades, despite all

the scientific evidence, remains open to debate. Because strictly speaking, a person with a mechanical arm, for example, is no longer a human being. One then speaks of a so-called cyborg. A man-machine hybrid, because cyborg stands for ›cybernetic organism‹. This way of life is not natural and many see dangers in it.«

This philosophical question also triggered split opinions among the recruits. Rod saw upgrades as an intrusion into humanity, even if he didn't think that changed people would become monsters as a result. Carter didn't like the idea, but he saw the potential in it. Kelly was a strict opponent of all this technology, and she didn't like the idea of them being upgraded during training.